

MINUTES of the MEETING of the RECREATION, LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE
held at THE COUNCIL OFFICES, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on THURSDAY 22
JANUARY 2026 at 7.00PM

PRESENT:

Councillor Emma Ben – Moussa - Chairman
Councillor Peter Harris – Vice - Chairman
Councillor Lorna Cross
Councillor Lesley Howes
Councillor Dawn Johnston
Councillor Hazel Stephens

ALSO PRESENT:

Graham Blew – Town Clerk
Dan Usher – Senior Groundsman/Gardener
Indigo Allred – Administration Officer

ABSENT:

Councillor Ann Duke

390/25-26. ARRANGEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS REGARDING FILMING OR RECORDING THE MEETING.

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

391/25-26. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

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

Recommended:

That the reason for absence, for the Councillor listed, be formally accepted, and approved.

392/25-26. SUBSTITUTES.

There were none

393/25-26. 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.

394/25-26. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.

There were none.

395/25-26. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 2025

Recommended: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 November 2025 were approved and signed as a true record.

396/25-26. SENIOR GROUNDSMAN / GARDENER'S REPORT.

Members considered the report which updated on the work undertaken, by the Parks Department and the work planned which included:

Broomfield, Heritage Park, Knockhall, Saxon Court, Equipment / Staffing and Miscellaneous.

Recommended: That the report be noted.

TOWN CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

397/25-26. RECREATIONAL FACILITY CHARGES 2026 – 2027 (p).

Members considered the attached proposed price increases, as previously agreed, the Responsible Financial Officer had increased them by 2.5% overall and rounded up appropriately.

****** All these figures were considered when members previously agreed the Estimates for the forthcoming 2026 – 2027 financial year (minute 370/25-26 Finance & General Purposes Committee and minute 378/25-26 Special Full Council 8 January 2026).

Members asked that the Ingress park Community Centre proposed charges< in line with the Town Council Community Hall, be included in the Recreational Facility Charges 2026 – 2027.

It was agreed that an item be placed on the 12 March 2026 Recreation, Leisure & Amenities Committee agenda for preliminary discussions regarding the hire charge for the small and larger meeting rooms along with any pro-active actions the Town Council were able to make.

Recommended: That the setting of the Recreational Facility Charges 2026 – 2027 be endorsed.

398/25-26. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

MOVED BY Councillor Dawn Johnston and seconded by Councillor Lesley Howes.

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.

399/25-26. PAVILION – UPDATE ON INTERNALS

Members considered the attached correspondences and confidential report regarding the internals of the Pavilion and the anti-social behaviour that had occurred.

Members were extremely disappointed and frustrated regarding the anti-social behaviour that had occurred at the Pavilion.

Recommended: That the item be noted

There being no further business to transact the Meeting closed at 7.20pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Chairman)