

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 12th May 2025.

PRESENT:

Cllr. K. Head (Vice Chair), N. Draycott, D. Livesley, P. Maxwell, J. Morris, J. Nathan, A. Samuel, A. Stuart.

In attendance: Town Clerk K. Sheehan, Deputy Clerk G. Hughes.

No members of the public were in attendance.

048 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

24/25

Apologies were received from Cllrs. S. Ashton, M. Best, C. Rawe and S. Woodland (all personal).

049 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

25/25

None.

050 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

24/25

It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 10 March 2025 be APPROVED.

051 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

24/25

No members of the public were in attendance.

052 REPORT FROM THE AMENITIES CHAIR

24/25 To receive an update report from the Amenities Chair

The updated Amenities progress matrix had been published and circulated. It was agreed that estimated timescales would be a useful addition to the matrix. In response to a query about the drainage along the west side of Town Hall, the Town Clerk confirmed that a site visit was being organised by Cllr. Best.

053 LAND AT EASTHAMS LANE

24/25 To receive a verbal update from the Town Clerk

The Town Clerk reported that the transfer documents were ready for signing, however the outstanding works required of Taylor Wimpey remained incomplete, including fences. Agreement was being sought from Somerset Council regarding a proposed change to how the bins and benches were provided.

054 BINCOMBE BEECHES MANAGEMENT PLAN

24/25 To receive and adopt an updated Management Plan

Councillors noted the updated Management Plan which superseded the previous plan which had only extended to 2007. The new plan was welcomed, and it was also suggested that the Bincombe

Beeches Working Group be re-established at the Annual Town Council Meeting in May, to implement the recommendations contained within the new Management Plan.

It was AGREED to adopt the Plan and recommend to Full Council that the Bincombe Beeches Working Group be reinstated at the May meeting of Council.

055 SEVERALLS TENNIS COURTS

24/25 To receive an update report following a usage review with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA)

An update report on the tennis courts after approximately 18 months of use was considered. It was noted that 37% of court bookings have been pay and play – which, when combined with passes, the income (minus expenses) is beyond the £3,000 figure for breaking even and being sustainable. Furthermore, the LTA considers that if courts reach 1000 bookings in a calendar year that would be considered an above average performance of a venues.

Councillors welcomed this positive information, noting that the court receipts are ringfenced for maintenance costs and a sinking fund for future upgrades.

056 GEORGE REYNOLDS CENTRE

24/25 To consider a free use request for community events from Awe and Wonder

It was AGREED to permit free use for some community events, noting that Awe & Wonder had already applied, via the grants process, for free room hire and this was simply adding additional dates to that.

057 MATTERS OF REPORT

24/25

Councillors highlighted the following issues:

- VE Day 80 events across the town had gone well and thanks were expressed to all those involved in decorating windows, organising events etc.
- The Royal British Legion intend to continue fundraising to replace the remaining bench outside Town Hall with a similar remembrance bench to the one recently installed.
- The use of glyphosate-based herbicides on Town Council land should be reviewed. It was suggested that the Open Spaces Management Policy be adjusted to include the Council's position on chemicals.

058 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

24/25

Monday 14 July 2025 following the Planning & Highways Committee meeting in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square.

The meeting closed at 19.32.

Signed:

Dated:

Am12May2025