



WAREHAM

Town Council

Town Hall
East Street
Wareham
Dorset
BH20 4NS

3 JUNE 2026

To: All Members of the Amenities Committee

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO ATTEND a meeting of the **AMENITIES COMMITTEE** to be held on Tuesday 9 June 2026 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, East Street, Wareham at **7.30pm** (or on the rising of the Planning and Transport Committee if later) for the purpose of transacting the business set out in the agenda below.

All members of the public are welcome to attend.

Nicola Gray
Town Clerk

Please contact the Town Council office on 01929 553 006 if you need any further information on this Agenda.

Members of the Amenities Committee

Councillor M Cotton
Councillor K Critchley
Councillor S Dean
Councillor V Green

Councillor M Hill
Councillor L Kirk
Councillor D Robinson
Councillor S Wheatley



1. Election of Chairman

To elect a Chairman for the 2026/27 municipal year.

2. Election of Deputy Chairman

To elect a Deputy Chairman for the 2026/27 municipal year.

3. Apologies for absence

To receive, and consider for acceptance, apologies for absence. (LGA1972 s85)

4. Declarations of interest

To declare any interests relating to the business of the meeting and receive any dispensation requests from the Clerk. (Localism Act 2011 s29-34)

5. Public participation time

An opportunity for members of the public to raise issues of concern or interest, ask a question or make a statement or present a petition or be part of a deputation. Public participation time will be conducted in accordance with the Council's 'Protocol for Public Participation Time' which is limited to 15 minutes, with no individual speaker exceeding a maximum of three minutes each. (LGA1972 s100)

6. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting held on Tuesday 14 April 2026

To confirm, as a correct record, the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee (LGA1972 sch12).

7. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 14 April 2026

To consider any matters arising from the previous minutes of the Committee.

8. Carey Play Area Trampoline Damage

To consider the damage to the Carey Play Area trampoline and Council's ongoing approach regarding the piece of play area equipment.

9. Update of Ongoing Items – VERBAL

To receive updates of ongoing operations commissioned by the Amenities Committee.

10. Any other items the Chairman deems urgent

For report, information or for the agenda at the next meeting of the Amenities Committee. Councils cannot lawfully decide items of business which are not specified in the summons/agenda (LGA1972 sch. 12, paras 10(2)(b) and Longfield Parish Council v Wright (1918) 88 LJ Ch 119).

11. Date of next meeting

To note the date of the next meeting, which is scheduled for **Tuesday 11 August 2026** at **7.30pm**.



Minutes of a meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 14 April 2026 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, East Street, Wareham at 7.30pm.

Committee Members Present: Councillors V Green (Chairman), S Wheatley (Vice Chairman), K Critchley, S Dean and M Hill.

Officers Present: N Gray, Town Clerk & RFO, S Dickins, Deputy Town Clerk.

A 052/25-26 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr M Cotton, Cllr L Kirk and Cllr D Robinson.

A 053/25-26 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

A 054/25-26 Public participation time

There were no members of the public present.

A 055/25-26 Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 10 February 2026 were **APPROVED** and signed by the Chairman.

A 056/25-26 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

The Committee requested an update regarding the installation of the waste bin at Bell's Orchard adjoining the Saxon Walls. The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed this has been installed.

The Committee requested an update regarding the hedgehog boxes. The Town Clerk noted the Administration Officer was awaiting confirmation of suitable locations from the Wareham Hedgehog Society.

The Town Clerk noted the Council had subsequently received quotes for the Town Hall roof repair which would be sent to the Chair and Town Clerk for approval.

The Committee requested an update regarding the Dorset Mind Chatty Bench. The Deputy Town Clerk noted that Dorset Mind were still seeking corporate sponsorship ahead of its installation.

A 057/25-26 Howards Lane Car Park Relining

The Committee considered the report about the relining of the Howards Lane Car Park.

It was **RESOLVED** that Dorset Council be appointed to reline the Howards Lane Car Park at a cost of £3,934 including VAT to be drawn from the "Car Park Maintenance" earmarked reserve.

A 058/25-26 Any other items the Chairman deems urgent

There were no other items deemed urgent.

A 059/25-26 Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Amenities Committee was scheduled to be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 09 June 2026.

A 060/25-26 Confidential Session

It was **RESOLVED** that under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the nature of the business to be transacted.

A 061/25-26 Howards Lane Public Toilet Update

The Committee considered the update regarding the Howards Lane Public Toilet.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council proceed with the consultant's recommendations outlined within the tabled briefing and make appropriate arrangements with the current cleaning contractor.

Chairman..... Date.....

DRAFT



AMENITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Meeting Date: 09 June 2026

Agenda Item: 8

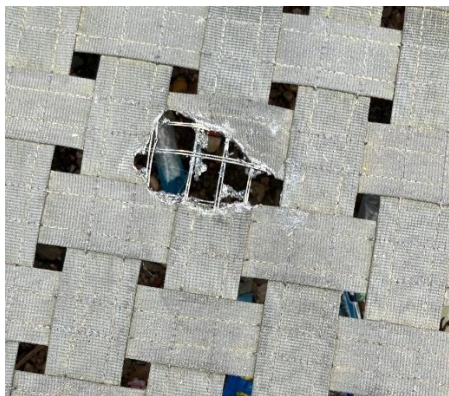

Subject:	Carey Play Area Trampoline Damage
Prepared by:	Sam Dickins, Deputy Town Clerk
Purpose of Report:	To consider the damage to the Carey Play Area trampoline and Council's ongoing approach regarding the piece of play area equipment.
Background:	<p>Wareham Town Council refurbished its four play areas in 2023, including the Carey Play Area. The Carey Play Area received a sunken trampoline as part of its refurbishment.</p> <p>Ongoing maintenance for the play areas includes a level of expected cost as items are damaged or need replacement through standard use as well as occasional occurrences of vandalism or misuse.</p> <p>Officers have noted the Carey Play Area trampoline has required considerably higher maintenance demand since installation and again requires further maintenance.</p> <p>This paper has been prepared to consider costs to repair the trampoline as well as to consider whether Council might wish to replace the sunken trampoline with an alternative piece of play equipment, less susceptible to damage or likely to confer maintenance costs.</p>
Key Points:	<p>Nature and Extent of Damage:</p> <p>Since the trampoline safety edging's repair in March 2026, the trampoline has sustained some significant fraying and damage weakening multiple localised portions of the trampoline mat. Only the trampoline mat requires replacement.</p> <p>The affected trampoline has been marked as closed to prevent use or injury.</p> <p>Though the affected areas are small, they present weaknesses in the fabric of the trampoline, with exposed reinforced string posing a hazard to users and producing the risk of a user's appendage wholly penetrating the trampoline if landed upon directly. The damage has predominantly been caused by fire.</p> <p>A photograph of the damaged area is displayed in <i>Figures 1, 2 and 3</i>.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><i>Fig 1.</i></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><i>Fig 2.</i></p> </div> </div>



Fig 3.

Repair Expenditure Over Equipment's Lifecycle:

During the trampoline's approximate 3 years of usage to date, the following repairs have been required to keep it safely operational totalling £1,578.09 (excl. VAT).

- Replacement Springs £103.70 (excl. VAT) *Required October 2024*
- Replacement Safety Edging £1,474.39 (excl. VAT) *Required March 2026*

To complete the subsequent required repair, this maintenance cost would increase to no less than £2,528.09 (excl. VAT) in this period.

- Lowest Quoted Costs Replacement Mat £950 (excl. VAT) *Potentially required June 2026*

The Carey Hall Play Area Maintenance Budget is **£500**.

Additional Equipment Issues:

Sunken trampolines entail some additional operational and administrative factors.

- The pits underneath these trampolines are susceptible to litter and detritus build ups. While these can be cleared during the grounds team's standard maintenance, the required removal and reinstatement of the trampoline mat take significantly more time to sufficiently maintain.
- Some insurers for the Town and Parish sector have recently disseminated that Town and Parish Councils are required to inform them whether their play areas contained sunken trampolines, as these had been identified as higher potential risk. While this does not currently negatively impact Wareham Town Council, the insurance industry may increase how stringently sunken trampolines are to be insured or may add additional insurance premiums for their cover.



Potential Alternatives:

Officers have considered whether an alternative piece of playground equipment might be suitably identified to replace the current sunken trampoline.

This consideration has been made with a view to understand whether the Amenities Committee would wish for officers to identify similarly sized equipment which is tailored for the same or similar age range, and is less susceptible to damaged or vandalised components.

If the Amenities Committee wishes to consider this further, officers could make investigations and return their findings for the Committee’s next meeting, as opposed to commissioning a repair at this meeting.

Quoted Repair Costs:

Officers contacted the sunken trampoline’s manufacturer and received the contact details for all 5 UK-based firms selling the required replacement trampoline mat.

5 firms were contacted, and 4 quotations received at this paper’s circulation.

Supplier	Quoted Cost (Excl. VA)	Officer Recommendation
Supplier 1	£1,085	Do not appoint
Supplier 2	£950	Recommendation, if repair desired
Supplier 3	£2,126.32	Do not appoint
Supplier 4	£1,337.15	Do not appoint

Overbudget Expenditure:

Both a repair of the trampoline, or a subsequent replacement piece of play equipment would exceed the allocated budget for the Carey Play Area, requiring it to be approved by either the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee or Full Council.

Implications:

Loss of Amenity: The currently damaged trampoline is no longer available to the public for use. This amounts to a loss of amenity play equipment for the public.

Liability / Risk of Injury: Without repair, the trampoline cannot be used safely and making it prematurely available to the public confers a liability risk.

Financial Implications - Repairs: The Carey Play Area trampoline has incurred significant expenses to maintain over its current service life. Its potential repair is equally an over-budget expenditure. Members may wish to consider whether the amenity of the trampoline still offers value for money for the taxpayer.



	<p>Financial Implications – Replacement: Replacing the trampoline with an alternate piece of playground equipment will entail an over-budget expenditure. Members may wish to consider whether the amenity of an alternate piece of play equipment would offer value for money for the taxpayer.</p> <p>Repair or Replacement Delays: Extended delays in either the repair or replacement of the trampoline will extend the length of loss of amenity in the Carey Play Area and lead to disappointment among members of the public.</p>
Recommendation:	<p>To consider whether the Amenities Committee wishes to seek to commission a repair on the trampoline and to make a recommendation for expenditure to either the Policy, Resources & Finance Committee or Full Council.</p> <p>Should Council wish to recommend a repair, officers recommend any further damage requiring repair is monitored and the matter revisited.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>To consider whether the Amenities Committee wishes to task officers to investigate potential alternative pieces of play equipment to remove and replace the sunken trampoline.</p>