Parish Council

Central Swindon North Parish Council

Moredon Sporting Hub,

Cheney Manor Industrial Estate,

SWINDON SN2 2QJ

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 4th November 2026 19.00

Present:	
Councillors:	Cllr Vanessa Bentley (Chair) Cllr Sandra Absalom Cllr Paul Exell Cllr Ana Fernandes Cllr Tony Fernandes Cllr Dave Patey Cllr Caitlin Pinks Cllr Josh Woods
Clerk:	Mr Aaron Webb (Community Youth Manager)
Officers:	Mr Aaron Cripps (Marketing, Literacy & Digital Systems Manager) Mr Louise Whatley (Community Centre Manager) - virtually Miss Rachel Westcott (Committee & Finance Administrator) Miss Camille Clarke (Community Engagement Officer)
Member of the Public Present:	Mrs Caroline Hunt (SBC Community Forest-Woodland Officer) Mr Joseph Gillerh (Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Tree for Climate Officer) Miss Ruby Higgs-Howard (Way UK Changemaker) Miss Ollie Evans (Way UK Changemakers) Mrs Sarah Dena (Way UK Changemakers)

Apologies	Cllr Joy Grotzinger

		Action
CD-2026.46	**Declarations of Interest** None	
CD-2026.47	**Public Questions & Public Correspondence** None **RESOLVED** to **NOTE**	
CD-2026.48	**Way UK Youth Forest** Mrs S Dena presented a verbal update about Way UK Changemakers and the plans they have been working towards designing to improve some land around Osbourne Street an area within the Parish. Mrs C Hunt explained how Trees for Climate has been working to increase tree coverage around Swindon, the work they have done in conjunction with the Parish and their support of the Way UK Changemakers project. Mr J Gillerh describe the plans created, including the various trees and plants that would be used, why they were chosen and their locations. Miss R Higgs-Howard described the process that the Changemakers used, including resident consultations and how the young people came to the final layout. Councillors discussed the plans. Cllr P Exell enquired about the timeframe. Mrs C Hunt explained that once they have received the Parishes approval they are hoping to begin work during February half-term. Cllr D Patey asked about the fruit trees and issues the Parish has experienced with fruit dropping and rotting on pavements. Mr J Gillerh noted they would be dwarf trees to aid maintenance and away from the pavements. Cllr C Pinks mentioned the fox dens.	

	Mr S Dena described the resident feedback they had received asking them to protect the foxes inhabiting the area. Cllr D Patey proposed **APPROVING** the proposal. **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE**	
CD-2026.49	**Community Centre Manager Update** Mrs L Whatley presented a verbal update from a written report. See attachment CD-2026.49 Cllr S Absalom enquired how often the police visit the Community Centres and what course are being run. Mrs L Whatley explained that she would forward the information to Cllr S Absalom. **RESOLVED** to **NOTE**	
CD-2026.50	**Marketing, Literacy & Digital Systems Manager Update** Mr A Cripps presented a verbal update. He described the summer science activities that were delivered across various libraries. An organisation called read easy have been in communication and will be starting programs to support adults and children needing support in learning or improving their reading. Mr A Cripps explained about the Parish Newsletter and how the Councillors can contribute and when any contributions need to be provided by for inclusion. **RESOLVED** to **NOTE**	
CD-2026.51	**Pride in Place Update** Miss C Clarke presented a verbal update from a written report. See attachment CD-2026.51. Mr A Cripps enquired who was providing the National Emergency Briefing and who will be available to answer any questions that residents may have. Miss C Clarke noted it is about nature and how to respond as individuals during various natural disasters.	

	Cllr S Absolum wondered what was actually in the video and that as a Parish suggested we do more research to make sure it is appropriate and not fearmongering. Mr A Cripps noted this is not a government initiative but a private venture which would be better supported by SBC and not the Parishes. Cllr V Bentley enquired about the golden ticket and the resident response. Mr A Webb explained that it has been the most popular post on Facebook, and residents seem excited about the initiative. **RESOLVED** to **NOTE**	
CD-2026.52	**Community Youth Manager & Events Update** Mr A Webb presented a verbal update from w written report. See attachment CD-2026.52. Mr A Webb reminded Councillors that the fireworks display is taking place tomorrow at Penhill Park starting at 5pm with fireworks going off from around 7pm. **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** Cllr V Bentley left the meeting. Cllr J Woods proposed to Chair meeting. **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE**	
CD-2026.53	**Procurement of Stand for Magic Table** Mr A Cripps presented a verbal update from a written report. See attachment CD-2026.53. Councillors discussed the request. Recommendation to Councillors; 1) **APPROVE** expenditure of £1,950 exclusive of VAT to purchase a mobile stand for the Magic Table during FY 2026/27. 2) **APPROVE** funding from budget line 5415/500 – Community Enhancements.	

	RESOLVED to **APPROVE**	
CD-2026.54	**November Blue** Cllr D Patey presented a verbal update on an event taking place at Gorse Hill on the 27th November 2026 6.30-9pm to support men's mental and physical health. There are various organisations and groups coming in to talk and hold stalls for residents who come along. **RESOLVED** to **NOTE**	
CD-2026.55	**Budget Review** • 2026/27 budget review **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** • 2027/28 budget setting Councillors discussed the 2027/28 budget proposal. **RESOLVED** to **NOTE**	
CD-2026.56	**Actions Noted** • CD-2026.43 – completed • CD-2026.38 - ongoing **RESOLVED** to **NOTE**	
	Meeting Closed 20:20	

Signed…… Date…….