**HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL – MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD 12th NOVEMBER 2025**

**Cllrs present:** Cllr. Margaret Allingham, Cllr. Leigh Hadaway (Chair), Cllr. Dave Kinloch, Cllr. James Paine, Cllr. Derek Pretty.

**In attendance:** Brett Athow – Operations Manager
One member of the public.

**R574 Apologies** Cllr. Paul Carnell.

**R575 Minutes and Matters arising**
Minutes of the meeting 10th September 2025
The minutes were signed by the chair as an accurate record.

**R576 Correspondence**
None received.

**R577 Donation of Defibrillator Turnpike Pavilion**
The Council has been approached by Mr. Hanif Karimi, the owner of Hedge End Gym, offering to donate a defibrillator to Hedge End Town Council, possibly located at the Turnpike Pavilion. The ongoing costs i.e. replacement batteries and pads, regular checks and future maintenance would be carried out by HETC. The Operations Manager stated that unused batteries last for approximately four years and pads around three years and that sporting venues were good places to locate defibrillators. Cllr. Leigh Hadaway said that they were an amazing local amenity. Cllr. Derek Pretty added it was a generous offer and well worth accepting. **RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to accept the offer and install and maintain the defibrillator at the Turnpike Pavilion for community use. A letter of thanks will be sent to Mr. Karimi.**

**R578 Memorial Rose and Tree Garden – Albert Road Cemetery**
Frances Welsh, the daughter of the late councillor Jane Welsh has offered a donation of £500 towards the creation of a rose and tree garden in her mother's memory. The proposed planting would be located in the central roundabout at the Albert Road Cemetery, forming a lasting and fitting tribute to the late Jane Welsh's service and dedication to the local community. Cllr. Derek Pretty noted that the cemetery was an excellent location and asked if it would be possible to include a memorial plaque. **RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to accept the offer and to liaise with Frances and her daughter Charlotte over the possibility of adding a memorial plaque. The Operations Manager added he will work together with Frances to choose the species of plants.**

**R579 Christmas Lights 2026**
The Town Council assumed responsibility for the Festive Lights display in 2008 purchasing 13 column motifs. These were fully replaced in 2016, with minor repairs undertaken in 2022 and 2023. Now in use for eight years, the

current motifs are reaching the end of their lifespan, with several light failures noted during the 2024/25 display. Cllr. Leigh Hadaway said that the motifs were a significant part of the Christmas lights display. He said they had been patched up for a number of years and felt that it was now time to replace them. He did not feel the alternative option of the light wraps would have the same impact. Cllr. Derek Pretty added that the motifs last for such a long time that over the years they represent good value for money. Councillors said they did not feel it was cost-effective to lease them and would rather purchase new motifs. **RESOLVED: Councillors expressed a preference to purchase new motifs and requested that it was added to the Policy and Resources Committee Agenda on 2nd December, with a request that Cllr. Leigh Hadaway could attend the meeting.**

**R580 Operations Manager Report**

The report contained the following updates:

- Albert Road Cemetery
- Allotments
- Conservation Volunteers
- Cricket
- Football
- Graffiti, ASB and Vandalism
- Wildern Local Nature Reserve
- Paddling Pool
- Play Areas
- General Updates

The Operations Manager updated councillors on the recent vandalism at the Turnpike Pavilion and said the police were still investigating.
He reported there was an ongoing problem at the Nelsons Gardens Play Area with dog faeces repeatedly being found there, although dogs are not permitted in the fenced area.
Cllr. Dave Kinloch asked about a bench that had been removed at Dowd's Farm. The Operations Manager said it would be reinstated once repaired, although it may be relocated slightly.
Cllr. John Jupe asked about the condition of the cricket pitches. The Operations Manager said it had been a particularly challenging year with a wet Spring and an unusually dry Summer, but maintenance was ongoing.
Cllr. Derek Pretty raised the issue of the income from football at Berrywood Fields being significantly lower than projected due to Hedge End Rangers playing more matches at the Sholing FC ground and hosting mainly junior matches in Hedge End. It was agreed to add this matter to the Agenda for the next Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting on 10th December.

There being no further business to conduct the meeting closed at 7.32pm.