

Minutes of a meeting of the AMENITIES COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square, Crewkerne, following a meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee on Monday 10th November 2025.

PRESENT:

Councillors M. Best (Chair), N. Draycott, D. Livesley, P. Maxwell, J. Nathan, C. Rawe, and A. Samuel

In attendance: A. Cross (Operations Manager), G. Hughes (Town Clerk), S. Syeda Bowen (Deputy Clerk)

001 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

25/26

Apologies were received from Cllrs. S. Ashton, J. Morris, A. Stuart (personal), and Cllrs. K. Head and S. Woodland (unwell).

002 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

25/26

There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

003 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

25/26

It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 12 May 2025 be APPROVED.

004 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

25/26

No members of the public were in attendance.

005 LAND AT EASTHAMS LANE

25/26 To receive a verbal update from the Town Clerk

The project remains ongoing. At present, the agreed works are awaited, specifically the site clearance and fencing. These steps need to be completed before the project can proceed further, and the situation will continue to be monitored and followed up as required.

006 HAPPY VALLEY

25/26 To receive the results of the play equipment consultation

Councillors noted the results. The Clerk confirmed that the cost of the equipment would be included in the budget, and that detailed quotations will be presented at a future meeting.

007 LUCOMBE OAK

25/26 To note the updated bat survey and progress on the project

Councillors noted the report and that no evidence of bats in the tree had been found.

008 BINCOMBE BEECHES WORKING GROUP

25/26 To receive a verbal update on the Management Plan

Councillor Nathan explained that the group is now meeting regularly and is assessing issues and exploring ways to implement the management plan.

Some of the items discussed:

- Placing the wooden benches on concrete plinths to avoid erosion
- Identifying areas of bramble and scrub for removal
- Scheduling ash dieback works for December
- Considering relocating ash, sycamore and beech saplings to more suitable areas
- Supplementing the hedging at Beechwood Drive

009 YOUTH PROVISION

25/26 To receive a verbal update on the youth service contract and upcoming tender for 2026-2027

The previous youth provider's contract has now finished. A tender document has been sent to three providers, requesting a provision for two nights as the previous provider. The new contract is expected to start in 2026.

010 SEVERALLS TENNIS COURTS

25/26 To receive a report on the second year of the courts' opening and usage

Councillors noted the report.

011 REPORT FROM THE AMENITIES CHAIR

25/26 To note the updated progress matrix

Councillor Nathan commented that some of the arborist's marks on the trees had faded by the time the works took place. The Operations Manager clarified that this year the marks have been resprayed and that a grid reference is also used to identify the trees.

012 MATTERS OF REPORT

25/26

Councillors discussed the following points:

- Somerset Council will soon be launching a sports pitch provision survey and that this could be important for the town.
- The appearance of the old showroom on the Miller's Garage site is poor. Councillor Best will liaise with the landowner to see if this can be improved.
- A new parking plate has been installed on South Street (opposite Christchurch Court) to enable enforcement when cars park on the single yellow line.

013 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

25/26

Monday 12 January 2026 following the Planning & Highways Committee meeting in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square.

The meeting closed at 19.10.

Signed:

Dated:

Am10November2025