Parish Council

Central Swindon North Parish Council

Moredon Sporting Hub,

Cheney Manor Industrial Estate,

SWINDON SN2 1QR

EXTRAORDINARY FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 18th February 2026 19.00

Present:	
Councillors:	Cllr Dave Patey (Chair) Cllr Mick Lucas (Vice Chair) Cllr John Ballman - virtually Cllr Paul Exell Cllr Javes Rodrigues Cllr James Yeowell - virtually
Clerk:	Mr Andrew Briggs (Ops Manager)
Officers:	Mr Andy Reeves (Parish Clerk) - virtually Miss Rachel Westcott (Finance Administrator) - virtually
Member of the Public Present: None.	
Apologies	Cllr Kevin Small

		Action
FGP564	**Declarations of Interest** Cllr Mick Lucas declared an interest in the Library & Leisure Trust. Cllr John Ballman declared a non-pecuniary interest in The Library & Leisure Trust, HBuF and RSPB. **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the Declarations of Interest.	
FGP565	**Public Questions & Public Correspondence** None Cllr D Patey requested to suspend standing orders to receive an update on the Ferndale Gym and **APPROVE** additional expenditure. **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** suspending standing orders to receive an update on the Ferndale Gym and **APPROVE** additional expenditure. Mr A Briggs presented an update on the installation of the Ferndale Gym. Councillors have been communicated with and have requested the expenditure come from EMR386 – Ferndale Play Area, which has a balance of £5,305.00. There are three types of flooring, • Option 1 - £4,703 • Option 2 - £4,187 • Option 3 - £3,795. Mr A Briggs presented a picture of flooring types and coverage, and Councillors discussed the proposal. **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** Option 2 £4,187 to be funded from EMR386.	
FGP566	**Heat Decarbonisation Programme** Mr A Briggs presented an update from a written report. See Appendix 1. Cllr J Rodrigues noted he is still unsure about heat pumps as he has received negative feedback from existing users. He understands that Councillors have already approved the installation but wanted his opinion on this noted. Cllr P Exell reiterated that the Parish has not invested any Parish funds as all research was funded by Salix.	

	Recommendation, Members are asked to: **NOTE** the current project position and officer actions. **APPROVE** an Extraordinary Full Council meeting WC 16th March. **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the current project position and officer actions and **APPROVE** an Extraordinary Full Council meeting WC 16th March.	
FGP567	**Booking System Migration** Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update from a written report. See Appendix 2. Mr A Briggs explained that the 2025/26 income has been down due to the issues with the existing booking system. Cllr J Rodrigues supports any implementation of more efficient systems but mentioned that Councillors were unaware there was an issue. Mr A Briggs explained that Officers became aware of an issue in December 2025 and Officers have tried to create a speedy resolution. Cllr J Rodrigues enquired why this specific supplier. Cllr P Exell explained that this is the company the Parish use for Accounting Software and by purchasing a booking addon from them it eliminates issues of integration which have caused the issues the Parish have discovered. Cllr J Ballman asked why this specific system over other systems. Mr A Briggs explained the issues the Parish have had with integration with the previous two booking systems, the Rialtas booking system is the only one that integrates directly with the Rialtas system, and the only way to avoid this is to change the Parish Accounting System which would be extremely costly. Cllr P Exell agreed that having Officers focused on more productive work rather than the extra administration involved while using unintegrated systems.	

	Cllr D Patey requested that when issues like this happen in future could Councillors be informed at an earlier date. Mr A Reeves explained that this is an issue due to several factors, some in house and some external, and the Officers have discovered the issue very fast and have handled it extremely efficiently. Recommendation, Members are requested to: **APPROVE** the purchase and implementation of the Rialtas Facilities Booking Software, including portal and calendar integration, with effect from April 2026, with costs allocated to budget code 100/4245 (Subscriptions & Licences). **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** purchase and implementation of the Rialtas Facilities Booking Software, including portal and calendar integration, with effect from April 2026, with costs allocated to budget code 100/4245 (Subscriptions & Licences).	
FGP568	**Pavilion Refurbishment – Project Approval** Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update from a written report. See Appendix 3. Cllr P Exell mentioned he would like to see this approved before Year End and the work started as soon as possible. A decision is needed on usage by Rodbourne Cheney Baptist Church (RCBC) for their contribution. Cllr J Ballman asked about outside appearance for Pembroke Gardens. Mr A Briggs explained that it will be painted brick. Cllr J Ballman suggested a future Ward Councillor could use some Ward Allowance next year to render the building to make it look more attractive. Mr A Reeves mentioned that he is in talks with RCBC re a capital contribution towards the refurbishment and he recommended that if Councillors are willing to accept in principle the contribution and a report be presented at a Community Development Committee meeting to discuss usage for the contribution. The	

	recommendation can return to FGP at a future date for approval. Cllr J Rodrigues asked Councillors to make sure that the PWLB funding is not focused in one small area and is spread across the Parish, not just one or two Wards. Cllr P Exell explained that Moredon area has been very underdeveloped and the work being done now is much needed invested. The rooms being used at Moredon Sporting Hub (MSH) can be rented out once Officers move to the renovated building. Cllr J Ballman noted the importance of getting a usage rules and regulations contract in place before RCBC contribute. Cllr D Patey asked Officers to investigate possible grant funding for the solar panels. Recommendations Committee were asked to: 1. **NOTE** the progress of the tender evaluation. 2. **NOTE** the planning and building control requirements associated with the project. 3. **NOTE** the anticipated capital contribution from Rodbourne Cheney Baptist Church. 4. **NOTE** the identified drainage works and associated costs. 5. **APPROVE** appointment of Bidder E as the Most Advantageous Tender at £345,674.01 6. **APPROVE** a 2.5% MC discount for the award of both projects together. 7. **APPROVE** additional provisional costs for associated drainage works up to £14,500. 8. **APPROVE** an indicative allocation to deliver Digital Connectivity up to £6,000. 9. **APPROVE** an allocation of capital funding for Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment up to £1,000. 10. **APPROVE** a 3% contingency for unforeseen matters. 11. **NOTE** all costs are to be attributed to the Public Works Loan budget. 12. **CONSIDER** the inclusion of solar panels for Princess Elizabeth at an additional cost of £14,430.00. 13. **APPROVE** all recommendation to present to Full Council. 14. **APPROVE** the use of EMR333 – Pembroke Garden Youth Hub £13,198.09 to offset costs.	

	Three Councillors for, one abstention. **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** all recommendations.	
FGP569	**Capital Works Programme** Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update from a written report. See Appendix 4. Mr A Briggs explained that he would suggest removing recommendation 3 to allow time for the extension of tender dates. Recommendations Members are requested to: 1. **NOTE** progress of the Public Works Loan funded Capital Works Programme. 2. **NOTE** the procurement outcomes and limited market response received to date. 3. **APPROVE** appointment of contractor A for: • Fire Door and Fire Safety Compliance Programme; and • Southbrook Recreation Ground Patio Replacement and Penhill Park Block Paving Repairs. 4. **APPROVE** extension of procurement activity for the remaining capital works (including roofing) for a further 4 weeks to secure best value. 5. **NOTE** that final costs and award recommendations for remaining works will be reported to: • Finance & General Purposes Committee — 18th March 2026 • Full Council — 25th March 2026. **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** recommendations 1, 2, 4 and 5, and remove recommendation 3 to allow further time for tenders.	
	Meeting Closed 20:18	

Signed.. Date...25/3/26.