HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL – MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD 10TH SEPTEMBER 2025

Cllrs present: Cllr Paul Carnell, Cllr Leigh Hadaway (Chair), Cllr John Jupe, Cllr Derek Pretty

In attendance: Cllr James Paine
Brett Athow – Operations Manager
Vickie Fear – Public Art Officer, Eastleigh Borough Council
Chair - Hedge End Junior Cricket Club
Vice Chair - Hedge End Junior Cricket Club

R566 Apologies Cllr Margaret Allingham, Cllr Lucy Jurd

R567 Minutes and Matters arising
Minutes of the meeting 9th July 2025
The minutes were signed by the chair as an accurate record.

R568 Correspondence

(i) For noting – Email from Sportworks EBC thanking HETC for the support given for this year's Easter and Summer programmes. Cllrs noted.

(ii) Correspondence from a local resident regarding the sport of Padel
Cllr Derek Pretty highlighted that padel was a popular sport, with a few courts already available within the area. However, it was noted that the request appeared more business-oriented, and it was suggested that a formal business plan should be submitted to outline more details. It was also suggested that a feasibility study should be done by the Town Council.
The Operations Manager confirmed that the tennis courts were refurbished some years ago with the help of the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) and that any further changes or works would need to be checked for time limitations and restrictions.
RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that the proposer was asked to provide a more detailed business case. Officers to complete a feasibility study.

R569 Hedge End Junior Cricket Club Introductions
To introduce HEJCC committee.
The Chair and Vice Chair of the club introduced themselves and gave a brief rundown on the club. HEJCC are the only club in the County exclusively for juniors, with 100 children currently attending and over 20 on their waiting list mostly from Hedge End.
They have teams within the following age ranges, U9, U11, U13, U15 and a mixed team, with beginners, district and county players.
Training takes place all year round at Wildern and Deer Park, but in the summer months they use Turnpike for both playing and training and empathised how important the use of Turnpike was to them, as they did not have a home ground and wanted to stay as local as possible.

They raised concerns that the metal posts around the square had been removed and not replaced thus leaving the wickets open.
The Operations Manager explained that the posts had been taken away and not replaced as a trial this year, as having the roped off area seemed more of a target for dog walkers etc, and that it was hoped this would reduce surface damage. He explained that Pitch repairs have proven particularly challenging this year impacting the quality of the playing surface and the goal was to focus on maintaining the wickets to a good standard to ensure better performance and increased resilience moving forward.
The club expressed a desire to use Turnpike as a permanent home ground, including access to the pavilion. While grants were available, their lack of an official home ground limited their eligibility. The Town Council expressed willingness to support clubs wherever possible but emphasised the need for cost-effectiveness in such decisions.
The club representatives thanked the councillors and left the meeting.

R570 Seated in Nature public art project

Presentation by Vickie Fear – EBC
This was a public art commission for benches and covered seating across HEWEB, with artists invited to design functional, durable seating that reflects the distinct identity of the area.
The Developer Contributions from the Boorley Park and Boorley Gardens developments in Botley Parish would be used to fund this public art initiative. This funding would also help expand and connect the project to the wider area, with the requirement of up to an additional six locations identified in West End and Hedge End. Confirmation of these sites would be subject to landowner consent and any planning constraints. The aim was for installation and completion by Autumn 2026.
Several areas within Hedge End had been identified for potential seating installations, including Dowd's Farm, Greta Park, Norman Rodaway, and Turnpike. However, additional recommendations for seating locations were being sought.

- Cllr Paul Carnell suggested the grassed area opposite Nos. 40-67 Cranbourne Park.
- Cllr Derek Pretty pointed out that Dowd's Farm already had many benches, so additional seating there would not be necessary.
- The Operations Manager recommended the Local Nature Reserve, noting the lack of benches in the area despite its high usage. This space presented an opportunity for seating that would blend naturally with the environment.
- Cllr John Jupe highlighted the need for more seats at Turnpike, as there were currently only two benches for the entire area, particularly needed when cricket matches were being played.

The councillors thanked Vickie for the presentation, she left the meeting.

R571 CCTV at Woodhouse Lane Skate Park

(i) To consider the proposal and feasibility of installation of CCTV. Councillors discussed the proposal and feasibility of installing CCTV at the site. While acknowledging the concerns raised by users and the need for action, they noted that CCTV may not be the most appropriate solution. Consideration was given to the associated costs, the potential benefits, police advice, and the effectiveness and usage of CCTV footage.

(ii) To agree any further actions to enable a decision at a future meeting, Councillors agreed that further monitoring was required. Police reports for this area should be reviewed over the next six months and brought back to committee for further consideration.
RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr John Jupe and seconded by Cllr Paul Carnell that police reports were monitored for the next 6 months and revisited by committee at that time. All agreed.

R572 To provide a steer on the retention of the external steps to the side of 126 Mescott Meadows

Following concerns raised by Abri Housing's Fire Safety Officer regarding the steps and the pruning of trees to support their fire action plan, a site visit was undertaken in November 2024. Inspection established that the land adjacent to the property was owned by HETC and had been used informally by Abri as part of their fire safety measures. Abri were advised that continued use would require a formal agreement, or alternatively, HETC would consider removal of the steps and reinstatement of the area as grass. In August 2025, an email was received from Abri's Fire Safety Officer confirming that the pathway was no longer included within their Fire Risk Plan.
RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed to the removal of the steps adjacent to 126 Mescott Meadows and laying the area to grass.

R573 Operations Manager report

The report contained the following updates:

- Albert Road Cemetery
- Allotments
- Conservation Volunteers
- Cricket
- Football
- Graffiti, ABS, Vandalism
- Local Nature Reserve
- Paddling Pool
- Play areas
- General updates

The Operations Manager highlighted the vandalism of the trees at Woodhouse Lane, that generally species were planted now that could tolerate being damaged, therefore it was hopeful that these trees would regrow.
He also commented on how the Paddling Pool had had a good season and that unfortunately following the bank holiday weekend damage had been found to the surface around one of the filter inlets, most likely due to wear and tear and leading to the closure of the pool. It was confirmed that the repair had now been completed.

There being no further business to conduct the meeting closed at 8.10pm