



TOWN AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Town Amenities Committee meeting held in the Cowie Room, Public Hall on Tuesday 16th September 2025 commencing at 7.00pm.

A member of the public addressed the meeting expressing their unease, following recent disturbances in London, that the Union Jack flags continue to be flown in the Square. They suggested the flags be taken down and only flown on appropriate occasions.

452 PRESENT: Cllr Gillings(Chairman), Cllr Biggs, Cllr Dawkins, Cllr Gunning and Cllr Turner; also Christine Bright (Town Clerk), Mr Alexander (Head Groundsman), Mr M Runyard (Beaminster Football & Cricket Club), Mrs N Dower (Allotment Association) and one member of the public.

453 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Anderton, Cllr Watts and Cllr Woods; also Matthew Camps (Groundsman).

454 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th July 2025 having previously been circulated were confirmed and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

455 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS

Cllr Biggs declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 12 – charges review in respect of Allotments.

456 PROGRESS UPDATE

Members **NOTED** the following updates:

- **Safe route to school, Playing Field** – Dorset Council departments investigating
- **Pedestrian gate off Fleet Street** – Dorset Council advised there were no plans to install a gate, however they would grant permission should the Town Council wish to install a gate. Cllr Turner advised that historically there had been a gate at the end of the footpath and suggested Dorset Council be asked to replace it.
- **Use of e-bike's** – the problem was being pursued with all the relevant authorities, a meeting to be scheduled in October with Dorset Police and Ed Morello MP
- **CCTV** – the cleaning and servicing of the cameras in the Playing Field had been carried out on 10th September. Two were found to be in need of replacement at a cost of £597.04 members **RESOLVED** to **ACCEPT** the quotation subject to the images from the remaining camera's having been enhanced as a result of the clean.
- **Spiking of the football pitch** – Mr Alexander anticipated spiking would be undertaken Mid to late October.
- **Connection of water supply** – a date to be arranged with the contractor.

457 MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD

(a) Projects for 2026/2027

Members considered a number of projects for inclusion in the 2026/2027 budget, these included:

- **Provision of outdoor gym equipment** – it was **AGREED** to identify suitable sites and obtain quotations
- **Replacement play equipment** – it was **AGREED** to include a sum in 2026/2027 and subsequent budgets to replace items of play equipment as deemed necessary.
- **Resurfacing the car park** – it was **AGREED** to include a sum in 2026/2027 budget and subsequent budgets.
- **Drainage** – **AGREED** to monitor the pitch following spiking before considering further action.
- **Signage** – **AGREED** to review all signage and obtain quotations for consideration.

(b) Beaminster Football & Cricket Club Representative

Mr Runyard had no significant items to report but suggested that following the change in management of the pavilion the Town council schedule a meeting with representatives of the Football and Cricket Clubs. Cllr Gunning confirmed that had been the intention.

Cllr Turner expressed his sincere gratitude to the Trustees of the BCCP for looking after the Pavilion, members **AGREED** a formal letter of thanks should be sent to the Trustees.

444 PAVILION

The Town Clerk advised the Memorandum of Understanding had been signed by both parties on Monday 8th September 2025 in which future responsibility for the Pavilion had been transferred to the Town Council. **NOTED.**

(a) Condition Survey

The Town Clerk advised an application had been submitted to Dorset Council's Capital Leverage Fund in the sum of £10,885 (20% of the project cost based on costings prepared by Cllr Gillings) to undertake works identified within the condition survey. A further application to the Lottery Awards for All would be prepared and submitted in due course. **NOTED.**

Members were made aware of the shortfall in funding should the application(s) be successful. **NOTED.**

(b) Projects for 2026/2027

Cllr Gunning advised an informal get together had been arranged for all councillor's to give them the opportunity to visit the pavilion with a view to aid discussion on priorities and future plans with regard to budget provision.

458 CEMETERY

(a) Projects for 2026/2027

Following the completion of the extension to the cemetery no further works were identified. Cllr Biggs advised saplings had been ordered to enable the planting of a hedge to differentiate the pets cemetery.

459 PUBLIC HALL

(a) Projects for 2026/2027

Members **AGREED** to include the redecoration of the kitchen together with a number of small of enhancements and new flooring in the 2026/207 budget.

460 FURLAND ALLOTMENTS

Mrs Dower had no items to raise.

461 PUBLIC TOILETS

No issues were raised.

462 THE SQUARE

(a) Silver Birches

Mr Alexander expressed his concern that the trees had not faired well during the hot weather and they had taken a considerable amount of watering, he considered the trees would do better if relocated to the Memorial Playing Field.

He suggested planting dwarf apple trees in the planters to replace the silver birches. Members **AGREED** to take that course of action.

444 CHARGES REVIEW

The Town Clerk advised the review of charges were due ahead of the budgeting process, members should be mindful that some charges, although not significant, had not been reviewed for a significant amount of time. Comparison figures would be presented to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for consideration in October.

463 GENERAL

No issues were raised.

464 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members **NOTED** the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 18th November 2025.

444 PUBLIC BODIES (Admission to meeting) Act 1960

To **RESOLVE** that public and press be excluded from the meeting whilst discussion takes place on the following item on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of business to be transacted in respect of consideration of a quotations received.

(a) Replacement blinds – Public Hall

The Town Clerk advised that a number of the blinds within the Public Hall and those in the Council office were in need of replacement as they were broken or suffered water stains. A quotation had been obtained in the sum of £791.67 + VAT. **RESOLVED** to **ACCEPT**.

(b) Quotations received

Members **RESOLVED** to **ACCEPT** quotations received in respect of:

- **Spiking the football pitch** – in the sum of £450
- **Connection of water supply** - in the sum of £475

465 MEETING

The meeting which started at 7.00pm closed at 8.20pm

Chairman
18th November 2025