



Parish Council

Central Swindon North Parish Council

Pinetrees Community Centre,

The Circle,

SWINDON SN2 1QR

LEISURE & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday 4th June 2026 19.00

Present:

Councillors:

Cllr John Ballman (Chair)
Cllr Roderick Hebden (Vice Chair)
Cllr Sandra Absalom
Cllr Rouchell Cardoso
Cllr Caitlin Pinks

Clerk:

Mr Andrew Briggs (Head of Operations)

Officers:

Mr Andy Reeves (Parish Clerk) – virtually
Mr Neil Jackson (Allotment Officer) - virtually

Member of the Public Present: None

Apologies

None

LR-2026.7	Declarations of Interest Cllr John Ballman declared an interest in The Library & Leisure Trust, HBuF and RSPB. Cllr Sandra Absalom declared an interest as an Allotment tenant. RESOLVED to NOTE	
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LR-2026.8	Public Question Time & Correspondence None.	
LR-2026.9	Sports Field Remedial Works Update Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update from a written report including updating new Councillors with the sports pitches managed by the Parish. See attachment LR-2026.9. Cllr J Ballman explained the historical situation around the different pitches and sports that use the facilities. Recommendation Members are requested to: 1. NOTE the completion of scarification and weed treatment works across the Council's football pitches. 2. NOTE that completion of grass seed and fertiliser applications. 3. NOTE that goal posts will be removed during June 2026 to allow standard post season renovation works to commence. 4. NOTE the continued progress of the Council's structured grass pitch enhancement programme. Cllr R Hebden noted the great work completed over the last six years and enquired what gaps have been discovered and if there is any extra work still needs to be done. Cllr J Ballman explained the flooding issues that can occur at Mannington. Mr A Briggs explained that as these are open fields available for public access there needs to be a balance between spending and return to protect residents' money. Outside funding will continue to be sourced to reduce costs to residents while still maintaining the best quality pitches possible. There has been a steady decline in adult football over the years, but football remains a popular activity. RESOLVED to NOTE	
LR-2026.10	Allotments i. To RECEIVE a verbal update from the Allotment Officer.	

	Mr N Jackson presented an overview on the allotments and his role. Mr A Briggs explained the coffee and hops recycling for free, and the produce provided by allotment tenants to support night shelters and feeding disadvantaged residents and the homeless. Mr N Jackson noted the occupancy at 97.7% (605 out of 619) with 149 people on the waiting list. Plots are prepared a little ready for new tenants and any waste during the first few weeks is removed by the Parish to support them. Mr A Briggs described the Best in Show Award trialled at Akers Way Allotment site which was very successful and awarded well maintained plots. Best of Show will be at Rodbourne Farm this year. Cllr J Ballman mentioned the Defence Academy compost which was put on hold during the winter but will may resume during the summer. Mr N Jackson explained the different organisations that have taken on a variety of different plots that will be used to support residents with physical and mental issues who would normally struggle to maintain an allotment as an individual. RESOLVED to NOTE ii. To NOTE the completion of clearance works at Redlynch Close. Mr A Briggs presented an update on the transfer completion of the Redlynch Close Allotment site. Councillors viewed before and after clearance photographs. He recommended the creation of a Working Group to discuss possible uses for the land. RESOLVED to NOTE iii. To RECEIVE the request to convene a meeting of the Allotment Working Group. Mr A Briggs requested the invites for the first Allotment Working Group be sent out. RESOLVED to APPROVE	
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	iv. To APPROVE the Working Group to conduct a review of the Redlynch Close site. RESOLVED to APPROVE	
LR-2026.11	Play Areas i. To APPROVE refurbishment designs for Alanbrooke & Barnum Court Play Areas. Mr A Briggs presented an update from a written report including an overview of the Parish Play Areas. See attachment LR-2026.11.i. Cllr J Ballman explained the work done to create an inclusive play area at Rodbourne Cheney by working with Mum's on a Mission (MOAM) and PIPPA to help design an accessible play area for all children. Cllr C Pinks enquired about increasing the number of residents surveyed before progressing. Mr A Briggs responded yes, further surveys and discussions can be held before finalising plans. Cllr J Ballman suggested including MOAM and PIPPA in any discussions as they have a lot of experience in this area. Mr A Briggs recommended Councillors in the relevant Wards assist Officers to extend surveying residents and then discuss outcomes at a Play Area Working Group ready to bring to the July Leisure & Recreation (L&R) Committee meeting. Cllr R Hebden commented on the large number of older children that frequent the Alanbrooke Play area due to a lack of provision for that age range. He voiced a concern in spending large amounts of money to update the play area without provisions in place to deter abuse of the equipment by those it is not designed for. He would like to progress but feels it would be remiss to not discuss the possible issues that may occur. Cllr C Pinks proposed further consultation with residents, and discussions within the Play Area Working Group with recommendations brought to the Leisure & Recreation Committee meeting in July 2026.	

	RESOLVED to APPROVE further consultation with residents, and discussions within the Play Area Working Group with recommendations brought to the Leisure & Recreation Committee meeting in July 2026. ii. To RECEIVE the April 2026 weekly inspection detail for each site. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update from a written report. See attachment LR-2026.11.ii. Cllr R Cardoso enquired if there was much funding towards Play Areas. Cllr J Ballman explained that was the reason the Parish applied for the PWLB to fund much needed works. Recommendations Members are asked to: 1. NOTE the findings from the weekly play area inspections carried out during April 2026. 2. NOTE that a number of defects are recurring across several inspections, particularly in relation to surfacing, fencing, gates, timber equipment and missing or loose components. 3. AGREE that officers continue to take immediate make-safe action where defects present a potential risk to users. 4. AGREE that officers obtain specialist repair advice and costings for the higher-priority sites identified within this report. 5. AGREE that a further report be brought back to Committee, if required, setting out costed repair options and any recommended capital replacement priorities. RESOLVED to APPROVE recommendations. iii. To RECEIVE an update on ongoing remedial works and CIL allocations. RESOLVED to NOTE iv. To RECEIVE the request to convene a meeting of the Play Area Working Group. RESOLVED to APPROVE	
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LR-2026.12	Parks and Open Spaces i. To APPROVE the draft residential survey for Pembroke Gardens landscaping concepts. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update from a written report. See attachment LR-2026.12.i. Cllr J Ballman updated Councillors on the historical progression and reasons for looking to update Pembroke Gardens. Cllr R Hebden enquired around the challenges with resident consultations and the low response rates. He wondered if all were done digitally. Mr A Briggs responded that face-to-face consultations have been done in the past and can be implemented where Councillors think are suitable. Cllr J Ballman noted that face-to-face and postal questionnaires can incur additional costs. Cllr R Hebden noted that the plans look very exciting and positive, and the designs are good for what is at present an empty void. He suggested communicating with The National Trust who work on supporting projects like this. Councillors discussed the positive outcomes that can result from good planning and provision of open spaces. Recommendation The Committee is recommended to: 1. APPROVE the draft Pembroke Gardens Community Survey for distribution 2. APPROVE the proposed consultation approach and timescales 3. NOTE that the survey results will be presented to a future Working Group. 4. APPROVE the reconvening of a Working Group. RESOLVED to APPROVE recommendations. ii. To RECEIVE the request to convene a meeting of the Pembroke Gardens Working Group. RESOLVED to APPROVE	
	Meeting Closed 20:33	

Signed.....

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