



Parish Council

Central Swindon North Parish Council

Pinetrees Community Centre,

The Circle,

SWINDON SN2 1QR

LEISURE & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday 10th July 2025 19.15

Present:

Councillors:

Cllr John Ballman (Chair)
Cllr Ian Edwards (Vice Chair)
Cllr Joy Grotzinger (virtually)
Cllr Paul Park (virtually)
Cllr James Yeowell

Clerk:

Mr Andrew Briggs, Head of Operations

Officers:

Mr Andy Reeves, Parish Clerk (virtually)
Mr Neil Jackson, Allotment Officer (virtually)
Mr Matt Gleed, Leisure Manager

Member of the Public Present: Lisa Smith, FC Abbey Meads Secretary
Daniel Mousdon, Swindon Softball Chair
Fiona Mousdon, Swindon Softball Treasurer

Apologies

None

		Action
LR452	Declarations Of Interest Cllr John Ballman declared a non-pecuniary interest in The Leisure & Library Trust, HBUF and RSPB. Cllr Ian Edwards declared an interest in the Library's & Leisure Trust. RESOLVED: Item NOTED.	
LR453	Public Questions & Public Correspondence To RECEIVE a request from FC Abbey Meads for additional grass pitches and a request from Swindon Softball League for a permanent diamond set at Moredon sporting Hub. Cllr J Ballman explained that situations like this can be discussed total, but usually a working group is created to include Councillors and members of the public to illicit changes. Mrs L Smith from FC Abbey Meads explained that the growth of the club means they require more grass pitches for their younger players. They are requesting one 5X5 and one 7X7 pitches. This will allow more children to play, with around 70% of those children from within the Parish. Mr D Mousdon explained what softball is and how popular it has become in Swindon over the recent years. He mentioned that it is played by whole families including all ages. Young people have started with them and gone on to play professionally. They have been established for 20 years and have been unable to find a permanent home. Mr A Briggs responded to explain that both requests will impact each other, and a working group to coordinate and negotiate will need to be created so a plan can be agreed on how to proceed. Cllr I Edwards asked when a design needed to be made by. Both Mrs L Smith and Mr D Mousdon said September 2025. RESOLVED to APPROVE creation of a Working Group to find a solution and agreement on use of fields for football and softball.	



	The members of the public, and Mr M Gleed left the meeting.	
LR454	Minutes from previous Meeting To RECEIVE the Minutes of the previous meeting held 5th June 2025. RESOLVED to APPROVE the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 5th June 2025.	
LR455	Play Areas And Grounds A. To RECEIVE a status update for the Rodbourne Cheney Play Area project. Mr A Briggs presented an update. Contracts have been agreed and signed, and the provider has been out to review the land and will supply a start date shortly. Cllr J Ballman proposed that Councillors come out on the first day with a spade to cut the first soil. RESOLVED to NOTE update. B. To RECEIVE a 3rd quotation to replace the damaged Cableway (zip wire) at Inglesham Road. Mr A Briggs presented the three quotes provided for the repair of the zip wire at Inglesham Road. He recommended Councillors accept quotation 1 (£15,975.70). RESOLVED to APPROVED quotation 1 at £15,975.70, to be ratified at Full Council to be funded from the PWLB Loan. C. To RECEIVE the Penhill Gym service report. Mr A Briggs presented an update on the Penhill Gym and its maintenance over the last 3-4 years. RESOLVED to NOTE the update.	
LR456	Borough Wide PSPO regarding dog fouling and exclusion of dogs To APPROVE a committee response to SBC public consultation.	

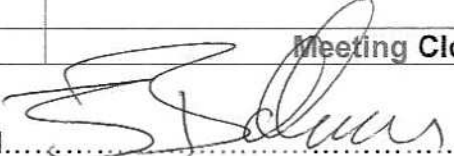
	Mr A Briggs presented information on a Protection Order Survey commissioned by Swindon Borough Council around dog exclusions in parks. It is to be completed by September 2025. He asked Councillors if they would like to complete the survey themselves or if they would like Officers to complete it on the Parishes behalf, stipulating the Parishes desire that offensives be actioned on. Cllr J Yeowell asked if this has been in action at present. Mr A Briggs said yes but it is not being actioned on. Cllr I Edwards asked if it has been working. Councillors discussed the questions and their responses. Cllr J Ballman requested more clarification on some of the questions. Mr A Briggs asked if Councillors were content for Officers to contact SBC for clarification, which would be emailed out to Councillors so the Parish could respond before the consultation end date. RESOLVED to APPROVE for Officers to contact SBC for clarification, which would be emailed out to Councillors so the Parish could respond before the consultation end date.	
LR457	Parks And Open Spaces A. To RECEIVE the outcome of the Green Flag judging of St Marks and Penhill Parks. Mr A Briggs asked Councillors to refer to the email provided by Mr A Reeves on this subject, and once the embargo is lifted an announcement will be made. RESOLVED to NOTE update. B. To RECEIVE a request to review parking measures at St Marks Park. Mr A Briggs presented an update on the parking issues at St Marks car park. Cllr J Ballman agreed that this has been an issue for a while with various people using it as a free parking space which means when St Marks Park users require spaces, they are full.	

	Councillors discussed the situation. Cllr J Grotzinger was concerned about where the cars that are using the car park at present will go and if they will fill up the roads around the area. Cllr J Ballman asked that L&R be consulted about this issue so a proposal can be drawn up to send to FGP. Cllr P Park explained that parking is an E&P responsibility and that L&R were going to be consulted about this before any decisions were made. Cllr J Ballman stated that L&R is responsible for this issue as it came to them previously. Cllr P Park suggested a conversation between the E&P Chair, the L&R Chair and the Clerk around which committee is responsible for the production of a proposal which will be taken to FGP for approval. Cllr J Ballman disagreed and commented that L&R dealt with the parking at St Marks issue last time and the committee would be responsible for it this time. He proposed that the information be gathered around the options available and they be brought to L&R at a future meeting to be agreed on. RESOLVED to APPROVE that the information be gathered around the options available and they be brought to L&R at a future meeting to be agreed on.	
LR458	Allotments A. To RECEIVE a verbal update from the Allotment Officer. Mr N Jackson presented a verbal update. Tenancy at 96.6%, with 11 new occupants this month. A wasp nest cleared and hops increasing and still popular. Starbucks are offering used coffee grinds, looking at how to distribute in the future. A break in happened at Akers Way recently with all locked sheds broken into. The items have been retrieved at a field nearby. RESOLVED to NOTE update. B. To RECEIVE the date of the best in show final judging at Akers Way.	

	Mr A Briggs presented an update on the final date for judging which will be on the 14th August 2025. Scores will be tallied up and winners will be announced shortly after. RESOLVED to NOTE update. C. To RECEIVE an update on the Allington Rd Community Garden project. Mr A Briggs presented an update on the Allington Road Community Garden project. Mr N Jackson is watering the trees regularly, but foxes have become an issue and are being monitored. The planters have been ordered, and volunteers and residents are going to be working on them. The Allotment Working group meeting will be in August. RESOLVED to NOTE update.	
LR459	Trees For Climate/Oaks At 80 A. To RECEIVE & APPROVE the draft locations for tree planting through Trees for Climate. Mr A Briggs presented an update on the proposed locations, which are subject to change, for locations for future tree planting. A lot of the areas chosen already have trees running along them which will make them easier for the Parish to manage in the future. Cllr P Park mentioned the importance of planting trees in the right locations, not taking away too much open green space. Mr A Briggs explained that this is why the Parish consults about this with residents and the Parish Councillors to make sure they are planted in the right locations. Cllr J Yeowell asked about extra maintenance with fruit trees. Mr A Briggs explained that the Parish manages this with several areas at present and it doesn't create too much extra debris. He mentioned about the trees not creating more maintenance but being self-sufficient. Councillors discussed areas that could be planted in and issues that can arise.	



	Mr A Briggs asked if the locations proposed were acceptable to the Councillors. Cllr J Ballman proposed that Officers create a final proposal with recommendations to bring to a future meeting. Mr A Briggs said this would be in October. Cllr J Ballman agreed this was a good time. RESOLVED to APPROVE that Officers create a final proposal with recommendations to bring to a future meeting. RESOLVED to NOTE the update. B. To APPROVE locations for Oaks at 80 Tree planting. Mr A Briggs presented an update, several Councillors have responded so far but if Councillors want trees in their ward, they need to let him know soon and include a location for funding to be approved. RESOLVED to NOTE update. Cllr J Ballman recommended that future L&R meetings be held in a location that is easier to get to and where councillors can actually hear each other. RESOLVED to APPROVE changing the L&R Committee meeting location.	
	Meeting Closed 20:20	

Signed.....

Date...1-8-2025