



Parish Council

Central Swindon North Parish Council

Pinetrees Community Centre,

The Circle,

SWINDON SN2 1QR

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 4th March 2025 19.15

Present:

Councillors:

Cllr Dave Patey (Chair)
Cllr Mick Lucas (Vice Chair)
Cllr John Ballman
Cllr Ian Edwards
Cllr Paul Exell
Cllr Raj Patel (virtually)
Cllr Javes Rodrigues (virtually)
Cllr Kevin Small
Cllr James Yeowell

Clerk:

Mr Andrew Briggs

Officers:

Mr Andy Reeves (virtually)
Mr Matt Gleed (virtually)

Member of the Public Present: Mr Mike Ware (Idverde)

Apologies

Cllr Muhammad Khan

		Action
FGP357	Declarations of Interest Cllr John Ballman declared a non-pecuniary interest in The Leisure & Library Trust, HBUF and RSPB. RESOLVED Councillor's NOTED the declaration.	
FGP358	Public Questions & Public Correspondence None	
FGP359	Minutes of the Previous Meeting The Chair presented the minutes of the meeting held on the 4th February 2025 to be approved as a true and accurate record. RESOLVED to APPROVE the minutes of the meeting held on the 4th February 2025 as a true and accurate record.	
FGP360	Grounds Maintenance Update Mr M Ware presented a verbal update from a written report. See Appendix 1. Cllr K Small explained that he is aware of the issues of waterlogging at Mannington. Mr M Ware asked which areas needed extra litter pickings. Cllr K Small noted that Morrison Street, back alleys/connecting routes and Gorse Hill back alleys to. Mr M Ware said that the team would focus on these areas over the next few weeks. Cllr J Ballman noted the issue of people dumping litter next to garages. He explained that as it is on private land the Council are unable to collect it, and asked if there was anything The Parish could do. Councillors discussed fly tipping and graffiti. Cllr J Rodrigues asked if The Parish could put up no fly tipping signs in problem areas. He also asked if it would be possible to work with The Borough Council to force stores in trouble areas to put out bins and empty them as well as keep the area clean and tidy.	

	RESOLVED Councillor NOTED the Grounds Maintenance Update.	
FGP361	Transaction Logs Cllr M Lucas to confirm review of January 2025 (£6,427.22) transaction logs. RESOLVED: Cllr M Lucas confirmed the GPC transaction logs for January 2025 (£6,427.22)	
FGP362	Budget Report & Forecast To NOTE the summary of income and expenditure and Forecast against the budget report for January 2025. RESOLVED to NOTE the summary of income and expenditure and Forecast against the budget report for January 2025.	
FGP363	Debtor List To REVIEW the Debtor lists for January 2025. RESOLVED to NOTE the Debtor lists for January 2025.	
FGP364	Ear Marked Reserves To NOTE the balances of Ear Marked Reserves as of 28th February 2025. RESOLVED to NOTE the balances of Ear Marked Reserves as at 28 th February 2025.	
FGP365	Procurement Policy To CONSIDER and APPROVE the Procurement Policy. Cllr P Exell recommended the figures be moved to an appendix rather than be imbedded in the policy itself. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED the Procurement Policy with Cllr P Exell recommendation.	Procurement Policy to be amended and taken to Full Council
FGP366	Policy Review To REVIEW and ADOPT the following policies and procedures. a) Ward Allowance Policy Cllr D Patey noted the Committee names needed amending, and WDA changed to WA.	Ward Allowance Policy to be amended and taken to Full Council.



	Cllr K Small suggested a few alterations to bring the policy up to date and in line with The Parishes usage. Amendments recommended included. 1) Process and Governance paragraph one to include FC Committee if approved by the FGP Committee Chair in advance. 2) Process and Governance third paragraph from the bottom should be removed. 3) What the allocation cannot be used for 2nd one to be removed. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED the Ward Allowance Policy with Cllr D Patey and Cllr K Smalls amendments.	
FGP367	Ward Allowance Update To NOTE the current balances of Ward Allowances. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the Ward Allowance balances. Cllr Ana Fernandes requests £80.00 of her Ward Allowance be used towards a CCTV camera and sign at the Western Flyer. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED Cllr Ana Fernandes request for £80.00 of her Ward Allowance to be used towards a CCTV camera and sign at the Western Flyer. Cllr Dave Patey requests £2,150.00 of his Ward Allowance be used towards purchasing tables, chairs and furnishings at Gorse Hill Community Centre. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED Cllr Dave Patey request for £2,150.00 of his Ward Allowance be used towards purchasing tables, chairs and furnishings at Gorse Hill Community Centre. Cllr Tom Smith requests £3,800.00 of his Ward Allowance to be placed in an EMR to go towards the cost of installing a crazy golf course at the Parkside Hub in Penhill. Cllr K Small proposed it be named a more generic golf course rather than a crazy golf course. Cllr P Exell agreed.	



RESOLVED Councillors **APPROVED** Cllr Tom Smith request for £3,800.00 of his Ward Allowance to be placed in an EMR to go towards the cost of installing a golf course at the Parkside Hub in Penhill.

Cllr Javes Rodrigues requests £5,000.00 of his Ward Allowance and £3,000.00 from Ex-parish Councillor Will Stone Ward Allowance, total £8,000.00, be placed in an EMR for use in the Swindon walking area (opposite Southbrook Playing Field) and Wilcox Close play area.

RESOLVED Councillors **APPROVED** Cllr Javes Rodrigues request for £5,000.00 of his Ward Allowance be placed in an EMR for use in the Swindon walking area (opposite Southbrook Playing Field) and Wilcox Close.

RESOLVED Councillors **AGREED** that Ward Allowances connected to unused seats could not be used by other Councillors.

Cllr Raj Patel requests £1,000.00 of his Ward Allowance go to St Ann Church for their roof repair.

Cllr J Ballman asked about using Ward Allowances towards religious groups.

Cllr K Small proposed more clarification be acquired and the request to be taken to Full Council for **APPROVAL**.

RESOLVED Councillors **AGREED** to acquire more clarification on Cllr Raj Patel Ward Allowance request and it be taken to Full Council.

Cllr Raj Patel requests £4,000.00 of his Ward Allowance to go towards Ferndale Recreation Ground Gym Equipment.

Cllr D Patey clarified this is Rodbourne Rec and is to cover purchasing and installation.

RESOLVED Councillors **APPROVED** Cllr Raj Patel request for £4,000.00 of his Ward Allowance to go towards Ferndale Recreation Ground Gym Equipment.

Cllr Ana Fernandes requests £3,620.00 of her Ward Allowance to be placed in an EMR for Ferndale Recreation Ground Gym Equipment.

RESOLVED Councillors **APPROVED** Cllr Ana Fernandes request for £3,620.00 of her Ward Allowance be placed in an EMR for Ferndale Recreation Ground Gym Equipment.

Cllr James Yeowell requests £5,000.00 of his Ward Allowance be placed in an EMR for Ferndale Recreation Ground Gym Equipment.

RESOLVED Councillors **APPROVED** Cllr James Yeowell request for £5,000.00 of his Ward Allowance to be placed in an EMR for Ferndale Recreation Ground Gym Equipment.

Cllr Vanessa Bentley requests £2,000.00 of her Ward Allowance go towards the African Festival EMR, and £2,597.00 of her Ward Allowance be allocated to an EMR for activities in Gorse Hill.

RESOLVED Councillors **APPROVED** Cllr Vanessa Bentley request for £2,000.00 of her Ward Allowance to go towards the African Festival EMR, and £2,597.00 of her Ward Allowance be allocated an EMR for activities in Gorse Hill.

Cllr Muhammad Khan requests £1,000.00 of his Ward Allowance go towards Even Swindon Community Centre for furniture, and £1,988.00 go towards Mannington Rec.

RESOLVED Councillors **APPROVED** Cllr Muhammad Khan request for £1,000.00 of his Ward Allowance go towards Even Swindon Community Centre for furniture, and £1,988.00 of his Ward Allowance go towards Mannington Rec.

Cllr Kevin Small requests £300.00 of his Ward Allowance to repair a bench at Percy Street, £1,500.00 of his Ward Allowance to plant summer flowering beds in Marsh Street, £1,000.00 of his Ward Allowance go towards a pensioners group and £188.00 of his Ward Allowance be placed in EMR367 for bollards.

RESOLVED Councillors **APPROVED** Cllr Kevin Small requests for £300.00 of his Ward Allowance to repair a bench at Percy Street, £1,500.00 of his Ward Allowance to plant summer flowering beds in Marsh Street, £1,000.00 of his Ward Allowance go towards a



	pensioners group and £188.00 of his Ward Allowance be placed in EMR367 for bollards.	
FGP368	Grant Requests Balance of Grant Fund £9,268.00 RESOLVED Balance of Grant Fund NOTED. Swindon Sports Forum request £1,000.00 to fund 65 hours of Digital Marketing support to help them make better use of social media and their website to reach more people. Cllr J Ballman asked if Digital Marketing does have any effect. Cllr K Small explained that when done effectively it can have a huge impact at targeting specific areas. Cllr P Exell requested the Swindon Sports Forum provide a results report be provided on completion. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED Swindon Sports Forum request for £1,000.00 to fund 65 hours of Digital Marketing support to help them make better use of social media and their website to reach more people and request a results report to be provided on completion. Swindon Hardship Fund request £1,000.00 to support low income CSNPC residents with white goods, floor coverings and other extra expenses. A discussion was held on verifying the legitimacy of the group. Mr A Briggs brought up their website and explained they had received grants from other Parish Councils. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED Swindon Hardship Fund request £1,000.00 to support low income CSNPC residents with white goods, floor coverings and other extra expenses. Swindon Sisters Alliance requests £1,000.00 towards the £2,000.00 per year cost of cleaning Julie's Haven Holiday Home used by CSNPC families who have suffered from domestic violence. Councillors discussed the application.	

	RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED Swindon Sisters Alliance request for £1,000.00 towards the £2,000.00 per year cost of cleaning Julie's Haven Holiday Home used by CSNPC families who have suffered from domestic violence. The Home Education Group at JMH Penhill request £1,000.00 towards room rental and educational products to support children in The Parish with their education. Councillors discussed the application. Cllr K Small requested the application be brought to Full Council after more information about the scope of the group and who it is to support. RESOLVED Councillors AGREED more information about the scope of the group and who it supports to be brought to Full Council for consideration. Changing Suits request £1,000.00 towards The Community Health Fair aimed at bridging the gap between healthcare providers and other health organisations. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED Changing Suits request £1,000.00 towards The Community Health Fair aimed at bridging the gap between healthcare providers and other health organisations.	
FGP369	Rodbourne Cheney Play Area To APPROVE Leisure & Recreation Committee 06/02/2025 recommendation. LR413: RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED recommendation 1. A: A proposal is submitted to the March FGP Committee to attribute up to £30,000.00 from the Public Works Loan for play areas to the Rodbourne Cheney Play Area project. - B: That any underspend is returned to the Play Area budget. - C: Note the indicative project timeline - D: Instruct the Ops Manager to draft a scope of works ready for Procurement publication. Cllr D Patey asked where any underspend would go.	

	Cllr P Exell explained that any underspend would return to the Play Areas Public Works Loan balance to be spent on Play Areas. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED LR413 recommendation 1 A, B, C & D.	
FGP370	APM and AGM Meeting Dates To CONFIRM APM meeting date of the 30th April 2025 and CONSIDER a meeting date for the AGM. Cllr K Small confirmed that the APM is the 30th April 2025 and the AGM is the 28th May 2025. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the APM and AGM Committee meeting dates.	
FGP371	Idverde Contractual Changes Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update. Cllr K Small requested a barrow person in Rodbourne. Cllr D Patey requested a barrow person in Gorse Hill. Cllr J Ballman requested the purchase of a mechanical road sweeper. Cllr K Small noted this is part of The Parishes two-year contractual changes in conjunction with the Idverde contract. If Councillors would prefer to maintain the contract as is and use excess funding to purchase a road sweeper that is for Councillors to decide. Mr A Briggs recommended pricing up the Clerk recommendations and Councillors requests, and the mechanical sweeper and returning to a future FGP for decision. Mr A Reeves explained The Parish is looking into a capital spend for a road sweeper, and that this should be kept separate from the Idverde contract itself to maintain ownership within The Parish. He explained that Cllr J Ballman email reiterated the problem areas in connection with the email he had sent out and recommended that the areas listed could be included in any future contract.	

	Cllr D Patey proposed that Officers price up the three recommendations and return to a future FGP for consideration. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED Parish Officers pricing up all three options and returning to a future FGP for consideration.	
FGP372	Even Swindon Community Centre Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update; he explained that the damage is increasing due to recent rainfall and that a speedy repair is recommended to reduce any further damage. Cllr D Patey asked which budget this was to be attributed to. Mr A Briggs recommended the funds be attributed to the Public Works Loan funds we are expecting to receive. Cllr K Small suggested that the money be attributed to the Public Works Loan if approved, and if not use funds available from Capital Reserve EMR321. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED the repair of Even Swindon Community Centre roof.	
Meeting Closed 20:45		

Signed.....

Date...26/3/25.....