**HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL – MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD 11TH FEBRUARY 2026**

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

**In attendance:** Brett Athow – Operations Manager

**R595 Apologies** Cllr Margaret Allingham, Cllr Derek Pretty

**R596 Minutes and Matters arising**

Minutes of the meeting 14th January 2026

R591 – It was noted that a follow-up email had been received from the proposer following the previous meeting. Having agreed in principle to explore the provision of padel facilities, officers will now engage further with the proposer to develop detailed proposals, which will be brought back to Council for consideration in due course.

R593 – Councillors queried whether the current provider of the Paddling Pool Kiosk had confirmed their intention to operate this year. No confirmation has been received to date. The Operations Manager would follow this up directly.

**R597 Correspondence**

i) For noting

Greta Park – Hedge End Unwrapped Sunday 7th June 2026

**RESOLVED: Councillors noted**

ii) To agree the use of Greta Park for Wipeout World 27th April to 5th May 2026

Councillors considered a request for the use of Greta Park for the return of Wipeout World from 27 April to 5 May 2026.

It was noted that there had been no issues arising from last year's event. The site had been left clean and tidy, and the event had been well organised and well attended.

Councillors indicated that, subject to there being no material changes to the hire arrangements, they were content for officers to approve future applications for this event under delegated authority, with such approvals reported to Committee for noting only.

**RESOLVED: That the use of Greta Park for Wipeout World from 27 April to 5 May 2026 be approved and that any future applications for the event, where there were no significant changes to the hire arrangements, be approved by officers under delegated authority and reported to Committee for noting.**

**R598 Turnpike – Air Cadets**

To approve the use of their compound for an overnight stay in support of the Royal British Legion event "The Great Tommy Sleep Out" – 20th or 21st March 2026

Councillors expressed the view that the proposal would provide a positive opportunity for young people to become involved and encouraged

participation in such events. It was further suggested that an article be submitted to The Gazette to help raise awareness.
**RESOLVED: Councillors agreed the use of their compound and that an article should be considered for inclusion in The Gazette.**

**R599 Eastleigh Active 2026 programme**

To agree the use of HETC facilities
Easter holidays – 31st March to 2nd April & 7th April to 9th April 2026
Summer holidays – 27th July to 21st August 2026
The Operations Manager reported that details of all available facilities had been provided to EBC however, no response had been received to date. Councillors were asked to consider whether they would be content for HETC facilities to be made available, subject to such use not conflicting with existing bookings.
**RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to the use of any available HETC facilities, provided it did not interfere with any existing hire.**

**R600 Berrywood Fields – Football Provision**

To agree the non-exclusive use of Pitch 1 at Berrywood Fields on Saturdays, with effect from the start of the 2026 football session
Following the budget-setting process, an income shortfall in relation to football provision at Berrywood Fields was identified. Subsequent Committee discussion noted that the senior pitch was predominantly used by youth teams, generating lower income whilst incurring higher maintenance costs. It was also highlighted that Saturday usage had not always been maximised. Following a productive meeting with Hedge End Rangers, the principal users of the site, an agreement in principle was reached for Pitch 1 to operate on a non-exclusive basis on Saturdays from the commencement of the 2026 season.
Hedge End Rangers further advised that their First Team had achieved promotion and now required facilities not available at Berrywood Fields. Consequently, the team has relocated to Sholing FC, leaving Pitch 1 unused on Saturdays.
**RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to the non-exclusive use of Pitch 1 at Berrywood Fields on Saturday, with effect from the start of the 2026 season.**
**It was further agreed that the arrangements be reviewed in one year's time.**

**R601 Wildern Moor within Wildern Local Nature Reserve – 'No Dogs' signs**

To consider approval for the installation of 'No Dogs' signs at the entrances to Wildern Moor
Wildern Moor is designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) in recognition of its species-rich wet meadow habitat and high biodiversity value, supporting a range of notable species.
Over the past year, an increase in dog walking activity has been observed. This is likely attributable to improved access, drier summer conditions and the

removal of a broken stile. The resulting dog fouling and general disturbance present a risk to the sensitive habitat, including nutrient enrichment and potential chemical contamination from veterinary treatments, both of which may adversely impact wildlife.
As a low-cost mitigation measure, it was proposed that two 'No Dogs' signs be installed at both site entrances to help reduce these pressures and support the Council's statutory and policy commitments to biodiversity conservation. Whilst the signage would be informal and unenforceable, it is intended to raise awareness, encourage responsible behaviour and help safeguard Wildern Moor.
The Operations Manager confirmed that the stile was due to be replaced imminently.
**RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to the installation of two 'No dogs' signs at both entrances to Wildern Moor.**

**R602 Operations Manager report**
**The report contained the following updates:**

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

Allotments - The waiting list has increased since the last report. It was confirmed that there are still some tenants holding two plots, although the entitlement to a second plot had been removed several years ago. Renewals are due in April and, together with inspections scheduled for June, it was hoped that this will result in additional plots becoming available for rental. It was confirmed that applications currently being processed were submitted in March 2025, indicating an approximate waiting time of one year.

**R603 All members of the public and press are requested to leave the meeting - Public Bodies (Admission to Meeting) Act 1960**

**R604 Exempt Business**

**R605 Serving the Community Awards**
To consider applications received

**R606 Wildern Local Nature Reserve Footpath Tender Evaluation**
To receive tender evaluations for the Footpath at WLNR

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.46pm