



Parish Council

Central Swindon North Parish Council

Moredon Sporting Hub,

Cheney Manor Industrial Estate,

SWINDON SN2 1QR

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 6th January 2026 19.00

Present:

Councillors:

Cllr Dave Patey (Chair)
Cllr Mick Lucas (Vice Chair)
Cllr John Ballman - virtually
Cllr Paul Exell
Cllr Muhammad Khan - virtually
Cllr Javes Rodrigues
Cllr Kevin Small
Cllr James Yeowell

Clerk:

Mr Andy Reeves

Officers:

Mr Andrew Briggs
Ms Emma Till
Mr Matt Gleed - virtually
Mrs Rebecca Cox

Member of the Public Present: Mr Mike Ware (Idverde) – virtually
Mr Rob Peters (British Cycling) - virtually

Apologies

None

		Action
FGP529	Declarations of Interest Cllr Mick Lucas declared an interest in the Library & Leisure Trust. Cllr John Ballman declared an interest in the Library & Leisure Trust, HBUF and the RSPB. RESOLVED to NOTE the Declarations of Interest.	
FGP530	Public Questions & Public Correspondence None	
FGP531	Minutes of the Previous Meeting The Chair presented the minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd December 2025 to be approved as a true and accurate record. RESOLVED to APPROVE the minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd December 2025 as a true and accurate record.	
FGP532	Grounds Maintenance Update Mr M Ware presented a verbal update from a written report. See Appendix 1. Cllr J Yeowell enquired when the planters at Ferndale would be re-planted. Mr M Ware responded that this would be closer to the summer. He explained that the plants are grown in a greenhouse over the winter months ready for planting in the latter part of May, beginning of June. Cllr J Yeowell wondered if it would be possible to relocate one of the planters in Ferndale. Mr M Ware responded yes if the new location is easy to access for planting and watering. He also recommended that the location be in a high footfall area, rather than an out of the way position to limit damage and theft. Mr A Reeves explained that the request would need to go through the Environment & Planning Committee (E&P).	

	Cllr J Yeowell mentioned the signs by the western flyer as they have been damaged, and could the graffiti be cleaned off and they be fixed. Mr M Ware said yes, they can be cleaned but the paint does come off easily. Mr A Reeves explained that the signs were inherited from SBC and that they are in such a bad state of repair he would recommend bringing the issue up at a future E&P meeting and replacing them with easier to maintain, new signs. The underpass is heavily used, and the maintenance of that specific area is high for the Parish. He mentioned that in future years the Parish should look at how they allocate resources as the Parish moves into the next stage of the street-smart program Cllr J Yeowell asked about the WWII railings at Ferndale. Mr A Reeves explained that both are owned by SBC and maintenance of them is the responsibility of SBC. Cllr D Patey mentioned the fly tipping behind the old Co-op in Penhill. Mr A Briggs responded that this was still to be looked into. Mr M Ware explained that along one section of the railings there is Japanese knotweed growing so the Idverde team are unable to clear 10-20 meters from it as it will spread. This has been reported to the businesses nearby, but as of yet nothing has been done about it. He also mentioned the fly tipping and that it is a daily occurrence. Cllr D Patey noted that if the CCTV is working there, it would be useful to be able to use for enforcement. If the quality needs improving then as a Parish, we could look at what the Parish can do to improve it. RESOLVED to NOTE the Grounds Maintenance Update.	
FGP533	Transaction Logs Cllr M Lucas and Cllr D Patey to confirm review of November 2025 transaction logs. (£12,162.91)	

	RESOLVED: Cllr M Lucas and Cllr D Patey confirmed the GPC transaction logs for November 2025. (£12,162.91)	
FGP534	Budget Report & Forecast To NOTE the summary of income and expenditure and Forecast against the budget report for November 2025. • Revenue • PWLB Cllr D Patey asked if the budget would be in line at the end of the year. Ms E Till responded that she has a projected year-end report. (Report was shown to Councillors). She explained that there is projected to be a 17% overspend using the figures on Rialtas. Several of the Managers have provided their individual projected year end income and expenditure figures which are slightly different, but not all figures have been received yet. Cllr D Patey enquired which cost centres she is still awaiting figures for. Ms E Till noted that the request for information went out just before Christmas, she expects to receive more figures shortly as staff return from the Christmas shutdown. Cllr D Patey requested the projected overspend figure at year end. Ms E Till responded that there was a projected 17% overspend which equates to about £400,000. Cllr K Small mentioned that if the Parish brings in more income or reduces spending over the remaining four months this overspend can be reduced. Ms E Till explained that there are some incomes that have not been received yet which are not included on the projection, and that the exact figures cannot be ascertained until all data is acquired. Cllr P Exell recommended that in future, starting in April 2026 a projected budget be provided to the FGP Committee each month.	Finance Manager to create a completed budget forecast spreadsheet and present at the February FGP.

	Cllr D Patey requested that all the data be provided by the next FGP so a more accurate projected forecast can be created. Ms E Till mentioned that December was a shorter month but that they can get back on track during January. Cllr K Small agreed with Cllr P Exell that a regular projected budget is necessary going forward to avoid future panics. Cllr D Patey explained that if there is any support the Councillors or Officers can give to let them know. Ms E Till thanked Cllr D Patey and noted that once the figures are in the report can be compiled. Cllr D Patey noted that the Parish was expecting a need to support MSH for the first few years for around £60,000 per year, but at present the numbers are more around £170,000 per year. Cllr J Rodrigues mentioned that supporting MSH was expected, but the income from MSH was also expected to be higher to make it a more self-sufficient provision. He asked how the data was being extracted to create the projected budget report. Ms E Till explained that the data comes from the accounting system as raw data and any formulas are manually created. Cllr J Rodrigues explained that if a spreadsheet is created using the monthly raw data for each year this will create the formulas for future years. Cllr D Patey asked Councillors if they had any further questions on the 25/26 budget. Cllr P Exell reiterated the need for more income data to better forecast the year end overspend. RESOLVED to NOTE the summary of income and expenditure and Forecast against the budget report for November 2025.	
FGP535	Payments List To REVIEW and APPROVE November 2025 Payments List.	

	RESOLVED to APPROVE November 2025 Payments List.	
FGP536	Debtor List To REVIEW the Debtor lists for November 2025. • Sales Ledger • Allotment RESOLVED to NOTE the Debtor lists for November 2025.	
FGP537	Ear Marked Reserves To NOTE the balances of Ear Marked Reserves as of 30 th November 2025. Cllr D Patey mentioned the remaining funds in the African Festival EMR. If all bills have been paid does the relevant Councillor want the funds returned to their Ward Allowance or saved for future years. RESOLVED to NOTE the balances of Ear Marked Reserves as of 30 th November 2025.	Officers to communicate with Cllr J Grotzinger re remaining African Festival EMR funds.
FGP538	Ward Allowance Update To NOTE the current balances of Ward Allowances. RESOLVED Councillors NOTED the Ward Allowance balances. Cllr K Small reminded Councillors to get their Ward Allowance requests in before March FGP if they wanted to spend their Ward Allowance. To RATIFY - Cllr Vanessa Bentley requests £200.00 from her Ward Allowance towards children's away day food. RESOLVED to APPROVE Cllr Vanessa Bentley request of £200.00 from her Ward Allowance towards children's away day food. Cllr Kevin Small and Cllr Muhammad Khan request £1,035.00 each (£2,070.00 total) from their Ward Allowance towards Christmas lights. RESOLVED to APPROVE Cllr Kevin Small and Cllr Muhammad Khan Ward Allowance request of £1,035.00 each (£2,070.00 total) from their Ward Allowance towards Christmas lights.	Officers to remind Councillors about Ward Allowance requests.

	Cllr Javes Rodrigues requests £250.00 from his Ward Allowance to replace a vandalised oak tree at the Venny. Mr A Briggs explained that the Parish is going to try and salvage the tree, but the funds are for if it is required to replace it. Cllr J Rodrigues mentioned that he would like a fence placed around the tree to try and protect it. RESOLVED to APPROVE Cllr Javes Rodrigues Ward Allowance request of £250.00 from his Ward Allowance to replace a vandalised oak tree at the Venny and place a fence around it. Cllr Muhammad Khan requests his remaining Ward Allowance be used towards a Free Shop in Even Swindon for Parish residents and the homeless to access. RESOLVED to APPROVE Cllr Muhammad Khans request of his remaining Ward Allowance be used towards a Free Shop in Even Swindon for Parish residents and the homeless to access. Cllr Ana Fernandes requests £2,500.00 and Cllr Raj Patel requests £1,000.00 from their Ward Allowance towards the completion of the Ferndale outdoor gym. RESOLVED to APPROVE Cllr Ana Fernades request for £2,500.00 and Cllr Raj Patel requests £1,000.00 from their Ward Allowance towards the completion of the Ferndale outdoor gym.	
FGP539	Grant Requests Balance of Grant Fund £7,003.00 RESOLVED Balance of Grant Fund NOTED.	
FGP540	Policy Review To REVIEW and ADOPT the following policies and procedures. • Tree Planting Policy Mr A Briggs presented an update on the adjustments required to the Tree Planting Policy. He explained that there are a few adjustments required and that these	



	would need to go to the Leisure & Recreation Committee (L&R) for discussion before returning to FGP for final approval. Cllr D Patey proposed the Tree Planting Policy be reviewed at the next L&R Committee meeting and the revised Tree Planting policy be included in the following FGP for approval. RESOLVED to APPROVE the Tree Planting Policy be reviewed at the next L&R Committee meeting and the revised Tree Planting policy be included in the following FGP for approval.	
FGP541	Ops & Project Update Mr A Briggs presented an update from a written report. See Appendix 2. RESOLVED to NOTE the update.	
FGP542	CIL Request To APPROVE E&P request to transfer £10,845.16 from reserves to be placed in EMR's for use by specific Ward Councillors. RESOLVED to APPROVE E&P request to transfer £10,845.16 from reserves to be placed in EMR's for use by specific Ward Councillors.	
FGP543	Community Developer Funding 26/27 Mr R Peters presented an update from a written report. See Appendix 3. Cllr J Rodrigues asked what the income for the present financial year has been. Mrs R Cox responded that the activities provided have such a socially positive impact that they will never be profit making. Cllr J Rodrigues explained that he was wondering if the projected income from all the activities would equal the contribution the Parish makes to them so as not to incur additional expenses. Especially as these activities are for the whole of Swindon, not just for the Parish, and as such it is important that the Parish wisely assign Council Tax income paid by Parish residents.	Leisure Officer to present alternative provision for cycling activities to February FGP.

	Cllr K Small mentioned that he feels the cycling is not contributing enough to the costs of running Moredon Sporting Hub (MSH), which is a very costly asset. The main aims of MSH were to be a self-sufficient sporting asset focusing on football and cycling, and at present the cycling is not contributing enough towards the overall costs. The Parish needs to decide if it is viable to continue or if the cycling provision should be replaced with alternative sporting provision as the risk is with the Parish not British Cycling. Cllr J Yeowell asked Cllr K Small if he felt the Parish could lose the cycling provision if it didn't improve. Mrs R Cox explained that the provisions have massively increased since the cycle track opened. One example being the Limitless program which was run by Swindon Borough Council (SBC) for ten years, since moving to MSH and being run here the numbers have doubled. The Limitless program has a massive impact on so many people with extra needs lives and at least half are local people. RESOLVED to NOTE the update. Mrs R Cox and Mr R Peters left the meeting.	
FGP544	Distribution Group Emails Cllr D Patey requested creation of email sets so that only the relevant Councillors are included in Working Groups. He requested this be postponed until the changes in connection with Government legislation take effect in April 2026. RESOLVED to APPROVE the creation of email sets so that only the relevant Councillors are included in Working Groups and it to be postponed until the changes in connection with Government legislation come into effect in April 2026.	
FGP545	Budget Review 26/27 Cllr D Patey presented the proposed Committee budget containing the adjustments requested by the Environment & Planning, Community Development and Leisure & Recreation Committee's. Cllr K Small mentioned that he agreed with the proposed budget alterations with a few adjustments to take into account duplicates and reductions in some	

	lines for water rates and hygiene services as he felt the amounts proposed were too high. Councillors agreed to the proposal and adjustments. The Chair proposed the FGP recommend to Full Council that the 26/27 budget Option 4 (Committee Review) outlined in the discussed report be approved. Which will result in a Parish Council Precept of £2,476,972 which equates to a Band D Council Tax of £247.44, and a 14.84% increase. RESOLVED Councillors APPROVED that the FGP recommend to Full Council that the 26/27 budget Option 4 (Committee Review) outlined in the discussed report be approved. Which will result in a Parish Council Precept of £2,476,972 which equates to a Band D Council Tax of £247.44, and a 14.84% increase.	
FGP546	Actions Noted To NOTE the Actions Noted list. • FGP407 – completed • FGP408 – still negotiating • FGP421 – communicating and still an issue • FGP500 – to be reviewed • FGP516 – completed • FGP521 – no communication back at present • FGP524 – to go to L&R and return to FGP Cllr J Ballman queried why SBC is not managing the fly tipping issue and is leaving it up to the Parish to handle as this is not a Parish responsibility. The Parish does not have a budget to collect SBC rubbish. Cllr J Rodrigues agreed with Cllr J Ballman that the fly tipping needs to be managed, and he recommended the Parish communicate with SBC first. Cllr D Patey requested that Mr A Reeves communicate with SBC around this issue. Mr A Reeves explained that the most recent communication on New Years Eve around the fly tipping issue had a response saying they are aware of it and will look into it. He explained that for Parish residents it is very hard to contact SBC about fly tipping issues, so Parish residents tend to contact the Parish first.	Clerk to communicate with relevant Officers at SBC re fly tipping.

	Cllr K Small suggested communicating with the Officers involved at SBC to try and create a solution to this ongoing issue as they may be able to be more proactive in finding a solution. RESOLVED to NOTE the Actions Noted. <i>That the public and press be excluded from the meeting under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, paragraph 1, as the item relates to confidential information concerning an individual.</i> RESOLVED to APPROVE the public and press be excluded from the meeting under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, paragraph 1, as the item relates to confidential information concerning an individual.	
FGP547	Allotments Councillors to APPROVE the recommendations within the confidential report. RESOLVED to APPROVE the recommendations made with the number of allotment plots reduced from NINE to FIVE. Councillors to REVIEW and NOTE British Cycling Partnership agreement (re AG16). RESOLVED to APPROVE cancelling British Cycling Partnership agreement. The Leisure Officer to look at cycle track and replace alternate sessions at net break even option and present to FGP in February 2025.	
Meeting Closed 20:55		

Signed.....

Date..... 28/1/26