



EAST PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

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AMENITIES COMMITTEE

MINUTES: of the Proceedings of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 9th February 2026 at 19.00, at East Preston Infant School, Lashmar Road, East Preston.

PRESENT: Cllrs S Wilkinson (Chairman), Councillor S Toney (Vice-Chairman), R McElroy, E Linton, C Bowman and B Gale.

ALSO: Dawn Reid (Assistant Clerk to the Council)
Simon Cross (Clerk to the Council) (until 20:00)
Janet Saville (Arun Pickleball Club)
Ann Bird (Arun Pickleball Club)
Mr D Jull, Mrs E Jull, Mr A Pearcey, Mrs C Pearcey, Mr G Smith, Mrs V Smith
Lance Allsop (Sea Road Beach Access Ltd)
Ray Windust (Sea Road Beach Access Ltd)

APOLOGIES: Cllr K Bradshaw

The meeting opened at 19.00hrs, Cllr Wilkinson (Chairman) welcomed the attendees.

102/26 INTRODUCTIONS

A round of introductions took place.

103/26 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr K Bradshaw (Work).

104/26 PERSONAL AND/OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

The chairman asked councillors to declare any Personal/Prejudicial Interest prior to the agenda item being discussed.

105/26 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

As members of the public were present to discuss item 10b: Warren Recreation Ground - To consider a request to facilitate the playing of Pickleball at the Warren Recreation Ground Tennis Court. the chairman brought this item forward in the agenda to allow members of the public present the opportunity to speak.

JS and AB explained how they were involved with Pickleball. Both are members of the Arun Pickleball Club and AB is also an East Preston resident. JS and AB gave a presentation which included an overview of how Pickleball is played and its benefits to people of all ages. Emphasis was made to the sports health benefits, inclusion and sense of community spirit. Both felt Pickleball

would fit in well with the other activities at the recreation ground and the residents of East Preston would greatly benefit. AB highlighted that Pickleball aligns with East Preston Parish Council's values by ticking all the boxes. JS and AB explained how the tennis court could easily be adapted by adding additional court markings and the use of a portable net. Some items of equipment were circulated as examples. They both felt if the tennis court was used more frequently it would be less likely to vandalism and misuse. JS and AB then spoke about noise levels and gave examples of other locations where Pickleball is played within residential areas, one being Gosport. They said there had been no complaints from neighbours regarding noise levels and the neighbours had actually joined the club. JS and AB suggested the council contact Gosport council and ask how the sport had been received by the community and immediate neighbours. JS and AB suggested the council consider a six-month trial, the club would provide taster sessions and equipment.

Cllr Wilkinson thanked JS and AB for their informative presentation and invited members of the public to put forward any questions.

AP informed all present he plays Pickleball and he said the noise which can be generated is harsh, intrusive and irritating.

DJ said the tennis court is about ten feet away from his house and noise levels associated with this sport are not acceptable.

AB gave comparisons of where courts were located close to more properties than it would be in East Preston, such as Fittleworth and Arundel.

As an alternative location, GS suggested East Preston Tennis Club. Cllr Linton advised this club played short tennis so it would not be suitable.

Cllr Bowman said she has watched teenagers play Pickleball on outside courts. She said the noise created when four or eight players are participating is deafening.

Cllr Bowman advised JS and AB that there had been no vandalism reported at the tennis court, there had been previous issues reported involving misuse and antisocial behaviour.

The Assistant Clerk updated the committee, the council had not received any reports of misuse or antisocial behaviour for some time now. DJ agreed this was the case.

Cllr McElroy read out information from a document provided by Cllr Wilkinson which stated that Pickleball noise is a problem (see appendix A & B). The information states the sound when the ball hits the racket is referred to as a pop and this noise can reach around 70 decibels. For comparison this level is the same as heavy traffic within the vicinity of 30-60 meters. Tennis playing is around 40 decibels. During short bursts of play around 2800 pops per hour occur. The report highlighted the mitigation strategies are: the court should be located 100 metres away from residents. Given this information Cllr McElroy felt the suggested location of the recreation ground tennis court would prove to be a problem.

Cllr Toney put forward a suggestion of holding a trial morning so that noise levels could be monitored. Cllr Wilkinson asked the committee to vote on this suggestion. The committee VOTED, one in favour and five against this idea.

Cllr Wilkinson asked the committee to vote on the request to facilitate the playing of Pickleball at the Warren Recreation Ground Tennis Court. Cllr Linton abstained from the voting.

The committee VOTED, the majority were against allowing the playing of Pickleball at the Warren Recreation Ground Tennis Court.

The committee suggested JS and AB considered the multi-use games area (MUGA) at Lashmar Recreation Ground and approach Arun District Council, who own the site. SC said he would provide JS and AB with information on the MUGA, its location and contact details of Arun District Council Parks.

Cllr Wilkinson thanked JS and AB for their presentation and attending the meeting.

19.40 S, AB, AP and CP left the meeting.

As members of the public were present to discuss item 12a) East Preston Community Boardwalk. To consider a request from Sea Road Beach Access Limited, of accepting a gift of the East Preston Community Boardwalk, the chairman brought this item forward in the agenda to allow members of the public present the opportunity to speak.

LA introduced himself as one of the new directors of Sea Road Beach Access Limited and gave an overview of the boardwalks history and community value. LA then referred to the letter sent to the council, requesting it to consider accepting the community boardwalk as a donation gift. LA said at this stage directors are looking for someone to take ownership of the

boardwalk. LA said the company's finances are in good order and that the volunteers are happy to continue with the upkeep work involved. LA said the request would go out to other interested parties should the council not agree.

Cllr McElroy expressed his concerns about the proposal, Cllr McElroy said the council had previously requested a ROSPA inspection should be carried out on the boardwalk to determine its safety. Cllr McElroy said, given there is no official safety inspection report available, he would not be comfortable accepting the boardwalk as a donation.

SC said he had spoken with Roy Allen regarding the ROSPA inspection request and he recalled because the boardwalk was unique there was no report template to work from, therefore it would prove very expensive to produce this. At that time funding was not available to cover this expense.

Cllr Wilkinson suggested, contacting other boardwalks like Shoreham for advice on who it had engaged for an official safety report.

Cllr Bowman advised LA to approach the company who had provided its Public Liability Insurance to ask if it had requested any publications on structure and safety.

LA said he would find out more information on this to present to the committee at its 18th May meeting.

Cllr Wilkinson thanked LA and RW for attending the meeting.

19.54 LA, RW, DJ, EJ, GS, VS and SC left the meeting.

106/26 MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES MEETING HELD ON 10th NOVEMBER 2025

The draft minutes had been circulated to all councillors on 17th November 2025, asking for suggested amendments by 23rd November 2025. The committee agreed the minutes as a true record of the meeting, held on 10th November 2025, the minutes were duly signed by Councillor Wilkinson.

107/26 UPDATE ON MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The committee noted the report which was circulated prior to the meeting.

Matters Arising from previous Minutes and not covered on this Agenda

Matters Arising from 10th February 2025

Minute 134/25 Warren Recreation Ground south western boundary.

The committee will recall agreeing to accept the grounds contractor's revised quote for the work at the recreation ground's south western corner. Councillor Wilkinson suggested the committee considers, repurposing the council's earmark reserves funding allocated for the outdoor gym equipment project, to cover the cost of this project.

The above information was sent electronically to the committee for its consideration.

The committee VOTED and AGREED to repurpose earmarked for the outdoor gym equipment, to cover the cost of the improvements at the south-western corner of the recreation ground.

The grounds contractor has completed the initial clearing and levelling work, the shrubs have been planting and the mulch would be spread sometime in January.

I raised concerns that in places the planting looked a little sparse and the ground covering plants were planted too close to the woodchip footpath. The grounds contractor advised, 'I am confident the shrubs will fill out into the space. The plants have been selected to provide colour throughout the year. I will check with my horticultural specialist on the ground covering plants.'

Dawn Reid – Assistant Clerk to the Council

6th January 2026

Matters Arising from 19th May 2025

Minute 408/25 SEA ROAD BEACH ACCESS - To consider a request to replace the bollards at the end of Sea Road.

An application has been submitted to ADC Planning, for a Lawful Development Certificate to replace the four bollards at the end of Sea Road. The application will determine if planning permission is required. Once this has been established the order for the four bollards can be placed.

Dawn Reid – Assistant Clerk to the Council

6th January 2026

Matters Arising from 19th May 2025

Minute 421/25 BUS SHELTERS – To re-consider replacing the North Lane Bus Shelter.

For the committee's information, Darren, WSCC Volunteers, has provided the following update on his progress to date with his research into suitable materials to construct a composite replacement shelter:

'Firstly my apologies for the delay in replying to you. I am having some significant issues in sourcing suitable composite materials to construct a bus shelter. Unless I use composite materials which have essentially been wrapped around new steel or timber there appears to simply be nothing of a suitable rigidity. I have had no supplier offer me appropriate reassurance that any composite materials have the appropriate strength required. At this stage I have a couple of options;

- Construct a timber frame, either soft wood or Oak, and attach composite materials to the outside as cladding.
- Construct a timber bus shelter using, where possible, reclaimed timber.

I am really sorry that I cannot find a supplier. Please do let me know how you would like me to proceed

I really have tried to source reliable recycled materials for you but I just don't think that the technology exists at the moment. As examples of what we do produce, see photos below of two shelters we have built in West Sussex. Both of these structures were constructed of Sussex grown, cut and milled green Oak, with local Larch cladding on the smaller one, and treated softwood feather edge in the larger one.

Whilst these are not built wholly of re-cycled materials they are as local as I can make them! I could go further with the recycled element if you wished, we could use recycled timber, and recycled roofing if that helps?

Bear in mind however that recycled building materials can be more expensive than new!! This is due to customers wanting new materials to match existing colours, age etc, especially on old or listed buildings.

Plaistow Shelter



Shermanbury Shelter



There is the scope to increase the size of the base to accommodate a longer shelter should the committee wish. Permission for this would need to be sought from WSCC Highways.

The committee is reminded there is still an open claim registered with the council's insurers, relating to the damaged bus shelter.

The committee is asked to consider the above options as suggested by the WSCC Volunteers, for the replacement North Lane bus shelter.

All of the above information was electronically circulated to the committee for its consideration prior to this meeting.

The committee VOTED and a majority FAVOURED the Plaistow style bus shelter. The committee favoured this style of shelter due to its open front. The committee thought it would be safe for users and also more likely to deter vandals.

Dawn Reid – Assistant Clerk to the Council

21st January 2026

Matters Arising from 15th September 2025

Minute 627/25 WARREN RECREATION GROUND – The misuse of the Tennis Court – Signage update.

At the time of writing this report the council office has received no further reports of misuse of the tennis court. As requested by the committee, the temporary keyholder information signage has been replaced with a more robust permanent sign.



Dawn Reid – Assistant Clerk to the Council

6th January 2026

Minute 629/25 WARREN RECREATION GROUND – The Playing of Cricket.

The mediation sessions are continuing to take place. A ROSPA inspection has recently been carried out and the report received. This along with any conclusion reached at the mediation sessions will be brought to the Amenities committee for its consideration, once the mediation sessions have finished.

Simon Cross – Clerk to the Council

3rd February 2026

Minute 702/25 WARREN RECREATION GROUND – To receive an update on the emergency access procedure at Warren Recreation Ground.

Following the committee's recent review of the site's emergency contacts, the contacts list has been updated. Councillor's Toney and McElroy are the new emergency contacts and the signage at the recreation grounds has been updated to reflect this. The new 'keyed alike' padlocks are now in place and a key has been placed inside the police certified key safe for emergency access.

Councillor McElroy has recommended replacing the two drop down type security bollards adjacent to the security gates, with steel hinged Fire Brigade approved type bollards with external padlocks, which would be incorporated in the 'keyed alike' system. The existing bollards have internal locking systems which are beginning to fail. The locksmith advised the internal locks could no longer be repaired nor replaced, therefore at some point new bollard would be required.

Budget - there is currently sufficient funding in the WRG - Open Spaces budget to cover the cost of purchasing and installing the two bollards.

The above information and details on types of bollards, was circulated electronically to the committee for its consideration.

The committee VOTED and AGREED to replace the two existing bollards with two new fire brigade approved bollards.

The new bollards and additional 'keyed alike' padlocks have been ordered.

Dawn Reid – Assistant Clerk to the Council

3rd February 2026

Matters Arising from 10th November 2025

Minute 879/25 EAST PRESTON VILLAGE GREEN – To receive an update on the request from East Preston Festival Committee, to hold various events on the Village Green, as part of the 2026 Annual Festival.

The committee will recall agreeing in principle to the request from East Preston Festival Society to hold the following events on the Village Green as part of the 2026 Festival:

Wednesday 27th May – Circus Day
Saturday 6th June – Community Market
Sunday 7th June – Car Show
Saturday 12th June – Parade Day/ Market
Sunday 13th June – Dog Show then Party on the Green.

For the committee's information, the applications and paperwork provided for the above events is being reviewed by Councillor's McElroy and Bowman.

Dawn Reid – Assistant Clerk to the Council

15th January 2026

Minute 884/25 PUBLIC SEATING - To consider replacing two benches at the northern boundary Warren Recreation Ground.

For the committee's information, both benches on the north boundary of the recreation ground have been replaced with new composite benches. The new benches display the council's logo and strapline. The existing memorial plaques have been re-instated.



Dawn Reid – Assistant Clerk to the Council

21st January 2026

The Assistant Clerk updated the committee on the following items:

Minute 134/25 CORRESPONDENCE – Warren Recreation Ground south western boundary – The Assistant Clerk updated the committee the grounds contractor has completed the south western corner improvements, along with mulching the western boundary pathway. The contractor said the area should be starting to look its best by Mid-Summer.

Cllr Bowman said the shrubs are already growing and it was a vast improvement to the area.

Minute 408/25 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME - Sea Road bollards - The Assistant Clerk advised the committee, the decision notice on the Lawful Development Certificate application had been received and it has been granted. She advised she is now able to place the order for the four new bollards. The contractor will need to work with Sea Road Beach Access Ltd,13 to install the bollards around the boardwalk.

Cllr Wilkinson declared an interest in the following item due to being a WSCC Volunteer.

Minute 421/25 BUS SHELTERS – To re-consider replacing the North Lane Bus Shelter. The Assistant Clerk said once the committee has made its decision on, if the concrete base size should be increased to allow for a larger shelter, WSCC Volunteers would be able to cost the project. This will then be provided to the council’s insurers.

Cllr Wilkinson said he was concerned that if the base footprint was not increased the shelter would be too small. Cllr Wilkinson suggested obtaining two quotes for WSCC Volunteers, one for the current size and one for an increased size.

The Assistant Clerk advised the committee the current concrete base is two metres in length. Whilst at the site WSCC Volunteers had highlight there is scope to increase the base size.

Cllr Gale did not see a need to increase the shelters size given its usage. Cllr Bowman also agreed, she could not see a need for a larger shelter as there was only one bus per hour stopped there.

The committee VOTED and the majority AGREED to keep the bus shelter the same size. The committee asked the Assistant Clerk to contact WSCC Volunteers to obtain a quote to provide to the council’s insurers.

Minute 702/25 WARREN RECREATION GROUND - To review the emergency access procedure at Warren Recreation Ground – The key alike system is now in place for the sites height barrier and security gates. The emergency contacts have been informed of the key safe details and provided a key for the key alike padlocks. The two new replacement bollards and key alike padlocks have been ordered. Once installed the new system and procedure will be in place.

Minute 879/25 EAST PRESTON VILLAGE GREEN – To receive an update on the request from East Preston Festival Committee, to hold various events on the Village Green, as part of the 2026 Annual Festival. – The committee has received a further event application form from The Great Dane, to hold a ‘Tug of War’ event as part of the 2026 Festival. The event will take place on 13th June 2pm – 6pm.

The committee VOTED and AGREED to allow the event to go ahead subject to the approval of the paperwork being agreed by Cllr’s McElroy and Bowman.

The committee thanked the Assistant Clerk for all her updates.

108/26 PUBLIC TOILETS – SEA ROAD – 7a) To receive any updates on the Sea Road Public Toilets.

The committee NOTED the following paper which had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

The council has received correspondence relating to the Sea Road toilets opening times. The correspondence specifically relates to the toilets being closed too early, which proves to be extremely inconvenient for people who need to plan their route and timings when out. On this particular occasion the toilets were locked at 16:35pm when they should remain open until 17.00pm. This is not the first complaint the council has received regarding the toilet’s opening times.

The Clerk has responded to the member of the public explaining ‘the council has a contract with Arun District Council (through Biffa) which manages the opening, closing and cleaning of the Sea Road toilets. ‘One man has the task of opening, closing and cleaning public toilets from beyond Bognor to the far side of Ferring and north to Slindon. That’s not excuse but it is a fact. We will have another think here as to whether there is something different we could do to ensure opening and closing times are a lot closer to the published times.’

The committee is asked to consider if there is anything different that can be done to address the toilets being closed too early.

I have contacted ADC Cleansing, to clarify what the opening and closing times are for other toilets in the area. It appears ADC has changed its opening times to the following:

ADC's toilet opening times

- Summer (1 May to 30 September) - 8am to 8pm 7 days a week
- Winter (1 October - 30 April) - 8am to 5pm 7 days a week

For the committee's information:

Sea Road toilets opening times

- 8am-7pm* daily - 1st April – 30th September
- 8am-5pm* daily - 1st October – 31st March

This means that the toilet attendant can no longer adhere to the opening hours being displayed on the Sea Road toilets signage. There is now a period of one month each season where the opening times differ.

The committee may wish to consider, changing the Sea Road toilet's opening times to fall in line with ADC's times. Alternatively, the committee may wish to seek an alternative contractor to open and close and carry out general cleaning.

Remedial Work - The concrete threshold underneath both of the unisex toilet doors had crumbled and in places fallen out. To prevent a trip hazard the concrete required replacing urgently. Whilst the work took place and to allow the concrete time to dry out thoroughly, the Unisex toilets would need to be closed for around 24-36 hours. Also, the block paving has sank in the area behind the notice board causing the ground to be uneven. The committee will recall the Fig tree was removed from this area, so it is likely due to the roots decomposing and causing the ground to settle. If the committee agrees, the grounds contractor is able to fit in both of the above urgent repairs.

Budget - There is enough funding currently in the WRG Toilets Repairs & Maintenance budget to cover costs relating to the above remedial work.

All of the above information was circulated to the committee electronically for its consideration.

The committee VOTED and AGREED to carry out the above remedial work as soon as possible.

The contractor has re-laid the block work and replaced the door thresholds. When the weather improves the handyman will paint the thresholds with yellow hazard paint to highlight the changes in floor height.



Dawn Reid – Assistant Clerk to the Council

6th January 2026

The committee thanked the member of the public for their correspondence and raising the issue of the toilets being closed too early. A discussion took place on what could be done to resolve this. Cllr Linton suggested, asking the toilet operative to alternate his rounds, so it is not always the same toilets being locked early. The Assistant Clerk said she will contact ADC Cleansing, with the above request.

A discussion took place on ADC Cleansing's, changes to the toilets opening and closing time.

The committee VOTED and AGREED to change the Sea Road opening time to fall in line with ADC's. The committee asked the Assistant Clerk to replace the toilets signage to reflect the changes.

The committee NOTED the remedial work to the Unisex Toilet door thresholds and sunken block paving has been completed.

109/26 PUBLIC TOILETS – SEA ROAD – 7b) To receive an update on the 2025 Loo of the Year Awards and to consider an application to the 2026 'Loo of the Year Awards'

The committee NOTED the following paper which had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

The Loo of the Year inspection took place on the 12th August 2025. The toilets were awarded a 'Platinum Plus' grade. The grade is the same as it was in 2023 and 2024. The reports overall comments said 'Very well-maintained facilities. Well done'. As in previous years the certificate has been displayed on the toilet's external wall (see image below). The signs may need to be rearrange to accommodate any further certificates.



2026 'Loo of the Year Awards' application - For the committee's information, each year since 2021 the committee has submitted an application to the Loo of the Year Awards. Each year the cost is in the region of £310.00 + VAT. This amount includes the external signage displayed at the toilet block, it does not include the administrative time spent on the application process and the endless correspondence regarding issues arising with the report etc.

Given the recent request from the council's Finance & General Purpose committee, for committees to keep an even closer eye on expenditure moving forwards, and to avoid spending on anything that was not essential. The committee may wish to consider if an application to the 2026 Loo of the Year Awards is an essential expenditure.

The committee is asked to consider the 2026 Loo of the Year Awards application.

Dawn Reid – Assistant Clerk to the Council

5th January 2026

The committee agreed the toilet wall was becoming congested with Loo of the Year signage. Cllr Linton suggested replacing all the signs with one sign which states the last five years award dates and the award achieved. The Assistant Clerk said this would no longer show the official Loo of the Year certificate as is currently being displayed. The Assistant Clerk will research the best way to incorporate the signage and the costs involved and present her finding back to the committee for its consideration.

110/26 EAST PRESTON VILLAGE GREEN – 8a) To receive an update on the south western corner proposal.

The committee NOTED the following paper which had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

Following the two public consultation days in September 2025, Michael began exploring design ideas based on the feedback he received. Michael has now provided the working party with a draft Landscape Design Strategy. The working party is due to meet to discuss the initial draft design and will then report back to the committee.

The Assistant Clerk updated the committee the working party consisting of Cllrs McElroy, Wilkinson and Moore are due to meet on 12th February to discuss the initial drawings. After that a meeting with Michael would take place. The working party will then present its recommendations to the committee for its consideration.

111/26 EAST PRESTON VILLAGE GREEN CAR PARK – 9a) To receive an update on the Village Green Parking Scheme.

The committee NOTED the following paper which had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

The committee is asked to NOTE the car-park revenue for the period April 2025 to November 2025 is £2069.75.

As the committee is aware due to a lack of regular informed reporting it has proved difficult to make comparisons with the previous year's revenue. I have been discussing this concern, along with the noticeable decrease in revenue with NPC. NPC has now appointed a new accounts manager who has been looking into the queries. The accounts manager has already informed me that the council was not compensated for the July 2025 payment. This amount was £488.50 and it has now been included into the January 2026 remittance payment. This has accounted for some of the noticed decrease in revenue. The Accounts Manager also advised me of a software update due to be installed. She believes this will provide more detailed reports, highlighting a breakdown of RINGO, P&D payments and VAT'.

Dawn Reid – Assistant Clerk to the Council

21st January 2026

The committee NOTED the missed revenue payment for July 2025, had been compensated within the January payment.

112/26 WARREN RECREATION GROUND – 10a) To receive an update on the Children's Playground.

The committee NOTED the following paper which had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

As the committee is aware the Village Hall recently experienced issues with its power supply. To establish the cause and rectify the issue, UK Power Network required access to the power supply which ran underground along the south western side of the playground. The playground was closed for the duration of the work. UK Power Network returned and applied top soil and grass seed to make good the area. Due to heavy rain the playground was extremely muddy and therefore a possible trip hazard. Tivoli kindly erected safety fencing around the affected areas, leaving access to the playground equipment, apart from the carousel turnstile next to Five Courts. The fencing will remain in place to allow the grass seed time to germinate.

Remedial work - The remedial work highlighted on the 2025 ROSPA inspection report has been completed. Repairs have been carried out on the playground swings, the red springer top which had rotted has been replaced and the ten new floor panels installed on the multi-play unit. The next inspection is due in August 2026.

Dawn Reid – Assistant Clerk to the Council

15th January 2026

The Assistant Clerk updated the committee, the grass seed has germinated well and therefore the grounds contractor has removed the safety fencing from the playground.

The committee thanked the Assistant Clerk for her update.

The committee NOTED the remedial work as highlighted in the 2025 ROSPA inspection report had been completed.

113/26 PUBLIC SEATING – 11a) To consider replacing the bench on grass verge by the junction of The Street and Sea Lane.

The committee NOTED the following paper which had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

As a part of the committee's 'five-year bench plan' to replace older wooden benches with new composite benches. The next bench on the council's bench audit to be replaced, is the bench on the grass verge by the junction of The Street and Sea Lane.

There is already a concrete base in place for the new bench to sit. Funding has been allocated within the 2025/26 Amenities - Public Seating budget, for the purchase of this bench.

The above information was circulated electronically to the committee for its consideration.

The committee VOTED and AGREED to replace the old wooden bench at the junction of The Street and Sea Lane.

The Assistant Clerk updated the committee she had managed to secure a £70 discount on the bench order. The new composite bench has now been installed.

The committee thanked the Assistant Clerk for her update.

The committee NOTED the bench on grass verge by the junction of The Street and Sea Lane has been installed.

114/26 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE – 13a) To consider information on the Grounds Maintenance Contract.

The committee NOTED the following paper which had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

For the committee's information, the council's current grounds maintenance contract with Arun District Council, contracted out to Tivoli, is due to expire in March 2027. As the committee is aware the devolution process is currently being implemented and it is uncertain how service contracts will be managed. With this in mind, the committee may wish to either, extend the current contract to beyond 2028 to allow time to establish how service contracts will be managed, or to begin the tendering process.

The committee is asked to consider the grounds maintenance contract for beyond 2027.

The above information was circulated electronically prior to this meeting for the committee's consideration.

A discussion took place on how the contracts may be managed given that ADC would no longer be a level of council.

The committee AGREED to postpone making its decision on the Grounds Maintenance Contract until the next committee meeting. It hoped by then there would be more information available on devolution and how the contracts will be managed.

115/26 BUDGETS – 2025/2026 Working Budget: 13a) To note the Income and Expenditure to date for the Amenities Committee and the Warren Recreation Ground Trust to date.

The committee thanked Mr Vyse for providing the 2025/26 budget papers to date, for the Amenities Committee and the Warren Recreation Ground Trust.

The committee NOTED the following paper which had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

For the committee's information, an earmark reserve has been created for the sum of £836.64, to be used on planters in 2026/27. This will be allocated towards the cost of purchasing two new planters for either side of the Jubilee bench.

Adrian Vyse – Bookkeeper to the Council

2nd February 2026

The committee NOTED an earmark reserve has been created for the sum of £836.64, to be used on planters in 2026/27.

The committee NOTED the 2025/26 Income and Expenditure for the Amenities Committee and the Warren Recreation Ground Trust to date.

116/26 CORRESPONDENCE – a) To note any correspondence received relevant to the Amenities Committee, not covered elsewhere on this Agenda.

No correspondence was received.

117/26 URGENT MATTERS ARISING (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

The Assistant Clerk updated the committee following the recent incident where a vehicle had driven into the bollards on the central grass verge at the Northern Shops. Fortunately, the bollards were left intact and have now been reinstated. Due to the cost of this falling below the council's insurers excess, no claim could be pursued. The police informed the council it had viewed the CCTV footage provided by the local store and has now spoken to the person involved.

The committee thanked the Assistant Clerk for her update.

The committee NOTED the bollards at the Northern Shops have been reinstated

118/26 ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO THE NEXT AMENITIES AGENDA

Cllr McElroy asked the committee to add the following to the May meeting agenda: To consider installing an impact barrier at the corner of the Hoist Assisted Toilet external wall.

Cllr McElroy said it would protect the wall from impact damage caused by a vehicle collision. Cllr McElroy advised the committee, a driver had recently crashed into the Village Hall's entrance ramp wall, since the incident the Village Hall has installed an impact barrier which is proving to be successful. Cllr McElroy said he would research the costs of the barrier and report back to the committee.

The committee AGREED this item should be included in the 18th May meeting's agenda.

The date of the next meeting is 18th May 2026.

The meeting concluded at 20.27 hrs.

Chairman: *Councillor Rick McElroy*

Date: 18th May 2026