

**MINUTES OF THE RECREATION & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING – 7.30PM  
16<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026, THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE GALTRES CENTRE**

**Present:** Councillors D. Bream, R. Varney, K. Butcher, F. Johnston-Banks,  
co-opted member Stuart Hunter

**In attendance:** Councillors E. Whiteside, N. Madden

**Clerk:** Mrs J. Bentley

1.	<p><b>Chairman</b> Councillor Bream was nominated as temporary Chairman by Councillor Varney and duly elected.</p>
2.	<p><b>Apologies</b> Apologies were received from Councillor Bilson and reason for absence approved.</p>
3.	<p>There were no members of the public present therefore the meeting was not adjourned.</p>
4.	<p><b>Clerk’s Progress Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The handyman has been through the playground inspections with the Clerks and is carrying out repairs as necessary</li> <li>• Top Cut Trees have been instructed to carry out work on Uppleby, Rowan Avenue and the work on the latest tree survey. Bad weather has delayed work, but it will be done in March when Top Cut Trees will also have a new chipper</li> <li>• The dogwood by the containers has been removed</li> </ul>
5.	<p><b>Action Plan</b> The action plan was received, and it was <b>AGREED</b> that the Clerk should ask the Hesley Group to reinstate the grass since the path will remain shut.</p>
6.	<p><b>Contractors</b></p> <p>6.1 The schedule of contractor work for 2026 was received and it was <b>AGREED</b> that the Clerk should check to see if the arisings being taken away on the western meadow is included in Joe Tate’s quote. It was <b>AGREED</b> that if a contractor is undertaking work involving machinery at Millfields to ask them if they could level the area where the dogwood was by the container.</p> <p>6.2 Quotes were received for contractor work for 2026, and it was <b>RESOLVED</b> to ask Joe Tate about cutting the blackthorn hedge in 2026.</p> <p>6.3 A revised quote was received from CE &amp; CM Walker for the grass cutting season 2026 and it was <b>AGREED</b> to wait for confirmation from CE &amp; CM Walker.</p>
7.	<p><b>Millfields</b></p> <p>7.1 The Management Plan was received and it was <b>AGREED</b> that Councillor Johnston-Banks will remove the hemlock. It was <b>AGREED</b> that the Miscellaneous Works Contractor should spray the pump track and that it should be renamed pump track instead of bike track to avoid any confusion with the main path through Millfields.</p> <p>7.2 Wetland dredging was considered, and it was <b>AGREED</b> to wait until later in the year to decide whether it is needed or not.</p> <p>7.3 Quotes were received for resurfacing the car park and it was <b>RESOLVED</b> to clarify the size of the work with Councillor Bilson. Concerns were raised about diesel leaking into the water table and it was <b>AGREED</b> that the Clerk should confirm the purpose of the diesel and whether a safer alternative can be used.</p>
8.	<p><b>Memorial Park</b> No further actions were reported from the Memorial Park Working Group.</p>
9.	<p><b>Chase Garth</b></p>

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	An update was received from the Chase Garth Working Group, and it was <b>AGREED</b> to delay the public consultation and to apply for the Mayoral funding.
10.	<b>Management of Other Open Spaces</b> No further actions were reported.
11.	<b>Trees</b> 11.1 An email was received from Top Cut Trees regarding the reduction to two Rowan trees and it was <b>AGREED</b> that no action would be taken at this stage but that a survey of the area will be undertaken this year. 11.2 The Tree Policy was reviewed, and it was <b>AGREED</b> that NYC should replace references to NYCC and HDC and that the Memorial Park should be added to the policy. 11.3 Commissioning a tree survey of the areas last surveyed in 2023 was considered and it was <b>RESOLVED</b> to obtain 3 quotes for a 3-year cycle. 11.4 The maintenance of Mallison Hill Woods was considered, and it was confirmed that Councillor Bilson had contacted the Forestry Commission for advice on how to manage the wood and that it would be an item on the next RECOS Committee meeting agenda.
12.	<b>Playgrounds</b> 12.1 It was <b>AGREED</b> that the Clerk would circulate the most recent Playground Inspection reports 12.2 A quote from HAGS was received for a replacement seat for Longlands and <b>APPROVED</b> .
13.	<b>Finance</b> The financial position as of 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2026 was noted.
14.	<b>Risk Assessment</b> Progress on the Risk Assessment was noted and no actions were required.
15.	<b>Date of the Next Meeting</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7.30pm or on the rising of the Planning Committee.

The meeting closed at 8.06pm