



Parish Council

Central Swindon North Parish Council

Pinetrees Community Centre,

The Circle,

SWINDON SN2 1QR

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 7th January 2026 19.00

Present:	
Councillors:	Cllr James Yeowell (Chair) Cllr Paul Exell Cllr Ana Fernades Cllr Paul Park Cllr Dave Patey
Clerk:	Mr Andy Reeves (Parish Clerk)
Officers:	Mr Aaron Webb (Community Youth Manager) Mrs Louise Whatley (Community Centre Manager) Mr Matt Gleed (Leisure Manager) - virtually
Member of the Public Present:	Mrs Jenny Pitts (NDTi) - virtually Mrs Kerryann Mills (The Nelson Trust) Leanne (The Nelson Trust)
Apologies	Cllr Joy Grotzinger

		Action
CD262	Declarations of Interest None	
CD263	Public Questions & Public Correspondence Mrs J Pitts presented a verbal update. She explained that she works for the National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi) leading a program called Community Led Support. The aim of the provision is to support people in Swindon to use the systems available across the area to access forms, procedures and access points specific to their needs to avoid increasing waiting lists and delays in accessing help before crises happen. See Appendix 1. The aim is to use the provisions already active to avoid overlap. Cllr J Yeowell asked how they avoided overlap with organisations. Mrs J Pitt explained that by working closely with Councils and local organisations. Mr A Reeves mentioned the Let's Talk Penhill events the NDTi helped with. Mrs J Pitts said yes, this is about connecting local organisations and events and to reduce paperwork and bureaucracy. Mr A Reeves mentioned the rebrand and how good it looks, and that the Parish is excited to support the NDTi in this venture. Cllr J Yeowell expressed an excitement to start working alongside the NDTi initiative in the future. RESOLVED to NOTE the update. Mrs J Pitts left the meeting.	
CD264	Community Connectors & The Elise Effect Cllr J Yeowell requested these be moved to a future meeting.	

	RESOLVED to APPROVE moving the Community Connectors and Elise Effect to a future meeting.	
CD265	The Nelson Trust Mrs K Mills presented a verbal update explaining that the Nelson Trust works locally with vulnerable women across the area providing support and signposting. They mentioned that they are looking to participate more in local activities like litter picking, especially across the Parish. A lot of their early intervention work is done with families in the Penhill area. Mrs K Mills explained that they have recently received funding from Birmingham University to fund counselling. Cllr A Fernandes asked where the organisation was located. Mrs K Mills responded Old Town, in a newly renovated building that they will move back into at the end of February. At present they are located at Holbrook House and suggested the Councillors pop in and see the work they are doing at any time. Mrs K Mills mentioned that they receive referrals from Swindon Borough Council (SBC) family team, Social Workers and from the custody team in various locations in Wiltshire. Cllr A Fernandes asked if GP's offer referrals. Mrs K Mills responded yes, some are referred from GP's. Mr A Webb mentioned that The Nelson Trust are looking for rooms to use for the recent counselling funding. He queried if the Parish would need to put any security or safety provisions in place for the adults using Parish premises. Mrs K Mills responded no as The Nelson Trust complete risk assessments every three months and would not place any high-risk client in that situation. Mr A Webb mentioned the Community Grant that could be available to The Nelson Trust to cover the cost of room rental. Cllr D Patey explained the Community Grant. Mrs K Mills thanked Cllr D Patey for the information.	

	Cllr J Yeowell asked if there were things put in place to support the user to no go back to the bad situations they have left. Mrs K Mills explained there are provisions in place to protect and support the women to help them move on. Cllr P Exell mentioned the future refurbishments of the Pembroke Gardens changing rooms to be a Community Café and meeting hub as a possible location for the users to volunteer at. Mrs K Mills explained that both the Parkside Hub and Pembroke Gardens locations would be perfect. Cllr J Yeowell mentioned the allotments the Parish manage, and the possibility of making one available for The Nelson Trust at Redcliffe. Mrs K Mills noted that a lot of the users do unpaid/volunteer work in the Parish, and any access to organisations that can provide safe environments for the women who struggle to work with men due to their past experiences and trauma's is of immense usefulness. Mr A Reeves elaborated on the previous work the Parish did before covid working with the probation serves. He agreed the allotments could be a useful tool and the importance of having mentors in place to support the women on learning what to/how to grow plants successfully. RESOLVED to NOTE the update. Mrs K Mills and Leanne left the meeting.	
CD266	Diversity Inclusion Update Cllr J Yeowell proposed moving the Diversity Inclusion Update to a future meeting. RESOLVED to APPROVE moving Diversity Inclusion Update to a future meeting.	
CD267	Marketing, Literacy and Digital Services Manager Update Cllr J Yeowell proposed moving the Marketing, Literacy and Digital Services Manager Update to a future meeting.	

	RESOLVED to APPROVE moving the Marketing, Literacy and Digital Services Manager Update to a future meeting.	
CD268	Community Centre Manager Update Mrs L Whatley presented an update from a written report. See Appendix 2. Mrs L Whatley explained that bookings across the community centres is looking good for the coming year. Cllr P Park is happy to see the community centres being well used. Cllr J Yeowell queried the activity levels of other community centres in the Parish. Mr A Reeves mentioned there was a meeting with the other community centres soon and he would ask them about their activity levels. Cllr P Park updated the Councillors on the food package drop off over Christmas from JMH, which was extremely successful. Mr A Reeves explained that there have been several different Christmas meals provided by the Parish over the Christmas period providing support and contact for lot's of Parish residents. RESOLVED to NOTE the update.	
CD269	Leisure Manager Update Mr M Gleed presented a verbal update. A Christmas party was provided at Moredon Sporting Hub (MSH) for staff, coordinated by Mr A Webb. There were several other Christmas parties held at MSH including a supportive cost price meal for the Phoenix Enterprise Charity. There is a waiting list now for the Over 60's program which has been funded by a grant. There are several different types of activities provided which change each month including croquet, Pilates and yoga. There are between 15-30 people per session. Tree and land clearance for the off-road bike track is progressing well. There is also some grant funding available for supporting and guiding young men to talk about controversial topics like misogyny.	

	There are new clubs like knitting and crochet groups starting soon aiming to target other groups especially seniors who may not be as interested in physical activity. Cllr D Patey expressed an excitement with the continuation of the Over 60's group and how well it is going. RESOLVED to APPROVE the update. Mr M Gleed left the meeting.	
CD270	Community Youth Manager and Events Update Mr A Webb presented a verbal update from a written report. See Appendix 3. Mr A Webb mentioned a breakfast club which will be starting soon at MSH for young children. Mr A Reeves noted the two grants applied for from Sport England for a Community Development Officer based at Moredon Community Centre (MCC) and the Capital Works for MCC to turn it into a Health & Fitness Hub. The Parish should hear in the next few months and if successful will provide around £200,000 in funding. Cllr P Park suggested that Mr A Webb advertise the sensory room at Parkside Hub (PSH) as our Parish is the first to go down this route. Cllr P Exell suggested pre-advertising ahead of the start to make residents aware of when it will start. RESOLVED to NOTE the update.	
CD271	Budget Review 25/26 Budget Review Cllr P Exell noted 5415/500 being overspent. Mr A Webb responded he would investigate what this is for. RESOLVED to NOTE update.	
CD272	Actions Noted CD252 – completed	Officers to investigate 5415/500.

	RESOLVED to NOTE the Actions Noted. Mr A Reeves mentioned the MACAG meeting tomorrow designed to learn about the strategic priorities that the Parish will be required to implement, fully funded in the coming year. More information will be provided as Officers and Councillors involved are informed. Eventually a Trust will be created to manage it but the process is very complicated and will take time to establish.	
	Meeting Closed 20:10	

Signed.....



Date.....

01/04/2026



