

South Swindon Parish Council
Leisure, Environment & Amenities Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2026 at 6.30pm
In the Parish Council Office, Gladstone Street, SN1 2AU

Present:	Cllr Linda Kasmaty (Chair) Cllr Vince Ayris Cllr Christine Hardisty Cllr Jane Milner-Barry Cllr Patrick Herring Cllr Neil Hopkins Cllr Janine Howarth	Cllr John Firmin (Vice-Chair) Cllr Albano Lourenco Cllr Sam James Cllr Savio Telles Cllr Danial Vales
Apologies:	Cllr Jocelina D'Souza Cllr Christine Hardisty	Cllr Paul Williams
Substitutes:	Cllr Patrick Herring Cllr Neil Hopkins	Cllr Danial Vales
Absent:		
Officers:	Matt Leather Max Tanner Sophie Johnson Dan Fishlock Millie Lawler Abigail Garside-Scutts Carol Clark Lindsey Gardner Loreli Huntley	Deputy CEO Governance & Support Lead Business Administration Apprentice Community Development Manager Community Engagement Officer Events & Venues Manager Assistant Clerk Libraries Manager Youth Worker
Public:	None	
Public Questions:	None	

2627 – 65 **Apologies**
The committee received apologies from Cllrs J D'Souza, C Hardisty, P Williams.

2627 – 66 **Declaration of interest & Applications for dispensation**
Cllr P Herring declared a non-pecuniary interest for item 3. Walcot Pride in Place Programme Update.

Cllr L Kasmaty declared a non-pecuniary interest for item 15. Broadgreen Mural.

2627 – 67 **Libraries Update**
The Libraries Manager submitted a report regarding the library service. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix A.

RESOLVED: To note the contents of the report.

RESOLVED: That a report be brought to the October Leisure, Environment and Amenities Committee showing recent loans at Old Town and Badbury Park Libraries.

2627 – 68 **XTC Sculpture**
The CEO submitted a report regarding the installation of a new sculpture that pays tribute to members of Swindon rock band XTC. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix B.

Recommendation

3.1 The committee approve the installation of the 'XhibitA' artwork on the terrace at Queens Park at the location shown in Appendix A.

3.2 The committee approve that the parish maintenance team install the artwork and plaque with Queens Park gardeners proceeding with the planting scheme in time for the public unveiling on 18th July 2026.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendation 3.1 & 3.2.

2627 – 69

Swindon Place Partnership Update

The Community Development Manager submitted a report regarding the progress of the Swindon Place Partnership. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix C.

Recommendation

3.1 Note the contents of this report.

3.2 Agree to a 3-month fixed term tenancy at Central Community Centre as proposed in Point 2.6.

RESOLVED: To note the contents of the report.

RESOLVED: To agree to a 3-month fixed term tenancy at Central Community Centre as proposed in Point 2.6 of the accompanying report.

2627 – 70

Walcot Pride in Place Programme Update

The Community Engagement Officer submitted a report regarding the Walcot Pride in Place programme. 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.

2627 – 71

Buckhurst Field Improvement Programme - Phase 2

The Community Development Manager submitted a report regarding a Phase 2 programme of improvement works at Buckhurst Field. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix E.

Recommendation

3.1 The Council approves the development of a masterplan containing the proposed improvements.

RESOLVED: To approve the development of a masterplan containing the proposed improvements as detail in the accompanying report.

RESOLVED: To bring the draft masterplan back to the Leisure, Environment and Amenities Committee for review.

2627– 72

Manor Road Community Garden

The Community Development Manager submitted a report regarding the progress of Manor Road Community Garden. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix F.

Recommendation

3.1 To endorse the Parish Council's continued leadership of the community garden and the staffing resource required to maintain the site and ensure the garden becomes a success.

3.2 To support the development of a site programme as outlined in part 2.8 of this report.

3.3 To endorse the development of the site as a garden of sanctuary as outlined in part 2.10 of this report.

3.4 To endorse the continued physical development of the site, in line with the appended site layout and potential enhancements outlined in part 2.5 of this report.

3.5 Note the new name for the site, and project: Westcott Community Garden, as outlined in part 2.11 of this report.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendations 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, & 3.5.

2627– 73

Brighter Broadgreen

The Assistant Clerk submitted a report regarding the Brighter Broadgreen project. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix G.

Recommendation

3.1 To request a formal explanation from Wiltshire Police as to why the Brighter Broadgreen project has come to an end prior to the Hold phase of this multi-agency project being activated.

3.2 To consider activating an informal Hold phase and requesting a partnership arrangement with key contributors from Neighbourhood Policing Team, Swindon Borough Council, Live Well and the Community Safety Partnership.

3.3 To note the Brighter Broadgreen Final Summary Report.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendations 3.3.

RESOLVED: To request a formal explanation from Swindon Borough Council's Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee as to why the Brighter Broadgreen project has come to an end prior to the Hold phase of this multi-agency project being activated.

RESOLVED: To request a formal explanation from the office of the Police & Crime Commissioner as to why the Brighter Broadgreen project has come to an end prior to the Hold phase of this multi-agency project being activated.

2627– 74

Allotments Update

The Assistant Clerk submitted a report regarding the Parish Council's Allotments Services. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix H.

Recommendation

3.1 To determine any allotment fee increase for 2027 and to recommend this increase to Full Council.

RESOLVED: To recommend to Full Council an increase in allotment fees for 2027 which would allow the service to breakeven.

2627 – 75

Milton Road Canal Bridge Mural

RESOLVED: To defer this item to a future meeting of the Leisure, Environment & Amenities Committee.

2627– 76

Youth Objectives Review

The Parish Council's Youth Worker submitted a report regarding the progress of the Parish Council's Youth Objectives.

Recommendation

3.1 To note the progress of the 2025/26 Youth Objectives as outlined in Point 2.2.

3.2 To approve new Youth Objectives for 2026/27 as detailed in Point 2.3.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendations 3.1 & 3.2.

2627– 77

Youth Service Update

The Parish Council's Youth Worker submitted a report regarding the council's Youth Service. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix I.

Recommendation

3.1 To note the report

3.2 That the Eastcott Youth Club close for reasons provided in point 2.3

3.3 That the Broadgreen Youth Space open as outlined in point 2.5

RESOLVED: To approve recommendations 3.1, 3.2 & 3.3.

2627– 78

The Bowl

RESOLVED: To defer this item to a future meeting of the Leisure, Environment & Amenities Committee.

2627– 79

Events Update

The Events Manager submitted a report regarding the Parish Council's Events Programme. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix J.

Recommendation

6.1 To set an operational capacity of 750 for the Town Gardens Bowl, as set out in 2.4.

6.2 To proceed with the enquiry received on 9th March 2026 to book the Town Gardens Bowl for Holi 2027.

6.3 To deliver a daytime Christmas in the Town Gardens event on 12th, 13th, 19th and 20th December 2026.

6.4 To send a letter of support for Swindon's UK City of Culture 2029 bid.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendations 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 & 6.4.

2627 – 80

Broadgreen Mural

The Governance & Support Lead submitted a report regarding a mural at Broadgreen Park. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix K.

Recommendation

3.1 To approve the design by Artsite, at a cost of £852.80, as detailed in Point 2.4.

3.2 To authorise the CEO, in conjunction with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the committee, to identify alternative locations for the display of the mural, as detailed in point 2.4.

RESOLVED: To approve recommendation 3.1.

RESOLVED: To task identifying a location for the mural to a working party to be brought back to a future meeting of the Leisure, Environment & Amenities Committee for a decision.

2627– 81

Westlecot Ridge Major Open Space

The Deputy CEO verbally updated the progress on the Westlecot Ridge Major Open Space Scheme.

RESOLVED: To note the contents of the verbal update.

2627– 82

Rushey Platt Play Area Access Improvements

The Project Officer submitted a report regarding access improvements to the Rushey Platt Play Area. A copy of which appears in the Minute Book as Appendix L.

Recommendation

The range of quotes was unexpectantly broad and there are no clear justifications for this. This is especially surprising as the specification was fairly precise and the work itself relatively straight forward.

This tender exercise therefore demonstrates the broad range of profit margins that contractors are hoping to make and reinforces the need to gain a minimum of three quotes for larger projects.

All the contractors who quoted are highly capable and very reliable.
There is no reason to think the cheapest contractor couldn't deliver an excellent result since they built the Mesothelioma Garden in QP for us.

RESOLVED: To contract company 3 to carry out the play area access improvements at Rushey Platt play area at a cost of £21,300 as detailed in the accompanying report.

Meeting Closes at 20:45

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Leisure, Environment & Amenities Committee