



TOWN AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Town Amenities Committee meeting held in the Cowie Room, Public Hall on Tuesday 17th March 2026 commencing at 7.00pm.

- 501 PRESENT:** Cllr Gillings(Chairman), Cllr Wallbridge, Cllr Dawkins, Cllr Acton and Cllr Gunning; also Sara Cradock and Christine Bright (Town Clerks), Mr Mike Runyard (Beaminster Football Club), Mr Alexander (Head Groundskeeper) and Mrs N Dower (Allotment Association).
- 502 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Corbett, Mr Camps (Ground Staff) and Mr Golledge (Cricket Club).
- 503 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13TH JANUARY 2026**
The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2026 having previously been circulated were confirmed and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.
- 504 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS**
No declarations of interest were received.
- 505 PROGRESS UPDATE**
Members **NOTED** the following updates:
- **Safe route to school, Playing Field** – Dorset Council departments investigating.
 - **Damage to Closed Churchyard wall** – quotation accepted, commencement date 16th March 2026, residents informed of lane closure during working hours. Once contractors started work, they advised that four metres of wall would need replacing, with a further one metre requiring some repair work to the front stones.
 - **Pedestrian gate off Fleet Street** – Cllr Gillings asked Mr Alexander for an update. He advised that a 'chicane' gate is required but the council would need to seek permission to install as the land is owned by Dorset Council.
- 506 MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD**
- (a) Condition of football pitch**
A pitch maintenance company is due to visit the site on 19th March to provide a quote for spiking to improve the drainage. Mr Alexander advised a short window of opportunity for the works being undertaken due to the overlap in both football and cricket seasons. **NOTED.**
- (b) Beaminster Football & Cricket Club Representatives**
On behalf of the Football Club, Mr Runyard also commented on the condition of the football pitch and advised that only three matches in three months had been able to go ahead over the winter. **NOTED.**

507 PAVILION

(a) Grant applications

Members **NOTED** that an application to the National Lottery Community Fund, for the sum of £19,402 for the refurbishment of the changing room facilities had been unsuccessful.

(b) Fridge and freezer

Members **NOTED** that both the fridge and freezer have been installed. The Cricket Club had advised they had their own fridge therefore did not require use of these facilities however, a subsequent email was received stating that they would contribute to the cost.

(c) Beaminster Community Centre Partnership

Members **NOTED** that the Charity Commission have requested documents from the BCCP to assist with further consideration.

508 CEMETERY

(a) Condition of the Closed Churchyard at front of Trefoil House

Members **NOTED** that a meeting has been arranged with the owners of Trefoil House with regard to access to the Closed Churchyard for grounds maintenance works.

(b) Condition of Whatley Lane

Members **NOTED** concern regarding the condition of the lane which had been raised by residents. An approach to Dorset Council ascertained the lane is not an adopted highway and therefore not their responsibility. A meeting of the property owners affected to be arranged.

509 PUBLIC HALL

(a) Rear door replacement

Members **NOTED** that the insurance claim had been successful and that a new door had been ordered and will be fitted in the next 3 – 4 weeks. The Council are required to pay £328.99 towards the new door.

(b) Window beading

Members **NOTED** that a quotation was awaited to replace beading around the windows on the south elevation.

510 FURLAND ALLOTMENTS

On behalf of the allotment association, Mrs Dower advised that all plots had been let with nobody currently on the waiting list.

511 PUBLIC TOILETS

No issues were raised.

512 THE SQUARE

(a) Hanging baskets

Members **AGREED** to provide colourful hanging baskets in the square. With regards to watering arrangements, Mr Alexander advised that there would be one weekend per month where he was unable to water them. Members **AGREED** that Councillors would water them in his absence.

513 GENERAL

(a) Dorset Mind's Chatty Bench Campaign

Members **AGREED** not to take part in the campaign.

514 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 quotations received, a staffing and financial matters.

(a) Pavilion Shutters

Members **RESOLVED** acceptance of the quotation in the sum of £1586, for repairs to the window shutters. It was **AGREED** to delay installing fire-rated rolling shutter between kitchen and Gilbert Berry room due to costs.

(b) New flooring

Members **RESOLVED** acceptance of the quotation in the sum of £14,684.64 for new flooring throughout the Pavilion.

(c) Pavilion signage

Members **RESOLVED** acceptance of the quotation in the sum of £371.99 for new signage at Pavilion. This will be installed after the new cladding has been finished.

(d) Staff contracts

Members **AGREED** to offer the Pavilion Caretaker a permanent contract.

(e) Public Hall Hire

Members **AGREED** a request from the Short Mat Bowls group with regard to public hall hire charges for the next three months.

515 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members **NOTED** the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 12th May 2026.

516 MEETING

The meeting which started at 7.00pm closed at 7.45pm

Chairman
24th March 2026