



MINUTES

Committee: Open Spaces Committee
Date: Tuesday 19 May 2026
Time: 6:30pm
Venue: Parish Council Office

Present

Cllr Gordy Keep (Chairman)
Cllr Catherine Fileman-Wright
Cllr Mike Jeffery
Cllr Jan Evans
Cllr Rob Austin
Cllr Gemma Hampton
Cllr Juliane Montgomery

Also Present

Samantha Parkin (Clerk)

PUBLIC SESSION

10/2026 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Austin.

11/2026 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS / REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

No declarations of interest or requests for dispensations were received.

12/2026 MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Jeffery, and **resolved** to accept and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd February 2026 as a correct record.

13/2026 STANDING ITEM - CLIMATE AND ECOLOGY EMERGENCY

The committee noted the Council's commitment to embed the Climate and Ecology Emergency Declaration across all activities, ensuring environmental impacts are considered in a fully integrated approach to climate change mitigation.

14/2026 ANNUAL PLAY INSPECTION

The Annual Play Inspection report had been circulated with the agenda. The committee noted that the report had identified minor issues only.

It was proposed by Cllr Keep, seconded by Cllr Evans, and **RESOLVED** to paint the corroding chain-link connectors on the rotating see-saw to slow further deterioration.

15/2026 ALLOTMENT

The clerk's report had been circulated with the agenda. The report updated the committee on the 31st of March allotment site visit, noting proposals for a communal area, hedge and bank restoration options, access-management measures, and the successful securing of grant funding and 120 free trees.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Keep, and **RESOLVED** to recommend to full council to approve the allocation of the cleared plot as a communal area comprising: one-third for a Trees in Time nursery; a deadwood hedge for shared use; and a small orchard with a seating area.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Evans, and **RESOLVED** to recommend to full council to authorise volunteer groups to undertake root and weed removal, carry out hedge-related works, and construct the deadwood hedge with associated orchard planting and seating to a timescale agreed by the Council.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Evans and **RESOLVED** to recommend to full council to approve the installation of signage stating that there is no right of way to Kinsmans Dale (final wording to be approved by the Clerk), the installation of a post-and-rail barrier to discourage unauthorised access, and the investigation of potential grants to fund these measures.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Keep and **RESOLVED** to recommend to full council that it requires the Allotment Committee to clear the area where the bank has collapsed to allow access for the mini-digger, and approves the use of the mini-digger to steepen and stabilise the bank for autumn replanting, with works to begin in early September (weather permitting).

16/2026 CHURCHYARD

The Clerk's report, circulated with the agenda, included correspondence proposing volunteer-led tree planting in the Churchyard. The report noted that one of the suggested planting locations was unsuitable and asked the Committee to consider whether any alternative sites could be identified for recommendation to Full Council. The committee noted their thanks for the residents' generous offer of trees.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Hampton, and **RESOLVED** to recommend to full council that it permits the volunteer-led tree planting, with three trees to be planted along the wall in Area Q and one tree at the edge of Area K, and that the clerk and Chair of Open Spaces meet with the resident to agree the precise planting locations and the species to be used.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 6.53pm.