MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD 9TH SEPTEMBER 2026

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

In attendance: Cllr David Fleming
HETC Operations Manager
EBC Public Arts Officer

R635 Apologies None received

R636 Minutes and Matters arising
Minutes of the meeting 8th July 2026

Minutes were signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

R637 Correspondence
None received

R638 Seated in Nature Benches
To agree to the installation of bespoke benches at Wildern Local Nature Reserve and Cranbourne Park, along with ownership and maintenance responsibilities
Cllr Leigh Hadaway confirmed that the art project had previously been presented to the committee last year and at that time Councillors had identified several potential locations for the installation of the benches.

The Operations Manager raised concerns regarding the proposed location of a bench at Coltsfoot Pond, Wildern Local Nature Reserve. This area was known to be frequently used as a gathering place by local young people and was also considered an important site for biodiversity, supporting a variety of species. It was therefore felt that installing a bench at this location could potentially exacerbate existing issues and have a negative impact on the area.

Councillors felt that the relocation of the bench should still be within this area. It was suggested that the bench could be relocated to Turnpike Sportsfield, adjacent to Lucerne Gardens. Turnpike being on the outer edge of the nature reserve and currently there was no benches along this south edge. This area had also previously been identified as a possible location for a bench.

It was confirmed that the Cranbourne Park bench was to be located on the grass area opposite No40, taking full advantage of the views.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to the installation of the bench at Cranbourne Park and in principle to the installation of the bench at the southern edge of Turnpike Sportsfield, adjacent to Lucerne Gardens, subject to a site visit being carried out by the Operations Manager and EBC Public Arts Officer.

R639 Woodhouse Lane Skate Park

To consider the proposal for a Community Paint Jam at the Skate Park
A proposal had been received from a local artist and community arts organiser to organise a supervised community Paint Jam at Woodhouse Lane Skate Park on the 24th October. This event would use street art to revitalise the Skate Park.
This event would be an organised, managed event, only local street artists would be invited to take part, with all proposed artwork subject to approval prior to the event. Residents would still be able to attend to watch the artists at work, but no participation would be allowed.
The organiser requested Council support in painting a base coat on the acoustic wall, giving the artists a blank canvas to work from.

This location did currently suffer from a great deal of graffiti and having such an event would help revitalise the Skate Park. Councillors felt this would be a good community event and fully supported.
RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to the event taking place on the 24th October, along with the allocation of up to £350 for materials and allocation of staff time to paint the acoustic fence prior to the event.

R640 Woodhouse Lane Skate Park Teen Shelter

To consider the condition of the Teen Shelter
The Teen Shelter had been subject to ongoing issues with graffiti, litter, vandalism and anti-social behaviour. During the second week of August, the shelter was subject to three separate fires, resulting in significant damage to the structure and leaving it no longer fit for purpose.

Councillors were asked to consider the future of the Teen Shelter, information and costings for each option were considered. The location had experienced repeated incidents of anti-social behaviour, and councillors discussed whether continued provision of a shelter at this location remained appropriate.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed that the Teen Shelter should be removed completely, making good the surrounding area.

R641 Christmas Motifs

To agree the preferred supplier and award contract, along with any design elements that need changing with the supplier
At the July Recreation & Amenities Committee meeting, Councillors considered the design options and agreed the design principles to be used when obtaining quotations. It was also agreed that the number of column motifs could be reduced if necessary to ensure the preferred design could be delivered within the available budget.

Eight companies were invited to submit quotations. Five quotations were received, one company declined to quote, and two companies did not respond.

Councillors considered the designs submitted, taking into account their size, weight, visual impact and overall appearance, as well as ensuring that the chosen design would remain suitable and current for the town centre for many years.

The preferred design was the Dancing Star, in gold and white lights, supplied by Lite Ltd. The quotation for thirteen motifs was £629 above the available budget.

Councillors agreed that the Dancing Star was their preferred design and that the number of motifs could be reduced from thirteen to twelve if necessary.

It was agreed that a price would be obtained for the disposal of the existing motifs, with any proceeds potentially being used towards the cost of the thirteenth.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to the purchase of twelve Dancing Star motifs in gold/white supplied by Lite Ltd. With a price being sought for the disposal of the current motifs and used for the shortfall in purchase price or if available purchase of the extra motif.

R642 Operations Manager Report

The report contained the following updates;

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

The Operations Manager highlighted that the Grounds Team were currently working at reduced capacity. With the additional land now being managed, more time was needed to complete the necessary work.
Councillors thanked the team for all their work in keeping the sites in a good condition.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.05pm