



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

LEISURE & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Thursday 5th February 2026 19.00

Present:

Councillors:

Cllr John Ballman (Chair)
 Cllr Mick Lucas - virtually
 Cllr James Yeowell

Clerk:

Mr Andrew Briggs (Head of Operations)

Officers:

Mr Neil Jackson (Allotment Officer) - virtually

Member of the Public Present: None

The meeting was not quorate.

Apologies

Cllr Joy Grotzinger
 Cllr Paul Park

LR502

Declarations Of Interest

Cllr John Ballman declared a non-pecuniary interest in The Library & Leisure Trust, HBuF and RSPB

Cllr Mick Lucas declared a non-pecuniary interest in The Library & Leisure Trust.

RESOLVED: Item **NOTED.**

LR503	Public Questions & Public Correspondence None.	
LR504	Allotments A. To RECEIVE the notes from the Allotment Working Group and APPROVE the updated Allotment Terms & Conditions. Mr A Briggs presented an update on the recent Allotment Working Group meeting. See Appendix 1. Mr A Briggs explained that the Allotment Terms & Conditions (T&C's) reviewed were largely due diligence and good practice related, as they had not been reviewed for several years. A draft copy of the revised T&C's were circulated; however, decision to be deferred due to lack of quorum. Councillors raised concerns about the mechanisms if enforcement action is taken. At present the initial appeal goes to the Clerk, then Councillors if escalated. Councillors suggested appeals should be fully independent to avoid conflicts of interest. Councillors agreed that the broader appeals process should be reviewed and outcomes appended to the T&Cs. RESOLVED to NOTE the update and defer APPROVAL of T&C's. B. To RECEIVE an update from the Allotment Officer. Mr N Jackson presented a verbal update. Occupancy is approximately 87% with 135 on the waiting list which is a slight decrease. The Council received positive feedback from a new tenant regarding site condition and additional provisions (Hops & coffee beans). Mr N Jackson explained that there have been several improvements completed. • Two new water troughs installed. • Unsafe drain cover replaced. • Abandoned plot cleared and reallocated. • Large plot clearance completed at Pickards Mr N Jackson mentioned the ongoing eco initiatives which include used coffee grounds collected from Starbucks now used across four sites and hops and	

	other materials recycled. Shrivenham food recycling compost may resume when the weather improves (based on demand). Mr N Jackson noted there are reported issues at Churchward Avenue Allotment with the water supply. A suspected seized stopcock is suspected and is to be investigated. RESOLVED to NOTE the update C. To RECEIVE an update on the transfer of the Redlynch Close Allotment site. Mr A Briggs presented an update on the transfer of the Redlynch Close Allotment site. The Parish copy has been signed and returned to the solicitors and the Parish is awaiting Swindon Borough Council (SBC) signature. The transfer is expected imminently. RESOLVED to NOTE update.	
LR505	Play Areas A. To RECEIVE the date of the Play Area Working Group. Mr A Briggs noted that the next Play Area Working Group is scheduled for the 11th February 2026 at 12:00, to be held at Pinetrees Community Centre to review plans for Alanbrooke and Barnum Court. RESOLVED to NOTE the update. B. To RECEIVE an update on Play Area remedials. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update from the annual inspections. Items flagged for immediate repair were; • Damaged/missing spring seat at Barnum Court. • Basket swing chain replacements required at multiple sites. • Surfacing erosion at St Mark's, temporary bark top up planned while larger review continues. Mr A Briggs explained that most repairs were underway and were expected to be completed around April 2026. RESOLVED to NOTE the update.	

	C. To RECEIVE an update on the Ferndale Gym project. Mr A Briggs presented an update on the Ferndale Gym project. He explained that the equipment has now been ordered and delivery is expected next week. Installation is anticipated within three weeks. RESOLVED to NOTE the update.	
LR506	Parks and Open Spaces A. To RECEIVE confirmation of the 2026 Green Flag Applications for St Marks & Penhill Park. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update on the 2026 Green Flag applications. St Mark's and Penhill applications were both submitted before the deadline and 'mystery shopper' visits are expected late spring/early summer. RESOLVED to NOTE update. B. To RECEIVE information on the delivery of the St Marks Tiny Forest Programme. Mr A Briggs presented an update on the St Mark's Tiny Forest. The planting event was successful with strong participation of 80 local school children, volunteers and councillors in attendance. The interpretation board and seating are pending. Earthwatch will coordinate ongoing school engagement and positive feedback was received from park users. RESOLVED to NOTE update. C. To RECEIVE information on the delivery of the Trees for Climate planting. Mr A Briggs presented an update on the Trees for Climate funding. He explained that nearly 2,000 trees have been planted, including 200 standards. Planting locations include Dorset Green, Alanbrooke Crescent, Tovey Road, and The Venny. Mr A Briggs mentioned that maintenance funding has been secured for five years, including replacement planting and residents have responded positively. RESOLVED to NOTE update.	

	D. To RECEIVE the date of the Pembroke Gardens landscaping Working Group. Mr A Briggs informed Councillors that the Pembroke Gardens Landscaping Working Group meeting will be on Tuesday the 17th February 2026 at 18:00 on Teams. RESOLVED to NOTE update.	
LR507	Sports A. To RECEIVE the date of the meeting with Ferndale Rodbourne. Mr A Briggs presented an update on a scheduled meeting on Friday the 6th February 2026 at 11:00 to be held at Moredon Sporting Hub with Ferndale Rodbourne. The club are keen to invest in Southbrook Recreation Ground for women's, girls', and youth football. He explained that a discussion will be needed on formal agreements if the club contributes significant funds. RESOLVED to NOTE update. B. To RECEIVE an update following the meeting with Football Foundation. Mr A Briggs presented an update on Mannington football ground after a recent meeting with the Football Foundation. A positive meeting was held regarding drainage and long-term site development. The site is designated within the football Foundation improvement scheme and is positive for funding prospects. Mr A Briggs explained that two potential funding routes are; • Small grant (£25k) for initial drainage • Large bid for full redevelopment (drainage, pavilion, car park). Mr A Briggs explained that the emphasis should be on community outcomes, inclusivity, youth, and women's sport and a suggestion was raised to pursue a long-term plan. Councillors agreed that the site warrants consideration for improvement and should remain community focused rather than vulnerable to future redevelopment pressures. RESOLVED to NOTE update.	

	Meeting Closed 19:40	
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Signed.....

Date.....25.08.2026