HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL – MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD 14TH JANUARY 2026

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

In attendance: Brett Athow – Operations Manager

R588 Apologies Cllr Margaret Allingham, Cllr Derek Pretty

R589 Minutes and Matters arising

Minutes of the meeting 10th December 2025

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

R590 Correspondence

None received.

R591 Hedge End Padel Club proposal Woodhouse Lane

To provide a steer on the proposal

A proposal was submitted for the installation of two outdoor padel courts at Woodhouse Lane, replacing two existing tennis courts. The proposed development would be a private venture operated by Hedge End Padel Club. Councillors acknowledged that padel is a growing and popular sport and expressed general support for the inclusion of padel facilities within Hedge End. However, concerns were raised about the loss of two tennis courts, which would leave only one tennis court available for community use. This concern remained despite figures indicating that padel courts could achieve higher occupancy levels than the existing tennis courts. Councillors also queried the affordability of the proposed facility for local residents when compared with current tennis court hire charges.

It was further noted that the submitted business plan lacked sufficient detail, particularly regarding the proposer's background and relevant experience.

RESOLVED: Councillors supported the principle of padel provision but were not prepared to support the loss of two tennis courts. Officers were requested to advise the proposer that any revised proposal should be limited to the use of one tennis court and that additional information be provided regarding the proposer and the proposed company.

R592 Waste Management for "One-off" hire

To agree the management of waste and approve any amendment to the Terms and Conditions

Following a review of the Terms and Conditions at the July R&A meeting, the Committee were requested to provide guidance on waste management in response to an increase in the amount of waste being left in the halls.

Following the July meeting, data was collated on the number of waste bags left after "One-off" hires. This indicated that on average hires generated one to two bags of waste, with a few exceptions of some occasional hires producing an excessive amount.

Councillors felt that a limitation on bags would encourage hirers to think about

the waste they generated, especially if a fee was charged for any excess bags.

It was agreed that a limit of 5 bags of waste should be imposed, with a set fee of £10 charged and taken from the deposit for any excess bags left.

There were occasionally items not suitable for rubbish bags that were to be removed by the hire, it was to be added to the Terms and Conditions, that if not removed a charge from the deposit would be taken for the disposal. Amount would be subject to the item and cost for its disposal.
Monitoring of the waste was to continue and reviewed again in a year.
RESOLVED: Councillors agreed a waste limit of up to 5 standard black bin bags per hire, with any excess charged at a set fee of £10, taken from the deposit for disposal.
Items not suitable for a rubbish bag and not removed by hirers would also have a charge taken from the deposit, the amount subject to the disposal cost. The Terms and Conditions were to be amended to reflect the above changes. Monitoring was to continue, and a further review conducted in a year.

R593 Paddling Pool Kiosk

To agree to keep the current provider or go to tender
The Operations Manager confirmed that this was highly weather dependent and, at times, not particularly profitable for the individual operating the kiosk. He also confirmed that there had been no issues with the current provider, who was keen to continue for the forthcoming season.
RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to allow the current provider to have use of the Paddling Pool Kiosk for the 2026 season.

R594 Operations Manager Report

The report contained the following updates:

- Albert Road Cemetery
- Allotments
- Conservation Volunteers
- Cricket
- Football
- Graffiti, ASB, Vandalism
- Local Nature Reserve
- Paddling Pool
- General update

Allotments – Demand was higher than usual, with 65 people on the waiting list. However, the issue of new agreements in April typically resulted in some allotments being relinquished helping to reduce the waiting list.

Cllr John Jupe asked when the next Conservation Volunteers session would take place. The Operations Manager confirmed that these sessions were

highly weather dependent and that a session could be scheduled for late January or February.

He also enquired about the trees at the bottom of Greta Park and was advised that they were expected to recover following the vandalism.

Cllr Paul Carnell asked who was responsible for maintaining the verges from Peter Cooper's to Locke Road, including overhanging tree branches, and whether the grass verge at Turnpike would be repaired following an accident. The Operations Manager confirmed that these matters fell under the responsibility of HCC Highways and in some cases managed by EBC, on their behalf and that the relevant authority should be contacted directly.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.09pm