



## AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting on Wednesday 2nd July 2025

**Present:** Cllrs Rathbone (TR) - Chairman, Fagan (PF), Harvey (SH)

**In Attendance:** E Bambrook, Clerk

1. **Election of Committee Chairman:** Cllr. Rathbone was elected committee Chairman.

***Resolved:** The Amenities Committee elected Cllr. Rathbone as committee Chairman.*

2. **Election of Committee Vice Chairman:** Cllr. Morgan was elected as Vice Chairman of the committee.

***Resolved:** The Amenities Committee elected Cllr. Morgan as Vice Chairman of the committee.*

3. **Declarations of Interest:** No declarations of interest were made.

4. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs. Morgan and Freeman

5. **Minutes of the Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025:**

***Resolved:** The minutes of the meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025 were accepted as a true and accurate record.*

6. **Tree Report:** There was nothing to report on this occasion.

7. **Budget Review and Monitoring:** The budget monitoring documents were reviewed and no issues of concern were raised.

8. **Annual Plan:** Progress against the Annual Plan was reviewed and all was considered to be in order. Cllr. Harvey asked for the Village Gates Project to be placed on the next agenda with a view to establishing whether this project is feasible.

9. **Primrose Chase Project:** Quotes were sought from three contractors, although the estimated cost of the project falls below the threshold for formal quotes. Only two contractors submitted quotes and these were reviewed by the committee. Quote 2 was selected and the contract would be awarded based on a satisfactory reference and a copy of the contractor's Public Liability Insurance certificate.

***Resolved:** The committee selected Quote 2 to be awarded on receipt of a satisfactory reference and copy of the contractor's Public Liability Insurance certificate.*

10. **Events:** The following updates were received:

- a) **Christmas Lights Switch On Event:** It was confirmed that the event application has been submitted to CEC. Concerns were raised over CEC's inspections of trees on The Bogbean and whether this is sufficient to mitigate the risk. CEC has previously confirmed that as part of the inspection programme, trees are assessed for action only if they are dead, diseased or dying, or causing damage to property. Small branches do sometimes fall from healthy trees due to adverse weather but that their inspectors evaluate any potential risks and take appropriate action to manage the tree's condition. It was agreed that the Clerk would follow up any concerns about the trees with representatives from CEC during the planning process for the event. In addition, any concerns will be reviewed regularly up to and including the day of the event.

It was confirmed that Goostrey Community Choir had been put in contact with Rode Hall Silver Band to arrange for the choir to sing at the event. The Band Manager was extremely positive about this. The resident who plays Santa has also confirmed his availability.

The Clerk advised that additional decorations would be purchased for Santa's Grotto and agreed that she would send links of the proposed purchases to the committee for review. Cllr. Fagan confirmed that the decorations from last year would also be available. It was also agreed that a loud hailer would be purchased so that there could be a countdown to the switch on.

It was agreed that Cllr. Fagan would ask one of the local pubs if they would be willing to sell drinks, including soft drinks and mulled wine at the event. Cllr. Fagan will also see if we can organise a sweets stall.

The committee agreed that all members would help with set up and stewarding on the day.

- b) Seniors' Christmas Lunch:** Arrangements for this event were confirmed to be on track. The ticket price will be considered at the next meeting and a recommendation for the Finance Committee made.

**11. Environmental Improvements Programme:** The report and draft questions were reviewed by the committee and were approved, with the addition of the option for people who would like to volunteer to provide their contact details. The draft survey will be included on the next council meeting agenda for approval. The aim will be to include a copy of the survey in with distribution of a council newsletter in January. There will also be an online version of the survey.

**12. Goostrey Playground Community Project:** Cllr. Morgan had provided a report to be presented in his absence. Unfortunately, the second application for a grant from the FCC Communities Foundation for the Booth Bed Lane Play Area has been unsuccessful. This is very disappointing and is not related to the quality of the application but to an increased number of applications to the fund combined with a reducing fund pot. This certainly does not mean the development plans are at an end. Over the summer the working group will meet to consider a number of options (such as taking a phased approach to the development) and to discuss the possibilities for fundraising from local residents and the community. A further update will be provided later in the summer.

The committee appreciated that the Working Group would need time to meet to consider the options available and develop a plan but would like a detailed report to be submitted to the council as soon as possible. The report would help members to understand the current financial position of the project, any deadlines and how the project can be progressed. The committee is keen that the project does not stall and that further funding options and volunteer assistance is explored.

**13. Speed Indicator Devices:** The committee agreed that the Clerk should continue to attempt to get TWM to resolve the issue with the lack of remote download from the SID at Shearbrook. In the meantime all the devices work in terms of display and that the council should replace them as they become inoperable. A reserve of over £4,000 has been set aside for this and should remain in place.

**14. Environmental Policy:** The committee reviewed the policy and no changes were made, apart from the changing the title of the policy to the Environmental & Bio-Diversity Policy.

**Resolved:** *The committee resolved to approve the Environmental & Bio-Diversity Policy.*

**15. Correspondence:** A resident has contacted the Clerk to complain about the hedges bordering the land on Station Road overhanging the pavement. The Clerk confirmed that CEC will not take action and that she will write to the owners to ask them to cut the hedges.

**16. Minor items and matters for the next meeting:**

**Minor items:**

- Clerk to ask the grounds maintenance contractor to plan to replace the dead environmental hedge plants in the autumn.

**Items for the next meeting:**

- Ticket price for the Seniors' Christmas Lunch.
- Village Gates Project.

**17. Date of the next Amenities Committee Meeting:** Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025.

**18. Meeting closed at 9pm**