



Parish Council

Central Swindon North Parish Council

Pinetrees Community Centre,

The Circle,

SWINDON SN2 1QR

LEISURE & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday 4th September 2025 19.00

Present:

Councillors:

Cllr John Ballman (Chair)
Cllr Ian Edwards (Vice Chair)
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
Mr Aaron Webb, Community Youth Manager -
virtually

Member of the Public Present: None

Apologies

Cllr Mick Lucas
Cllr Paul Exell

		Action
LR460	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.	
LR461	Public Questions & Public Correspondence None.	
LR462	Play Areas And Grounds A. To CONSIDER works at Gorse Hill Rec play area. Mr A Briggs presented an update from a written report. See appendix 1. Cllr J Yeowell asked how much it would cost to replace the bark with safety flooring. Mr A Briggs explained for a park that size it would be about £25,000.00. He noted that the equipment is outdated, and it would probably be better to update the park in it's entirety including the flooring at the same time. Councillors discussed the options. Mr A Briggs suggested this parks renovation needs to be discussed at the PWLB Play Area Working Group to include discussion about relocation. Cllr J Ballman noted that a complete renovation over short term repair work would be a better use of funding. Cllr J Yeowell asked about the height of the fence. Mr A Briggs explained that it is a standard height to stop small children and dogs from getting in and out. Cllr J Ballman proposed the Gorse Hill Rec play area repair work needs be passed to the PWLB Play Area Working Group for discussion.	

RESOLVED to AGREE the Gorse Hill Rec play area repair work needs be passed to the PWLB Play Area Working Group for discussion. B. To APPROVE play area remedial works. Mr A Briggs presented an update on play area remedial works. Councillors discussed the repairs required. Cllr P Park suggested removing the penguin rocker due to the continuous repair costs. RESOLVED to APPROVE all play area remedial work and to remove the penguin rocker. C. To RECEIVE an update for the Rodbourne Cheney play area project. Mr A Briggs presented an update on the commencement of the building works and the option for Councillors to take part in a photo opportunity on the 11th September for the commencement of the project. RESOLVED to NOTE the update. D. To RECEIVE an update on the replacement Inglesham Rd Zip Wire. Mr A Briggs presented an update. The zip wire has been ordered and should be in place by the end of September 2025. RESOLVED to NOTE the update. E. To RECEIVE notice of damage to St Marks Muga Fencing and APPROVE a quotation for repair. Mr A Briggs presented an update on the damage to the St Marks Muga Fencing and the repair costs. Mr A Briggs explained that it seems to be a fault in the fencing itself. Cllr J Yeowell noted that a discussion about replacing the fencing may be needed in the future.	
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	RESOLVED to APPROVE the repair costs for the damage to St Marks Muga Fencing. F. To RECEIVE an update on a grant funded replacement play item at the Alanbrooke play area. Mr A Briggs presented an update. The grant funding from Tesco has been extended and the springer has been ordered and should be in by the end of September 2025. RESOLVED to NOTE the update.	
LR463	Parks And Open Spaces A. To APPROVE a report recommending Trees for Climate planting sites. Mr A Briggs presented an update from a written report. See Appendix 2. Cllr J Ballman questioned planting fruit trees and wondered if sturdier trees would be more advantageous. Cllr J Yeowell asked about whether planting whips are the best choice as in some areas previous planted whips have been uprooted. Mr A Briggs explained that they type of tree depends on the area. Councillors discussed trees and locations. Mr A Briggs explained the funding comes from Trees for Climate and Councillors are asked for permission to apply for planting in the areas presented. RESOLVED to APPROVE applying for funding to plant trees in the locations recommended. B. To RECEIVE notice of a community volunteer day at Penhill Park (9th Sept) and St Marks Park (24th Sept). Mr A Briggs presented an update re volunteering time at Penhill Park and St Marks. Cllr J Ballman asked about the volunteer group that dumped all the rubbish bags in St Marks park.	

	Mr A Briggs explained that that was Plastic Free Swindon. They do excellent work, but future organisation needs to be communicated to avoid a recurrence. RESOLVED to NOTE update. C. To RECEIVE an update on actions, post Green Flag award. Mr A Briggs presented an update re the Penhill Green Flag flagpole. The pole is going in around the 16th September and once the cement is set final install will occur. By late September the flag at Penhill will be up. Mr A Briggs explained that the Parish is refreshing the flag at St Marks at the same time. The interpretation board at Penhill has gone in now also. RESOLVED to NOTE update. D. To RECEIVE an update on the Oaks at 80 grant application. Mr A Briggs explained that three Councillors requested the grant funding to plant oaks in their wards. The application has been submitted, and the Parish is hoping to hear back by October 2025. RESOLVED to NOTE update.	
LR464	Allotments A. To RECEIVE a verbal update from the Allotment Officer. Mr N Jackson present a verbal update. There have been two new tenants and occupancy is at 98%. The Parish has removed the option of 'no preference' as tenants are more likely to continue if the plot is close to their home. The Allotments have been tidied up along the borders and new and existing tenants have been encouraged to reduce waste where possible. There was a mobility scooter user seen stealing produce from Pickards Field recently, but that has stopped now. One of the tenants caught him on CCTV, but since the last meeting there have been no further incidents. The gates at Pickards Field needed repairing and welding as they were out of alignment, this work has	

been completed. The gates at Cheney Manor have been heightened ready for the retarmacking. The contractors also used the scrapings to refill holes around the site. Tenants are very happy with the improvements.

The Kiln Lane car park is working smoothly, and the crop drop has been going smoothly, a little less than last year due to the hot weather. Starbucks have offered their used coffee granules for tenants to spread on their soil like the compost.

Cllr J Ballman asked if uptake was still good.

Mr N Jackson responded that it was.

RESOLVED to **NOTE** update.

- B.** To **RECEIVE** the outcome of the Akers Way 'Best in Show' judging.

Mr A Briggs presented the outcome of the Akers Way 'Best in Show' judging. He explained that seeing the effort tenants were making to improve their plots was heartwarming.

Cllr P Park was happy to see the improvement with some of the 'rougher' plots.

Mr A Briggs explained that the scores will be tallied, and winners will be written to with the results and awarded at the Pride of the Parish evening, 16th February 2026.

RESOLVED to **NOTE** the update.

- C.** To **RECEIVE** the notes and **APPROVE** recommendations of the Allotment Working Group.

Mr A Briggs presented an update around the recommendations from the Allotment Working Group.

Mr A Briggs updated the Councillors on the ongoing issues with certain tenants at Pickards Field and the future plans to manage it.

Councillors discussed the situation.

RESOLVED to **APPROVE** the recommendations from the Allotment Working Group.

	D. To RECEIVE an update on the transfer of the Redlynch Allotment site. Mr A Briggs updated the Councillors on the progression of the transfer. The transfer has been signed off and the paperwork is with the solicitors at present to manage the details. Councillors discussed how this will make accessing when needed much easier. Mr A Briggs explained that the lease should be transferred in the next few months. RESOLVED to NOTE update. E. To RECEIVE an update on the Allington Rd Community Garden project. Mr A Briggs presented an update on the Community Garden project. There were lots of volunteers building planters the other week. He noted the trees have struggled with the hot weather but should improve as winter begins. Mr A Briggs explained that The Swindon Tuition Centre have requested a couple of the planters to help teach their students with. Mr A Webb mentioned that the Swindon Tuition Centre initially asked for an allotment plot, but they will probably prefer these and asked how many can be offered to them. Mr A Briggs responded with three. RESOLVED to NOTE the update.	
LR465	Sports A. To RECEIVE the notes and APPROVE recommendations from the MSH working group. Mr A Briggs presented the notes and recommendations from the MSH Working Group. Councillors discussed the resolution agreed. RESOLVED to APPROVE the recommendations from the MSH Working Group.	

B. To CONSIDER storage container request for Penhill United at Seven Fields.

Mr A Briggs presented an update from a written report.

See Appendix 3.

Councillors discussed the options and location.

Cllr J Ballman proposed the purchase and instalment of the two shipping containers, once planning is approved, with money being ringfenced for sports pitch maintenance budget.

RESOLVED to APPROVE the purchase and instalment of the two shipping containers, once planning is approved, with money being ringfenced for sports pitch maintenance budget.

C. To CONSIDER the request from Owens World for a summer fête on 1st August 2026 at Seven Fields.

Mr A Briggs presented an update on the request from Owens World for a summer fête on the 1st of August 2026 at Seven Fields.

RESOLVED to APPROVE the request from Owens World for a summer fête on the 1st of August 2026 at Seven Fields.

D. To RECEIVE a condition update for all pitches and note planned works.

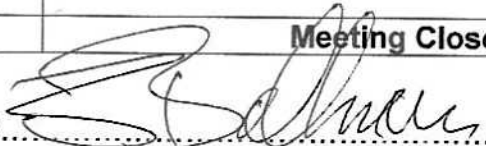
Mr A Briggs presented an update on the pitches and works needed completing to make them playable. At present the Parish has spent around £1,200.00 to make the repairs possible. The budget is £25,000.00 and £7,000.00 has been spent so far, with further works scheduled for Autumn at £4,500.00.

Cllr J Ballman noted the issues lack of water can have to the pitches.

Mr A Briggs explained that funding is being applied for to improve drainage, the Parish is just waiting for a report from an agronomist (costing £2,000) to be completed, which is a requirement.

	Cllr J Ballman responded that the money would need to be spent to achieve the funding. Mr A Briggs explained that after purchasing the containers and receiving money from the leagues there should be around £13-14,000.00 available. There are a variety of works needed doing, some of which the Parish is not going to be able to afford to complete this year. RESOLVED to NOTE update. E. To RECEIVE a report regarding unauthorised use of pitches over summer months. Mr A Briggs presented an update around the unauthorised use of pitches over the summer months during the off season. See Appendix 4. Councillors discussed the recommendations. RESOLVED to APPROVE the recommendations.	
	Meeting Closed 20:39	

Signed.....



Date.....

24.09.2025