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

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

In attendance: Brett Athow – Operations Manager

R581 Apologies Cllr Margaret Allingham

R582 Minutes and Matters arising

Minutes of the meeting 12th November 2025

R579 Cllr Leigh Hadaway confirmed that £6,755 would be made available in the new financial year for the replacement of the column motifs.

The minutes were signed by the chair as an accurate record.

R583 Correspondence

None received.

R584 Allotments

To consider a request for a 2.5 x3m shed – Green 6a, Kanes Field

The councillors reviewed the request and felt that the proposed size was excessive, much larger than the 6x4ft shed allowed in the terms and conditions and that it would also take away allotment space for cultivation.

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed to decline the request for a 2.5m x 3m shed but would consider an application for a 8x6ft shed.

R585 Football Sustainability and Feasibility

To consider the sustainability of football provision

As part of the budget setting process, P&R identified an income shortfall relating to the football provision at Berrywood Fields and subsequently referred to R&A for further consideration. At this stage, the report was presented for discussion only, forming part of the ongoing feasibility study covering usage at both Berrywood Fields and Norman Rodaway.

The main users of Berrywood Fields were Hedge End Rangers. Most of their teams were youth, meaning the charges paid were lower than those for adult teams, even though they had full use of the senior pitch, which cost more to maintain than youth pitches. Pitches were not often being used to their full potential, lowering the income generated.

Cllr Derek Pretty commented that the biggest issue at Berrywood Fields was parking. This had been a concern both before and since the facility opened, and he felt without this being resolved full use of Berrywood Fields would not be successful.

Cllr James Paine asked if any other sports could make better use of this facility, to date no requests had been received, plus it was no good facilitating another sport if there was no demand for it. Additionally, parking would still be an issue.

Cllrs agreed that the next steps at this stage was to meet with Hedge End Rangers for a discussion on the use of Berrywood Fields pitches and position of the Town Council.

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that a meeting with Officers and Hedge End Rangers was organised to enable a full feasibility study to be completed.

R586 Wildern Local Nature Reserve Footpath Improvement

To initiate a formal procurement process for a tender valued between £35,000 and £42,500 for the upgrade of a 350m woodland footpath in Wildern Local Nature Reserve, including gravel surfacing, drainage and raised walkways. The project will prioritise ecological protection through no-dig methods, root safeguarding and a Construction Environmental Management Plan. Tenders will be evaluated on price, quality and environmental approach, with submissions due by 2 February 2026.

Cllr John Jupe asked about the possibility of installing a boardwalk. The Ops Manager noted that while a boardwalk could be considered, it would be more costly to maintain and more susceptible to vandalism. The tender process was designed to be open-ended, allowing contractors to propose the most suitable solution.

Cllr James Paine raised a question about health and safety, noting that it had not been included in the tender evaluation. The Ops Manager confirmed that while health and safety wasn't listed as a separate evaluation measure, it would still be a key consideration, and contractors would need to provide a copy of their Health and Safety policy as part of their tender submission. Risk Assessments and Method statements would need approval before any work could commence on site.

RESOLVED: Cllrs approved the tender documentation and initiation of the formal procurement process

R587 Operations Manager Report

The report contained the following updates:

- Albert Road Cemetery
- Allotments
- Conservation Volunteers
- Graffiti, ASB, Vandalism
- Local Nature Reserve
- Paddling Pool
- Play areas
- General Updates

Cllrs were pleased to see that there had been no significant graffiti or vandalism to report.

There being no further business to conduct the meeting closed at 7.34pm