Parish Council

Central Swindon North Parish Council

Princess Elizabeth Pavilion,

Moredon Sporting Hub,

SWINDON SN2 2QJ

LEISURE & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday 8th October 2026 19.00

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

LR-2026.26	**Declarations of Interest** Cllr John Ballman declared an interest in The Library & Leisure Trust, HBuF and RSPB. Cllr Sandra Absalom declared an interest in the Allotments. **RESOLVED** to **NOTE**	

LR-2026.27	**Public Question Time & Correspondence** None.	
LR-2026.28	**Sports Pitches** **i.** To **RECEIVE** an update on sports pitch conditions. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update explaining that the long hot summer has affected the pitches and left some unusable. The recent rain is starting to make a difference opening up all four pitches at Mannington and one a Sevenfields. One of the goalposts at Sevenfields was damaged at the weekend and pulled over but this has been rectified. Mr A Briggs explained that Verta draining has commenced. **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** **ii.** To **RECEIVE** an update on the submission of the Football Foundation grant application for Mannington Drainage. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update explaining that the grant application submission has been slightly delayed due to website errors on their end but the application has been completed now and they have come back with questions which is positive. Cllr J Ballman enquired when drainage work was last completed at Mannington. Mr A Briggs mentioned that works were last completed during the 1980's. **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** **iii.** To **RECEIVE** the total sum reimbursed from this year's Football Foundation pitch improvement grant. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update explaining that once works are completed the Parish will reimburse for around £20,000 hopefully. Cllr J Ballman enquired if there is any noticeable difference.	

	Mr A Briggs responded yes, overall condition has improved across the board and is noticeable. **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** **iv.** To **RECEIVE** a presentation from Rodbourne Ferndale. Mr A Briggs requested this agenda item be deferred to a future meeting. Councillors discussed possible building upgrades to support pitch users. **RESOLVED** to **DEFER** to a future meeting.	
LR-2026.29	**Allotments** **i.** To **RECEIVE** a general update report from the Allotment Officer. Mr N Jackson presented a verbal update. Occupancy is 596 out of 619 plots a 96% occupancy rate. 32 new tenants who are doing well. Coffee and hops distribution is still being received positively. There is a bonfire ban in place and several bee hives removed, and a homeless man found in a shed who was supported. Mr N Jackson mentioned a tenant called Chris at Redcliffe Street who grew an Atlantic pumpkin weighing over 300kg that won 9th in a national competition. Cllr J Ballman enquired around the safety precautions in relation to bonfires. Mr A Briggs noted that the Parish uses what-3-words to help with location and there will be a permanent summer ban on bonfires. Councillors discussed bonfires. **RESOLVED** to **NOTE**	
LR-2026.30	**Play Areas** **i.** To **RECEIVE** an update on the Barnum Court & Alanbrooke Crescent Play Area refurbishment projects. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update explaining that works have started at both Barnum Court & Alanbrooke Crescent Play Areas hoping for completion by the end of	

	October, beginning of November. Once completed he suggested a grand opening alongside the groups the Parish has collaborated with during the renovation process. Cllr J Ballman mentioned how working with groups who understand children's needs, especially children with extra needs, has been invaluable. **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** **ii.** To **RECEIVE** an update regarding Trowbridge Close. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update explaining the winning bidder who will commence work shortly. After communicating with the unsuccessful bidder, they were disappointed and raised a few concerns with the process. See attachment LR-2026.30.ii. Councillors discussed the bidding process. Recommendation. Members are asked to: 1. **NOTE** the concerns raised by the unsuccessful supplier and the clarification provided regarding the procurement process; 2. **CONFIRM** that the comments will be considered when planning future play-area procurements; and 3. **AUTHORISE** Officers (on behalf of the chair) to issue a formal response to the supplier on behalf of the Committee. **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** recommendations. **iii.** To **APPROVE** a request to convene the Play Area Working Group. Mr A Briggs requested convening the Play Area Working Group to review future renovation to Play Areas. Cllr J Ballman enquired which Play Areas would be next for renovation. Mr A Briggs explained that Mannington Recreation and Edinburgh Street are the next Play Areas for the Parish to review. **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE**	

LR-2026.31	**Parks and Open Spaces** Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update on repair works to the block paving at Penhill Park. He explained that the pathway is cracked and uneven and future repair is required rather than continuing to manage it which is costing the Parish consistently on a regular basis. Councillors discussed Penhill Park. Mr A Briggs explained that he will be sourcing quotes for the repair work and be returning to a future committee meeting for approval. **RESOLVED** to **NOTE**	
LR-2026.32	**L&R 2027/28 Budget** i. To **RECEIVE** and **APPROVE** recommendations from the L&R budget Working Group review. Mr A Briggs presented a verbal update from a written report. See attachment LR-2026.32 Councillors discussed the 2027/28 budget proposal. Cllr J Ballman suggested a review of coding's to better align with current Committee responsibilities. Councillors discussed the importance of keeping budget increases low to protect the Parish residents. Recommendations. The Committee is asked to recommend that: 1. RPI is used as the minimum starting point when reviewing existing funded expenditure codes for 2027/28, with the specific allocations in this report reflecting service requirements. Sports line marking remains at £5,000. Inflation is not added again to the stated proposals. 2. Sports pitch maintenance is increased by 20% to £36,000 and tree works by 50% to £18,000, subject to confirmation of the maintenance and tree-work programmes. 3. The combined allocation for maintenance compliance, general maintenance, compliance remedial works and reactive repairs is increased from £62,000 to £75,000, reflecting the additional	

	responsibilities arising from more buildings being brought into active use. 4. The separate play-area maintenance budget is increased by 50% to £18,000, with the annual safety-inspection budget increased to £1,447.60 using the current RPI rate. 5. Code 5020 is renamed Parks and Green Flag, with a provisional £15,000 allocation for bedding, watering, existing Green Flag activity and initial Pembroke Gardens improvements towards Green Flag status. 6. Corporate provision is reviewed to accommodate £15,000 for professional and legal fees, including Land Registry work and community centre lease reviews; £8,000 for vehicle repairs and servicing; and £4,225 for vehicle fuel, taking account of existing allocations and commitments. 7. The ownership and oversight of property maintenance and compliance budgets are reviewed, with Full Council asked to consider renewed Leisure & Recreation oversight or the establishment of a separate Property and Asset Committee. 8. Leisure income targets are reviewed, including a specific explanation and appropriate description of code 1090 Other Income, and the Parkside/youth coding corrections are completed. 9. The proposed Cost Centre 200 expenditure budget of £171,000, an increase of £42,200 (32.76%), is forwarded into the Council-wide budget-setting process alongside the separate play-area and corporate recommendations. **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** all recommendations.	
	Meeting Closed 20:40	

Signed…… Date…….