Draft Open Spaces Committee Meeting Minutes
This meeting was held on Tuesday 24th November 2026 at 10:30am
Ashurst Room, Colbury Memorial Hall

In Attendance: Cllr Trevor Jakeman **(Chair),** Cllr Sue Robinson, Cllr Bobbie Torkington **(Vice-Chair),** Cllr Clive White, Karen Cramoysan (Clerk),1 Member of Public.

22 **Apologies for Absence -** Cllr Caroline Hubbard

23 **Declarations of Interest** - None

24 **Public Participation** – Allotments Representative, Nick Waterman spoke on various allotment issues and these were minuted under the relevant agenda item. He also asked if there would be another cut on the grass in the allotments, Clerk will find out.

25 **Minutes of 25th August 2026 - RESOLVED:** Minutes were received and signed by the Open Spaces Chair as an accurate copy.

Matters Arising at Chair's discretion (if not covered by the agenda below):

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- **Insurance Claim for vandalised Bus Shelter** – Payment has now been received in the bank.
- **Plaques for Free Trees –** Cllr Jakeman advised that a plaque for tree number 8 has been installed. Unfortunately, Tree No 7 has died.
- **Allotment Combination Gate Locks** – are now on all gates. Cllr Jakeman has the old locks and keys and will put these in our storage unit.
- **Fence Repair –** Plotholder has reported a hole in the fence between us and Totton. Clerk has reported this to Totton & Eling Town Council.
- **Dead Tree in Allotments** – Clerk asked Will at Nightingale Groundcare to look at this. He could not find which tree it was and Clerk went back to him with more information but has not heard from him since. Clerk will chase.
- **Bus Shelter Grant from HCC– RESOLVED:** All works have now been carried out

27 **Recreation Ground:**

1. **Play Inspections going forward – RESOLVED**: Kompan offered us a price to continue with inspecting the play equipment but we already have a contract with Elite which is cheaper..
2. **CIL Bid for Path Repairs – RESOLVED:** Clerk advised that NFDC will let us know if we are successful or not around 14th December.
3. **Litter Bins – RESOLVED**: Despite chasing, Clerk still has not received the credit from NFDC.
4. **Handyman works – RESOLVED:** All works issued in the summer have been dealt with. New work issued to repair the wire mesh at the bottom of the fencing.
5. **Vandalism to Trinket Box - RESOLVED:** The Parish Council thanks Cllr Hubbard's husband, Ross Hanson for his speedy repairs to the vandalised trinket box and re-siting it in the Wildplay area. If vandalism occurs again, the Parish Council will review the provision of the Trinket Box.
6. **Lakewood Rd boundary fence dispute - RESOLVED:** The Clerk and Cllr White are liaising with the resident and continuing to look at historic paperwork.

28 **Community & Environment:**

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a) Allotments

1. Community Payback – RESOLVED: are on site this morning and are also booked for next Tuesday (1st December). It was **AGREED:** by all Councillors for the Clerk to order a middle-sized skip so that the soil & ditch debris from the car park can be loaded into it next week.

Nick Waterman asked if the CPS could look at the internal hedge as it could do with a cut back and also advised that the wood chipping pile in the car park needed to be used otherwise it would mulch down and cause a mess. He will email plot holders to advise them that the wood chippings are free and can be used by anyone.

2. Rat Culling – RESOLVED: Free of Charge shoot carried out in September. 14 rats culled. We received an offer from a plot holder to carry out free rat culling once or twice a month to keep the numbers down. Unfortunately, the plot holder does not hold personal insurance for this to be carried out, so the Parish Council have declined his kind offer.

3. To consider a Pest Control and Water surcharge for plotholders - RESOLVED: After a lengthy discussion, it was **AGREED:** not to pass on a charge to plot holders at the moment, but to review this at a later date. The Parish Council will provide basic pest control with bait boxes. If plotholders wish to call out a company for professional rat culling, the cost of this will be divided by plotholders and they will be invoiced before the company is called out. Tenancy Agreements will be updated to reflect this.

4.Handyman works - RESOLVED: Councillors **AGREED**: the latest quote from Ewan Brown at the November Full Council meeting and we are waiting for a date when he can repair the gates and water inspection slabs.

5. To Arrange a date for Allotment Inspections: RESOLVED: Cllr Jakeman will arrange a date for this to be carried out with Nick Waterman and Cllr Torkington.

b) Bus Shelters – RESOLVED: Nothing to report.

c) Proposed 20 mph limit in Whartons Lane - RESOLVED: It was agreed at the November Full Council meeting not to pursue this any further until HCC Highways reviewed their fee charges.

d) Benches - RESOLVED: Cllr Tipp is helping the Clerk with who to contact for permission to site these new benches.

Cllrs Jakeman and White are meeting with Stuart of MTSG Group tomorrow afternoon to look at their design for the Colin Phillips Memorial Bench.

29 Precinct:

a) Planters - RESOLVED: Two of the planters have now been removed as they were nearing the end of their life. Cllr Torkington advised that the gardener had tidied the remaining planters.

Christmas Event and Residents Christmas Lights Competition – RESOLVED: Cllr Torkington will speak to the Co op to ask if they would donate mince pies for the Christmas Event.

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Clerk has publicised the Residents Christmas Light Competition and posters are now also on the noticeboards and website.

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31	**Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 23rd February 2027 at 2pm. Clerk has given her apologies in advance of this meeting as she will be on annual leave. Cllr Robinson has kindly offered to be the minute taker.

Meeting closed at 11:32am

Signature:	
Date:	

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