

# MINUTES OF THE RECREATION & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING 17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2025, THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE GALTRES CENTRE

**Present:** Councillors C. Bilson (Chairman), R. Varney, P. Nottage, D. Bream, F. Johnston-Banks, K. Butcher

**In attendance:** Councillors C. Barnes, N. Madden, E. Whiteside, Assistant Clerk J. Fairbrother, S. Hunter

**Clerk:** Mrs J. Bentley

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| 1. | <b>Apologies</b><br>Apologies were received from Councillor Shepherd and reasons given approved                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2. | It was resolved to adjourn the meeting for up to 15 minutes to take questions or comments through the Chairman from members of the public. 2 members of the public were present. A question was asked regarding the lights in Millfields.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 3. | <b>Co-option</b><br>It was <b>AGREED</b> to co-opt Stuart Hunter onto the Recreation & Open Spaces committee. Councillor Bilson formally thanked Iain Buckle for his work on the committee.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 4. | <b>Action Plan</b><br>The action plan was received and updated.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 5. | <b>Clerk's Progress Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The volunteer group has been carrying out work in Millfield and work has finished for 2025, thanks to all of the volunteers</li> <li>The Lighting Project in Millfield is ongoing</li> <li>Forth Plant has completed the work to the surface of the Memorial Park</li> <li>Joe Tate will cut the daffodil bank in the middle of November</li> <li>The wildflowers will be sown on the Daffodil Bank in November</li> <li>Councillor Bream has been given a key to the container</li> <li>A follow up email has been sent to the Hesley group on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November and no response has been received to date</li> <li>A Memorial Park bench has been sponsored</li> <li>A letter has been sent to the resident of Stonefield Garth to confirm that the existing arrangements will remain in place</li> <li>The additional stepping stones have been put in place in the Memorial Park</li> </ul> |
| 6. | <b>Millfield</b><br>6.1 A quote for resurfacing the car park at Millfields was received and it was <b>AGREED</b> that the Clerk should obtain further quotes, including a quote from PBS.<br>6.2 Following the Clerk's progress report there were no further updates from the Working Group.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 7. | <b>Memorial Park</b><br>7.1 Councillor Varney provided an update on the Memorial Park Management plan<br>7.2 A letter was received from residents regarding dog fouling and it was <b>AGREED</b> to place two small signs on the lampposts and to request a visit from the dog warden. It was <b>AGREED</b> that the Clerk should respond to the member of public informing them of actions taken.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 8. | <b>Chase Garth</b><br>8.1 An update on the Chase Garth Working Group was received from Councillor Bream.<br>8.2 The basketball court proposal was received from Councillor Whiteside and it was <b>AGREED</b> that it should be a single use court with no lights. It was <b>AGREED</b> that a vision for Chase Garth should be presented at the December meeting with a view to developing a public consultation, to include the basketball court. It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that Councillor Whiteside should create a tighter specification for the basketball court. It was <b>AGREED</b> that the Clerk                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

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|     | <p>should investigate details of the Mayoral fund. Councillor Bilson thanked Councillor Whiteside for an excellent presentation.</p> <p>8.3 A recommendation regarding the Veteran Oak was received from Councillors Bream and Butcher. It was <b>AGREED</b> that any vegetation outside of the fence should be cut and subsequently included in the grass cutting specification and a metre should be cut inside the fence and also an area in the immediate vicinity of the oak to expose the base of the trunk. The Alder growing there will be removed by Councillors Bream &amp; Butcher, but the greater part of the vegetation should be left wild to support wildlife and discourage direct approach to the oak. It is recommended that a contractor, probably Leaf Ground care undertake the brush-cutting.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 9.  | <p><b>Miscellaneous Open Spaces</b></p> <p>There was no update to report.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 10. | <p><b>Playgrounds</b></p> <p>10.1 The annual inspections of the playgrounds were received. It was <b>AGREED</b> that the Clerk's office would go through the report with the handyman and identify actions that should be referred to the installer such as the fence &amp; gate at Claypenny and actions that may be dealt with by the handyman.</p> <p>10.2 A letter was received from a resident regarding anti-social behaviour in Longlands Park. This item was moved to the start of the meeting. It was <b>AGREED</b> to raise the anti-social behaviour with the police and the relevant team at North Yorkshire and that councillors should carry out a site visit to determine possible solutions regarding the fence.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 11. | <p><b>Trees</b></p> <p>11.1 Quotes were received for the work identified in the report for Stonefield Garth, Drovers Court, the rest of Millfields, the allotments and Mallison Hill Woods and it was <b>AGREED</b> to accept the quote from Top Cut Trees for £8000.</p> <p>11.2 Quotes were received for finishing removing the dogwood by the containers and removing the brash. It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to accept the quote for £290 from Top Cut Trees.</p> <p>11.3 A quote was received from Top Cut Trees for £180 for work to the willow tree on Rowan Avenue and <b>APPROVED</b>.</p> <p>11.4 Emails were received from two residents in Uppleby and it was <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the quote from Top Cut Trees for £375 to undertake the work to cut back the trees from the houses.</p> <p>11.5 An email was received from Nurture Landscapes regarding tree works off Oulston Road. It was noted that the Clerk had replied and nothing has been heard back from Nurture Landscapes.</p> |
| 12. | <p><b>Risk Assessment</b></p> <p>Progress was reviewed on the Risk Assessment and actions required agreed.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 13. | <p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>The financial position as of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025 was noted.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 14. | <p><b>Date of the Next Meeting</b></p> <p>16<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 7.30pm or on the rising of the Planning Committee</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

The meeting closed at 9.40