



Parish Council

Central Swindon North Parish Council

Pinetrees Community Centre,

The Circle,

SWINDON SN2 1QR

LEISURE & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday 9th January 2025 19.15

Present:

Councillors:

Cllr John Ballman (Chair)
Cllr Ian Edwards (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Joy Grotzinger
Cllr Muhammad Khan (virtually)
Cllr Mick Lucas (virtually)
Cllr Paul Park
Cllr James Yeowell

Clerk:

Mr Andrew Briggs (Head of Operations)

Officers:

Mr Andy Reeves (virtually)

Member of the Public Present: None

Apologies

none

		Action
LR400	Declarations of Interest Cllr John Ballman declared a non-pecuniary interest in The Leisure & Library Trust, HBuF and RSPB. Cllr Ian Edwards declared a non-pecuniary interest in The Leisure & Library Trust.	

	Cllr Paul Park declared a non-pecuniary interest in The Leisure & Library Trust. RESOLVED: Item NOTED.	
LR401	Public Questions & Public Correspondence None	
LR402	Minutes of Previous meeting To NOTE the minutes of the meeting held on the 05.12.2024. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the minutes of the meeting held on the 05.12.2024.	
LR403	Play Areas A: To RECEIVE an update regarding play area remedials and winter works. Mr A Briggs presented an update. See Appendix 1. Mr A Briggs provided some photographs showing the removal of detritus around the tennis courts and explained that The Parish is going around all the Play Areas to complete this type of work. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the update. B: To RECEIVE the outcome of the Community Ownership Fund. Mr A Briggs presented an update on the Community Ownership Fund grant funding request to help support the delivery of the Rodbourne Cheney Play Area refurbishment. Unfortunately, The Parish was unsuccessful at this time with the application for funding support, which is disappointing. The Parish's intention is to continue with the refurbishment of the Play Area using Councillors support and the some of the PWLB once received. Cllr J Ballman asked about the reasons cited for the application refusal.	



Mr A Briggs explained he would review the information provided and bring the findings to a future Leisure and Recreation Committee meeting.

Cllr J Grotzinger asked if The Parish was able to appeal the decision.

Mr A Briggs replied no that the decision was final.

Cllr I Edwards asked if work could be started using the funds already accumulated from Ward Allowance contributions and then the rest of the funding be acquired at a future date.

Mr A Briggs recommended that Councillors commit a portion of the loan amount to specifically be used for the completion of Rodbourne Cheney play area in conjunction with the funds already acquired, around £30,000 would probably need to be committed.

A discussion was held around how much to commit from the PWLB.

Mr M Lucas explained that the future plan is to renovate the old changing rooms, in conjunction with Mr Jamie Reeves' youth facility, by providing toilets, meeting room space and possibly a café. Additional funding would hopefully come from the youth group along with any funds The Parish contributes. Also, there is some EMR funding available that was originally designated for Moredon Youth which could be used towards any refurbishment work initiated there.

Cllr J Ballman asked if it would be prudent to create a specific working group for the Pembroke Play Area and recreation land refurbishment.

Mr A Reeves explained that, as Cllr M Lucas alluded to, The Parish has been in discussions with the Church around them contributing towards supporting that program. The challenge with the church, is whatever service level agreements are put in place will normally be in relation to supporting church-based activities, and The Parish have to be very careful about what that looks like if The Parish provides match funding. It would be the Parish Councils facility, and the church would make a contribution, and the type of work would need to be clearly defined. The church has spoken to the dioceses and funding would be around £70,000, and combined with the EMR and what is available in some of the other

reserves, The Parish could potentially do a substantial piece of work now, within the financial year.

Mr A Reeves recommended that a Working Group be created to scope out the details of the work, specifically the service level agreement.

Cllr J Ballman agreed with Mr A Reeves recommendation that a working group of all interested parties be created as soon as possible. The process should include all Councillors effected by the decisions made, to help streamline the approval process, as the ratifications go through the relevant Committees and Full Council.

Cllr I Edwards asked how long it would be until the Play Area itself would be completed as residents have been asking him this question regularly.

Cllr J Ballman explained that it takes time to provide provisions from gathering funding, gaining Committee approval and the building work. This is why he recommends a Working Group to streamline the whole process and provide the Play Area and building refurbishment as soon as possible.

Cllr I Edwards agreed with the Working Group as long as the Play Area was the first priority.

Cllr J Ballman proposed that a Pembroke Gardens Working Group be created to manage the Rodbourne Cheney Play Area and Pembroke Changing facilities refurbishment.

Cllr I Edwards seconded.

RESOLVED Councillors **APPROVED** the creation of a Pembroke Gardens Working Group to manage the Rodbourne Cheney Play Area and Pembroke Recreation ground refurbishment.

RESOLVED Councillors **NOTED** the update.

C: To **RECEIVE** notification of the annual safety inspections.

Mr A Briggs presented an update on the annual safety inspections. The inspection has been done now, and the report will be received soon which will be brought to a future committee meeting. There were a couple of high concerns, but The Parish dealt with these immediately.



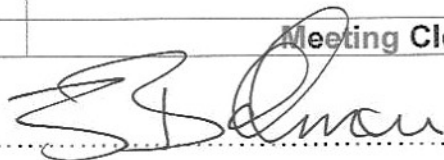
	There are a few pieces of park equipment that need replacing, these will be covered by the PWLB, but if we are able to replace them in the meantime this would be prudent. Cllr J Ballman asked about the costs and funding for any safety issues detected. Mr A Briggs explained that there is some funding remaining in the budget for issues that need immediate resolution. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the update.	
LR404	Allotments A: To RECEIVE an update from the Allotments Officer. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update from a written report provided by Allotment Officer Neil Jackson. See Appendix 2.. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the update. B: To RECEIVE an update regarding Kiln Lane projects. Mr A Briggs presented an update. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the update. C: To RECEIVE the site selection for the 'Best in Show' trial. Mr A Briggs explained that Akers Way has been chosen as the trial allotment site for The Parishes first 'Best in Show' competition. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the notes.	
LR405	Allington Rd – Community Project Mr A Briggs presented an update. See Appendix 3. Mr A Briggs recommended that the proposal be taken back to the community for approval, and then to return to a future Committee meeting for Councillor approval.	

	RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the update.	
LR406	Trees for Climate Mr A Briggs presented an update. The Parish has been awarded £16,656.52 in grant funding. It will be paid to The Parish in a lump sum and then ringfenced to complete the planting projects by the 31st March 2025. When the planting days are organised Councillors will be informed so they can participate if they want to. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the update.	
LR407	Sports Pitches A: To RECEIVE an update on pitch conditions & usage. Mr A Briggs presented an update. Due to the rain and ice recently, the pitches have been struggling. The Parish will know more in the next few weeks. The Parish will continue to put matches on where possible. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the update. B: To RECEIVE a request from Penhill United Mr A Briggs presented a request from Penhill United. They are receiving a lot of ASB to their goal posts and ask that The Parish discuss a solution to the storage situation to help protect the equipment. Cllr J Ballman asked the ages and amount of teams. Mr A Briggs explained they were all juniors and about 14 teams of 7 or 9. Penhill United requested permanent fencing, but a recommendation of a small shipping container would be a more sensible solution. Any work would have to be completed in the summer as the field is too waterlogged for works or transportation to take place on it right now. Cllr J Ballman felt the committee should consider placing a small storage unit there as a Parish asset, then charge a small surcharge to Penhill United for its use. Mr A Briggs said he would produce a report on costs and permissions needed and return with the information to a future committee meeting.	

	Penhill United would like to be involved in any decision making and have requested usage of the tennis courts for training when the fields are out of use. Councillors discussed the options. Cllr J Ballman asked how The Parish should proceed. Mr A Briggs recommended he meet with Penhill United at the location and discuss what they would need and want, and what work would need doing to make the facility usable. He would then return to a future Committee meeting with a recommendation on how to proceed. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the request. C: To RECEIVE an update on the footbridge works at Mannington Recreation. Mr A Briggs presented an update. The footbridge has been replaced with a more sturdy footbridge, funded by Swindon Borough Council. The tarmac on both sides of the footbridge has been refurbished also. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the update.	
LR408	Penhill Bowls Club Project A: To RECEIVE an update on the refurbishment and activity programme. Mr A Briggs presented an update. Cllr P Park explained he hopes to work towards a larger skate park and pump track, and removable tennis court nets to increase alternative usage of the tennis courts. Councillors viewed photographs taken of the progress. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the update. B: To RECEIVE the itinerary for the site. Mr A Briggs presented an update on the itinerary. The Parish is hoping to steer away from cash and encourage card payments. There are fixtures and fittings needed like tables and chairs, and games for the craft room from	

	Ward Allowance donations which will be purchased over the coming weeks. See Appendix 4 for a full list. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the update.	
LR409	Redlynch Close – SBC Allotment Land Offer Mr A Briggs presented an update. Swindon Borough Council have offered The Parish freehold for the site, but no funding is available for clearance. Idverde have quoted approximately £500-£1,000 to clear the edges of the site away from resident properties. Cllr P Park noted that it looks like a great space for involving the residents, the school that is close to the edge and other community groups in managing it. Cllr J Ballman agreed in accepting the offer. Cllr P Park proposed that The Parish accept Swindon Borough Councils offer to take on the freehold of the Redlynch Close Allotment Land, and the recommendation be taken to Full Council approval. Cllr J Yeowell seconded. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED The Parish accepting Swindon Borough Councils offer to take on the freehold of the Redlynch Close Allotment Land, and the recommendation be taken to Full Council for approval.	
Meeting Closed 20:23		

Signed.....



Date.....

4.3.2025