

Minutes of the meeting of the **Amenities Committee** held at the **Shire Hall** on **Wednesday 7th January 2026** at **7pm**.

Councillors:

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

Apologies: D Pegg

In Attendance: Town Clerk (Mr G E Diaper) and no members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were approved for Cllr. D Pegg.

2. Request for declarations of interest.

No members made any declarations of interests in relation to items on the agenda

3. Request for dispensations.

No members made any requests for a dispensation in relation to items on the agenda.

4. Public Question Time.

There were no members of the public present.

5. To agree and approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2025.

The minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held 3rd December 2025 were approved as a true record.

6. To note the receipt of the final report and recommendations from SLC regarding Kingston Field.

The Committee discussed at length the recommendations/ proposed improvements from SLC further to the Kingston Field consultation and agreed the following actions for each of the proposals (as provided in the report and detailed in the agenda for this meeting):

- Additions to the pavilion (for example an additional single disabled toilet provision, a multi-generational community room or changing facilities)

- It was agreed to remit to the Property Working Party any future consideration of extensions to the building, including ongoing communication with the Woodbridge Tennis Club.
- Officers were requested to communicate with the Council's café tenants as to the success of their business during the first six months of their eighteen-month lease.

- Additional footpaths (parallel to Jetty Lane and parallel to southern boundary)

- Officers were asked to seek quotations for the installation of pathways as provided in the report, split and prioritised as follows:
 - Section parallel to Jetty Lane (funding to be sought from Suffolk County Council Highways as this path is required as footways are not provided on the adjacent highway).
 - Section from play area entrance to access to Cow Path.
 - Section from Kingston Farm Road to Cow Path.

- Raised road crossing to allow wheeled access from the car park

- This was not considered a requirement by the Committee.

- Improved signage to existing provision (e.g. toilets and walking trails), reminders for dog owners to pick up waste as well as a bigger 'Welcome' type sign to the playing field itself

- The Committee noted that any future signage improvements for the field could be included as part of a proposed update to the Council's 'Corporate branding', which is being considered initially by the Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee.

- Improved lighting

- This was not considered a requirement by the Committee.

- Extension of the pétanque piste

- An extension of the pétanque piste at its existing location was agreeable to the Committee, and Officers were asked to contact the local club as to their

thoughts on such a proposal, and if agreeable, seek quotations for the proposed works.

- New outdoor gym equipment

- Officers were asked to seek quotations for the removal of the existing outdoor gym equipment, and for replacement equipment to be provided which encouraged balance and non-mechanical exercise/activities.

- Removal of the cricket strip.

- Officers were asked to seek quotations for the removal of existing cricket strip and for the area to be turfed.

Additionally, the following actions were agreed by the Committee following consideration of the report:

- The Woodbridge Tennis Club be asked to consider a permissive toilet scheme.
- That the publicly accessible toilet located at the Kingston Pavilion be made available (and cleaned) seven days a week. The Finance Committee were asked to consider including such costs in the Council's budget, and for the Estates Officers to advise on the installation of a Salto locking system to the unit.
- That Officers investigate the possibility of multi-use area to include cricket nets and paddle and pickle ball, for installation at a yet to be agreed location on the field.

The Town Clerk was also asked to confirm with SLC the statistics quoted in regard of social cohesion, which were of surprise to the Committee.

7. To consider the proposals from the Climate Ecological Emergency Committee regarding Kingston Field for:

a. The planting of Cherry trees in Kingston Field

The Committee agreed that the Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee, who would fund the purchase of the two cherry trees, may proceed as planned with the proposed planting.

b. The planting of a Cork Oak circle in Kingston Field

Cllr. Beck was asked to continue her dialogue with Julian Kingston-Smith.

8. To review the play specification from East Suffolk Council regarding the play area at Newnham Avenue.

The Committee considered the Newnham Avenue play area improvement specification as provided by Sarah Shinnie from East Suffolk Council and agreed that the only addition the Committee wish to recommend is that natural, circular seating (similar to that located in Bury Hill Close in Melton), be included.

Officers were also asked to contact Sarah Shinnie in regard of an application by the Council for District CIL in order that we may contribute toward this vital improvement to the play facilities in Kyson Ward.

9. To discuss the concept Active Travel Woodbridge plans from Suffolk County Council for the Market Hill area and how this can be incorporated into a wider review of the Market Square.

The Chair advised the Committee of her meeting with the Suffolk County Council Project Manager for Active Travel where the concept plans for Market Hill were discussed.

The Committee considered these plans alongside the Committee's desire to improve the public realm of Market Hill, specifically improvements to planting and seating in order to make the area more appealing to residents and visitors.

The Committee agreed to recommend to Full Council that the Council request of the Active Travel Woodbridge project team that as part of the project plans for the Market Hill, the parking bays on the central island/ Market Square be removed in order that public realm improvements can be fully incorporated into the design of the area.

10. To discuss the ideas for seating in Elmhurst Park.

The Committee agreed that Officers be asked to investigate the costs of a terraced seating area in the Elmhurst Park dip, including wildflower and grass planting.

The Committee noted that these costs will be required for consideration by the Finance Committee at its February meeting, when year-end movements will be recommended to the March meeting Council.

11. Closure

The meeting was closed at 8.43pm.

Councillor Miller
Chair