



Parish Council

Central Swindon North Parish Council

Pinetrees Community Centre,

The Circle,

SWINDON SN2 1QR

LEISURE & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday 2nd July 2026 19.00

Present:	
Councillors:	Cllr John Ballman (Chair) Cllr Sandra Absalom Cllr Rouchell Cardoso Cllr Caitlin Pinks
Clerk:	Mr Andrew Briggs (Head of Operations)
Officers:	Mr Andy Reeves (Parish Clerk) – virtually
Member of the Public Present:	None
Apologies	None
LR-2026.13	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

LR-2026.14	Public Question Time & Correspondence None.	
LR-2026.15	Sports Pitches Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update from a written report. See attachment LR-2026.15. Cllr J Ballman enquired about the core testing that is done. Mr A Briggs described how the core testing is done, why and how the results are recorded. Cllr J Ballman mentioned the flooding at Mannington. Mr A Briggs explained that investigations are being done around adjustments and repairs that could be done to improve pitch drainage to reduce/eliminate flooding issues. Cllr S Absalom queried if the Parish has experienced many issues with clubs turning up to use pitches they have booked and paid for to find other groups, who have not booked and paid, using the pitch. Mr A Briggs noted that in most cases groups misusing pitches remove themselves when other groups arrive to avoid being flagged by the Parish. Cllr J Ballman wondered how many girls football teams use the Parish football pitches and can the changing rooms the Parish have cater for them. Mr A Briggs explained that most of the Parish changing rooms cater for both genders, the Parish would need to research identifying what changes could be required and what grant funding could be available to fund this. Cllr C Pinks enquired about the funding received by the Parish from the football leagues. Mr A Briggs explained that the Parish was unable to apply for funding initially, the league clubs had to apply themselves. Once the Parish completes designated works to the pitches the league clubs repay the Parish from the funding they received.	

	Cllr C Pinks wondered if the cost of booking a pitch was a reason groups were using the pitches without booking. Mr A Briggs explained that the pitch costs are very competitive, and pitches are normally fully booked during the season. Recommendations, Members are requested to: 1. NOTE the completion of the 2026 grass pitch enhancement programme. 2. NOTE the outcomes of the Football Foundation PitchPower assessments. 3. NOTE that Moredon Sporting Hub has received the same enhancement works despite not currently forming part of the Football Foundation maintenance grant programme. 4. NOTE the spend to date and anticipated reimbursement from the Swindon Saturday and Sunday Football Leagues through the Football Foundation maintenance funding arrangement. 5. ENDORSE the continuation of the Council's structured grass pitch maintenance programme for the 2026/27 season. RESOLVED to NOTE recommendations.	
LR-2026.16	Allotments i. To APPROVE the associated costs for Allotment tree survey & mapping. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update from a written report. See attachment LR-2026.16.i. Councillors discussed the Allotment tree survey & mapping and the reason for the need to complete it to proactively safeguard the public. Recommendations Members are asked to: 1. APPROVE the instruction of Treework Environmental Practice to undertake tree survey work across the Council-managed allotment sites at a cost of £5,155 excluding VAT. 2. APPROVE that the cost is coded to the allotment budget - 350/1300 3. NOTE that the allotment budget is £18,000, with approximately £2,000 spent to date, and that approval of this work will reduce the remaining	

	budget available for other allotment projects this financial year. 4. NOTE that the tree survey is considered an important risk management exercise due to the Council's responsibilities and potential liability as land manager. 5. AGREE that officers write to HBuF regarding the separate Southbrook Recreation Ground forest survey proposal, including the quoted cost of £2,215 excluding VAT, and seek discussion on responsibility, funding and the opportunity to progress the survey for the area under their lease management. RESOLVED to APPROVE recommendations. ii. To RECEIVE the date of the Allotment Working Group. Mr A Briggs informed Councillors that the next Allotment Working Group meeting will be on Monday the 20th July 2026 at 6pm. RESOLVED to NOTE	
LR-2026.17	Play Areas i. To RECEIVE the notes of the Play Area Working Group meeting. Mr A Briggs presented the Play Area Working Group meeting notes. See attachment LR-2026.17.i. RESOLVED to NOTE ii. To APPROVE the recommendations in the associated report. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update from a written report. See attachment LR-2026.17.ii. Councillors discussed the report and recommendations. Recommendations Members are asked to: 1. NOTE the outcome of the additional resident consultation undertaken for Alanbrooke and Barnum Court.	

2. **NOTE** the recommendations of the Play Area Working Group.
3. Support the progression of the Alanbrooke play area refurbishment based on the revised Wicksteed design, including the retention of swings and the inclusion of accessible and inclusive play features.
4. Support the progression of the Barnum Court play area refurbishment based on the revised Wicksteed design, subject to the train unit being amended to remove the rear access lip/panel where this can be done safely and without affecting the structural integrity or certification of the equipment.
5. Recommend to Full Council that **APPROVAL** is given to proceed with both the Alanbrooke and Barnum Court play area refurbishment schemes at an estimated combined cost of £91,550
6. Recommend to Full Council that available ward, CIL and/or S106 funding is allocated towards the schemes where eligible, with the remaining balance funded from the approved play area capital budget.
7. Authorise officers to begin consultation and concept design work for Edinburgh Street Recreation Ground as the next potential major play area refurbishment priority, with any future costed proposal to be brought back to Committee and, where required, Full Council for approval.
8. **NOTE** that Mannington Recreation Ground and Trowbridge Close remain future play area priorities and that officers will undertake further scoping and consultation before bringing any formal recommendations back to Committee.

RESOLVED to APPROVE recommendations.

- iii. To **APPROVE** the officer's recommendation, to approach the Pride in Place board regarding Play Area Refurbishment in Penhill.

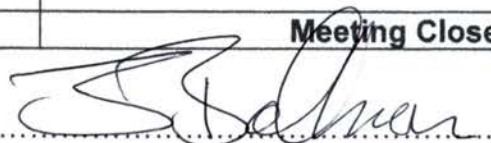
Mr A Briggs presented a verbal request recommending The Parish approach the Pride in Place board regarding the recent funding provided by the Government. The Parish would request funding to help the renovate Play Areas within Penhill.

Councillors discussed the recommendation.

	Mr A Reeves explained that one of the Penhill Councillors and an additional Parish Councillor have been requested to sit on the Pride in Place board. This provides the Parish with an amazing opportunity to submit ideas during the early stages to support the Penhill residents with what they need. He mentioned that if Councillors would like a more in depth explanation he would be happy sit down with Councillors in the future. Cllr S Absalom wondered how the Paris would fund the repairs without gaining the Pride in Place funding. Mr A Briggs explained that the works would need to be funded through the saving of Ward Allowances and CIL funds as had previously been required. RESOLVED to APPROVE	
LR-2026.18	Parks and Open Spaces i. To RECEIVE the associated report following survey work at Pembroke Garden. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal updated from a written report. See attachment LR-2026.18.i. Councillors discussed the recommendations. Recommendation the Committee is asked to: 1. NOTE the initial community survey feedback; 2. AGREE that further consultation is required before detailed proposals are developed; 3. AUTHORISE officers to undertake targeted engagement with residents, Moredon Baptist Church, Sport England, young people and local groups; 4. AGREE that officers explore external funding opportunities for landscape, biodiversity, recreation and community use improvements; 5. Request that a further report is brought back to Committee setting out consultation findings, funding options, project phasing and any recommended next steps. RESOLVED to APPROVE recommendations. ii. To RECEIVE the date of the first Tiny Forest Discovery learning session at St Marks.	

	Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update from w written report. See attachment LR-2026.18.ii. Cllr J Ballman noted that due to the sunny weather they trees are growing extremely well and are becoming very established. Mr A Briggs mentioned that this project has been very successful and is a huge bonus for the Parish. Recommendation the Committee is asked to: 1. NOTE the update on the St Mark's Park Tiny Forest 2. NOTE the confirmed Discovery Day structure for Tuesday 14th July 2026, including school sessions during the morning and an open community session in the afternoon 3. Support the Council assisting with reasonable pre-event weeding and site preparation 4. NOTE the planned ESRC volunteer session on 15th July 2026 5. AGREE that the Council supports promotion of the open community session once final promotional material is provided by Earthwatch. RESOLVED to NOTE iii. To RECEIVE an update on the Councils Green Flag application(s). Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update on the Green Flag process and awards the Parish has received over the last few years. He explained that the Parish has two Green Flag awards for St Marks and Penhill parks and will be continuing to apply for Green Flag status in the coming years. RESOLVED to NOTE	
	Meeting Closed 20:53	

Signed.....



Date.....

