

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY
23rd JUNE 2025 AT 7:00PM IN THE COLYTON TOWN HALL.**

Present: Cllrs G Stephenson, S Real, A Stenning, A Parr, J Gardiner, M Mann and R Turner. Also S Haines (clerk)

Members of public: 4

A25/06/11 To receive and accept apologies for absence. Cllrs Hay, Arnott and Chesterton.

A25/06/12 Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 27th May 2025 (appendix E) for approval. Cllr Stenning proposed these be approved, seconded by Cllr Gardiner and agreed by all.

A25/06/13 Matters arising from the Minutes. None.

A25/06/14 Declarations of interest. None.

A25/06/15 Democratic Period.

A member of the Allotment Association spoke of the use of pesticides on the allotments, in particular the use of sprays which will be airborne and very difficult to keep to one plot. They mentioned that it is not right that those who chose to garden organically, end up with chemicals on their plot if a neighbour is spraying. They also spoke of the detrimental effect on pesticides on the environment and soil quality. The current tenancy agreement discourages the use of pesticides under good practice but the Allotment Association would like to see it moved up to the rules and regulations section and for the Council to take a stronger stance. Cllr Parr explained that the Council don't usually like to get involved in the running of the allotments and it would be extremely difficult to police. Cllr Mann suggested the Allotment Association go away and start a petition amongst plot holders, if they can get 50% to sign it to say they would like to see the use of pesticides and weed killers banned then the Council would think again. The Allotment Association agreed to this.

Another member of public asked what the plan was for Millfield as they thought it was supposed to be a wildlife area but it keeps being topped with tractors which will not help this. Cllr Turner explained it was supposed to be wild flowers, not necessarily wildlife and the wild flowers are being over taken by the grass. The member of public suggested a 'friends of Millfield' group be created and they would help manage the area. Cllr Stephenson suggested that it would be a good idea and they should make a plan and come back to the Council for approval. This was agreed.

A member of the Allotment Association asked about having some 'starter plots' it would be an existing quarter plot which would be quartered again so anybody could have a small introduction to having an allotment, ideally this plot should be near the top of the allotments so it is close to the car park if there are any disabled or elderly people who wanted to have a try. The Allotment Association would take responsibility for the plot both financially and in keeping them tidy and weed free if there were no takers. Cllr Mann suggested they go on the wait list as they cannot jump the queue. This was agreed.

A25/06/16 Bus shelter at Coly Vale. Cllr Mann is awaiting quotes.

A25/06/17 Annual Parish Inspection findings. These have been circulated to all Councillors, a copy will be given to the handyman so he can start working through some of the jobs. Cllr Stephenson added that the concrete trough next to the letter box on Station Road is a mess and that the road sign on Station Road is broken – clerk will report this to highways.

A25/06/18 Allotments – use of pesticides and request for smaller 'practice plots' See public questions, it was agreed that the plots should all be numbered with a wooden stake.

A25/06/19 Request from MOP for some larger goals to be kept at the playing fields. Cllr Turner explained that unfortunately larger goals cannot be left out for anybody to use due to insurance purposes. This used to happen but kids would climb on them and one managed to pull the goal down on themselves and got hurt so the insurance will not cover us to leave out large goals.

A25/06/20 Items brought to the Chairs attention after the agenda was published to be noted.

Halcyon to be asked to cut bank at picnic site.

Jason Mair to be asked to quote for tree works at Newbury Close.

A25/06/21 Date of next Meetings,

Full CPC Meeting – Monday 14th July

Committees meeting – Monday 28th July

Meeting closed: 20:15.