



Parish Council

Central Swindon North Parish Council

Princess Elizabeth Pavilion,

Moredon Sporting Hub,

SWINDON SN2 2QJ

LEISURE & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday 3rd September 2026 19.00

Present:	
Councillors:	Cllr John Ballman (Chair) Cllr Rodrick Hebden (Vice Chair) Cllr Rouchell Cardoso Cllr Caitlin Pinks
Clerk:	Mr Andrew Briggs (Head of Operations)
Officers:	None
Member of the Public Present: None	
Apologies	Cllr Sandra Absalom

LR-2026.19	Declarations of Interest Cllr John Ballman declared an interest in The Library & Leisure Trust, HBuF and RSPB. RESOLVED to NOTE	
LR-2026.20	Public Question Time & Correspondence None.	

LR-2026.21	Sports Pitches i. To RECEIVE an update on sports pitches ahead of the 26/27 football season. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update from a written report. See attachment LR-2026.21.i. Councillors discussed the issues with the dry ground cracking which can cause ankle injuries to sports players. Recommendation, Members are requested to: 1. NOTE the impact of the 2026 drought conditions on the Council's natural grass football pitches; 2. NOTE the approach being taken to pitch inspections and the commencement of the 2026/27 football season; 3. NOTE that pre-season friendlies and training may need to be restricted while ground conditions remain unsuitable; 4. NOTE that the approved Verti-Quake works will be undertaken once sufficient rainfall has softened the ground; 5. NOTE the purchase of replacement football nets, corner flags and net pegs; and 6. NOTE the current Football Foundation grant position and that clarification will be sought regarding the future claim dates shown against Grant G106333. RESOLVED to NOTE all recommendations. ii. To RECEIVE a report regarding the drainage review at Mannington Recreation. Mr A Briggs presented an update from a written report. See attachment LR-2026.21.ii. Councillors discussed the different provisions in sport for residents. Cllr J Ballman enquired how many pitches can be used at Mannington. Mr A Briggs explained that nine pitches are available, but the Parish only has changing provision for up to four pitches to be active at a time.	
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	Cllr J Ballman mentioned female football and what the Parish can provide in terms of changing facilities. Mr A Briggs noted that Mannington is a large area, and the changing facilities are quite far away from some of the pitches. Future renovations and the possible relocation of changing facilities could be something the Parish looks into at a future date if funding becomes available. Cllr C Pinks enquired if the funding and works could be completed this year. Mr A Briggs responded no, if funding was received it would hopefully be completed next year. Recommendations, Members are asked to: 1. NOTE the findings of the GMA technical assessment and July 2026 key-stage drainage investigation. 2. NOTE that an existing surface-water drainage route and outfall to the River Ray has been positively identified and appears potentially capable of supporting the proposed drainage scheme, subject to further investigation, cleaning and statutory approvals. 3. Support in principle the proposed Phase 1 remedial drainage scheme, comprising principally: • investigation and remediation of the existing drainage outfall; • installation of a suitable headwall at the River Ray; • installation of approximately 410 metres of new 160mm sealed main drainage; • installation of new inspection/silt chambers; • connection of viable existing drains encountered during excavation; and • associated earthworks, reinstatement and grass-establishment works. 4. NOTE that two quotations have now been received and that, for financial planning purposes, the mean indicative project cost is approximately £36,300 including a 10% contingency, before any additional investigation, professional, statutory or unforeseen costs. 5. NOTE that the Football Foundation Grass Pitch Drainage programme provides a potential funding route of up to £25,000, subject to eligibility and formal grant approval.	
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	6. NOTE that, using the current mean estimate, a maximum £25,000 Football Foundation contribution would leave an indicative funding requirement of approximately £11,300, before currently excluded costs. 7. Authorise officers to: - complete and validate the contractor quotation exercise; - undertake the necessary cleaning, jetting/rodding, dye testing and CCTV investigation of the existing outfall where required; - continue technical liaison with the GMA; - engage with the Environment Agency, Wales & West Utilities and other relevant bodies as required; - develop and submit a Football Foundation Grass Pitch Drainage application; and - explore additional partnership and external funding opportunities to minimise the Council contribution. 8. AGREE that the final proposed Council contribution is brought back to Members for approval once: - contractor quotations have been confirmed; - drainage investigations are complete; - professional and statutory costs are known; and - the Football Foundation contribution and other funding opportunities have been established. RESOLVED to APPROVE recommendations. iii. To RECEIVE an update on upcoming contract renewals. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update on clubs renewing contracts this year. RESOLVED to NOTE	
LR-2026.22	Allotments To RECEIVE the notes of the July 2026 Allotment Working Group meeting. Mr A Briggs presented an update from the Working Group notes from the July 2026 meeting. See attachment LR-2026.22.i. Cllr J Ballman mentioned the tree planting in the Parish.	

	Cllr R Hebden enquired about planting in his Ward. Cllr J Ballman explained if Councillors would like to plant trees in their Ward to contact Mr A Briggs to see what funding is available. RESOLVED to NOTE ii. To RECEIVE a report regarding the communal track at Pickards Field. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update from a written report. See attachment LR-2026.22.ii. Cllr J Ballman asked if the funding would come from the ring-fenced Allotment income. Mr A Briggs explained that the funding would be match funded from SALGA hopefully. Cllr R Hebden enquired why the work was not being done this year. Mr A Briggs mentioned that funding is not available this year. Recommendations, Members are asked to: 1. NOTE the current condition of the Pickard's Field access track and the quotations obtained for permanent improvement works. 2. NOTE that temporary repairs are undertaken to the worst potholes and rutted sections during the current financial year. 3. AGREE in principle that a permanent improvement scheme is considered as part of the 2027/28 budget process, subject to confirmation of planning, drainage and technical requirements. 4. AGREE that Officers continue discussions with SALGA regarding its delivery arrangements and seek an appropriate financial contribution towards any permanent improvement where heavy delivery vehicles continue to use the track. iii. To APPROVE the cost for 4 x new Troughs at Pickards Field. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update and recommended accepting the cheapest quotation.	
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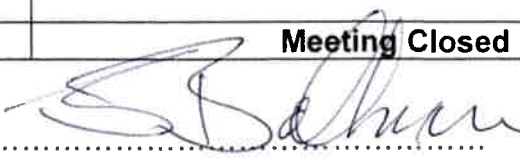
	Cllr R Hebden proposed approving the cheapest quote for four new Troughs at Pickards Field. RESOLVED to APPROVE iv. To RECEIVE notice of the 2026 winners of Best in Show competition conducted at Rodbourne Farm. Mr A Briggs presented the names of the winners of the Best in Show 2026 competition conducted at Rodbourne Farm. Best in Show and Most Improved have been informed and will be presented with a small trophy at the Pride in the Parish awards next year and receive a free allotment year. RESOLVED to NOTE	
LR-2026.23	Play Areas i. To RECEIVE an update on the Barnum Court & Alanbrooke Crescent Play Area refurbishment projects. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update from a written report. See attachment LR-2026.23.i. Cllr R Hebden enquired about surface flooring is suitable for the extreme weathers the Parish has been experiencing recently. Mr A Briggs explained there is a 12-year warranty on the new surface flooring and that the extreme weather has been taken into account in the planning. Cllr J Ballman noted how important play areas in the Parish are at bringing residents together. Recommendation, Members are asked to: 1. NOTE that the order for the Barnum Court and Alanbrooke play-area works was placed on 31 July 2026; 2. NOTE that the pre-commencement site meeting is scheduled for 3 September 2026; and 3. NOTE that the works are currently expected to commence during September 2026, subject to final confirmation from the contractor.	

	RESOLVED to NOTE ii. To RECEIVE a summary of findings of the weekly play area inspections. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update from a written report. See attachment LR-2026.23.ii. Recommendations, Members are recommended to: • NOTE the recurring defects and maintenance issues identified through the June 2026 inspections; • NOTE that the full refurbishments of Barnum Court and Alanbrooke Close are due to proceed shortly, and that a comprehensive repair scheme is being developed for Trowbridge Close; • NOTE that options appraisals are being prepared for Mannington Park and Edinburgh Street, with any preferred upgrade schemes and funding requirements to be considered through the 2027/28 budget-setting process. RESOLVED to NOTE iii. To CONSIDER a design proposal for Trowbridge Close Play Area. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update from a written report. See attachment LR-2026.23.iii. Recommendation, the Leisure & Recreation Committee is asked to: 1. ENDORSE the proposed refurbishment of Trowbridge Close Play Area; 2. ENDORSE the proposed use of timber equipment with steel feet, recognising its suitability for the location and the increased protection against ground-level deterioration; 3. RECOMMEND to Full Council that expenditure of up to £19,992.83 be approved and allocated against the Council's existing PWLB funding for play-area improvements. RESOLVED to APPROVE recommendations.	
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LR-2026.24	Parks and Open Spaces Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update on repair works to the block paving at Penhill Park. Cllr J Ballman noted that Penhill Park now has Green Flag status, so it is important to maintain it well. RESOLVED to NOTE	
LR-2026.25	L&R Budget i. To RECEIVE a Committee budget update. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update from a written report. Recommendation, the Committee is asked to: 1. NOTE the expenditure and income positions to the end of Month 5; 2. NOTE the seasonal nature of pitch income and that income is expected to increase from September 2026; 3. NOTE the coding adjustments detailed in section 4; 4. Request that officers review expenditure charged to 200/5533 and ensure youth staffing costs are allocated to the appropriate staffing budget; and 5. Receive a further updated position at a future meeting. RESOLVED to NOTE ii. To CONSIDER the 27/28 budget setting schedule. Mr A Briggs presented an update on the 27/28 budget setting schedule and recommended setting up an informal Leisure & Recreation working group to discuss recommendations for the Leisure & Recreation Budget for 27/28 which will be approved at a future Committee meeting and then be discussed and approved at a Full Council meeting. Councillors agreed. Cllr J Ballman mentioned Gorse Hill play area and the need to look at renovation as the equipment was not suitable for the children that would be using it and is very outdated.	



	Mr A Briggs explained that Gorse Hill play area and Mannington Rec are in the process of having designs created for them that the Committee can review at a future date. He recommended having a resident consultation on both play areas once the basic designs have been created. Cllr J Ballman noted that Edinburgh Play Area is in need of refurbishment. Mr A Briggs agreed and it is one that is being assessed at the moment. RESOLVED to NOTE	
	Meeting Closed 20:26	

Signed.....Date.....8.10.2026