



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

LEISURE & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 14th January 2026 19.00

Present:	
Councillors:	Cllr John Ballman (Chair) Cllr Joy Grotzinger (Vice-Chair) Cllr Vanessa Bentley - virtually Cllr Mick Lucas Cllr Paul Park Cllr James Yeowell - virtually
Clerk:	Mr Andrew Briggs (Head of Operations)
Officers:	Andy Reeves (Parish Clerk)
Member of the Public Present: None	
Apologies	Cllr Paul Exell

LR495	Declarations Of Interest Cllr John Ballman declared a non-pecuniary interest in The Library & Leisure Trust, HBUF and RSPB	
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	Cllr Paul Park declared a non-pecuniary interest in The Library & Leisure Trust. Cllr Mick Lucas declared a non-pecuniary interest in The Library & Leisure Trust. RESOLVED: Item NOTED.	
LR496	Public Questions & Public Correspondence None.	
LR497	Minutes of Previous Meeting The Chair presented the minutes of the meeting held on the 4th December 2025 to be approved as a true and accurate record. RESOLVED to APPROVE the minutes of the meeting held on the 4th December 2025 as a true and accurate record.	
LR498	Allotments A. To CONSIDER Rodbourne Farm as the Best in Show site for 2026. Mr A Briggs recommended Rodbourne Farm as the Best in Show site for 2026. Cllr J Ballman queried how the judging would be managed on a larger site like Pickards Field. Mr A Briggs explained that the judging would be the same criteria, but it would involve a significant amount of extra time to cover the entire site. Cllr M Lucas mentioned that allotments are a very personal project that the tenant will spend time on by choice whether it be on a smaller or larger site. Mr A Briggs noted the engagement from tenants and the desire they had to be involved. Cllr J Ballman proposed Rodbourne Farm as the Best in Show site for 2026. RESOLVED to APPROVE Rodbourne Farm as the Best in Show site for 2026. B. To RECEIVE an update on the Allotment Terms & Conditions review.	

Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update on the Allotment Terms & Conditions review which will take place at the Allotment Working Group on the 20th January 2026, to be approved at Leisure & Recreation (L&R) in February. Final approval will be at Full Council in March. The Parish will enclose the updated Allotment Terms & Conditions with the Allotment bills that go out in April 2026. RESOLVED to NOTE the update C. To RECEIVE an update on the transfer of the Redlynch Allotment site. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update on the progress on the transfer of Redlynch Allotment site. Final terms have been agreed with Swindon Borough Council (SBC) and the paperwork has returned from the solicitors, once signatures are completed the transfer will be complete. Cllr J Ballman asked when the transfer will be completed. Mr A Briggs responded hopefully within the next 6-8 weeks. Cllr J Ballman queried what the Parish plan to do with the land. Mr A Reeves explained the land would need clearing which will be a challenge and take some time. Cllr J Ballman wondered how much it would cost to clear the land. Mr A Reeves noted that it could be around £15,000. Mr A Briggs explained that clearing will be a big job, but initially the Parish will access the land and clear around the edges to allow testing to be done first. Decisions on how to proceed will be made once testing has been completed. Cllr J Ballman noted that funds will need to be found to cover the costs. Mr A Reeves reminded Councillors that there are no funds available in the 25/26 budget for this, but money could be allocated from the 26/27 budget. RESOLVED to NOTE update.	
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LR499	Play Areas A. To RECEIVE an update on draft designs for Alanbrooke & Barnum Court play areas. Mr A Briggs presented an update. Once the draft designs are received a Play Area Working Group will be held and reviewed. Cllr J Ballman asked if there is still a need for play areas at both locations. Mr A Briggs explained that at the last consultation 18 months ago both Play Areas were desired by residents. The Parish will complete another consultation before any formal decisions are made. RESOLVED to NOTE the update. B. To RECEIVE an update on the repair works at St Marks Play Area. Mr A Briggs presented an update on the repairs needed on the annual inspection report. The stairs leading up to the mound have been repaired and are now safe. Cllr J Ballman mentioned the slide at St Marks Play Area and requested Mr A Briggs investigate the bottom part as he had received a complaint about it being damaged from a member of the public. Mr A Briggs responded that he was unaware of any issues with the slide but would investigate. RESOLVED to NOTE the update. C. To RECEIVE the annual safety inspection reports. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update from a written report. See Appendix 1. Mr A Briggs explained that he will source prices for all the repairs and renovations needed rated medium or below. RESOLVED to NOTE the contents of the Annual Safety Inspection Report and APPROVE recommendations within the report.	
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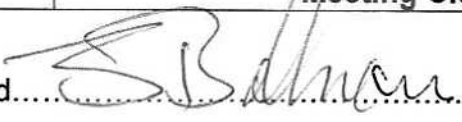
	D. To RECEIVE an update on 'High Risk' items reported during annual inspections. Mr A Briggs explained that he is sourcing costs for all 'High Risk' items reported and will proceed to repair, remove or replace all items listed within the report RESOLVED to NOTE update. E. To RECEIVE an update on the Ferndale Gym project. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update on the Ferndale Gym project. The final funding required was approved by Councillors at the Finance & General Purposes Committee (FGP) meeting on the 6th January 2026 from Ward Allowance funds. The Parish has now instructed the contractor, and after ground scans, the order for equipment will be made and hopefully the project will be completed by the spring. RESOLVED to NOTE update.	
LR500	Parks and Open Spaces A. To RECEIVE notice of the 2026 Green Flag Applications for St Marks & Penhill Park. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update. The Parish intends to put in applications for both St Marks & Penhill Park this year. Applications need to be submitted by February and most of the work has been done, the Officers just need to review the comments from the last inspections and assessments to update the forms. Cllr J Ballman wondered what the Parish could say to show forward progression and improvement across both locations. Mr A Briggs mentioned the Tiny Forest at St Marks, Keep Swindon Tidy litter picks as well as the fireworks display, Parkside Hub and café work. Cllr J Ballman noted the positive resident feedback he has received on the variety of maintenance work and events that have been done at Penhill Park. Cllr P Park mentioned how successful the event at Penhill was.	

	Cllr J Ballman queried if the Fireworks display would be done again this year. Mr A Reeves explained that that is for Community Development (CD) to decide, but that at the last Events Working Group it was discussed using different locations each year to allow ease of access to all residents of the Parish. Cllr M Lucas noted that the work the Parish has done across all Wards is amazing as there has been very little work, or investment in the Parish for a very long time. Mr A Briggs explained that the applications will be submitted ahead of the deadline, and two judges will do a 'mystery shopper' type inspection, and the Parish will receive results after. RESOLVED to NOTE update. B. To RECEIVE a provisional date for Tiny Forest tree planting. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update on the Tiny Forest tree planting which will take place on 29th January 2026 at 1pm. Invitations for Councillors to participate have already be forwarded. Cllr J Grotzinger mentioned she would like to participate in the planting. Cllr J Ballman enquired if any refreshments and tools would be provided. Mr A Briggs responded that tools would be provided, and he suggested Councillors wear sturdy shoes and bring a raincoat in case of bad weather. Cllr J Ballman enquired about communication with local schools. Mr A Briggs explained that Earthwatch mange school communication. RESOLVED to NOTE update. C. To RECEIVE provisional dates for Trees for Climate tree planting.	
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Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update to inform Councillors that emails have been sent out to Councillors with the times and locations of the tree planting and they are invited to participate. RESOLVED to NOTE update. D. To RECEIVE an update on the completed Oaks at 80 Project. Mr A Briggs presented an update on the three trees planted with the funding, one tree was damaged by vandalism, but the grounds team are hoping they can save it. The Ward Councillor who applied for the tree has offered Ward Allowance funding to replace it if it does not survive the winter. Cllr J Ballman queried the location and if a more suitable one could be found. Mr A Briggs explained that there are other locations available if this one becomes unviable. RESOLVED to NOTE update. E. To APPROVE the creation of a Working Group for Pembroke Gardens landscaping. Mr A Briggs presented an update and explained the Working Group Terms of Reference. See Appendix 2. Cllr J Ballman wondered if it would be possible to get Tree's for Climate funding for tree planting on the Pembroke Gardens landscaping. Cllr M Lucas noted there are a lot of trees in that area and there may not be many more needed. He also mentioned the path around the back that could be cleared to make it more accessible. Cllr J Ballman noted the quality of the design and how it was a good starting point. Cllr J Ballman proposed the creation of a Working Group for Pembroke Gardens. RESOLVED to APPROVE the creation of a Working Group for Pembroke Gardens.

LR501	Sports A. To RECEIVE Pitch Power Inspection reports. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update from a written report on the pitch quality. See Appendix 3. Cllr J Ballman asked about the Sevenfields pitch drainage ditch, why this does not help with flooding. Mr A Briggs explained the drain may be damaged or blocked. RESOLVED to NOTE update. B. To RECEIVE a meeting request from Ferndale Rodbourne football team to discuss Southbrook Recreation ideas. Mr A Briggs presented an update around Ferndale Rodbourne football team requesting a meeting with Councillors to discuss their ideas for developing Southbrook Recreation. He asked Councillors if they were happy for him to coordinate a meeting. Councillors agreed to Mr A Briggs coordinating a meeting. Mr A Briggs mentioned a meeting he was setting up with Wilts FA to discuss the drainage issues at Mannington. Cllr M Lucas recommended that while the Parish was discussing drainage with Wilts FA for Mannington that the Parish should also discuss Penhill and Southbrook drainage at the same time. RESOLVED to NOTE update. C. To APPROVE a request to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for use of PWLB to fund upgrades to door security at Seven Fields Rec changing rooms. Mr A Briggs requested Councillors APPROVE a report to be presented to FGP for use of the PWLB to fund upgrades to door security at Seven Fields Rec changing rooms.	
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	RESOLVED to APPROVE a report be presented to FGP for use of the PWLB to fund upgrades to door security at Seven Fields Rec changing rooms.	
	Meeting Closed 20:00	

Signed.....Date.....