



TOWN AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Town Amenities Committee meeting held in the Cowie Room, Public Hall on Tuesday 13th January 2026 commencing at 7.00pm.

486 PRESENT: Cllr Gillings(Chairman), Cllr Biggs, Cllr Dawkins and Cllr Gunning; also Christine Bright (Town Clerk), Mr Mike Runyard (Beaminster Football Club) and Mr Gollidge (Beaminster Cricket Club)

487 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Benton, Cllr Tuff, Cllr Watts; also Mr Alexander, Mr Camps (Ground Staff) and Mrs N Dower (Allotment Association).

488 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18TH NOVEMBER 2025

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2025 having previously been circulated were confirmed and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

489 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS

No declarations of interest were received.

490 PROGRESS UPDATE

Members **NOTED** the following updates:

- **Safe route to school, Playing Field** – Dorset Council departments investigating. Cllr Biggs requested, due to the condition of the path, this be raised as an urgent health & safety issue with Dorset Council.
- **Pedestrian gate off Fleet Street** – it would appear the solution entailed more than the fitting of a spring. Cllr Gunning would discuss with Mr Alexander.
- **CCTV** – two new cameras installed.

491 MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD

(a) Beaminster Cricket Club – issues for consideration

Arising from the hand over of responsibility for the Pavilion to the Town Council and subsequent risk assessments undertaken the Town Clerk advised the Cricket Club had raised a number issues for consideration.

Mr Gollidge spoke on behalf of the Cricket Club to express the Clubs concerns that following the change of responsibility for the premises the Club had been asked to take some actions which would have a negative effect on the sustainability of the Club for the future. Beaminster had an active youth section and would not wish to lose younger members.

The Town Clerk explained that as a local authority it had responsibilities to ensure users of its facilities and the public were protected wherever possible and had stringent regulations and insurance requirements to comply with. The actions taken were not intended to disadvantage any club or organization.

- **Bar facility** – due to storage issues the Club had been required to removed their portable bar from the premises and had asked whether it would be possible to install a permanent bar facility within the building. Cllr Biggs highlighted the budget restraints for 2026/2027 due to the high costs previously committed in respect of refurbishment of the Pavilion.
- **Shelving to display trophies** – due to the necessary removal of the trophy cabinet the Club had asked for shelving or another means of displaying trophies won.
- **Provision of Fridge/freezer** – Cllr Biggs spoke on behalf of the Community Larder team who hired the pavilion every Monday to distribute surplus food in support of the request for a fridge and freezer facility in the Pavilion. He advised that he had identified funding for the purchase but sought support from the Town Council and the Clubs.

To purchase a large fridge and freezer would be in the region of £1,400, he would be prepared to commit 50% from the Community Fridge initiative, 25% would be provided by Community Larder (Fareshare) and he sought support for the remaining 25%. **AGREED** to take to relevant Committees for funding support.

(b) Beaminster Football & Cricket Club Representative

On behalf of the Football Club Mr Runyard advised of a problem with the water temperature resulting in cold showers. The Town Clerk advised a plumber had been instructed to investigate.

Mr Runyard also advised the teams had been unable to park in the Playing Field car park at the weekend. **AGREED** to investigate as to why the barrier had not prevented public parking as it should.

Mr Gollidge advised the Cricket Club had applied to install solar panels on the roof of the score hut to facilitate a supply to power an electronic score board.

492 PAVILION

(a) Grant applications

Members **NOTED** an application to Dorset Council's Capital Leverage fund had been successful in the sum of £3,000. A further application had been submitted to the National Lottery Community Fund in the sum of £19,402 for the refurbishment of the changing room facilities and internal decoration, a decision expected in March.

(b) Remedial works

- 1) external cladding and replacement guttering** – a commencement date awaited¹

¹ Subsequent to the meeting a commencement date has been advised as Mid March/early April and would take approximately 4 weeks.

- 2) **Electrical works** – PAT testing and EICR due for completion in next few weeks.
- 3) **External fencing on western elevation** – members considered a revised quotation in the sum of £2,947.50 from John Bright Fencing. **RESOLVED** to **ACCEPT**.
- 4) **Servicing of external shutters** – scheduled for 15th January.
- 5) **Additional ventilation and replacement pump** – awaiting commencement date.

(c) Additional storage

Cllr Gunning advised that following a meeting the architect with regard to additional storage on the north elevation drawings had been provided however due to budget constraints the project would be placed on hold until 2027/2028.

493 CEMETERY

Damage to Closed Churchyard wall - a start date was awaited, **NOTED** liaison with residents of Whatley Lane would be required once a date had been received.

494 PUBLIC HALL

No items were raised for discussion.

495 FURLAND ALLOTMENTS

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

496 PUBLIC TOILETS

No issues were raised.

497 THE SQUARE

Cllr Biggs requested monitoring of the grit bin to ensure grit was available during cold weather.

498 GENERAL

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

Members **NOTED** the site outside the Fleet Club would not be suitable to install a memorial bench due to the presence of drainage and utility services.

With regard to the siting of benches the Town Clerk advised of Dorset Mind's Chatty Bench campaign to provide spaces where people can pause, reflect and connect. Members **AGREED** in principle to participate in the campaign subject to further information.

499 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members **NOTED** the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 17th March 2026.

500 MEETING

The meeting which started at 7.00pm closed at 8.10pm

Chairman
17th March 2026

