

MINUTES of the MEETING of the RECREATION, LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE
held at THE COUNCIL OFFICES, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on THURSDAY 18
SEPTEMBER 2025 at 7.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor Emma Ben Moussa - Chairman
Councillor Peter Harris – Vice-Chairman
Councillor Ann Duke
Councillor Lesley Howes
Councillor Paul Parsons (substituting for Councillor Lorna Cross)

ALSO PRESENT: Graham Blew – Town Clerk
Martin Harding – Assistant Town Clerk/RFO
x 2 members of the public

ABSENT: There were none.

175/25-26. ARRANGEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS REGARDING FILMING OR RECORDING THE MEETING.

The arrangements and constraints relating to the filming or recording of the meeting were explained.

176/25-26. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

An apology for absence was submitted by Councillor Lorna Cross, due to other commitments.

An apology for absence was submitted by Councillor Dawn Johnston, due to other commitments.

An apology for absence was submitted by Councillor Hazel Stephens, due to other commitments.

An apology for absence was submitted by Councillor Elizabeth Wickham, due to other commitments.

An apology for absence was submitted by the Senior Groundsman/Gardener, due to other commitments.

177/25-26. SUBSTITUTES.

Councillor Paul Parsons substituted for Councillor Lorna Cross.

178/25-26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

There were none.

As per Standing Order 34 c) the Chairman adjourned the meeting at this point to allow members of the public to address the meeting in relation to the business being transacted at the meeting.

A resident asked for a brief update on the Pavilion project, it was confirmed that a full update would be provided at the Town Council meeting on the 23 October 2025.

Another resident asked a question on works being undertaken at Galley Hill, which Councillors agreed to investigate.

179/25-26. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.

There were none.

180/25-26. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 JUNE 2025

Recommended: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 June 2025 were approved and signed as a true record.

181/25-26. SENIOR GROUNDSMAN / GARDENER'S REPORT.

Members were provided with a copy of the report which updated members on the work undertaken, by the Parks Department and the work planned which included:

Broomfield, Eagles Road, Heritage Park, Knockhall, Manor Park, Swanscombe Park, Saxon Court, Valley view, Equipment / Staffing and Miscellaneous.

Recommended: That the report be noted.

TOWN CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

182/25-26. ANNUAL SAFETY INSPECTION OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT.

The Annual Playground Safety Inspection was undertaken at the end of May 2025 by a RPII (Register of Playground Inspectors International) / ROSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) Certified Playground Specialist. Members were issued with the Inspection Finding Summary and the risk assessment matrix used by the Inspector.

When the report was received, a copy was passed to the Senior Groundsman/Gardener, which is under review to ensure any action required is being undertaken.

Recommended: That the Annual Playground Safety Inspection Report be noted, and the work being undertaken endorsed.

183/25-26. NEW CRICKET ROLLER.

Further to minute 33/25-26 Members were pleased to be informed that the new cricket roller obtained from a successful funding bid to the English Cricket Board, had been delivered.

Recommended: That the item be noted.

184/25-26. SUMMER ACTIVITY REPORT.

Members thanked Officers for all the hard work that had gone into providing the wide range of very popular, and successful, free children's entertainment over the summer period, positive feedback had been received.

Recommended: That the item be noted.

185/25-26. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

MOVED BY Councillor Paul Parsons and seconded by Councillor Ann Duke;

RESOLVED:

That, pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press leave the meeting during consideration of the following item(s).

No members of the press or public were present during discussion of the following item of business.

186/25-26. THE SWANSCOMBE CENTRE – PERFORMANCE OF SERVICES UPDATE.

The Finance Director GCLL had provided the Performance of Services Report which includes details for Health & Safety, Finance and Attendances for May, June and July 2025.

Recommended: That the item be noted.

There being no further business to transact the Meeting closed at 7.25pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Chairman)