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**Report To:** Full Council

**Date:** 18 August 2025

**Contact Officer:** Paula Harrison

**Subject:** Grant Report

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## **1. Grant Application**

1.1 West Swindon Parish Council considers grants twice a year, in June and September. A budget of £10,000 is set aside for annual grants to local organisations. Based on expenditure in the June round, approximately £7,935 is the remaining budget for the year. The Full Council meeting scheduled on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2025 will review the second round of grant applications.

1.2 The Parish Council has received an early grant application from Peatmoor Angling Club, a copy of which is attached to this report.

### ***Considerations:***

1.3 Peatmoor lake is owned by Swindon Borough Council and is leased to Peatmoor Angling Club. Peatmoor Angling Club has a paid membership and a range of responsibilities set out in its lease. I

1.4 West Swindon Parish Council is not responsible for any waterways or bodies of water. It could do so under the Power of General Competence or under the Public Health Act 1961, section 54, whereby a Parish Council is empowered to provide for public recreation.

1.5 Where lakes and ponds are integrated into public open space (and not part of formal parks or leisure gardens), Parish Councils do not generally carry out water quality interventions.

1.6 This grant application seeks funding of £3,000 for specialist companies to carry out large scale weed removal. There is no additional information as to what type of intervention will be carried out. Further details have been requested.

1.7 The Council should exercise caution before allocating grant funding to lake management projects that lie outside its core statutory duties. Lake management entails long-term obligations that extend beyond an initial one-off grant. Once funding is committed, the Council may find itself under informal pressure to cover ongoing and unforeseen issues.

1.8 It is likely that the organisation will need further funding to manage the lake, particularly if, as indicated, interest in membership is diminishing. Consideration may also need to be given as to whether there is a long term viability for fishing on the lake, and what would be required to secure this, if it is a long term goal and commitment.

### **Recommendation:**

- a) that the Parish Council assists the Peatmoor Angling Club with establishing a maintenance plan with Swindon Borough Council for the long term

- b) that support is offered to Peatmoor Angling Club to navigate and apply for future grant funding from other bodies
- c) Council notes the information and considers the grant application