

# Marlborough Town Council



## Amenities and Open Spaces Committee

**Minutes of a meeting of the Amenities & Open Spaces Committee held Monday,  
16 June 2025 in the Council Chamber, Marlborough Town Hall at 7pm**

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<b>PRESENT</b>	Councillor Mark Cooper	Chair
	Councillor Emily Trow	Town Mayor
	Councillor Kelvyn Shantry	
	Councillor Susannah O'Brien	
	Councillor Caroline Sadler	
	Councillor Peter Morgan	
	Richard Spencer-Williams	Town Clerk
	Dawn Whitehall	Corporate Services Officer

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### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no members of the public present.

**54/25**

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence had been received from **Councillors Farrell, Wrench** and the **Grounds Manager**.

**55/25**

### **DECLARATIONS**

**Councillor Cooper** – agenda item 13 (Allotments) – non-pecuniary. Cllr Cooper holds an allotment at St Johns Close. Members granted dispensation for him to speak and answer questions but he would not vote on a proposal related to Stonebridge Lane Allotments.

**56/25**

### **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The **Chair** welcomed **Councillor Morgan** to his first A&OS meeting.

An event "Wild Marlborough" has been arranged for 6 September, 10:30-12:30 in the Town Hall. The aim is to create a 'get connected' biodiversity map showing wildlife corridors and how they join green spaces in the town with the broader area: people will be able to attend and add their houses or other locations to the map. The event is a collaboration between the Town Council and related organisations such as Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Action for the River Kennet (ARK), Forestry England and other stakeholders. Promotion will follow once the event planning is complete.

In the previous week the Town Clerk had issued notice to an unauthorised encampment at Salisbury Road Recreation Ground, and the vehicles were now gone. They had first tried to access the Common but the new bunds had prevented this. The Town Clerk and Grounds Manager were putting a plan in place to secure the Recreation Ground from unauthorised vehicle access.

**57/25 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held 15 April 2025 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair

**58/25 ACTION LOG**

Members noted the updated action log.

**59/25 STONEBRIDGE MEADOW**

**Councillor Shantry** provided a verbal update on the most recent meeting of the Stonebridge Meadow Management Committee (SMMC).

The problem with dog waste is getting worse, and very often in secluded areas that are not on obvious, visible paths, deposited when dogs are allowed to run free. There are signs in place asking people to keep dogs on leads during nesting season, and waste bags are provided free of charge but increasingly some dog owners are ignoring both. This is hazardous to wildlife and people, as well as very unpleasant for unwary walkers and children when school parties visit the Meadow.

As a result, at the SMMC meeting **Cllr Shantry** had been asked to raise this with the A&OS committee to ask whether the Town Council will agree to signs being erected to say that dogs must be kept on leads all year round. This would apply to all areas in the Meadow but would not apply to the two beaches, where dogs could still access the river.

Members noted that the signs would rely on goodwill with no means of enforcement. However, the **Town Clerk** advised that dog fouling was an issue right across the county. In response, Wiltshire Council was initiating a new map to show areas covered by Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs), which would allow enforcement where there was antisocial behaviour, including dog fouling. It was likely that town and parish councils would be approached to specify locations that they would like added to this map.

**RESOLVED:** that ARK may erect signs at Stonebridge Meadow to inform owners that dogs must be kept on leads all year round (with the exception of two access points to the river)

**60/25 GROUNDS MANAGER'S REPORT**

Members noted the Grounds Manager's report. The **Chair** commended the team on the appearance of the Cemetery and the new Cemetery signs.

## 61/25 TREE REPORT

Members noted the report of what tree works had been progressed or were required within the Council's estate, and the priority order. Lower priority works requiring the services of a tree surgeon would be scheduled for early 2026 – this would allow some protection of the tree works budget to make provision for unforeseen damage such as autumn or winter storms.

## 62/25 FINANCE REPORT

Members noted the A&OS finance report for month 2.

## 63/25 WORKSHOP EXTENSION

The **Town Clerk** provided a verbal update on progress:

- Phase 2 was almost complete, and staff had moved into their new quarters allowing reconfiguration of the old space to create more workshop space.
- Fencing work would begin this week, delayed by the unauthorised encampment at the Recreation Ground.
- A connecting boundary path was still to be completed.
- A greenhouse was on order.
- The project was still on budget although some supplementary spend was still needed (e.g. racking for bedding plants)

## 64/25 CEMETERY EXTENSION

Members noted the Town Clerk's report and expressed frustration that the land handover from GreenSquare Accord had still not taken place, noting that the summer holidays were fast approaching and the children's play area could not be used until remediation works and safety signoff had been completed.

## 65/25 VICTORIAN CEMETERY AND ARBORETUM

**Cllr Sadler** provided a verbal update:

- An open morning planned for 7 June had been postponed due to poor weather and was rescheduled for 9 August.
- The new sign was now in place.
- At the last meeting the Committee had agreed to the creation of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, and this was on the agenda for the Town Council to ratify on 23 June.
- The next meeting of the Friends of the Victorian Cemetery was 25 July.

## 66/25 ALLOTMENTS

**Cllr Cooper** and the **Town Clerk** had met with representatives from Stonebridge Lane allotments and agreed a way forward for managing the site, to be reviewed in September.

Members considered whether to continue to lease the land from St Johns Trust, which had advised of a rent increase from £250 per annum in 2016 to £325 per annum with 5-yearly reviews.

*Councillor Cooper did not vote on the following item*

**RESOLVED:** to renew the lease of land at Stonebridge Lane from St Johns Trust at £325 per annum

**67/25 CEMETERY REGULATIONS**

Cemetery regulations were last reviewed in 2017. Members considered updated draft regulations which added clarification about regulations prior to, and after, interment.

**RESOLVED:** that the draft Cemetery Regulations be adopted

**68/25 CEMETERY REPORT**

Members noted the most recent exclusive rights of burial, notices of interment and memorial inscriptions and additions that had been granted.

The meeting closed at 7.53 pm

Signed: .....  
Chair

Date: .....