

MINUTES of the MEETING of the RECREATION, LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE held at THE COUNCIL OFFICES, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on THURSDAY 12 MARCH 2026 at 7.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor Emma Ben – Moussa - Chairman
Councillor Lorna Cross
Councillor Lesley Howes
Councillor Dawn Johnston
Councillor Hazel Stephens
Councillor Graham Taylor (substituting for Councillor Peter Harris)
Councillor Elizabeth Wickham

ALSO PRESENT: Graham Blew – Town Clerk
Dan Usher – Senior Groundsman/Gardener
x1 Member of the public

ABSENT: There were none.

494/25-26. ARRANGEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS REGARDING FILMING OR RECORDING THE MEETING.

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

495/25-26. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

An apology for absence was submitted by Councillor Ann Duke, due to other commitments.

An apology for absence was submitted by Councillor Peter Harris, due to other commitments.

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

496/25-26. SUBSTITUTES.

Councillor Graham Taylor substituted for Councillor Peter Harris.

497/25-26. 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.

498/25-26. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.

The Town Clerk confirmed to members the requests received from the two cricket clubs regarding the fees set for 2026 – 2027 and detailed what the requests would mean.

Members agreed that the proposed fees as detailed by the Town Clerk were acceptable.

499/25-26. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 JANUARY 2026

Recommended: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 January 2026 were approved and signed as a true record.

500/25-26. 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, Eagles Road, Heritage Park, Knockhall, Swanscombe Park, Valley View, Equipment / Staffing and Miscellaneous.

The Senior Groundsman / Gardener advised members that the cost of the service of the x2 cricket mowers was £460.91 +VAT each and that this included a 15% discount on both labour and parts.

Members discussed the request from the Senior Groundsman / Gardener regarding the purchase of x 2 new standard hand mowers, and it was felt that this should be considered from the 2026 – 2027 budgets.

Recommended: That the report be noted.

TOWN CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

501/25-26. ACTIVE KENT AND MEDWAY FUNDING (AKM) (p).

Members considered the correspondence received from AKM regarding an online funding application made by the Town Council towards Children's Summer Entertainment. The application was for match funding (50%).

Members considered the correspondence from AKM and after deliberation and taking into account the current position, the difficult decision to not pursue this project was agreed.

Recommended: That, on this occasion, the project not be progressed.

502/25-26. WATER LEAK – SWANSCOMBE PARK.

Members discussed the report detailing the work undertaken to repair the leak at Swanscombe Park, and the subsequent actions taken with the supplier to request a Leak Allowance.

Members were unhappy regarding the size of the bill from Business Stream especially so as the contractor had reported that the leak was due to poor insulation as the pipe was cut too short when the new meter was installed.

Recommended: That the actions taken to date be endorsed.

503/25-26. ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS (EVCP) – UPDATE (p).

Further to minutes 38/25-26, 432/24-25 and 172/24-25 Members were pleased to receive the update from Transport Planner / Network Innovations, Kent County Council, regarding the EVCP's.

Members were disappointed to note that the proposed x4 additional EVCP's were no longer available due to KCC having to return the funding.

Recommended: That the item be noted.

504/25-26. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

MOVED BY Councillor Graham Taylor and seconded by Councillor Dawn Johnston.

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.

505/25-26. THE SWANSCOMBE CENTRE – PERFORMANCE OF SERVICES UPDATE (p).

Further to minute 186/25-26 the Finance Director GCLL had provided the Performance of Services Report which includes details for Health & Safety, Finance and Attendances for August 2025 to January 2026.

Members welcomed the Report and, after discussion, it was agreed that the Management Agreement should be scrutinised and that a meeting arranged with GCLL to discuss any renegotiation.

Recommended: That the Management Agreement be scrutinised and that a meeting arranged with GCLL to discuss any renegotiation.

There being no further business to transact the Meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Chairman)