

South Swindon Parish Council
Leisure, Environment & Amenities Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2026 at 6.30pm
In the Parish Council Office, Gladstone Street, SN1 2AU

Present:	Cllr Linda Kasmaty (Chair) Cllr Steve Allsopp Cllr P Herring Cllr Sam James	Cllr John Firmin (Vice-Chair) Cllr Neil Hopkins Cllr Tom Silberberg
Apologies:	Cllr Rebecca Banwell-Moore	
Absent:	Cllr Meural Cardoso	Cllr Danial Vales
Officers:	Jake Mee Matt Leather Max Tanner Abigail Garside-Scutts Sadie Calder	CEO Deputy CEO Governance & Support Lead Events & Venues Manager Events Officer
Public:	1	
Public Questions:	A parishioner came to speak on item 6. Local Cycling and Walking supports Infrastructure Plan. The residents also asked if nature trails could be incorporated into the parks? The Events & Venues Manager is already working on a tree trail in Town Gardens. Old Town Councillors tabled representations from the Town Gardens Café. The CEO will respond to the Town Gardens Café via email.	

2526 – 262 **Apologies**
The Committee received apologies from Cllr R Banwell-Moore.

2526 – 263 **Declaration of interest & Applications for dispensation**
Cllr P Herring declared a non-pecuniary interest for item 10, being employed by the office of Heidi Alexander MP, which is involved in the Pride in Place Funding deployment.

2526 – 264 **Old Town Business Association Review**
The Committee was due to receive a presentation from the Chair of the Old Town Business Association but due to availability, this item was recommended to be deferred.

RESOLVED: To defer this item until the next meeting of the Leisure, Environment & Amenities Committee.

2526 – 265 **Town Gardens Christmas Event**
The Events & Venues Manager submitted a report on the Parish Council's Christmas event in the Town Gardens. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix A.

Recommendation

5.1 To approve the recommendation from the Events Working Party that a proposal for 2026's events should be drawn up and presented at a future Leisure, Environment and Amenities Committee, as laid out in 4.1.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendation 5.1.

2526 – 266

2026 Events Programme

The Events & Venues Manager submitted a report regarding the events programme for 2026. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix B.

Recommendation

4.1 To approve the programme of events as laid out in 2.2 and 2.3.

4.2 To approve the ticketing structure as laid out in 3.2.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendation 4.1 & 4.2.

RESOLVED: To thank the National Trust for their contribution to the Blossum Festival 2026.

2526 – 267

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan

The Committee were asked to consider a response to the Swindon Borough Council Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix C.

RESOLVED: For the deputy CEO to compile feedback from the Committee and share with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee, prior to submission.

2526 – 268

Walcot East Pride in Place

The Community Development Officer submitted a report regarding the Walcot East Pride in Place funding. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix D.

Recommendation

3.1 Note the contents of this report.

3.2 Recommend to Full Council the recruitment of a full-time Community Engagement Officer on a fixed-term basis subject to funding from the Walcot East Pride in Place programme to cover the cost of this employment.

RESOLVED: To note the contents of the report.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendation 3.2.

RESOLVED: To amend Point 2.5 of the accompanying report, the report states that South Swindon Parish Councillors are automatically on the board; this is incorrect. Members of the board are selected by an independent chair.

2526 – 269

Weeding and Fly-Tipping Update

The Deputy CEO presented a verbal report on upcoming plans to control weed growth on the road and pavements and fly-tipping.

RESOLVED: To note the update.

2526 – 270

Thermal Imaging Camera Scheme

The CEO submitted a report regarding a Thermal Imaging Camera Loan Scheme for residents. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix E.

Recommendation

3.1 That the Parish Council establish a Thermal Imaging Camera Loan Scheme for residents.

3.2 That the Parish Council lead a joint procurement exercise for any Swindon based local authorities to purchase devices and operate their own independent scheme as they decide.

3.3 To liaise with Swindon Borough Council to integrate the scheme into South Swindon Parish Council's Library Service

3.4 That a maximum budget of £1,500 be allocated from the Earmarked Reserve for Communities towards the purchase of cameras and ancillary costs as detailed in 2.3

RESOLVED: To approve recommendation 3.1, 3.2, 3.3.

RESOLVED: That a maximum budget of £2,500 be allocated from the Earmarked Reserve for Communities towards the purchase of cameras and ancillary costs as detailed in 2.3, as well as the costs of two potential additional units.

2526 – 271

Queen's Park Lake Water Analysis

To receive a report regarding recent water analysis at Queen's Park. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix F.

RESOLVED: To note the contents of the report.

2526 – 272

South Swindon Community Trust

To receive a report from the Community Development Officer regarding establishing a community trust. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix G.

Recommendation

3.1 The Committee should consider the potential of proceeding with transferring some of its services into a trust model and make a recommendation to Full Council.

RESOLVED: To continue to explore this item through a joint meeting of the Health, Wellbeing & Community Working Party and Youth Working Party.

2526 – 273

Admission of Public and Press

RESOLVED: To resolve 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 – 274

Catering Facilities Update

The Committee received a report regarding catering facilities within the parish. A copy of which appears in the Confidential Minute Book as Appendix A.

Recommendation

3.1 That Panache Consultancy are selected to provide an options appraisal and business case for the council's café assets at a cost of £10,800.

3.2 That the Leisure, Environment and Amenities Committee formally recommend to Full Council that a lease extension is offered to the current operators of Town Gardens Café.

3.3 That the CEO drafts terms for the lease to be approved at February Full Council.

RESOLVED: That the Leisure, Environment and Amenities Committee formally recommend to Full Council that a lease extension of 1 year is offered to the current operators of Town Gardens Café.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendation 3.1 & 3.2.

2526 – 275

Oakfield Open Space

The Deputy CEO submitted a report regarding the transfer of the Oakfield Open Space to the Parish Council. A copy of which appears in the Confidential Minute Book as Appendix B.

Recommendations

3.1 Note the contents of the report.

RESOLVED: To note the contents of the report.

Meeting Closes at 19:51

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Leisure, Environment & Amenities Committee