

CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL

LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 4th September 2019 at John Moulton Hall

Present	Cllr M Lucas	(Chair)
	Cllr J Yeowell	(Vice-chair)
	Cllr J Ballman	
	Cllr R Ballman	
	Cllr P Baker	
	Cllr J Rodrigues	
	Cllr S Thompson	
Officers	H Morgan	(Deputy Clerk)
	A Briggs	(Estates Manager)
	H Armagan	(Allotments Officer)
	M Johnston	(Community Centre Manager)

Public None

186 **Apologies**
Cllr D Patey

187 **Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**
None

188 **Update from Youth Worker**
Apologies were given for the absence of the Youth Worker.

The Estates Manager informed the Committee that the Youth Workers Summer Programme had ended and over the summer young people had completed community events on a Tuesday which included litter picks, helping at the Penhill Bug Lunch and painting. On Tuesday evenings the Youth Worker had been carrying out outreach work.

On Wednesdays the Youth Worker had ran various sports activities and was assisting with Youthie at Pinetrees in the evenings.

On Thursday's young people had been taken on a variety of trips including bowling, ice skating, trampolining, the cinema and the Summer programme had ended with a trip to Weston-Super-Mare.

The Youth Worker felt that the Summer Programme had been a success and new young people had been reached.

The Youth Worker is continuing an apprenticeship course which requires him to go to London most Fridays.

The Youth Worker, Estates Manager and Community Centre Manager had attended and passed a liquor license course.

The Community Centre Manager informed the Committee that the local PCSOs had comments on the improvement in the behaviour of young people last summer and this summer due to the work of the Youth Worker.

189 **Update from Estates Manager**
A written report was circulated, a copy of which can be found as Annex A in the Minute Book.

1. Football update

The Estates Manager confirmed that Swindon Borough Council (SBC) would be installing the

new goal posts and that the Larger Foundations Bid had been sent to Wiltshire FA for review.

It was confirmed that the goal posts would be static during the football season.

3. Mannington Cricket squares

The Estates Manager confirmed that this had been put on hold by the Finance & Staffing Committee and further investigation was required before a report is returned to the Committee in the future.

Cllr M Lucas commented that the end of the cricket season was approaching so there was no need for any immediate action so further investigation and consultation could take place before moving the item forward in time for the new season the next year.

4. Festive lights – Cricklade Road & Rodbourne

The Estates Manager commented that installation was expected to take place during October 2019.

Cllr J Ballman informed the Committee that the report from ETL should be received the following day.

5. Churchward allotment

The Estates Manager confirmed that some remaining soil was to be collected the following day.

Cllr S Thompson asked if any feedback had been received from the householder at the back of the area concerned. The Estates Manager confirmed nothing had been received and the Allotments Officer confirmed that a camera had been taken down.

7. St Marks – Sand

Cllr R Ballman suggested the addition of new sand be delayed until next spring.

The Estates Manager stated he would find out when the sand was due to be delivered and consult with Cllr R Ballman.

9. Pinetrees Garden Grant

The Estates Manager confirmed that the grant application had been declined but the Finance & Staffing Committee had agreed that the Parish Council spend £900 on improving the garden under the instruction of the Estates Manager and/or Parish Manager.

10. Moredon & Rodbourne Cheney Library

The Estates Manager confirmed that Cllr P Exells Ward Allowance was being used on improving the garden area.

Cllr J Yeowell suggested the existing ramp may not be DDA compliant. The Estates Manager confirmed he would look into this.

It was confirmed that the Leisure & Libraries Trust may want to complete additional works in the future.

190 Update from Allotments Officer

The Allotments Officer stated that he had been continuing with business as usual; cutting grass and meeting with potential new tenants.

Hedges at Pickards Field and Cheney Manor Leisure Garden sites, Pinetrees Community Centre and 32 The Circle had been cut back.

Reports of wasp nests at the Allington Road and Cheney Manor Leisure Garden sites had

been received and these had been dealt with by the Allotments Officer.

Cllr J Yeowell queried the process of removing wasp nests. The Allotments Officer explained.

Monthly Site Checks had been completed and the Estates Manager had been informed of plots not being cultivated so tenants could be contacted.

The Allotments Officer explained that complaints had been received from tenants at the Cheney Manor Leisure Garden site about the presence of rats and traps had been requested.

Cllr R Ballman suggested a specialist should be brought in to deal with the issue. The Allotments Officer commented that this could be costly.

Cllr P Baker suggested the issue was not the responsibility of the Parish Council and should be dealt with by tenants. He explained that the Parish Council could aid tenants but shouldn't provide a service of trying to eradicate the problem. The Estates Manager agreed that the Parish Council couldn't eradicate the problem and suggested some form of pest control be investigated.

Cllr J Ballman stated that the safety of people and staff needed to be considered and there was a need to be mindful of Health & Safety.

Cllr M Lucas commented that rats were keen on compost and houses nearby could also be contributing to the problem. He added that he would prefer the Estates Manager and Allotments Officer to look into what could be done, by who and the costs involved.

Cllr J Rodrigues commented that it would be nice if the Parish Council could assist with the problem of rats but it's not a problem that will go away and the Parish Council would be expected to offer continued assistance.

The Allotments Officer informed the Committee that he planned on covering vacant plots over the winter to make them easier to prepare and cultivate next year.

Cllr R Ballman agreed that it would be easier to maintain plots in the spring if they were covered over in the winter.

Cllr J Ballman agreed that it was a good idea to cover plots and stated that he would be happy for the Allotments Officer to proceed with finding out the cost of the best quality materials.

Cllr J Ballman proposed the Estates Manager and Allotments Officer look into the cost of purchasing high quality materials to cover plots and report back to the relevant Committee or consult with the Chair for approval. All agreed.

RESOLVED that the Estates Manager and Allotments Officer look into the cost of purchasing high quality materials to cover over vacant plots and report back to the relevant Committee or consult with the Chair for approval.

Cllr R Ballman asked if skips were to be placed at the Leisure Garden sites for tenants to clear their plots before the winter.

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that it had been agreed previously that skips would be placed at each site twice a year, in April and September.

It was agreed that skips be provided in October 2019.

191 Update from Community Centre Manager

The Community Centre Manager informed the Committee that John Moulton Hall (JMH) had been the busiest it had been known to be.

Young Wardens had been using the meeting room over the summer and a new church group had started and had new members join.

A free Face Painting course was starting at JMH the following week.

The Community Centre Manager confirmed that as well as water cooler being provided at Pinetrees Community Centre, JMH was being advertised as a refill site online. An email had been received from SCAN thanking Pinetrees Community Centre and JMH for signing up as refill sites.

The cooler at Pinetrees was being well used by centre users leaving various classes.

The Community Centre Manager commented on the success of the Weston-Super-Mare trip and the Penhill Big Lunch. With regards to the Penhill Big Lunch; something bigger and better was planned for 2020.

The Community Centre Manager confirmed that Pinetrees Community Centre was the only venue in Swindon hosting an event for Silver Sunday. The Community Centre Manager was continuing to obtain prizes for a raffle to take place on the day.

The Dementia Café starts at Pinetrees Community Centre on Wednesday 11th September 2019. A Dementia Café Coordinator had been hired via Pertemps and various groups and organisations were being contacted to advertise and promote the café.

A Coffee Morning for Macmillan is being held at Pinetrees Community Centre on 27th September 2019.

The Pinecones Café are holding a mental health awareness dinner on the evening of 15th October 2019. Tickets cost £17 and includes a 2 course meal and entertainment.

Cllr M Lucas stated that the Finance & Staffing Committee had made comments on how good JMH was looking the previous evening.

192 Compost Tea Brewing

A written report was circulated, a copy of which can be found as Annex B in the Minute Book.

It was confirmed that a compost tea would primarily be used for the football pitches along with green spaces and at Leisure Garden sites.

The Estates Manager confirmed that the programme the report was based on was specifically for football pitches.

Cllr J Ballman spoke of the current pitch maintenance programme and commented that benefits of using a compost tea would be worthwhile if done at the correct time.

Cllr J Yeowell asked about the employment of a grounds-person. The Estates Manager explained that a grounds-person would be trained on the basics of compost tea brewing and spraying.

Cllr J Rodrigues asked about the possibility of funding the purchasing of a compost tea brewing kit from grants being applied for. The Estates Manager confirmed this wasn't possible as the grants were for specific items and/or activities.

Cllr J Rodrigues queried whether the kit quoted for in the report would be sufficient to cover the Parish Councils football pitches. The Estates Manager confirmed that the company who provided the quote were provided with the pitch details and the programme quoted for was based on these details.

Cllr S Thompson asked whether the FA insisted on particular products and regimes being used on pitches. The Estates Manager confirmed there were no specific stipulations only desirables.

Cllr M Lucas suggested that, due to the amounts and ongoing revenue costs involved, the Finance & Staffing Committee should be involved in the decision making process and a recommendation should be made to Full Council.

He suggested that further investigation takes place and the Parish Council should wait until pitches have transferred over and processes and a grounds-person etc. in place. He added that money could be saved if certain works were taken out of the existing or future grounds maintenance contracts.

Cllr P Baker asked if the price of football pitches would increase if/when a compost tea-brewing programme was in place. The Estates Manager responded that prices would increase once a grounds-person had been employed.

Cllr M Lucas commented that it was hoped that pitch usage would increase once a programme was in place with additional services being provided.

Cllr J Ballman commented that it was policy to reinvest revenue from pitches.

Cllr M Lucas proposed the recommendation of the report be approved. All agreed.

RESOLVED that the purchase of a compost tea brewing kit is postponed until a grounds-person is in post to be able to implement a structured regime for the application.

Cllr P Baker left the meeting at 7.58pm

193 **79 The Broadway**

Cllr M Lucas explained that there was a piece of 'no mans land' behind 79 The Broadway and the Parish Manager had been trying to determine who owned the piece of land concerned.

The Parish Managers research suggested Swindon Borough Council (SBC) took on the maintenance rights after it was handed to them by developers who owned the land previously.

The piece of land concerned is very overgrown and whilst the resident of 79 The Broadway may be willing to maintain the land themselves, they are not able to bring it into a state where this would be achievable.

Cllr M Lucas explained that he was seeking the opinion of the Committee as to whether the Parish Council should take on the maintenance of the piece of land themselves.

Cllr J Ballman suggested the piece of land be cut back and wildflowers be planted. Cllr S Thompson responded that nettles would cause problems for wildflowers.

The Deputy Clerk suggested the Parish Council instruct SBC to cut back the piece of land and the Allotments Officer be asked to maintain the piece of land on a regular basis. All agreed.

RESOLVED that SBC be instructed to cut back the piece of land behind 79 The Broadway and the Parish Council continue to maintain the piece of land.

Cllrs J and R Ballman left the meeting at 8.09pm.

194 **Harvey Grove - Trees**

Cllr M Lucas explained that a resident had been in touch to report that Swindon Borough Council (SBC) had been cutting down trees along Harvey Grove, some of which appeared to be rotten and others appeared to be ok.

Residents had asked about whether the trees would be replaced.

It was said that it was SBC policy to cut down fruit bearing trees placed on highways and that

they had no funds to replace trees.

Members were informed that previously the Parish Council had asked for new trees to be planted on grass verges in Penhill, as requested by residents, and these had been paid for from Cllr P Bakers Ward Allowance.

Cllr M Lucas commented that it's expected that requests for trees to be replaced and/or planted will become a regular occurrence.

The Deputy Clerk spoke of the initial an ongoing cost of planting new trees. She went on to suggest that replacing trees and the Parish Council views on this could be included in the Tree Policy which was currently being drafted and being presented to Full Council at their meeting October 2019.

Cllr J Yeowell asked if it would be possible for diseased trees to be saved rather than cut down. Cllr S Thompson responded that specific expertise were needed.

It was suggested that the Deputy Clerk and Cllrs feedback comments on replacement trees to the Parish Manager for inclusion in the Tree Policy.

Cllr S Thompson suggested the Grants Manager be asked to look into funding opportunities for planting roadside trees.

The meeting closed at 8.22pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Leisure & Amenities Committee