



Parish Council

Central Swindon North Parish Council

Pinetrees Community Centre,

The Circle,

SWINDON SN2 1QR

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 3rd June 2025 19.15

Present:

Councillors:

Cllr Dave Patey (Chair)
Cllr Mick Lucas (Vice Chair)
Cllr John Ballman
Cllr Paul Exell
Cllr Ana Fernandes
Cllr Muhammad Khan
Cllr Kevin Small
Cllr James Yeowell

Clerk:

Mr Andy Reeves

Officers:

Mr Andrew Briggs
Mrs Emma Till

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

Apologies

Cllr Javes Rodrigues



		Action
FGP401	Declarations of Interest Cllr J Ballman declared a non-pecuniary interest in The Library & Leisure Trust, the RSPB and HBuF.	
FGP402	Public Questions & Public Correspondence None	
FGP403	Minutes of the Previous Meeting The Chair presented the minutes of the meeting held on the 6 th May 2025 to be approved as a true and accurate record. RESOLVED to APPROVE the minutes of the meeting held on the 6 th May 2025 as a true and accurate record.	
FGP404	Grounds Maintenance Update Mr M Ware presented a verbal update from a written report. See Appendix 1. Cllr K Small thanked Mr M Ware for all the hard work getting the parks ready for Green Flag judging, he noted how good they are looking. Cllr K Small asked if Idverde inspect the fly tipping rubbish to try and identify the culprits and do Idverde/The Parish work with Swindon Borough Council to see if they can prosecute. Mr M Ware explained that Idverde do not investigate specifically but if items with addresses on are seen whilst collecting the fly tipping, photographs are taken and forwarded onto Swindon Borough Council. Cllr J Ballman agreed with Cllr K Small comment about the parks looking so good at the moment. He also explained that it is Swindon Borough Councils responsibility to manage the fly tipping issue, and they are working to find ways to reduce it. Mr M Ware thanked Cllr P Exell and Cllr M Lucas for the community litter picks as they are a great help. Cllr M Lucas asked if Mr M Ware received the information around some fly tipping around the back alleys.	

	Mr M Ware replied yes, and that they had been dealt with. RESOLVED Councillor NOTED the Grounds Maintenance Update.	
FGP405	Transaction Logs Cllr M Lucas to confirm review of April 2025 (£12,700.06) transaction logs. RESOLVED: Cllr M Lucas confirmed the GPC transaction logs for April 2025 (£12,700.06)	
FGP406	Budget Report & Forecast To NOTE the summary of income and expenditure and Forecast against the budget report for April 2025. RESOLVED to NOTE the summary of income and expenditure and Forecast against the budget report for April 2025.	
FGP407	Payments List To REVIEW and APPROVE March 2024, April 2024, May 2024, June 2024, July 2024, August 2024, September 2024, October 2025, November 2024, December 2024, January 2025, February 2025 and April 2025 Payments List. Cllr K Small mentioned that he felt Councillors reviewing purchases was an inappropriate use of Councillor's time, and he recommended that the Clerk communicate with relevant Government bodies to remove the need for Parish Councils to continue doing this. Mr A Reeves explained that he could communicate this request to WALC and bring this suggestion to them as our liaison initially, but that legislation requires this right now and it will need to be continued until changed. Cllr J Ballman asked if it was the Auditor requiring it or would this change if the Parish employed a different Auditor. Mr A Reeves explained that as part of the AGAR the Auditor has to confirm that Councillors have seen all the financial transactions over the year for accountability and fraud. At the end of the year the	Mr A Reeves to contact WALC around changing legislation that requires Councillors needing to review all expenditure.

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	Auditor, any Auditor, must be able to say that they have seen proof that Councillors have seen the financial information. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED March 2024, April 2024, May 2024, June 2024, July 2024, August 2024, September 2024, October 2025, November 2024, December 2024, January 2025, February 2025 and April 2025 Payments List.	
FGP408	Debtor List To REVIEW the Debtor lists for April 2025. Mr A Reeves explained he has a meeting with Mrs T De Freitas about issuing the pre-protocol letter around court proceedings in the coming week. Mr A Reeves explained that the Swindon Borough Council one is the largest and is in connection to unpaid water charges from the old caretaker's house. Communication around this issue has been challenging, and no payments from Swindon Borough Council have yet to be provided. Cllr K Small proposed Mr A Reeves provided a letter to be passed to Swindon Borough Council, and he would make sure they received it. RESOLVED to NOTE the Debtor lists for April 2025.	Mr A Reeves to communicate with Swindon Borough Council, through Cllr K Small, re unpaid debt. Mr A Reeves to send out pre-protocol letters to debtors over 90 days old.
FGP409	Ear Marked Reserves To NOTE the balances of Ear Marked Reserves as of 30th April 2025. Cllr J Yeowell asked about the Alanbrooks Cres Play Area and asked why this was separate and not included in the Ferndale Play Area EMR. Mr A Briggs explained that this was a grant for use at that specific play area, and that it needed to be used up soon. He would co-ordinate with Leisure & Recreation Committee on using the funds to purchase the required pieces of play equipment. Cllr K Small asked about EMR391 – Pop-Up shop, that as the Councillor who requested that money is no longer with us whether that should be returned to general reserve.	

	Mr A Briggs explained that the Pop-Up shop is still active, and goods are still being purchased for it using this funding. Mr A Reeves explained that as the Pop-Up shop was still an active project the question should be when the funds run out how The Parish will continue to provide this service. Cllr K Small explained that funds would need to come from Councillors Ward Allowance. RESOLVED to NOTE the balances of Ear Marked Reserves as at 30th April 2025.	
FGP410	Ward Allowance Update To NOTE the current balances of Ward Allowances. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the Ward Allowance balances. Cllr Ian Edwards requests £5,000.00 of his Ward Allowance be placed in EMR343 – Rodbourne Cheney Play Area. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED Cllr Ian Edwards request for £5,000.00 of his Ward Allowance be placed in EMR343 – Rodbourne Cheney Play Area. Cllr Dave Patey requests £1,000.00 of his Ward Allowance as a contingency for the African Festival. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED Cllr Dave Pateys request for £1,000.00 of his Ward Allowance as a contingency for the African Festival. Cllr Joy Grotzinger requests £4,700.00 of her Ward Allowance to be used for the African Festival. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED Cllr Joy Grotzinger request for £4,700.00 of her Ward Allowance be used for the African Festival.	
FGP411	Grant Requests Balance of Grant Fund £14,000.00 RESOLVED Balance of Grant Fund NOTED. The Roxi Foundation request £1,311.58 towards a custom 3x3 gazebo and pop-up signage.	

	Cllr P Exell mentioned the policy only allows the Parish to offer Community Grants up to £1,000.00 Councillors discussed the grant request. Cllr D Patey proposed the Parish approve a grant of £1,000.00 with proof of purchase to be provided. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED a Community Grant of £1,000.00 to The Roxi Foundation towards the purchase of a custom 3x3 gazebo and pop-up signage and proof of purchase be provided. Swindon North End Bowls Club request £1,289.73 towards the purchase and installation of three new heaters. Cllr D Patey proposed that the Parish offer £1,000.00 for the same reasons as the previous application. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED a Community Grant of £1,000.00 to Swindon North End Bowls Club towards the purchase and installation of three new heaters.	
FGP412	Policy Review Cllr D Patey explained that as all the policies have been reviewed during 2024/25, they would not be reviewed in 2025/26 unless there are legislation changes or new policies. The review schedule will begin again in 26/27. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the update.	
FGP413	Ops Update Mr A Briggs presented an update from a written report. See Appendix 2. Cllr P Exell asked if there were any alterations or repairs still needed at Moredon Sporting Hub. Mr A Briggs explained that most issues have been corrected, the only few issues remaining are just minor. Cllr J Ballman asked about the costs for drainage for the football pitches.	

	Mr A Briggs explained that match funding could be available for up to £25,000.00 from the Football Foundation, and the recent quotations have been lower which could make providing them something the Parish could afford over the next few years. He will start the tender process. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the update.	
FGP414	Render Clean Quotes for PTCC To REVIEW and APPROVE the quotes for render cleaning at PTCC. Mr A Briggs explained the work that needed doing and the quotes that had been sourced at present. He recommended that the funding be provided from the PWLB loan. Cllr K Small was concerned that doing maintenance instead of capitol works from the PWLB loan money. Mr A Reeves explained that it is important to get the PWLB working group started and the money for each project placed in separate EMR's so that the funds don't get used up with everyday maintenance projects. Cllr D Patey proposed the work be done now and that future funds be made available on the maintenance budget in the future. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED the lowest cost quote be used for the render cleaning at PTCC.	
FGP415	Gym Equipment Mr A Reeves presented an update on the equipment and funds available for the exercise equipment provision at Ferndale Rec. Cllr A Fernandes presented an explanation around the reasons for creating an exercise provision in the open areas for all residents, especially those who cannot afford gym memberships. Cllr J Yeowell asked about the Penhill one's and if they are used. Mr A Briggs explained that they do get used, but to remember that continued maintenance will be required.	Mr A Briggs to provide a provisional cost for the gym equipment and flooring to a future FGP meeting. 

	Cllr J Yeowell noted he has Ward Allowance available if extra funds are required for this project. Mr A Reeves mentioned that flooring will be needed as the ground becomes rutted over time which can be dangerous and looks tatty. Cllr K Small exclaimed how small Rodbourne Rec is and it seems bigger when you are in it. He said he believed this was a good idea and whether a future park there would be appropriate. Mr A Briggs explained the play area is situated quite poorly and tends to flood, the placing of the gym equipment is a great opportunity to consider relocating and updating the play area in the future. Cllr J Ballman explained that names are important. Cllr K Small agreed with Cllr J Ballman. Cllr P Exell asked about lighting in the area of the gym. Mr A Reeves explained there are several lights around that area. Councillors discussed the proposed location. Cllr J Ballman wanted Councillors to be mindful of the need to keep open spaces for Air Ambulance. Mr A Reeves explained that landing spots information is passed on regularly to the Civil Contingency Committee. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED the funds being spent on the outdoor Gym and asked that a quote for all the work, including the flooring be brought to a future committee for approval.	
FGP416	Actions Noted To NOTE actions. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the Actions Noted list.	
Meeting Closed 20:12		

Signed.....

Date.....1/7/25