



Parish Council

Central Swindon North Parish Council

Pinetrees Community Centre,

The Circle,

SWINDON SN2 1QR

LEISURE & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday 5th March 2026 19.00

Present:

Councillors:

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

Clerk:

Mr Andrew Briggs (Head of Operations)

Officers:

Mr Andy Reeves (Parish Clerk) - virtually

Member of the Public Present: None

Apologies

Cllr Joy Grotzinger

LR508	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.	
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	Cllr Paul Park declared a non-pecuniary interest in The Library & Leisure Trust. RESOLVED: Item NOTED.	
LR509	Public Questions & Public Correspondence None.	
LR510	Allotments A. To APPROVE the updated Allotment Terms & Conditions. RESOLVED to APPROVE the updated Allotment Terms & Conditions. B. To APPOINT 2 Members of the Committee to sit on the judging panel for the 2026 Rodbourne Farm Allotment Best in Show. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update on the 2026 Rodbourne Farm Allotment Best in Show. Mr J Ballman mentioned that a lot of the Councillors will be busy with elections in May 2026. Mr A Briggs suggested deferring selection of Councillors for the judging panel to the Leisure & Recreation Committee meeting in April 2026. RESOLVED to APPROVE deferring selection of Councillors for the judging panel to the Leisure & Recreation Committee meeting in April 2026. C. To NOTE the completion of the transfer of the Redlynch Close Allotment site and APPROVE associated clearance costs. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update on the completed transfer of the Redlynch Close Allotment site and the initial clearance. He updated Councillors with the expected timeline for the clearance and decision-making schedule. Cllr J Ballman mentioned that clearance should continue but decisions on the use of the site should be postponed until after the elections. Councillors agreed. RESOLVED to NOTE update.	

LR511	Play Areas A. To RECEIVE the notes of the Play Area Working Group. Mr A Briggs presented the Play Area Working Group notes. See Appendix 1. RESOLVED to NOTE the update. B. To RECEIVE an update on Barnum court & Alanbrooke. Mr A Briggs presented an update. Mr A Briggs explained that he is in communication with Wickstead about amendments to the proposed Play Area plans as suggested at the Play Area Working Group (PAWG). Updated plans should be returned before the next PAWG and decisions will be brought to the following Leisure & Recreation Committee meeting (L&R). RESOLVED to NOTE update. C. To NOTE the completion of the Ferndale Gym project. Mr A Brigg presented an update on the completion of the Ferndale Gym project and the laying of the matting. He explained there would be an official opening on the 19th March 2026. Cllr J Ballman mentioned that there are no benches in that area. Mr A Briggs explained that benches and bins are something for Councillors to investigate. RESOLVED to NOTE update.	
LR512	Parks and Open Spaces A. To APPROVE the amendments to the Parish Tree Planting Policy. Mr A Briggs presented an update from a written report. See Appendix 2. Cllr J Ballman noted that the future work involved with the increased number of tree's being planted at the	

	moment could become expensive. He suggested the Parish flag this and be aware of the long-term costs involved with maintaining the trees in the years to come. He also mentioned the urban planting being encouraged and the importance of selecting the correct tree species that would be suitable for the location. Cllr J Yeowell mentioned that there used to be data on tree coverage and queried where it came from. Mr A Briggs explained that the Parish used to have data from Swindon Borough Council (SBC) of about 12%, and will be requesting updated data going forward. Councillors agreed that selecting the correct species and locations is extremely important. The Leisure & Recreation Committee is requested to: 1. NOTE the outcome of the policy review. 2. APPROVE the revised Tree Planting in Public Space Policy. 3. Present the updated policy to Finance & General Purposes for adoption. 4. Support the review of parish tree canopy data to establish an updated baseline. 5. NOTE that the policy will be reviewed within five year or as legislation requires. RESOLVED to APPROVE all the recommendations. B. To RECEIVE the notes of the Pembroke Gardens landscaping Working Group. Mr A Briggs presented the Pembroke Gardens Landscaping Working Group notes. See Appendix 3. RESOLVED to NOTE Pembroke Gardens Landscaping Working Group notes.	
LR513	Sports A. To RECEIVE a report regarding Ferndale Rodbourne and Southbrook Recreation. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update from a written report. See Appendix 4.	

Cllr J Ballman enquired about the expansion and increase of football pitch access across Swindon, and whether Southbrook could become a thriving provision. Mr A Briggs explained that the restrictions around management and health & safety for smaller clubs has made it more challenging, and this type of provision will be an asset to the Parish. Cllr M Lucas mentioned that the Swindon provision of football has decreased dramatically over the years and that this would be good for the Parish to support as it would benefit the whole area. Cllr J Yeowell queried if this would be just women and girls or would boys be included. Mr A Briggs noted it would be both. Cllr J Yeowell was excited to support this venture. Councillors discussed the proposal. Recommendation Members are asked to: 1. NOTE the ambitions of Ferndale Rodbourne YCFC. 2. APPROVE Officers to pursue further discussions regarding a long-term partnership and lease arrangement at Southbrook Recreation Ground. RESOLVED to APPROVE the recommendations. B. To APPROVE a report regarding football pitch enhancement works. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update from a written report. See Appendix 5. Cllr J Ballman enquired if income from football pitch hire covers the cost of the pitch enhancements. Mr A Briggs explained that a budget has been put in place to cover pitch enhancement works. Cllr J Ballman mentioned the improvements over recent years since the Parish has taken on responsibility for maintenance.

Mr A Briggs explained that pitches have improved but that pitches across the country are all effected by bad weather.

Members are recommended to:

1. **APPROVE** continuation of Verti-Drain and Verti-Quake treatments across priority sites at a total cost of £8,500 within the 2026/27 200/5500 budget.
2. **DEFER** approval of sports sand top dressing works pending further review of comparable contractor pricing and value for money.
3. **NOTE** the Council's entry into Year 5 of the Football Foundation grant cycle and associated reduction in grant funding.
4. **NOTE** the Council's existing structured maintenance programme, including:
 - three years of aeration and decompaction treatments;
 - twice yearly Verti-Drain and Verti-Quake treatments;
 - periodic fertilisation and top dressing;
 - annual weed control delivered by Idverde.
5. **RECEIVE** a further report following completion of procurement comparison prior to any approval of top dressing works.

RESOLVED to **APPROVE** all the recommendations.

C. To **APPROVE** 2026 Cricket pricing charges.

Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update from a written report.

See Appendix 6.

Cllr J Ballman enquired about the cost to maintain the cricket pitches in comparison to the hire income.

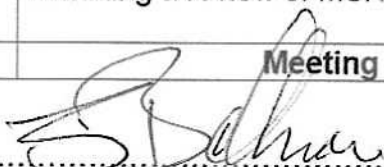
Mr A Briggs explained that the majority of grounds maintenance is included within the Parish core budget. He noted that unless the Parish has bookings it does not complete line marking.

The Committee is asked to approve the revised cricket facility hire charges as follows:

- Moredon Sporting Hub: £70.00 midweek / £100.00 weekend
- Mannington Recreation: £50.00 midweek / £80.00 weekend (including changing rooms and parking)

	RESOLVED to APPROVE cricket facility hire charges for 2026/27 of Moredon Sporting Hub: £70.00 midweek / £100.00 weekend and Mannington Recreation: £50.00 midweek / £80.00 weekend (including changing rooms and parking).	
LR514	Community Centre Pricing Review Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update from a written report. See Appendix 7. Cllr J Ballman queried how the pricing for each asset was decided and have they been revised recently. Mr A Briggs explained that each assets hire charge is dependent on various amenities available at each location and is market comparable. Cllr M Lucas wondered if the prices for Moredon Sporting Hub (MSH) were a little too high. Mr A Briggs explained that there is investment being made at MSH in the coming months. Cllr J Ballman proposed APPROVING the recommendations, with an additional recommendation to review pricing at MSH in twelve months. The Leisure & Recreation Committee is asked to approve: 1. APPROVE the revised pricing structure: • Standard / Commercial rate • Charitable / Community rate • Green Card discount structure • Internal CSNPC use (FOC) 2. REMOVE parish resident pricing. 3. APPROVE a 3-4% uplift (rounded) from 1st April 2026. 4. Revise pricing on the council website. 5. Introduce annual pricing review processes. RESOLVED to APPROVE all recommendations including a review of MSH pricing in twelve months.	
	Meeting Closed 20:26	

Signed.....



Date.....

