



**Minutes of a meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 10 February 2026 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, East Street, Wareham at 7.30pm.**

**Committee Members present:** Councillors V Green (Chairman), S Wheatley (Vice Chairman), M Cotton, K Critchley, S Dean, L Kirk and D Robinson.

**Officers present:** N Gray, Town Clerk & RFO, S Dickins, Deputy Town Clerk

The Chair welcomed Cllr S Dean to the Committee following Cllr Davey stepping down.

**A 040/25-26 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr M Hill.

**A 041/25-26 Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**A 042/25-26 Public participation time**

There were no members of the public present.

**A 043/25-26 Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 09 December 2025 were **APPROVED** and would be signed by the Chairman following the meeting.

**A 044/25-26 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting**

Cllr Cotton confirmed the fencing at Carey play area had been completed.

Cllr Critchley asked what the position was with the replacement trampoline padding. The Deputy Clerk confirmed work was underway.

**A 045/25-26 Dog Refuse Bin – Bell’s Orchard / North Bestwall Road**

The Committee considered the report regarding the installation of a refuse bin near the Walls at Bell’s Orchard and North Bestwall Road. It was noted that there had been a dog bin at the proposed site in previous years, but this had been removed due to the cost of servicing the bin. It was suggested that it needed to be a general waste bin rather than a specific dog waste bin.

It was **RESOLVED** that a general waste bin be installed at the recommended site away from the sign with the responsibility of emptying the bin falling to the grounds team, on the condition that all stakeholders agree to the siting.

**A 046/25-26 Dorset Mind – Chatty Bench Campaign**

The Committee considered the report regarding the Dorset Mind Chatty Bench Campaign proposal, and it was questioned as to whether the bench would be replacing an existing bench or be an addition. The Deputy Clerk confirmed that it would be a replacement.

It was requested that the bench be positioned to take in the view rather than the roundabout.

It was **RESOLVED** that the proposal be accepted and the suggested location be agreed as a replacement bench with it sited facing the view rather than the roundabout.

**A 047/25-26 Hedgehog Haven Scheme**

The Committee considered the report regarding the proposed hedgehog haven scheme on land at Carey Hall, Hauses Field and the Recreation Ground. Cllr Cotton noted that Carey Hall area had already got a hedgehog area built, so it was not required at that site, but the principle was supported.

Cllr Critchley requested that the school be involved in the monitoring of the sites and the Deputy Clerk noted that there could be a spare box available to offer to the school. It was noted there was a hedgehog society in Wareham, and it would be wise to liaise with them as to the best locations and where hedgehogs are present.

It was **RESOLVED** that liaison with the hedgehog society to establish the best locations to site them and how many would be required, with the Men’s Shed being requested to make up to 8 hedgehog boxes to be funded from the Towns Features and Furniture – General Maintenance budget.

**A 048/25-26 Town Hall Roof Repair**

The Committee considered the verbal report from the Deputy Clerk and Town Clerk regarding required repairs to the Town Hall roof.

It was **RESOLVED** that delegated authority be given to the Town Clerk and Chair to assess the quotes when they came in and agree the awarding of a contractor to complete the works, with the cost being allocated from the Town Hall – Equipment and Maintenance budget.

**A 049/25-26 Howards Lane Public Convenience Update**

The Committee considered the update regarding the Howards Lane public convenience project and a verbal update from the Deputy Clerk and Town Clerk on the current situation.

A discussion took place regarding the contractors’ inability to deliver the tender and the possible courses of action available to the Council.

It was **RESOLVED** that delegated authority be given to the Town Clerk to enter discussions with Healthmatic as to their ability to deliver the project and the way forward.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Build Project Working party meet to discuss alternative plans for recommendation to the next Amenities Committee and the engagement of CL Planning Ltd to assist the Council.

**A 050/25-26 Any other items the Chairman deems urgent**

There were no items deemed urgent.

**A 051/25-26 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 14 April 2026.

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