



Parish Council

Central Swindon North Parish Council

Pinetrees Community Centre,

The Circle,

SWINDON SN2 1QR

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 4th December 2024 19.00

Present:

Councillors:

Cllr James Yeowell (Chair)
Cllr Joy Grotzinger
Cllr Paul Park
Cllr Dave Patey

Clerk:

Mr Andy Reeves (Parish Clerk)

Officers:

Mr Aaron Webb (Community Youth Manager)
Mr Aaron Cripps (Marketing, Literacy & Digital
Services Manager)
Mr Matt Gleed (Leisure Manager)
Mrs Louise Whatley (Assets Officer)(virtually)
Ms Gladys Barr (Grants Manager)

Member of the Public Present: Mrs Sophie (POP)
Mrs Kelly Bate (POP)

Apologies

Cllr Ana Fernandes
Cllr Paul Exell

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		Action
CD159	Election of Committee Member Cllr J Yeowell proposed the election of Cllr Paul Exell to the Community Development Committee. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED the election of Cllr P Exell to the Community Development Committee. Cllr J Yeowell proposed that the Community Development Committee meetings be held at the Reading Rooms until the 2025 AGM due to noise disturbance. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED the Community Development Committee meetings be held at the Reading Rooms until 2025 AGM due to noise disturbance.	
CD160	Declarations of Interest Cllr Paul Park declared a non-precursory interest in the Library & Leisure Trust. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the declaration.	
CD161	Public Questions & Public Correspondence None.	
CD162	POP Mrs S requested the use of a space for 1-2 hours once per week to support their local Home Education group and the residents of Penhill and the surrounding area who Home Educate. Sophie explained the challenges involved with Home Education and the various reasons people choose, or are forced, into Home Education, and the needs Home Educators have. Mr A Cripps asked if Monday or Wednesday be convenient. Mrs S replied potentially Wednesday would be convenient. Mr A Cripps asked how many children she expected to participate. Mrs S explained that they would start small and adhere to whatever Health & Safety requirements were connected to the space. Mr A Cripps explained that the library at JMH has space available on certain days when it is closed if that would be	

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suitable, and as a free space trustees could consider allowing usage during times the library is closed.

Mrs S thanked Mr A Cripps for the offer but was concerned it would not be suitable for their needs and asked about the hall or a large room as the children socialising would require more space. She asked if they would be allowed to move things around.

Mr A Cripps explained that the PC tables would need to remain still, but other furniture, like tables and chairs, could be moved around.

Cllr J Yeowell thanked Mr A Cripps for his idea and requested it be discussed further with POP and the Trustees.

Mr M Gleed asked if there are regular times the children study.

Mrs S explained that Home Education is done differently by each parent and that times are decided by each family.

Mr M Gleed asked about PE.

Mrs S and Mrs K Bate explained that their children take part in sports clubs, but that these can be costly, and not all parents can afford to send their children.

Mr M Gleed suggested sporting activities at Moredon.

Mrs L Whatley explained that on initial discussion the meeting room at JMH was available at the times the group required, it would be looking at procuring funding to cover the cost.

Cllr D Patey asked Mr A Cripps if Pinetrees library had a larger floor space than Penhill library.

Mr A Cripps responded no.

Cllr D Patey mentioned the Grant Funding the Parish has available and that this may be a possible funding source.

Ms Gladys Barr provided the contact information needed to apply for the funding.

Cllr J Yeowell asked if they were a registered charity.

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	Mrs S responded she was not sure as their group is under POP. Mr A Reeves showed Sophie and xxx how to use the website to apply for a grant and the meeting it would be agreed at. Mr A Cripps explained as residents they would be eligible to use the Green card discount. A discussion was held on logistics. Mr A Cripps informed them about the community garden at Moredon which could be a useful facility. Ms Gladys Barr recommended applying for the grant and then communicating with her afterwards for extra advice and support in applying for further funding. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the update. Mrs S and Mrs K Bate left the meeting.	
CD163	To Confirm Final proposed Budget from Committee Councillors Cllr J Yeowell presented an update of the events proposed for 25/26 and the Budget being requested for the Community Development Committee to cover all the events costs. Cllr P Park queried the £38,000.00 being requested and whether this was too high. Mr A Cripps explained that the £38,000.00 works out at £1 per year for each resident on their council tax. Mr A Reeves clarified that during the 25/26 Budget Debate Cllrs requesting the funding be prepared with the information about who will benefit, how the community will be fundraising to run this event going forward and what are parishioner's going to get out of it. Mr A Reeves explained that all events are provided free of charge at the moment and possibly entrance fees will need to be included to fund future events. Mr A Webb noted that all the future events would be located at St Marks, and that spreading the festivals around the different parish locations could open them up to more residents.	

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	Cllr D Patey said he liked the idea of ticketing and combining this with the green card and its discounts for local residents. Mr A Cripps explained that the Xn system and the green card system for those types of discounts are not currently in place, and what has been organised so far is connected solely to Moredon Sporting Hub. Structures would need putting into place to inform and support residents in signing up for a green card for other events. A discussion on the Xn booking system and the green card system was held. Mr A Cripps asked Councillors about whether they wanted a physical or virtual card for the green card. Councillors agreed virtual. Mr A Reeves explained that the green card was originally designed to be a virtual card. A QR code would be attached to the newsletter that is delivered every year to all residents giving them access to the discounts. It wasn't provided on the last newsletter as Moredon was not open at that time. Understanding how many residents have signed up will help The Parish manage the process. Cllr J Yeowell proposed Councillors agree to recommend a £37,500 Community Development budget for 25/26 to cover the cost of events. Cllr P Parks noted that he agreed with the recommendation, but that going forward The Parish needs to look at more cost-effective ways to deliver events. Mr A Reeves updated Councillors with some of the 25/26 Budget information to provide context. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED the proposed £37,500 Community Development 25/26 budget recommendation to be taken to Full Council for approval.	
CD164	Leisure Manager Update Mr M Gleed presented a verbal update. Talks with the Football Federation to acquire funding to repair pitches and collaborate with Gladys for other funding sources.	

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Looking to increase daytime usage of football pitches.

Repair work to the cycle track to fix cracks, negotiating the work to be done by the contractors.

On the 5th December there are 15 football matches and a cycle cross event.

Cricket preparation continues, the pitches have been rolled and the grass is looking nice.

Moredon hosts 20 classes a week now, with some classes oversubscribed. Expecting to increase classes in January 2025.

On Friday there is a Business Networking Day to gain funding from advertising. The funding will help support The Parishes limitless cycling classes.

Mr A Reeves noted the work involved to set up the classes and networking fundraising and thanked Mr M Gleed for all his hard work.

Cllr P Parks noted that using the main hall as a rented room to provide income is more important than using it for council meetings, and that councillors should consider returning to the reading rooms for meetings to make sure the room is available for rent to outside sources.

Cllr J Yeowell agreed that this was an efficient use of the main hall, and the reading room was already set up for use. He asked Mr M Gleed if prices would rise next year.

Mr M Gleed explained that keeping the prices low helps maintain business and encouraging more local residents to exercise which was the main aim. The Parish needs to be careful not to out price ourselves. The café is a great income stream after the classes.

Mrs L Whatley explained that due to the meeting room being used at Pinetrees, the reading room is being used for the bookings that would have been there. Moving the Committee Meetings to the reading rooms may not always be possible.

Councillors discussed the different locations available for Council Meetings.

Cllr D Patey asked about how to book to participate in classes.

	Mr M Gleed explained that some only accept private bookings, and others use the booking system. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the update.	
CD165	Community Centre Manager Update Mrs L Whatley presented an update. See Appendix 1. Cllr J Yeowell asked if the chess tournament brought their own equipment. Mrs L Whatley said yes, they are just using our tables and chairs. Cllr D Patey asked about the sen group that acquired funding last year and if they were still using the facilities and if they required any more funding. Mrs L Whatley replied yes, and they are using the reading rooms and are very happy there. As far as she was aware they have everything they need now. Ms G Barr explained that she is working with Mrs L Whatley to update The Parish Community List as it is a little out of date. Next year it would be beneficial to do a community club night to help pass information about Parish and non-Parish grants available. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the update.	
CD166	Marketing, Literacy & Digital Services Manager Mr A Cripps presented a verbal update. There have been discussions this week on marketing for Moredon Sporting Hub for the next year. The Parish are potentially looking at working with Total Guide as they have the experience and they have resources The Parish doesn't have. Also discussing communicating with New College to see if students doing Film Studies who would like to complete projects with us. Mr A Cripps will be sending out emails to all Councillors this week asking them to supply articles about their wards and the work they have done in the last year to be added to the newsletter that will be going out in March 2025.	

	There are a few more tweaks needed to the booking system, and some updates needed for the Parish and Moredon Sporting Hub websites which Mr A Cripps will be working on in the coming year. The libraries are ticking over and getting the community garden up and running again is a priority. Cllr D Patey asked about fibre broadband installation at Moredon Sporting Hub. Mr A Cripps explained that the fibre cables will be fitted on the 12th December 2024, and after being configured, will go active and provide a stronger and more stable internet connection for staff members. The Wi-Fi internet will then become The Parishes public internet connection so that the two groups are not competing for bandwidth. Cllr J Grotzinger asked about The Parish website and whether it advertises events The Parish provide. Mr A Cripps explained that managing dynamic webpages takes time and money, so The Parish provides a generally static website to keep costs down. He plans on doing future updates to include pages for the Youth Work and other Parish linked programs. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the verbal update.	
CD167	Community Youth Manager and Events Update Mr A Webb presented a verbal update. The Power and Protect Program, a networking event, was held at Pinetrees last month with CSNPC, the police, BEST, PCC, U-Turn and other organisations. The concept being into working together in learning about and dealing with gang culture in our local community. The Boys & Girls programme, SBC are looking to re-activate these programs and for The Parish to help run them. The over 55's Christmas Event will be held next week, so far 40 people have booked. The Winter Wonderland event takes place next Friday. The Parish will have circus performers, Santa Claus, a mobile farm and three laser fireworks shows.	

	Cllr P Park noted that The Parish should be recording the event with photos and videos. Mr A Webb described the layout for the event and the possible impact weather may have on it. Cllr J Yeowell asked about litter. Mr A Webb explained there would be litter pickers going around during the whole event. Cllr J Yeowell asked about the HAF event. Mr A Webb explained that he had a meeting with Harry and the next event could be about Easter, The Parish will hear once decided. Councillors NOTED the update.	
CD168	Grants Manager Update Ms Gladys Barr presented an update. See Appendix 2. Ms G Barr expressed a desire to be guided by Councillors in what areas they would like her to focus on funding searches going forward to make the best use of her time. Cllr P Park agreed that the Councillors needed to sit down and create a five-year plan to provide Ms G Barr with a funding framework she can work from. Mr A Reeves agreed that other priorities have been at The Parishes forefront the last few years and he agreed that a plan by Councillors would be a positive step forward. A discussion about creating a plan was held. Ms G Barr stated that over the next couple of months Councillors should not expect any grant applications to be made. She felt it a priority to focus time on the Parish Plan to guide future work. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the update.	
CD169	Minibus Driver Mr A Webb presented a request to Councillors to employ a mini bus driver using the agency Storm or Pertemps to provide transport to shopping centres for residents, and also trips for the local youth. He explained the possible	

grants available that might be used and the need to reach isolated and lonely residents.

Cllr D Patey asked about the age the driver would be.

Mr A Webb mentioned that The Parish is hoping to employ someone who passed before 1997 for insurance purposes to avoid them needing to complete the course. He would have to research whether the 70 age restriction was the same for paid employees as it is for volunteers.

Cllr J Yeowell asked if The Parish could have the same driver every week.

Mr A Webb proposed hiring someone for 10 hours a week initially to see how well the provision was used.

Cllr J Yeowell and Cllr D Patey liked the idea.

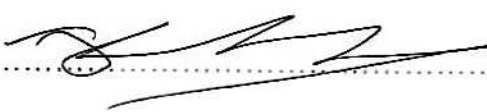
A discussion was held on uses for the mini bus.

Mr A Reeves explained that at the present time there is no budget available for the cost. He explained our insurer won't allow a driver over 70 years old whether employed or as a volunteer.

Mr A Reeves recommended they take a look at the Community Development Budget after the 25/26 Budget was agreed and return to this request at a later date.

RESOLVED Councillors **NOTED** the request and agreed to bring it to a future Committee Meeting.

Meeting Closed 20.55

Signed.....

Date...04/03/2025

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