

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE **OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES** COMMITTEE HELD IN THE **COUNCIL CHAMBER** AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON **23rd MARCH 2026**

PRESENT: CLLRS A WATERS (CHAIR), J COX (VICE CHAIR) N NEWMAN,
MRS L COX, MRS A THROSSELL, A MULCUCK
MRS L FITCHETT (ADMIN ASSISTANT)

449. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7.36pm.

450. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs M Newman. The previously notified reasons for absence were recorded in the absence book Ref. 607 and accepted and approved.

451. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interests

452. **FINANCE**

(a) Financial analysis – Month 11

READ and **NOTED**.

(b) Completed claim for security post damage

It was **NOTED** that the insurance claim had been successful and order for replacement had been placed.

453. **ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD**

(a) Conifers on border of NRRG and path (page 155 item 371a)

It was **NOTED** that there had been a response to a request to address the roots of the conifers on the boundary fence that are encroaching the path.

RESOLVED to thank resident and begin proceedings to insert a root barrier and repair path.

454. **TREES & PLANTING**

(a) An update on planting of hedge tree's

It was **NOTED** that a selection of the free tree's provided last autumn are being planted out to create a new boundary hedge in the conservation area, using Blackthorn & Dog Rose.

(b) Memorial Tree update

It was **NOTED** that the council were unable to contact the family and some tree's previously thought lost to damage have shown signs of recovery.

RESOLVED to see how these fair in particular in regard to Fire Blight later in the summer before replacing.

455. **ALLOTMENTS**Update

It was **NOTED** that the current available plots have all now been filled with 3 on the waiting list. It was also **NOTED** that the current secretary of DATS will be leaving post after their AGM. It was **NOTED** that she had been a great help recently and that the Chairman will fill this role until a replacement is decided.

456. **QUARRY/VILLAGE GREEN/CONSERVATION AREA**

The Admin Assistant summarised recent works carried out by the Grounds team including painting around the site. Cllr Mulcuck wished to thank the team as it was much improved.

457. **PLAYGROUNDS**Update regarding March 2026 Playground Report

A recent playground inspection report was **NOTED**. Nothing was listed higher than 'Low Risk'. A plan was discussed regarding preventing repeat faults appearing such as cable ties being left behind, graffiti removal and cleaning of equipment. It was agreed to keep up this momentum to avoid these issues in the next report. The Roundabout needs realignment work at a cost of £425.00.

RESOLVED to go ahead and book the repair.

458. **MUGA AND OUTSIDE SPACE HIRE UPDATES**(a) Muga surface repair update(b) Increased hires received

It was **NOTED** that the surface repair had now been completed and identified that it was Fungi, It can be treated when first appears with Round-up in future, Grounds team are aware. Cllr Throssell asked that they ensure they advise pre-school before using when it is required.

It was also **NOTED** that there had been an increase in hires from Netball teams on the MUGA and also a temporary arrangement for the Adult Pitch to assist a local team whose facilities were flooded. It was further **NOTED** that there had been a request for 24Hour Charity Match which was declined due to planning regulations involving the use of the flood lights,

459. **CHARITY MATCH UPDATE**

An update of proceedings was shared and information regarding a request to include small business stalls on the day.

RESOLVED to respond requesting that No Bouncy Castles, Fairground type rides and anything that requires additional insurance or sellers of alcohol.

460. **CORRESPONDENCE**

NOTED none received.

461. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.01pm.

Chairman
8th April 2026

