



Parish Council
Central Swindon North Parish Council
Pinetrees Community Centre,
The Circle,
SWINDON SN2 1QR

LEISURE & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Thursday 2nd October 2025 19.00

Present:	
Councillors:	Cllr John Ballman (Chair) Cllr Ian Edwards (Vice Chair) Cllr Joy Grotzinger – virtually Cllr Mick Lucas Cllr Paul Park Cllr James Yeowell
Clerk:	Mr Andrew Briggs, Head of Operations
Officers:	None
Member of the Public Present: None	
Apologies	Cllr Paul Exell

		Action
LR466	Declarations Of Interest Cllr John Ballman declared a non-pecuniary interest in The Library & Leisure Trust, HBUF and RSPB. Cllr Mick Lucas declared an interest in the Library & Leisure Trust. Cllr Paul Park declared an interest in the Library & Leisure Trust. RESOLVED: Item NOTED.	
LR467	Public Questions & Public Correspondence None.	
LR468	Extraordinary 2026 – 2027 L&R Committee Budget Meeting To APPROVE a date for a budget discussion meeting. Mr A Briggs updated Councillors on the need to set a date for an Extraordinary Committee meeting to discuss budget requests for 26/27. Councillors discussed availability. RESOLVED to APPROVE a meeting at the end of October ready for FGP in November.	
LR469	Allotments A. To RECEIVE the outcome of the Akers Way 'Best in Show' judging. Mr A Briggs presented an update from a written report. See Appendix 1. Cllr J Yeowell asked about the winner who had three plots, were all three plots judged and did the tenant receive rent free for all three plots. Mr A Briggs responded yes, all three plots were judged together, and all three plots will be rent free. Cllr M Lucas noted that the runner up was extremely happy to receive her award and thanked the Parish in a lovely email. RESOLVED to NOTE the update.	

	B. To RECEIVE an update on the transfer of the Redlynch Allotment site. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update. The transfer is progressing, and he is hoping that it should be completed by the end of the year. Cllr J Ballman noted the slow progression for the transfer and how residents who back onto the allotment have had issues accessing the land to maintain their own fences. Once this is completed it will make maintenance possible and access easier to obtain for residents. RESOLVED to NOTE the update. C. To RECEIVE an update on the Allington Rd Community Garden project. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update. The work is progressing nicely and Swindon Tuition Centre, who have taken a tenancy at the Parkside Hub, have also agreed to maintain two of the raised planters at Allington Road Community Garden project. RESOLVED to NOTE the update. Mr A Briggs explained to Councillors that at present the Parish has a 99% occupancy of the allotments. 613 out of the 619 plots are tenanted. Cllr J Ballman noted that recently there was an article about Swindon Allotments being under threat. This is inaccurate, for our area. Mr A Briggs responded that the Parish holds the freehold for all the Parishes allotment sites and there will be no removal of them in our area. RESOLVED to NOTE the update.	
LR470	Play Areas A. To RECEIVE the date of the Play Area Working Group. Mr A Briggs explained that the next meeting should be in November. RESOLVED to NOTE update.	

B. To CONSIDER play area remedial works.

Mr A Briggs requested this agenda item be deferred to the November's meeting as he is awaiting some quotations.

RESOLVED to APPROVE deferring agenda item to November's meeting.

C. To RECEIVE an update for the Rodbourne Cheney play area project.

Mr A Briggs presented an update on the progression of the build and showed the Councillors photographs of the work completed so far. Completion is expected to be around the end of the week, and an opening date will be organised for all Councillors and organisations involved in this build around half term.

Cllr J Ballman noted this is the second new park that has been built in the Parish since he has been a Councillor, and he is pleased the Parish is setting the standard for Play Areas.

RESOLVED to NOTE the update.

D. To RECEIVE an update on the replacement Inglesham Rd Zip Wire.

Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update, with photographs, explaining that the new zipwire has now been installed.

RESOLVED to NOTE the update.

E. To RECEIVE an update on a grant funded replacement play item at the Alanbrooke play area.

Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update and noted the rocker has been brought and installed using grant funding.

RESOLVED to NOTE the update.

F. To RECEIVE notice of the annual play area safety inspections.

	Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update on the replacement of the company that performs our annual safety checks due to failures from the previous company. A full list has been sent to the new company, and the play area safety checks will take place in December. RESOLVED to NOTE the update.	
LR471	Parks and Open Spaces A. To RECEIVE an offer from Earth Watch to plant a Tiny Forest within CSNPC. Mr A Briggs presented an update. The project is fully funded and has many positive environmental and social impacts for the communities involved. See Appendix 2. Mr A Briggs asked Councillors if they would like to proceed and if so, Councillors would need to approve a location. Councillors discussed possible locations. Mr A Briggs explained that the issue is getting permission from Swindon Borough Council. Councillors discussed possible locations. Cllr J Ballman proposed accepting the proposal and asking Officers to provide possible locations that could be used for this project. RESOLVED to APPROVE the proposal if a suitable location can be agreed. B. To RECEIVE a request to draft landscaping plans and the feasibility of a MUGA at Pembroke Gardens. Mr A Briggs presented a request to draft landscaping plans and the feasibility of a MUGA at Pembroke Gardens. Cllr J Ballman explained the idea of looking to provide a variety of equipment covering all ages. The new play areas are for younger children and the importance of providing play equipment and areas for older children as well.	

	Councillors discussed whether this was appropriate. RESOLVED to APPROVE proceeding to request Mr A. Norris to draw up possible plans for suitable locations for MUGAS and officers to provide costings for the project. C. To RECEIVE an update following of a community volunteer day at Penhill Park (9th Sept) and St Marks Park (24th Sept). Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update on the volunteer days with photographs. RESOLVED to NOTE the update. D. To RECEIVE an update on the installation of a bench and flagpole at Penhill Park. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update. Cllr J Ballman asked if there was a policy around benches. Mr A Briggs responded that Full Council have approved a Memorial Policy at the last Full Council which will direct Officers and Councillors on benches going forward. RESOLVED to NOTE the update. E. To RECEIVE the maintenance report of the flagpole service at St Marks. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update. RESOLVED to NOTE the update.	
LR472	Sports A. To APPROVE the FA agronomist quotation for a drainage survey at Mannington Rec. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update. The Parish has been talking about the drainage issues at Mannington Rec, and the Football Association do have grant funding available for this, but they require an agronomist report before they can proceed. The Football Association provided a list of approved Agronomists, and the Parish has received a quote of £2,667.50. This will allow the Parish to apply for grant funding to complete the works needed.	

	Mr A Briggs expanded that there is enough money in the Sports Maintenance budget to just cover the Agronomists report. RESOLVED to APPROVE completing the Agronomist report. B. To RECEIVE an update on the Football Foundation Pitch Improvement Programme. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update on the Football Foundation Pitch Improvement Programme. The Parish has some verti-draining and overseeding coming up which as other works have been managed the Parish pays for the works to be done, and then applies for reimbursement from the Football Foundation. The amount the Parish receives is on a sliding scale that is continuing to decrease each year. Cllr J Ballman asked if there was a list of matches cancelled due to the drainage issues. Mr A Briggs responded yes. During very wet years the water can be as high as his shins. The drainage was installed during the 1980's and needs updating. RESOLVED to NOTE the update.	
	Meeting Closed 19:52	

Signed.....

Date.....