

South Swindon Parish Council
Leisure, Environment & Amenities Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 7th October 2025 at 6.30pm
In the Parish Council Office, Gladstone Street, SN1 2AU

Present:	Cllr John Firmin (Vice-Chair) Cllr Steve Allsopp Rebecca Banwell-Moore	Cllr Meural Cardoso Cllr Patrick Herring Cllr Tom Silberberg
Apologies:	Cllr Sam James Cllr Neil Hopkins	Cllr Linda Kasmaty (Chair)
Absent:	Cllr Danial Vales	
Officers:	Matt Leather Abigail Garside-Scutts Max Tanner	Deputy CEO Events Manager Governance & Support Lead
Public:	None	
Public Questions:	None	

2526 – 122 **Apologies**
The Committee accepted apologies from Cllr N Hopkins, Cllr S James, Cllr L Kasmaty.

2526 – 123 **Declaration of interest & Applications for dispensation**
None

2526 – 124 **Town Gardens Christmas Event**
The committee received a report from the Events Manager regarding a Christmas event at the Town Gardens. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix A.

Recommendation

3.1 To approve the proposal for Christmas in the Town Gardens, as detailed in section 2, with a budget of £30,000.00.

RESOLVED: To approve the proposal for Christmas in the Town Gardens, as detailed in section 2, with a budget of £30,000.00.

2526 – 125 **Green Flag Entry**
The Assistant Clerk submitted a report regarding the Parish Council's plans to enter Parish Council parks for Green Flag accreditation. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix B.

3.1 To agree to proceed with a GWR Park Green Flag January 2026 submission.

3.2 To agree to proceed with a Queens Park Green Flag January 2027 submission.

RESOLVED: To agree to proceed with a GWR Park Green Flag January 2026 submission.

RESOLVED: To provisionally agree to proceed with a Queens Park Green Flag January 2027 submission, subject to the progress on resolving the issues with Queens Park lake.

2526 – 126 **Biodiversity Net Gain Sites**
Councillors were presented with a report detailing a request from Swindon Borough Council for future Biodiversity Net Gain sites. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix C.

Recommendation

3.1 3.1 To propose to Swindon Borough Council the sites listed in Point 2.4 as potential BNG sites.

3.2 As the sites proposed in 2.4 are already SBC owned, request that they be included for consideration for the £5.6m BNG monies alongside SBC's country parks.

RESOLVED: To propose to Swindon Borough Council the following sites as potential BNG sites:

1. Queen's Park Lake
2. GWR Park
3. Buckhurst Field
4. Savernake Street Park
5. Wichelstowe Country Park
6. Westcott Allotments
7. Manor Road Community Garden

RESOLVED: To approve recommendation 3.2.

2526 – 127

Buckhurst Playzone

The Deputy CEO submitted a report regarding the Parish Council's operating model for the Buckhurst Playzone. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix D.

Recommendation

3.1 Decide whether to continue with the operating model for the Buckhurst Playzone agreed in January 2025 or a new free/reduced cost operating model.

3.2 Authorise the CEO in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of Leisure, Environment and Amenities Committee, to implement the charge model for the Buckhurst Playzone based on the committee's wishes.

RESOLVED: To endorse the charging structure described in Point 2.2.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendation 3.2.

2526 – 128

Swindon Youth Music Festival

The Deputy CEO submitted a report regarding the potential of a Youth Music Festival in the Town Gardens Bowl. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix E.

Recommendation

3.1 To consider whether to investigate the potential of a Youth Music Festival in the Town Gardens Bowl in 2026.

3.2 Subject to the committee being supportive of investigating this event, request that a report be brought to a future meeting for councillors to take a decision on whether a Youth Music event should go ahead.

RESOLVED: To not investigate the potential of a Youth Music Festival.

2526 – 129

Allotment Site Reps Meeting

Councillors were presented with the minutes from the Allotment Site Representatives Meeting that took place on the 9th September 2025. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix F. The Deputy CEO confirmed the provisional opening dates for the two Badbury Park allotment sites, with site one opening between November and December and site two opening on the 1st of March.

RESOLVED: To note the contents of minutes of the Allotment Site Representatives Meeting that took place on the 9th September 2025.

Meeting Closes at 19:20

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Leisure, Environment & Amenities Committee