

South Swindon Parish Council
Leisure, Environment & Amenities Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2025 at 6.30pm
In the Parish Council Office, Gladstone Street, SN1 2AU

Present:	Cllr Linda Kasmaty (Chair) Cllr Steve Allsopp Cllr Rebecca Banwell-Moore Cllr Meural Cardoso	Cllr John Firmin (Vice-Chair) Cllr Patrick Herring Cllr Sam James Cllr Tom Silberberg
Apologies:	Cllr Neil Hopkins	Cllr Danial Vales
Officers:	Carol Clark Max Tanner	Assistant Clerk Governance & Support Lead
Public:	None	
Public Questions:	None	

2526 – 166 **Apologies**
The Committee accepted apologies from Cllr N Hopkins & Cllr D Vales.

2526 – 167 **Declaration of interest & Applications for dispensation**
None

2526 – 168 **Swindon Schools Grow Together**
The Committee received a presentation from the Swindon Schools Grow Together group regarding community gardening within schools in the South Swindon Parish.

RESOLVED: To note the contents of the presentation.

2526 – 169 **South Swindon In Bloom Review**
The Parish Council's Open Spaces Consultant submitted a report regarding the 2025 South Swindon in Bloom entry and a strategy for the 2026 entry. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix A.

Recommendation

1. Resolve to agree that the Parish Council continues to support the South Swindon in Bloom entry into the South West in Bloom competition in 2026 in the Champion of Champion category in the Main Competition, Pride in Parks, It's Your Neighbourhood / School and potentially the Town Centre category.
2. Resolve to agree that the Parish Council support South Swindon in Bloom's work towards being invited to enter the national Britain in Bloom competition in the future.
3. Resolve to investigate the feasibility of the Parish Council supporting South Swindon in Bloom in hosting the regional Presentation Awards in October 2027.
4. Resolve to agree that the Judges' feedback as detailed in 2.4 be implemented for the entry.
5. Resolve to agree to the Bloom Strategy for 2026 as detailed in 2.5.
6. Resolve to agree that the Parish Council continues to encourage and support greater community and business participation for the South Swindon in Bloom project and the It's Your Neighbourhood / It's Your School Schemes.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendation 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.

2526 – 170

Rewilding Review

Councillors were presented with a report reviewing the council's rewilding strategy and the progress of its rewilding areas. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix B.

Recommendation

3.1 Resolve to continue to support the re-wilding initiative and to continue with the existing maintenance regime.

3.2 Resolve to note the results from the monitoring work undertaken by the two volunteers in support of South Swindon in Bloom.

3.3 Resolve to continue to monitor the progress of the re-wilding areas and re-evaluate the re-wilding schemes should there be a continued decline in botanical diversity.

3.4 Resolve to investigate the scope and cost of undertaking a professional ecological survey at all or some of the re-wilding sites during the spring / summer of 2026 and subject to a further report.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendation 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 & 3.4.

2526 – 171

Community Defibrillators

The Governance & Support Lead submitted a report regarding the procurement of two new defibrillators for community buildings in South Swindon Parish. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix C.

Recommendation

3.1 To commission two further community defibrillators as detailed in Point 2.3 and 2.4 at a cost of £2,998.34.

3.2 To use funds from the CIL Reserve to fund the community defibrillators.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendation 3.1 & 3.2.

2526 – 172

Community Facilities Update

The Facilities Officer submitted a report regarding the running of the Parish Council's community facilities. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix D.

Recommendation

3.1 Note the contents of this report.

RESOLVED: To note the contents of the report.

2526 – 173

Town Gardens Bowls Club- Annual Review

The committee was presented with the notes of the recent review meeting with the Town Gardens Bowl Club. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix E.

Recommendation

3.1 Approve a six-month extension of its current license for Town Gardens Bowls Club.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendation 3.1.

2526 – 174

Flower Donation from Swindon Rotary Club

Councillors received a report from the CEO regarding the planting of flowers donated by the Rotary Club of Swindon Old Town.

Recommendation

3.1 That council accept the donation of 8,000 Crocus corms from Rotary Swindon Old Town.

3.2 That these be planted on the Western edge of the open space in GWR park.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendation 3.1 & 3.2.

2526 – 175

Admission of Public and Press

RESOLVED: In accordance with standing order 3(d) that ‘in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded, and they be instructed to withdraw’. Reason: **Commercial Sensitivity.**

2526 – 176

Town Gardens Café

The Committee received a presentation from the Town Gardens Café on their recent activities.

RESOLVED: To note the contents of the presentation.

Meeting Closes at 20:11

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Leisure, Environment & Amenities Committee