



TOWN AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Town Amenities Committee meeting held in the Cowie Room, Public Hall on Tuesday 15th July 2025 commencing at 7.00pm.

- 436 PRESENT:** Cllr Gillings(Chairman), Cllr Dawkins, Cllr Gunning, Cllr Tuff, Cllr Turner and Cllr Watts; also Christine Bright (Town Clerk), Mr Alexander (Head Groundsman), Mr M Runyard (Beaminster Football & Cricket Club) and Mrs N Dower (Allotment Association).
- 437 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Biggs.
- 438 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**
Cllr Gunning proposed Cllr Gillings, seconded by Cllr Dawkins, there being no other nominations Cllr Gillings was duly elected Chairman for the ensuing council year.
- 439 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**
Cllr Gunning proposed Cllr Watts, seconded by Cllr Gillings, there being no other nominations Cllr Watts was duly elected Vice Chairman for the ensuing council year.
- 440 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**
The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2025 having previously been circulated were confirmed and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.
- 441 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS**
No declarations of interest were received.
- 442 PROGRESS UPDATE**
Members **NOTED** the following updates:
- Public Toilet** – the contractor was hopeful the works would be signed off by Building Control by Friday 18th July 2025.
- Under this heading Mr Alexander expressed his concern with regard to the operating costs associated with the public toilet and the impact that would have the council tax following the decision not to charge for the use of the public toilet.
- Controlled Access** – the barrier due to be installed on Monday 21st July 2025.
- Path repairs** – works completed
- External decoration of Public Hall** – works completed.
- CCTV Playing Field** – the pole had been treated with anti-climb paint.

443 MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD

(a) Public Toilet

The Town Clerk felt, with the completion of three major projects in the Playing Field, it would be an ideal opportunity for publicity to show case the facilities provided at the Playing Field; also to acknowledge the grant funding awarded to assist with these projects.

Members were in **AGREEMENT**, a date to be arranged to coincide with the school summer holiday.

(b) Pedestrian gate off Fleet Street

Cllr Gunning expressed his concern with regard to a recent incident where a child had run out onto Fleet Street and collided with a vehicle. **AGREED** to bring the incident to the attention of Dorset Council, the authority responsible for the Public Right of Way and request the installation of a spring gate.

(c) Use of E Bike's in the Playing Field

Problems associated with E Bike's in the Playing Field remained a serious issue. Members acknowledged the difficult situation with regard to control of this type of bike. It was **AGREED** to raise the concerns direct with the Police & Crime Commissioner.

(d) Drainage issues

Explorative digs had taken place with regard to the drainage at the bottom of the bank behind the goal that had found the drains were not working effectively.

Cllr Gunning advised he had discussed the replacement of the drain with the Football Club. The Head Groundsman was asked to obtain a quotation to replace the drain for consideration at the Council meeting on 22nd July 2025.

(e) Play Area

The Head Groundsman drew members attention to the condition of a number of pieces of play equipment in the children's play area, in particular the wooden climbing frame, the platform would be in need of replacing in the near future; also the tree trunk with scramble net had begun to rot away.

Members acknowledged the need for a long term plan with regard to replacing play equipment, the Town Clerk was asked to research alternatives and funding streams.

(f) Beaminster Cricket Club/Football Club representative

Mr Runyard acknowledged recent issues with regard to the disposal of rubbish from the pavilion, he also raised the concern over the reduced storage space within the building.

The Town Clerk acknowledged the concerns and anticipated they would be resolved following the official hand over of the building to the Council had taken place.

444 CEMETERY

(a) Non-compliant grave(s)

Members had previously been circulated with a copy of the draft procedure for re-instatement of raised graves which offered guidance for staff when a breach had been identified. **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the procedure setting a three month limit in instances where the next of kin had not been identified.

445 PUBLIC HALL

No issues were raised.

446 FURLAND ALLOTMENTS

Mrs Dower enquired whether the Council had received complaints with regard to the lighting of bonfires. The Town Clerk advised not that she was aware.

447 PUBLIC TOILETS

No issues were raised.

448 THE SQUARE

(a) Incredible Edible project

Members had previously been circulated with information provided by Cllr Anderton in regard to the Incredible Edible network together with a request for permission to plant herbs and/or vegetables in the Square planters. Members expressed concern with regard to the maintenance/watering, **AGREED** to seek a planting and maintenance plan for consideration.

Under this heading Mr Alexander sought additional assistance with watering of the floral displays, currently requiring watering twice a day.

449 GENERAL

No issues were raised.

450 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members **NOTED** the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 16th September 2025.

451 MEETING

The meeting which started at 7.00pm closed at 8.10pm

Chairman
16th September 2025

