



Parish Council
Central Swindon North Parish Council
Pinetrees Community Centre,
The Circle,
SWINDON SN2 1QR

LEISURE & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY 7TH SEPT 2023 19.00

Present:	
Councillors:	Cllr J Ballman (Chair) Cllr I Edwards Cllr M Lucas Cllr J Yeowell
Clerk:	Mr A Briggs
Allotment Officer:	Mr N Jackson
Member of the Public Present: None	
Apologies	Cllr M Beale

		Action
LR279	Declarations of Interest Cllr J Ballman declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Hreod Burna Urban Forest (HBUF), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and The Leisure & Library Trust. RESOLVED: Item noted.	
LR280	Public Questions & Public Correspondence None Received. The Chair proposed that AG3 be moved to the end of the agenda for discussion.	

	RESOLVED: Members Noted AG2. RESOLVED Members Agreed for the item AG3 to be moved down the agenda.	
LR281	Parks The Estates Manager proposed the date of the Parks Working Group as Tuesday 12th September. Cllr J Ballman advised the proposed date clashed with an SBC Planning meeting. It was suggested that an alternative date would be confirmed following the meeting. The Estates Manager provided a verbal update on both St Marks & Penhill Park, that included: The enhanced grass cutting programme. General condition including litter and detritus. Possible future floral planting scheme. Cllr J Ballman requested that consideration be given for litter picking stations to be installed within the park. Members held general discussion. The Estates Manager recommended the item be tabled for discussion at the Parks Working Group. Members were informed that the current balance of the Parks working group budget was approx. £5,000. RESOLVED: Members Agreed that an alternative date for the Working Group would be made following the meeting. RESOLVED: Members Agreed for the Parks Working Group to discuss the idea of litter picking stations. RESOLVED: Members Noted the available Parks Working Group budget update.	
LR282	Allotments Members were informed that the date of the next Allotment Working Group was to be 25th September 2023. The Allotment Officer provided Members with a verbal update on his current workload. That included: Investigation and resolution of a number of Wasps nests. Crop Drop. Described as an ongoing food programme involving collection of left over produce from allotment sites on a Monday	

morning and delivered to the Gorse Hill Baptist Church for distribution to those in need.

Use of CSNPC tractor on allotment plot clearances and maintaining grass pathways.

Commencement of earth bund at the Penhill bowls wall.

Stone and gravel pathway repairs, with assistance of volunteer.

Continuation of collection and delivery of hops.

A brief update was given regarding regular plot cultivation monitoring.

Members held discussion on the current condition of the tractor.

Members were informed that there remains a keen interest in allotment take up and a waiting list is still in place.

Occupancy rate remains about 90%.

N Jackson left the meeting at 7.20pm.

Members were informed that the current balance of the Allotment budget was approx. £8,000.

Cllr J Ballman asked for an update on the Tiny Forest projects.

The Estates Manager informed Members he had been copied into a communication that suggested the projects had been granted subject to conditional offer.

Members were reminded about the project, and of the proposed locations for a Tiny Forest, as Allington Rd Allotment and Churchward Allotment.

The Estates Manager presented a number of possible layout configurations.

The Estates Manager confirmed that SBC were to oversee the project as the applicant, and that a number of other local Parish Councils were involved.

Members held discussion on the item.

The Estates Manager advised the Allotment Group had been informed about the ideas and would be raised again within the next Allotment Working Group.

RESOLVED: Members Noted the date of the Allotment Working Group Meeting.

RESOLVED: Members Noted the Allotment Officers update.

RESOLVED: Members Noted the available Allotment Working Group budget update.

	RESOLVED: Members Noted the update regarding the Tiny Forest project.	
LR283	Play Areas Members were informed that the date of the next Play Area Working Group was to be 28th September 2023. Members were informed the programme of Play Area painting had commenced, with Inglesham Road and Medlar Court to be completed within the proceeding 2 weeks. The Estates Manager provided Members with a verbal update on completed and outstanding remedial works, including. Wet pour and puzzle board repairs at Alton Close completed. Installation of new inclusive swing seat at Harcourt Road completed. Awaiting installation of inclusive springer at Harcourt Road. Awaiting carpet repairs at Harcourt Road. Replacement of damaged rocker at Alton Close Bark chippings ordered for Edinburgh Street and Medlar Court. Investigation of repairs to gate mechanisms across all parks. Members were informed that the current balance of the Allotment budget was approx. £25,000. The Estates Manager presented Members with a quotation to replace the support arms for the Bird Nest at Inglesham Road Play Area at a cost of £6,728.12. Members voted in favour to replace the rotten support arms. Cllr Mick Lucas queried the status of the new Play Area at Rodbourne Cheney. The Estates Manager requested a meeting prior to the Play Area Working Group to discuss the project further. Cllr M Lucas and Cllr I Edwards commented on the lack of investment within Moredon & Rodbourne Cheney Wards. RESOLVED: Members Noted the date of the Play Area Working Group. RESOLVED: Members Noted the update regarding the programme of Play Area painting. RESOLVED: Members Approved the cost of £6,728.12 to replace the rotten support arms on the Bird Nest Climber with new steel supports at the Inglesham Road Play Area.	EM to set up a meeting with Ward Cllrs to discuss the RC Play Area project.

LR284	Sports Pitches The Estates Manager provided a verbal update on pitch maintenance works completed to date. Including; Vertidrain aeration and sand top dressing. It was explained these works had been completed inline with the pitch improvement programme. Members were informed that the second aeration would take place later in the year. Summer maintenance had also been completed, including goal post repairs and goal mouth repairs. Cllr J Ballman asked how often football pitches were cut and asked about the different types of grass cutting attachments available. It was advised the contractual agreement is every 3 weeks as per the contract specification. However, it is often aimed for the pitches to be cut every 2 week and that the quality of cut is largely affected by the length of the grass. Cllr J Ballman commented on the need to see the standard of grass pitches improvements with the quality of cut being provided. Members were informed that the Football Foundation grant funding would reduce from the next financial year. The Estates Manager updated Members with an overview of Cricket usage over the summer months, and spoke about the anticipated levels of football usage for the coming season, including Adult and Youth activity. Members held general discussion on anticipate usage at the Moredon Sporting Hub. RESOLVED: Members Noted the update.	
LR285	Skatepark Feasibility Report The Estates Manager presented in detail the associated report. A copy of which can be found in Appendix A. Cllr J Ballman asked whether there was existing funds available to facilitate the hard standing that is required. It was confirmed there was not an existing budget for the hard standing. Cllr J Yeowell asked what would happen to the skatepark if there wasn't a suitable location found. It was confirmed Seven Capital would dispose of the equipment	

if CSNPC could not find a suitable location.

Cllr I Edwards queried the lifespan of the skate equipment.

The Estates Manager advised that Seven Capital would refurbish the equipment, which should extend the lifespan by 10-15 years. It was further commented that this would be subject to adequate maintenance being carried out.

Cllr J Ballman commented on the need for hard standing to progress the area and highlighted the 2 locations identified within the report. These were Mannington Rec carpark and Penhill Road Bowls Club carpark.

The requirement for sound testing was discussed.

Cllrs held general discussion.

The Estates Manager presented the recommendations as listed within the report.

Cllr J Yeowell queried the operating times of the facility and raised concern with potential ASB.

It was confirmed the proposed facility would be open and available through the day and night.

Discussion around security related matters was held.

Cllr M Lucas commented that the proposed site of Hilary Close appeared the most feasible. However, raised concern that other CSNPC Wards were lacking sufficient play facilities. Highlighting the lack of recreational equipment in Rodbourne Cheney.

General discussion was held. Members commented that due to the proximity of dwellings, Pembroke Garden would not be a suitable alternative.

Cllr I Edwards queried the minimum distance required away from housing.

Cllr J Ballman advised the minimum distance and results of sound testing would inform the outcome of the decision.

Cllr J Ballman proposed the sound testing be conducted at Mannington Rec carpark and Penhill Bowls Club carpark and the information is brought to the October Committee.

Members voted in favour.

RESOLVED: Members requested the Estates Manager conduct sound testing at the Mannington Rec carpark and Penhill Bowls

	Club carpark and the results are presented at the October L&R Committee Meeting.	
	Meeting Closed 20:20pm	

Signed 

Date 4.09.2024