

Minutes of the meeting of the **Amenities Committee** held at the **Shire Hall** on **Wednesday 3rd September 2025** at **7pm**.

Councillors:

Present: D Adelson, S Bale, E Beck, S Miller, E O’Nolan and S Sadler.

Apologies: D Pegg, R Sanders and M Wilks.

In Attendance: Deputy Town Clerk (Mrs Belinda Lloyd) and twelve members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were approved for Cllrs. D Pegg, R Sanders and M Wilks.

2. Request for declarations of interest.

Cllr Adelson made a declaration of pecuniary interest as Secretary and member of the Woodbridge Growers Association in relation to items 9 on the agenda.

Cllr O’Nolan made a declaration of pecuniary interest as founder and chair of the Deban Climate Centre in relation to item 9 on the agenda.

3. Request for dispensations.

Cllr O’Nolan requested a dispensation to participate in discussion only related to item 9 and Cllr Adelson requested a dispensation to remain in the room, and to address the committee before it discusses the agenda item and makes its decision about the lease.

The Committee agreed to grant a dispensation permitting both councillors to remain in the room to respond to questions relating to Item 9. However, they will not be entitled to vote. This dispensation applies to this meeting only.

4. Public Question Time.

The committee heard from Jane Healy regarding item 6, Matilda Sojoberg, Wendy Herniman, Nick Jarratt, and Hayley Caine regarding item 9 of the agenda.

5. To agree and approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July 2025.

The minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held 2nd July 2025 were approved as a true record.

6. To consider the extension of the Transition Woodbridge orchard in Fen Meadow.

The Chair announced a break in standing orders to allow Jane Healy to answer some questions about the existing orchard and the work Transition Woodbridge has done to the orchard in Fen Meadow.

The committee agreed to an, in principle, agreement to the planting of an extension to the Fen Meadow Orchard. Members agreed to delegate Clerk/Deputy Clerk to spend up to £500 for the project. Members would like to ensure a watering plan is considered to ensure the successful establishment of the new trees and asked officers to discuss with the parties concerned.

7. To consider the results from the Fen Meadow community engagement survey and agree a position for the play area.

Members considered the results of the public engagement and agreed that the refurbishment of the existing play be preferable than relocating new equipment in the open Fen.

Members agreed that regular maintenance of the surrounding nettles and undergrowth be undertaken once the new equipment is installed, and that Officers should seek professional advice regarding the surrounding trees, including the potential of lifting/ crown reduction.

8. To agree a recommendation of the approved supply and design for the play area update in Fen Meadow.

Members agreed to shortlist Wickstead and Kompan as the two preferred contractors for the refurbishment of the existing play area in Fen Meadow.

Members asked for refined designs with options for:
2 slides and steps, less obstacle courses, swings and possibly an alternative of a cargo net instead of the rope pull option.

Members also want to consider options for matta tiles on both designs.

9. **To consider the applications received for the lease for the Elmhurst Park Kitchen Garden.**

Patch up withdrew her application via email before the meeting.

Members considered the applications made by both the Deben Climate Centre and the Woodbridge Growers.

Councillor Eamonn O’Nolan of the Deben Climate Centre and Councillor David Adelson of the Woodbridge Growers Association answered questions from the committee in line with the dispensation granted.

The Committee voted unanimously to recommend to Full Council that the Deben Climate Centre be offered the lease for the Elmhurst Park kitchen garden.

10. **To note the emergency repairs completed on Tide Mill Quay and to consider the condition of the Whisstock’s Quay.**

Members noted the repairs to Tide Mill Quay and the condition of Whisstock’s Quay, Officers were asked to receive quotes for the repair works to be considered by Town Council.

11. **To consider a request from the Suffolk Bird Group to install nestboxes on the Town Council estate.**

Members agreed to give permission for The Suffolk Bird Group to install nestboxes and asked for a retrospective plan of the boxes.

12. **Closure.**

The meeting was closed at 8.50pm.

Councillor Miller
Chair