

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING 17th AUGUST 2026, THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE GALTRES CENTRE

Present: Councillors C. Bilson (Chairman), D. Bream, R. Varney, F. Johnston-Banks, S. Hunter, P. Nottage, K. Butcher, P. Nottage, Assistant Clerk G. Clayton

In attendance: Councillors N. Madden and C. Barnes

1 member of the public was present

1.	Chairman Councillor Bilson was nominated to be Chairman by Councillor Varney, seconded by Councillor Butcher and was duly elected Chairman by a unanimous vote.
2.	No apologies were received.
3.	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. 1 member of the public was present and a question was asked about the safety of the trumpet in the Memorial Park.
4.	Clerk's Progress Report • The Handyman has continued with the programme of repairs to the playgrounds • Joe Tate has cut the edge of the skills track • The willow tree and stump grinding have been completed • Top Cut Trees have completed the work at Millfields, Mallison Hill Woods and the Dawney allotments • Top Cut Trees have been instructed to deal with the damaged tree on Rowan Avenue
5.	Action Plan The action plan was received and updated.
6.	Terms of Reference The terms of reference were reviewed, and it was AGREED that the Play Parks including Claypenny Park, the Memorial Park and Longlands should be transferred to the Operations Committee in order to balance the committees better.
7.	Millfields 7.1 The Management Plan was received, updated and progress was reviewed. It was AGREED that Councillor Johnston-Banks would respond to the member of the public regarding the clay lining of the Wetlands ponds, and that the situation should be reviewed when Wrights undertake the dredging. 7.2 The installation of a tap at Millfields was considered and it was RESOLVED that this item should stay in the Action Plan and that Councillor Butcher would review the issue next year. 7.3 The advice from the Fire Services regarding the meadows was reviewed and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk should ask Joe Tate to bring forward widening the perimeter cut at the back of Larch Rise, if possible, but the main meadow should be cut in September as previously planned. It was RESOLVED that the perimeter mown strip should henceforth be maintained at 5-6m wide i.e. double the existing width. 7.4 An email was received regarding trees obscuring streetlights and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk should ask Top Cut Trees to deal with this, but for future reference the Clerk should also investigate whether NYC and/or the Woodlands Trust are responsible for those trees. 7.5 It was AGREED that the Clerk should instruct J Tate to cut the blackthorn hedge and two lengths of hedge along Millfield Lane this autumn. 7.6 It was RESOLVED to purchase a backpack leaf blower to be used by Parkrun volunteers to clear leaves off Jacko's Way through the woods.
8.	Memorial Park 8.1 An update was received from Councillor Varney on the Memorial Park Working Group. It was AGREED that the Clerk should instruct the Miscellaneous Works Contractor to cut back

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	the brambles. It was confirmed that the Working Group will be meeting next week and will, amongst other things review the edges of the path to the roundabout. 8.2 An email from a member of the public regarding a fence was received and it was AGREED that the Memorial Park Working Group would incorporate this item into the meeting next week.
9.	Chase Garth Councillor Bream provided an update on the Chase Garth Working Group and confirmed that there would be a Facebook survey to assess the level of support for a basketball court. The paths are still being considered. It was AGREED to re-look at the management plan, consider Joe Tate cutting the hedges with his tractor. It was AGREED to confirm that all of the works required are covered by volunteers or relevant contractors, and that the Clerk should send the Miscellaneous Works Contractor's SLA on Chase Garth to the Working Group. It was AGREED to refresh the management plan and that a development plan is required.
10.	Management of Other Open Spaces Councillor Varney reported that Kelbalk Lane was overgrown. It was AGREED that the Clerk should report this to NYC.
11.	Playgrounds. This item was brought to the start of the meeting 11.1 The playground inspection reports were received, and it was AGREED that the Clerks office should take the Handyman through the items that need mending, 11.2 An email was received from a member of the public regarding the trumpets on the Toddler Multiplay in the Memorial Park and it was AGREED that the Memorial Park Working Group should review this equipment, and the Clerk should ask HACS how easy it is to move the trumpets and to put this item on next month's full council agenda.
12.	Trees 12.1 An email was received from a member of the public regarding watering the trees in Millfields and it was AGREED that the Clerk should thank the member of the public but confirm that in general Easingwold Town Council do not water trees. 12.2 Councillor Bilson provided an update on the management of Mallison Hill Woods and confirmed that he and Councillor Butcher will meet the Forestry Commission Woodland Officer for the area and create a Woodland Management Plan.
13.0	Risk Assessment Progress on the Risk Assessment was reviewed.
14.0	Finance The financial position as of 31 st July 2026 was noted.
15.0	Date of the Next Meeting 16 th November 2026 at 7.30pm or on the rising of the Planning Committee.

The meeting finished at 20.40