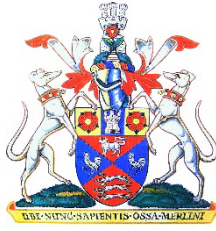


Marlborough Town Council



Amenities and Open Spaces Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Amenities and Open Spaces Committee held Monday,
29 June 2026 in the Court Room, Marlborough Town Hall at 7pm

PRESENT	Councillor Emily Trow	Chair
	Councillor Mark Luson	Town Mayor
	Councillor Mark Cooper	
	Councillor Kelvyn Shantry	
	Councillor Susannah O'Brien	
	Councillor Caroline Sadler	
	Councillor Nicholas Awbery	
	Councillor Kim Wakeham	
	Richard Spencer-Williams	Town Clerk
	Dawn Whitehall	Corporate Services Officer

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present and no questions had been submitted in writing.

80/26 APOLOGIES
Apologies for absence were received from **Councillor Farrell** and the **Grounds Manager, Nigel Weatherly**.

81/26 DECLARATIONS
There were no declarations of interest.

82/26 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
The Chair thanked **Councillor Cooper** for his hard work and dedication to this committee during his time as its Chair.

83/26 MINUTES
RESOLVED: that minutes of the meeting held 16 March 2026 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair

84/26

ACTION LOG

#250 had been outstanding since 2024, and **Councillor Sheppard** was no longer a member of this Committee. Members agreed several steps to seek clarification to aid decision making:

ACTION (i) ask the residents association whether the request to plant trees next to four benches at College Fields and Barton Park was still required

ACTION (ii) seek advice from Wiltshire Council about whether the request can be granted with Wiltshire Council continuing to manage and mow the green spaces

85/26

STONEBRIDGE MEADOW

Councillors Shantry and **O'Brien** had attended the Stonebridge Meadow Management Committee meeting held 26 June, and provided an update of discussions with Action for the River Kennet:

- Continuing issues with dog fouling and dogs not being kept on leads
- Sinuous paths had been mown through the meadow
- The sheep would be returning to Cooper's Meadow soon
- An open day was being planned for 29 August at Stonebridge Wild River Reserve offering guided tours of the reserve, and an opportunity to appeal to dog owners to keep their dogs on leads

86/26

GROUNDS MANAGER'S REPORT

Members noted the Grounds Manager's Report and commended his team on the work carried out.

87/26

TREE REPORT

Members noted the report on the Council's trees.

Every 4-5 years the Council's trees are inspected by an arboriculturist, and this was due during the current year. It was likely that the list of tree works would increase following the inspection.

88/26

VICTORIAN CEMETERY AND ARBORETUM

Councillors Sadler and **Wakeham** had attended a meeting with the Friends group on 20 May, and provided a verbal update:

- There were issues with dog fouling and dogs being let off leads
- Acknowledging the good work of the Grounds Team
- The draft Charitable Incorporated Organisation forms had been signed and submitted
- **Councillor Wakeham** was preparing a historical report
- Discussions about a provisional open morning to be held on 12 September
- The next meeting will take place on 17 July

89/26

CEMETERY EXTENSION

Members noted the Town Clerk's update report. The Town Council's solicitor had been instructed to prepare to transfer the ownership of Hawthorn Meadow to the Town Council, after which the DEFRA application could be submitted, beginning the process and statutory consultation to deregister the land at Marlborough Common at the proposed cemetery extension site.

90/26

ALLOTMENTS

Stonebridge Allotments site had been included in the recent Marlborough Open Gardens and had received about 20 visitors. It had really highlighted the strong return after the devastating floods in 2024, with hard work put in by the allotmenters and in particular thanks were conveyed to the Grounds team for all their help with signage, materials, a new bench, maintenance and provision of compost.

91/26

BUDGET REPORT

Members noted the budget position at month 2. There had been a significant increase in fuel costs.

92/26

PROJECT REQUEST

Members noted the Town Clerk's report, and that the remaining project budget figure had been incorrectly stated – it should read £6,089. The condition of the entrance onto the Common opposite the Rugby Clubhouse was also discussed.

It was noted that the entrance to be resurfaced crosses a scheduled monument, so appropriate permissions would be required.

RESOLVED: to resurface the entrance to the Common at Jackson's Corner (the top of Kingsbury Street) at an estimated cost of £3,736

93/26

CEMETERY REPORT

Members noted recently issued Grants of Exclusive Rights of Burial and recently approved Memorials and Inscriptions.

The meeting closed at 7.33 pm

Signed:

Chair

Date: