



TOWN AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Town Amenities Committee meeting held in the Cowie Room, Public Hall on Tuesday 18th November 2025 commencing at 7.00pm.

469 PRESENT: Cllr Gillings (Chairman), Cllr Benton, Cllr Gunning and Cllr Turner; also Christine Bright (Town Clerk) and Mr Alexander (Head Groundsman),

470 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Biggs, Cllr Woods; also Mr M Runyard (Cricket/Football Club) and Mrs N Dower (Allotment Association).

471 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th September 2025 having previously been circulated were confirmed and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

472 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS

Cllr Turner declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 13 (a) – Siting of a memorial bench outside the Fleet Club.

473 PROGRESS UPDATE

Members **NOTED** the following updates:

- **Safe route to school, Playing Field** – Dorset Council departments investigating
- **Pedestrian gate off Fleet Street** – spring available, to be installed by Groundsmen.
- **Use of e-bike's** – no response received from Ed Morello MP **AGREED** not to pursue further
- **CCTV** – two new cameras due for installation on 19th November.
- **Damage to Closed Churchyard wall** – contact made with contractors using large vehicles to access site further up the lane. Two quotations received to be considered at Councill meeting on 25th November.
- **Silver Birch trees** – further investigation had ruled out the replacement of the silver birch trees with dwarf apple trees.

474 MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD

(a) Provision of outdoor gym equipment

The Town Clerk advised a site visit had taken place with a representative from a national supplier and a quotation for six items of equipment was awaited.

(b) Beaminster Football & Cricket Club Representative

In the absence of a representative no report was received or issues raised.

475 PAVILION

(a) Grant application – Dorset Council’s Capital Leverage Fund

Cllr Gillings confirmed the £3,000 grant had been approved.

(b) Remedial works

Members **NOTED** the one quotation awaited, a report to be submitted to Council on 25th November.

(c) Additional storage

The Town clerk advised of a request received from Beaminster Cricket Club for additional storage to enable the Club to store equipment, that for Health & Safety reasons had to be removed from the premises.

Cllr Gunning advised that he met with the architect with regard to providing additional storage on the north elevation, discussions were ongoing.

476 CEMETERY

(a) Mr Alexander advised a large branch had come down in the cemetery, he had subsequently obtained a quotation to cut out the deadwood from two trees for consideration at the council meeting on 25th November. **NOTED**.

477 PUBLIC HALL

No items were raised for discussion.

478 FURLAND ALLOTMENTS

In the absence of a representative no report was received for issued raised.

479 PUBLIC TOILETS

No issues were raised.

480 THE SQUARE

(a) War Memorial Remembrance Day display

Mr Alexander advised one of the silhouettes had been damaged and would need to be replaced. A cost had been obtained to purchase a pair of silhouettes, one male and one female at a cost of £325. **AGREED** to **PURCHASE** from the Remembrance Day budget.

481 CHARGES REVIEW

(a) Public Hall and Pavilion

Members had previously been circulated with a draft review of charges for the Public Hall (5% increase) and the Pavilion (10% increase) which would put them on a par with each other.

(b) Cemetery

Members had previously been circulated with a draft review of charges for the cemetery based on a 5% increase.

(c) Access Licences – Memorial Playing Field

The Town clerk advised the Licence fee had not been increased since the agreements were introduced in 2013 and recommended a fee of £10 per annum from 1st April 2026.

(d) Furland Allotment

The Town Clerk advised the Council had not previously exercised the right to increase the rent to £100 per annum in April 2018 and recommended executing the right from 1st April 2026.

Following due consideration members **RESOLVED** acceptance of the increases as circulated in the Town Clerks report.

482 GENERAL

(a) Siting of a memorial bench outside the Fleet Club

Members considered a joint request received from the Fleet Club and Beaminster Royal British Legion to site a memorial bench in memory of Sgt. Mjr. Pete Northover.

The Town Clerk was asked to converse with the Highway Authority.

483 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members **NOTED** the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 13th January 2026.

484 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 staffing matter.

(a) Postholder 201

The Town Clerk gave a verbal report to members with regard to additional hours incurred by the postholder following the handover of the pavilion to the Town Council. Members **RESOLVED** to **COMPENSATE** the postholder for the additional hours.

With regard to regularizing those additional duties going forward members **RESOLVED** to increase the postholders contracted hours to 20 per week and issue the postholder with a contract of employment to reflect those duties.

485 MEETING

The meeting which started at 7.00pm closed at 8.05pm

Chairman
13th January 2026

