



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

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 7th January 2025 19.15

Present:

Councillors:

Cllr Dave Patey (Chair)
Cllr Paul Exell
Cllr Muhammad Khan (virtually)
Cllr Kevin Small
Cllr James Yeowell

Clerk:

Mr Andy Reeves

Officers:

Mr Andrew Briggs
Mrs Emma Till

Member of the Public Present: None.

Apologies

Cllr Mick Lucas

		Action
FGP329	Declarations of Interest None	
FGP330	Public Questions & Public Correspondence None	

FGP331	Minutes of the Previous Meeting The Chair presented the minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd December 2024 to be approved as a true and accurate record. RESOLVED to APPROVE the minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd December 2024 as a true and accurate record.	
FGP332	Dispensation Request To CONSIDER Cllr Raj Patel's request for Section 85 dispensation at Full Council on the 29th January 2025. Mr A Reeves explained that Cllr Raj Patel is in India until the end of January and will be unable to attend any council meetings until he returns. A Section 85 dispensation for non-attendance goes into effect on the 11th January 2025 for Cllr Raj Patel who has had some health issues. The request is for a bridging arrangement until Councillors can discuss the issue at the Full Council Meeting the 29th January 2025. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED a bridging arrangement to be put in place, and Cllr Raj Patel's request for a Section 85 dispensation be considered at the Full Council on the 29th January 2025.	Section 85 dispensation for Cllr Raj Patel be added to the Full Council Agenda for the 29th January 2025.
FGP333	Grounds Maintenance Update Mr A Reeves presented a written report provided by Mr Mike Ware from Idverde. See Appendix 1. Cllr K Small asked what the tree planting program is for next year. Mr A Briggs described the areas The Parish plan to focus on next year. Cllr K Small noted he was unhappy with the quality of the street cleaning work done at present. He especially noted Rodbourne, and the large amount of litter present there. Cllr D Patey queried looking into the cost of implementing a barrow person again to focus specific areas and to keep the sparkle team as the Idverde contract is up for renewal soon. What would be the financial impact of these additions.	

	Cllr D Patey asked about moss clearance which seems to be absent when the leaf collector's clear areas. Mr A Reeves mentioned the possibility of negotiating with Swindon South Parish Council to use their street sweepers as part of the joint procurement partnership. This would be more economical than The Parish purchasing one or adding another barrow person to the contract. Cllr D Patey asked if Idverde could provide the bin usage information to help Councillors plan for future year's needs. Cllr P Exell asked about the replanting of trees at Moonrakers. Mr A Reeves explained that two had died, and they had not been replaced yet. Cllr D Patey asked about the planters. Mr A Reeves mentioned the planters were cracked, but they would not be replaced. RESOLVED Councillor NOTED the Grounds Maintenance Update.	
FGP334	25/26 Budget Approval Cllr D Patey informed Councillors that Option 1 was the recommended, Option 2 included all the committees budget requests and Option 3 included cuts to budgets. Cllr K Small presented the 25/26 budget recommendation options. Councillors discussed the three options. Cllr K Small proposed that Councillors recommend Option 1 to Full Council for approval with the caveat to return to the budget if a substantial cost reduction is achieved in any area. Cllr P Exell asked that Option 3 not be presented to Full Council.	25/26 Option 1 budget recommendation taken to January 2025 FC

	Cllr K Small explained that only the Option agreed at this Finance & General Purposes will be presented to Full Council. Cllr J Yeowell noted the reduction in the Community Development Committee budget, but stated he was happy to compromise and support Option 1. He agreed with the idea to put on the Winter Wonderland event each year and then rotate the other summer events over different years, or subsidise with Ward Allowance contributions. Cllr M Khan agreed with Option 1. The Chair proposed the FGP recommend to Full Council that the 25/26 budget Option 1 outlined in the discussed report be approved. Which will result in a Parish Council Precept of £2,156,928 which equates to a Band D Council Tax of £216.03, and a 17.80% increase. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED that the FGP recommend to Full Council that the 25/26 budget Option 1 outlined in the discussed report be approved. Which will result in a Parish Council Precept of £2,156,928 which equates to a Band D Council Tax of £216.03, and a 17.80% increase.	
FGP335	Transaction Logs The Chair proposed October 2024 transaction logs be brought to the next FGP meeting. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED transferring October 2024 transaction logs to February 2025 FGP.	October 2024 transaction logs transferred to February 2025 FGP.
FGP336	Budget Report & Forecast To NOTE the summary of income and expenditure and Forecast against the budget report for November 2024. RESOLVED to NOTE the summary of income and expenditure and Forecast against the budget report for November 2024.	
FGP337	Debtor List To REVIEW the Debtor list for November 2024. RESOLVED to NOTE the Debtor list for November 2024.	

FGP338	Ear Marked Reserves To NOTE the balances of Ear Marked Reserves as of 31st December 2024. RESOLVED to NOTE the balances of Ear Marked Reserves as at 31st December 2024. Cllr D Patey proposed the movement of EMR389 to EMR323. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED the movement of EMR389 to EMR323.	EMR389 to be moved to EMR323.
FGP339	Ward Allowance Update To NOTE the current balances of Ward Allowances. RESOLVED to NOTE the current balances of Ward Allowances. Cllr Paul Park requests the remaining balance of his Ward Allowance, £3,000.00, be transferred to EMR385 for use with the Parkside Hub refurbishment. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED Cllr Paul Park request for the remaining balance of his Ward Allowance, £3,000.00, be transferred to EMR385 for use with the Parkside Hub refurbishment. Cllr Paul Exell requests transfer of £5,000.00 of his Ward Allowance into EMR343 – Rodbourne Cheney Play Area. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED Cllr Paul Exell request to transfer £5,00.00 of his Ward Allowance into EMR343 – Rodbourne Cheney Play Area. Cllr Ian Edwards requests transfer of £5,000.00 of his Ward Allowance into EMR343 – Rodbourne Cheney Play Area. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED Cllr Ian Edwards request to transfer £5,00.00 of his Ward Allowance into EMR343 – Rodbourne Cheney Play Area. Cllr Joy Grotzinger requests her remaining Ward Allowance, £4,597.00, be placed in a new EMR named African Festival to be used for her African Festival planned for the 5th of July 2025.	£3,000 to EMR385 £10,000 to EMR343 £4,597 to New African Festival EMR EMR392 transferred to The Salvation Army 

	Mr A Reeves explained the event would come under Community Development Events. Cllr K Small noted that he would support the request, but had concerns this wasn't in line with the function of Ward Allowances and them being specifically for use for each Wards residents. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED Cllr Joy Grotzinger request for her remaining Ward Allowance, £4,597.00, be placed in a new EMR named African Festival to be used for her African Festival planned for the 5th July 2025. Cllr D Patey requests the £1,000.00 in EMR392, that was agreed from his 23/24 Ward Allowance budget to be used for a Pop-Up shop at Gorse Hill, be given to The Salvation Army to support their work. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED Cllr D Patey request that the £1,000.00 in EMR, that was agreed from his 23/24 Ward Allowance budget to be used for a Pop-Up Shop in Gorse Hill, be given to The Salvation Army to support their work.	
FGP340	Grant Requests Balance of Grant Fund £9,268.00 Balance of Grant Fund NOTED.	
FGP341	Policy Review To REVIEW and APPROVE the following policies and procedures; a) Litter Bin Policy b) Standing Orders c) Freestanding Planter Policy Cllr P Exell requested that the review dates be included in the policies. a) Councillors RESOLVED to ADOPT the Litter Bin Policy. b) Councillors RESOLVED to ADOPT the Standing Orders. c) Councillors RESOLVED to ADOPT the Freestanding Planter Policy.	

FGP342	Seven Fields Changing Room Procurement Evaluation Mr A Briggs presented an update and the proposal. See Appendix 2. Cllr J Yeowell asked if due diligence had been done to confirm the company was well established. Mr A Briggs confirmed The Parish had. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED recommend appointing Contractor C for the replacement of mechanical services at Penhill Changing Rooms to the January 2025 Full Council Committee.	
FGP343	Ops Update Mr A Briggs presented an update. See Appendix 3. A discussion was held around the Even Swindon urinal refurbishment and the recharge of these repair costs to groups using the facilities. Cllr J Yeowell asked about the tractor repair contribution. Mr A Brigg explained that HBuF have emailed The Parish this morning and offered a contribution of £500.00 towards the repair costs. Cllr D Patey asked if it was possible to acquire a discount by bulk purchasing lights across all our facilities. Mr A Briggs mentioned The Parish has a number to contact. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the update.	
Meeting Closed 20:18		

Signed... 

Date... 4/2/25