



Parish Council

Central Swindon North Parish Council

Pinetrees Community Centre,

The Circle,

SWINDON SN2 1QR

LEISURE & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday 10th April 2025 19.15

Present:

Councillors:

Cllr John Ballman (Chair)
Cllr Ian Edwards (virtually)
Cllr Mick Lucas
Cllr Paul Park
Cllr James Yeowell

Clerk:

Mr Andrew Briggs (Head of Operations)

Officers:

Mr Andy Reeves (Parish Clerk)
Mr Neil Jackson (Allotment Officer)

Member of the Public Present: None

Apologies

none

		Action
LR429	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 Library & Leisure Trust.	

	Cllr Paul Park declared a non-pecuniary interest in The Library & Leisure Trust. RESOLVED: Item NOTED.	
LR430	Public Questions & Public Correspondence None	
LR431	Play Areas and Grounds A: To RECEIVE an update on remedial works and outstanding matters. Mr A Briggs presented an update. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the update. B: To RECEIVE an update on the Rodbourne Cheney Play Area tender. Mr A Briggs presented an update. Mr A Briggs explained there had been one company asking for the tender deadline to be extended by two weeks, he recommended that the committee refuse as it would negatively impact the proposed timeline due to committee meeting dates. Cllr J Ballman proposed The Parish keep the 29th April 2025 deadline. Councillors agreed. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the update and APPROVED keeping the 29th April 2025 deadline.	
LR432	Parks A: To RECEIVE verbal updates on St Marks & Penhill Park. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update. See Appendix 1 & 2. Cllr J Ballman noted how nice Penhill Park is looking now. Mr A Reeves presented an update on creating a mini arboretum. Penhill Park has such a wide variety of different and unusual plants. There is an interpretation	

	board already ordered which the QR code can be added to which shows visitors where to find all the unique and unusual plants. Cllr J Ballman noted how nice the trees and daffodils are looking. Cllr J Ballman asked about the planters. Mr A Briggs explained they should arrive around June 2025. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the update. B: To RECEIVE a verbal update on wildflower planting. Mr A Briggs presented an update. See Appendix 3. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the update.	
LR433	Allotments A: To RECEIVE a verbal update from the Allotment Officers. Mr N Jackson presented an update. Occupancy rates are at 95.8%. 8 plots were terminated due to non-payment, and 12 new tenants. There has been a lot of waste removed recently. Water has been turned back on. A PC has been given a key to the allotments to allow quick access in an emergency. Cllr J Ballman asked about the compost from the Defence Academy. Mr N Jackson explained that at present this is on hold as if the bags are not used immediately, it can encourage rats. The Parish will start collecting again in the future. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the update. B: To RECEIVE the notes from the Allotment Working Group meeting, held 11.03.2025.	

	Mr A Briggs mentioned the Parish encouraging more tenants from a variety of sites taking part. Mr A Briggs mentioned the tenant dispute at Pickards Field. Mr N Jackson explained that the mediation at present is working, and some of the plot owners, who had not met before, have become friends and are visiting each other's plots creating a more harmonious environment. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the Working Group notes. C: To RECEIVE an update on the Kiln Lane entrance work project. Mr A Briggs presented an update. The work starts on the 22nd April 2025 and is expected to be completed on the 24th April 2025. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the update.	
LR434	Sports Pitches A: To RECEIVE an update on upcoming seasonal works to sports pitches. Mr A Briggs presented an update. Weed spraying, grass cutting and aerating are continuing, and funding work in coalition with the Football Foundation. Cllr J Yeowell asked how long the Parish has funding support. Mr A Briggs explained about 2 years left, and budget funds are increasing each year to compensate. Penhill changing rooms works are in progress at the moment, The Parish is expecting it all to be completed within three weeks. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the update. B: To RECEIVE an updated indicative cost for drainage works at Mannington Recreation Ground. Mr A Briggs presented an update.	

The company that supplies the Parishes aerating has provided a quote for around £30,000 to complete the drainage works. Previous quotes the Parish has received before having been between £100,000-£150,000.

Mr A Briggs explained that the Parish is awaiting Landlords permission as the Parish leases the land, then Mr A Briggs will input a grant application which will be for match funding. This would mean the Parish will have an overall cost of around £10,000.

RESOLVED Councillors **NOTED** the update.

C: To **CONSIDER** vision proposal from Penhill United Football Club.

Mr A Briggs presented an update.

See Appendix 4.

Penhill United would like to expand their youth activities for the 90+ young people they already support plus hopefully bring in more.

Mr A Briggs explained the land is not owned by the Parish.

Cllr J Ballman presented an update on the land and how the Parish should proceed. SBC has an existing plan and policy which expire in 2026, and he recommends we apply for planning permission for the storage container and then proceed after that.

Mr A Reeves explained that a new plan and policy will be created soon in collaboration with Parish councils. The Penhill United Football Club plans are quite extensive, and it would be prudent to apply for planning permission first.

Cllr J Ballman noted he supports the Penhill United Football Club plans and believes it would be a positive plan for the future.

Cllr J Ballman proposed that Officers contact SBC and enquires around the project see if the plan is suitable for land usage.

Mr A Reeves mentioned how thriving the area is now. The whole area is a leisure zone and with a hopefully Green Flag accredited park, a youth centre, play area,

dog walkers and community café. The Penhill United plans are in keeping with the zoning of the area.

Cllr J Yeowell asked if only Penhill United would be able to use the area.

Mr A Briggs said this would be a decision that the Parish Councillors would make at a later date.

Councillors discussed the tennis courts condition at present.

Cllr P Park proposed that Officers contact SBC with a view to establishing a Penhill United Football Club activity point on the disused tennis courts.

Cllr I Edwards seconded.

RESOLVED Councillors **APPROVED** Officers contacting SBC with a view to establishing a Penhill United Football Club activity point on the disused tennis courts.

Cllr J Ballman proposed the Parish purchase a shipping container to lease the use of to Penhill United Football Club for storage of their equipment to keep it safe when not being used.

Cllr J Yeowell seconded.

RESOLVED Councillors **APPROVED** 'in principal', subject to discussions with SBC the Parish purchasing a shipping container to lease the use of to Penhill United Football Club for storage of their equipment to keep it safe when not being used.

Meeting Closed 20:18

Signed

Date

28.5.2025