



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

FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday 26th March 2025 19.00

Present:

Councillors:

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

Clerk:

Mr Andy Reeves

Officers:

Mr Andrew Briggs
Mr Aaron Webb

Member of the Public Present: Mr Phillip Wilkinson (Police & Crime Commissioner)

Apologies

Cllr Paul Park

		Action
FC449	Declarations of Interest Cllr John Ballman declared a non-pecuniary interest in The Library & Leisure Trust, the RSPB, HBUF and Swindon Borough Council Planning Committee. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the declarations.	
FC450	Public Question Time & Correspondence None	
FC451	Wiltshire Police & Crime Commissioner Presentation Mr P Wilkinson presented an update on 24/25 and plans for 25/26. Mr P Wilkinson explained that he has just received £1,000,000 towards Anti-Social Behaviour, and £250,000 towards the Serious Violence Duty Fund. A new youth club called The Base to help support young people to avoid them falling into criminal activity. The Home Security and Minister of Justice have supported us with extra funding. Mr P Wilkinson explained that savings need to be made, but improvements will be coming from efficiency but not by making staff redundant. Two old stations will be closed but staff will be relocated. Statistics say that Wiltshire is the safest county in the UK, and they will continue to work hard to improve as one crime is too much. Project Scorpion continues to be effective, and their 101 and 999 response times are continuing to improve. There is a focus on retail crime and the punishment being relevant to the situation. Hare Coursing continues to be an issue and causes damage to farms and people, they will continue to focus on finding the perpetrators and incarcerating them. Anti-Social Behaviour is down 45% in Swindon thanks to funding and support. Courts are overloaded right now, and a lot of offenders are being given fines as the prisons are full. Cllr K Small asked about the ASB Grant, congratulated Mr P Wilkinson on getting it returned for another year and	

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	asked if the delivery methods would be the same for the coming year. Mr P Wilkinson explained that the funding comes with strict guidelines, which we can see have been working. Cllr J Yeowell asked about the newer drugs being used by people and the effects on residents. Mr P Wilkinson explained that it creates an impact on the users brains and makes them docile and robotic. Cllr J Yeowell asked about the parking issues in The Parish and how they are affecting pedestrians and the handicapped from moving around. Mr P Wilkinson noted the necessity of drawing up a list of who is responsible for which issues in our county, so Councillors know who to contact for which situation. Cllr R Patel asked if only specific retail crimes should be reported, or if all retail crime can be reported. Mr P Wilkinson explained that new systems are in place to support victims of crime to make reporting easier. All crime should be reported to the police. Cllr R Patel asked about the money saving from contracts and why they had not been done before. Mr P Wilkinson agreed that this should have been done before, and it is something that will be monitored going forward as The Police in Wiltshire now have a new Manager supporting this. Cllr D Patey asked about the Retail Support App. Mr P Wilkinson explained that the pilot will be in Salisbury but will cover the whole of Wiltshire eventually. Cllr D Patey asked about mobile units and how often they had been deployed within the parish. Mr P Wilkinson replied he was unsure, however as part of Government funding statistics on how often and where mobile units go within the county needs to be recorded and verified, so that hotspot areas can be focused. A database is being created to monitor this at present.	
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Cllr D Patey asked if this was something The Parish could have access too.

Mr P Wilkinson explained that this information would be for the neighbourhood teams.

Cllr D Patey asked about staffing within the police force.

Mr P Wilkinson explained that Wiltshire police force is achieving great job satisfaction which has been attracting people from across the country to move here. Wiltshire police force is currently at full capacity.

Cllr K Small asked who sets the police force numbers, is that locally or is that the Home Office.

Mr P Wilkinson explained that he Deputy Chief Constable sets the numbers.

Cllr D Patey asked about Anti-Social behaviour at Penhill which feels like it has gone up.

Mr P Wilkinson noted that figures show Anti-Social behaviour reports have gone down and prosecutions have gone up, but that if residents feel that in this specific area it has not, he will pass this information on to The Parishes local police on The Parishes behalf.

Cllr D Patey mentioned that last year Mr P Wilkinson talked about the Anti-Social Behaviour in the town centre. What results have been achieved and what other areas like Gorse Hill have been focused during the last year.

Mr P Wilkinson said that police officers in the town centre have doubled, and the app will be rolled out into the town centres as soon as possible.

Cllr D Patey asked about drones.

Mr P Wilkinson explained the county has 3 full time drone pilots and 31 trained drone pilots, managing around 30 drones. There are drones within the mobile units in the boots of cars that can be used when needed.

Cllr J Ballman asked about the dangerous dogs funding.

Mr P Wilkinson explained that there was no funding from the government, he had to find the money from elsewhere. The dogs need a kennel nearby because at the moment they all have to be transported to Coventry.

Cllr J Ballman asked about contact with the police and the fact it has dwindled away recently.

Mr A Reeves noted that the connection between the police and The Parish allows a seamless support, as in the terrible accident on Akers Way in November 2022, which thanks to Carlie including The Parish at the start, allowed The Parish to support the family after the police family liaison team had moved on.

Mr P Wilkinson agreed that having good relationships and communication with Parish Councils and residents is a hugely important factor, and knowing who The Parish should contact is something he would look into and get back to The Parish about.

Mr A Webb mentioned about some of the youth incidents that had occurred recently at Parish events and how he felt the police could have handled it differently. Some of the young people there and involved have lost respect for the police because of the way the situations were handled, and he would like to see situations like this handled better in the future. He noted the importance of creating good relationships between young people and the police and the importance of young people not seeing the police as the enemy.

Mr P Wilkinson agreed that this was really disappointing. He will be looking into this and agrees it is so important not to undermine all the hard work done through these youth projects.

Mr A Reeves mentioned about shop lifting and supporting retailers. Cricklade Road shops have contacted The Parish recently asking if shoplifting has been decriminalized, and if there is a de-minimus limit before police officers will respond and will that mean retailers will need to find other ways to recover the money lost via other non-criminal routes.

Mr P Wilkinson verified that there is no de-minimus limit and that residents need to report crime. The retailers and residents need to tell the police about a problem for the police to help.

Mr A Reeves noted that police haven't contacted retailers for CCTV evidence and the crime is left unresolved.

Mr P Wilkinson explained that any complaint about the police now comes to his desk and he communicates with the department or officers involved to make sure all complaints are dealt with efficiently and in a timely fashion.

Cllr A Fernandes asked what the most common type of Anti-Social Behaviour happens in Swindon.

Mr P Wilkinson said noisy neighbours then it's a Council or Housing issue, if it's criminal then it's police. He asked if Councillors could be specific about what types of Anti-Social Behaviour they are interested in.

Cllr I Edwards mentioned drug dealers on the streets. They don't generally interfere or interact with people going by, but people don't see the point in calling the police because they think no-one will come out and deal with it.

Mr P Wilkinson suggested that the local police liaison officer should be involved in this discussion, and they would be able to signpost The Parish to the correct people to help with the issues raised.

Cllr A Fernandes asked what the best way to report Anti-Social Behaviour was.

Mr P Wilkinson said that the best way is to call 999 in an emergency and 101 if the crime has already happened.

Cllr V Bentley asked about knife crime and what are the police doing to support teachers and residents with education.

Mr P Wilkinson said to check the PCC website and there is information there. He explained that many initiatives are underway to educate and support schools and youth clubs. There is a lot going on and most of this is on the website.

Cllr V Bentley noted that the information about this does not always reach parents, and reaching teenagers is a tough challenge.

Mr P Wilkinson agreed that reaching the parents is important.

Cllr K Small talked about the decimated youth services across the country and the lack of youth provisions which in the past was how information and resources were passed on to young people and parents.

	Cllr K Small mentioned the co-terminus police/fire discussions from within Government. If Wiltshire goes elsewhere how does that effect Wiltshire constabulary. Mr P Wilkinson said he has asked ministers about this and how this would actually work. At present the exact way this will work has not been decided or confirmed. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the presentation.	
FC452	Minutes of the Previous Meeting The Chair presented the minutes of the meeting held on the 29th January 2025 to be approved as a true and accurate record. RESOLVED to APPROVE the minutes of the meeting held on the 29th January 2025 as a true and accurate record.	
FC453	Environment & Planning Committee The Chair presented the minutes of the Environment & Planning Committee meetings held on the 22nd January 2025, 5th February 2025, 19th February 2025 and 5th March 2025 to be approved as a true and accurate record. RESOLVED to APPROVE the minutes of the Environment & Planning Committee meetings held on the 22nd January 2025, 5th February 2025, 19th February 2025 and 5th March 2025 as a true and accurate record.	
FC454	Finance & General Purposes Committee The Chair presented the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meetings held on the 4th February 2025 and the 4th March 2025 to be approved as a true and accurate record. RESOLVED to APPROVE the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meetings held on the 4th February 2025 and the 4th March 2025 as a true and accurate record.	
FC455	Community Development Committee The Chair presented the minutes of the Community Development Committee meetings held on the 5th February 2025 and the 5th March 2025 to be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr K Small asked about CD184, what are The Parish doing for the VE day celebrations.	

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	Mr A Webb explained that there is an event at Pinetrees community centre, with a range of activities going on. The event will be on Saturday the 10th May 2025 between 13:00-16:00. Cllr K Small asked what educational element was being included. Mr A Webb described the old school appearance of the event with costumes and drawings from the time, also Winston Churchill speeches etc will be playing in the background. RESOLVED to APPROVE the minutes of the Community Development Committee meetings held on the 5th February 2025 and the 5th March 2025 as a true and accurate record.	
FC456	Leisure & Recreation Committee The Chair presented the minutes of the Leisure & Recreation Committee meetings held on the 6th February 2025 and the 6th March 2025 to be approved as a true and accurate record. RESOLVED to APPROVE the minutes of the Leisure & Recreation Committee meetings held on the 6th February 2025 and the 6th March 2025 as a true and accurate record.	
FC457	Moredon Sporting Hub Committee The Chair presented the minutes of the Moredon Sporting Hub Committee meeting held on the 27th January 2025 and the 17th March 2025 to be approved as a true and accurate record. RESOLVED to APPROVE the minutes of the Moredon Sporting Hub Committee meeting held on the 27th January 2025 and the 17th March 2025 as a true and accurate record.	
FC458	Updated Policy Approval To REVIEW and ADOPT updated policies & procedures. a) Procurement Policy. b) Ward Allowance Policy. c) Sexual Harassment Policy. a) RESOLVED Councillors ADOPTED the updated Procurement Policy. b) RESOLVED Councillors ADOPTED the Ward Allowance Policy.	

	c) RESOLVED Councillors ADOPTED the Sexual Harassment Policy.	
FC459	Risk Assessment To REVIEW and APPROVE the Risk Assessment. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED the Risk Assessment. Cllr K Small noted the importance of the risk assessment and that it would be good if FGP were to review it on a 6 monthly basis.	
FC460	Rodbourne Cheney Play Area To APPROVE Leisure & Recreation Committee 06/02/2025 recommendation as APPROVED at the Finance & General Purposes Committee on 04/03/2025, FGP369. LR413: RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED recommendation 1. A: A proposal is submitted to the March 2025 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. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED Leisure & Recreation Committee 06/02/2025 recommendation as APPROVED at the Finance & General Purposes Committee on 04/03/2025, FGP369. LR413: RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED recommendation 2. A: A proposal is submitted to the March 2025 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. To APPROVE the project scope and publication of the Play Area Tender.	

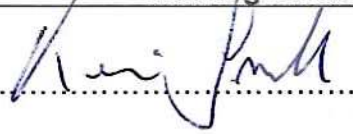
	RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED the project scope and publication of the Play Area Tender.	
FC461	Kiln Lane Lease for Manor Garages To APPROVE Leisure & Recreation Committee 06/02/2025 recommendation. LR414: RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED the Kiln Lane lease and a £3,500.00 per annum rent, with the recommendation to be taken to Full Council in March. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED Leisure & Recreation Committee 06/02/2025 recommendation. LR414: RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED the Kiln Lane lease and a £3,500.00 per annum rent, with the recommendation to be taken to Full Council in March.	
FC462	Ward Allowance Cllr Raj Patel requests £1,000.00 of his Ward Allowance go to St Ann Church for their roof repair. Cllr D Patey confirmed this is All Saints Church and is for their activities room not the church itself and he proposed it be approved. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED Cllr Raj Patel request for £1,000.00 of his Ward Allowance go to All Saints Church for their roof repair. Cllr John Ballman requests £1,000.00 of his Ward Allowance go to Pinehurst Initiative Forum, and £1,000.00 of his Ward Allowance go to the Chronic Pain Awareness Group. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED Cllr John Ballman request for £1,000.00 of his Ward Allowance go to Pinehurst Initiative Forum, and £1,000.00 of his Ward Allowance go to the Chronic Pain Awareness Group. Cllr Ana Fernandes requests for £800 APPROVED Ward Allowance request for St Marks Event be placed in an EMR for use at the 2025 event. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED Cllr Ana Fernandes requests for £800 APPROVED Ward Allowance request for St Marks Event be placed in an EMR for use at the 2025 event.	

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	Cllr D Patey requests his £500 APPROVED Ward Allowance request for ABTShop Youth Activities be placed in an EMR to be used during 2025/26. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED Cllr D Patey requests his £500 APPROVED Ward Allowance request for ABTShop Youth Activities be placed in an EMR to be used during 2025/26.	
FC463	Moredon Sporting Hub Fibre Installation To APPROVE recommendation. Mr A Reeves presented a report on the internet situation and what is needed to make Moredon a safe and reliable working building. See Appendix 1. Cllr J Ballman asked about SBC paying for the works. Mr A Reeves explained that it was part of the original capital costs of the build, and he would expect SBC to have a suitable virement to pay for that cost. Cllr P Exell asked about the positioning of the wires and whether the new housing would be able to access it when built. Mr A Reeves confirmed yes, he has been informed that the housing would be able to access the fibre from these wires also. Cllr M Lucas asked why the ducting that was placed there during the original build was not being used. Mr A Reeves explained that the company has informed The Parish that the ducting there is not suitable. Cllr K Small proposed to approve the recommendation • To APPROVE the installation of cabling to enable the Moredon Sporting Hub to have a fixed line fibre supply. Includes JUF2 cable lines, concrete tracking and ducting. At a provisional cost of £14,222. • If further works are required, such as the installation of overground telegraph poles or additional ducting, to APPROVE the Clerk to authorise up to £5,000 and for sums over £5,000 to be referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee.	

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	- To APPROVE the allocation of funds from 5515 MSH MAINTENACE with an appropriate provision available (£73,000). RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED the recommendation - To APPROVE the installation of cabling to enable the Moredon Sporting Hub to have a fixed line fibre supply. Includes JUF2 cable lines, concrete tracking and ducting. At a provisional cost of £14,222. - If further works are required, such as the installation of overground telegraph poles or additional ducting, to APPROVE the Clerk to authorise up to £5,000 and for sums over £5,000 to be referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee. - To APPROVE the allocation of funds from 5515 MSH MAINTENACE with an appropriate provision available (£73,000).	
FC464	Grant Request Balance of Community Grant Fund £6,268.00 The Home Education Group at Penhill request £1,000.00 towards room rental and educational products to support children in The Parish with their education. Cllr D Patey explained it was to cover the cost of using JMH. Mr A Reeves noted that there would need to be some governance in place to make sure children were not left there unsupervised. Councillors agreed. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED The Home Education Group at Penhill request £1,000.00 towards room rental to support children in The Parish with their education. A proviso is placed that governance is put in place to make sure children always have parents with them, and no children are left there unsupervised.	
	Meeting Closed 20:29	

Signed.....

Date.....28/5/25.....