



Wincanton
Town Council



Town Hall
Market Place
Wincanton
Somerset
BA9 9LD

Tel: 01963 31693

Email: townclerk@wincantontowncouncil.gov.uk

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 6:30PM ON MONDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2026 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WINCANTON TOWN HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr N Anderson (Chairman), Cllr J Eadington, Cllr H Ellard and Cllr D Smith

OFFICERS PRESENT: Emma Curtis: Town Clerk
Steve Lee: Works and Maintenance Supervisor

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: There were no members of the public in attendance.

The meeting commenced at 6:30pm

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2025/26 YEAR:

To elect a Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee for the remainder of the year:

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to elect Cllr Anderson as the Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee for the remainder of the year.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE REAMINDER OF THE 2025/26 YEAR:

To elect a Vice-Chairman for the Open Spaces Committee for the remainder of the year:

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to elect Cllr Smith as the Vice-Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee for the remainder of the year.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Received from Cllr C Rodgers.

RESOLVED: It was resolved and unanimously agreed to approve reasons for absence as presented.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None received.

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

To approve the minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 3rd February 2025 as a correct record and to be signed by the Chairman:

RESOLVED: It was resolved and agreed to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

6. WORKS AND MAINTENANCE SUPERVISORS REPORT:

To receive Works and Maintenance Supervisors report and consider any matters arising: Cllr Anderson referred members to the report circulated prior to the meeting. The Works and Maintenance Supervisor stated that since the report had been prepared new CCTV had been installed at the Churchfields toilets. Cllrs discussed options for the councils

green waste disposal.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the Clerk and Works and Maintenance Supervisor investigate options for green waste disposal.

Action: OSC020226/1Clerk & Works and Maintenance Supervisor

7. TOWN COUNCIL TOILETS:

To discuss recent bout of vandalism of Town Council toilets and Churchfields and Cale Park. Further to discuss public health concerns related to restroom facilities, sanitation and appropriate use:

The Clerk and Works and Maintenance Supervisor updated Cllrs on the continued vandalism and closure of the toilets confirming that CCTV had been installed at Churchfields as a deterrent but following a meeting with a Crime Prevention Officer from Avon and Somerset Police the best course of action would be to get steel doors, frames and mounting. The Clerk reminded Cllrs there was a small amount of CIL funding remaining which may be used. It was agreed to continue dialogue with the police about the perpetrators.

RESOLVED: It was resolved and unanimously agreed to proceed with gaining quotations for steel vandal resistant doors, frames, and mountings.

Action: OSC020226/2Clerk & Works and Maintenance Supervisor

8. CLOSE OF MEETING

The date of the next Open Spaces Committee meeting was confirmed as **Monday 6th July 2026 at 6.00pm**. All items for inclusion on the agenda must be submitted to the Town Clerk by **9am Friday 26th June 2026**

The meeting closed at 6:54pm

Open Space report - June 2026

- Following on from our tree report carried out in March 2026 our nominated contractor has removed the large dead tree from the cemetery and removed the large, dead branch on the Aspen overhanging the pedestrian bridge as you enter Cale Park.
- The wireless network connector unit on the Works Garage which connects the toilet CCTV to the garage monitor was damaged beyond repair and has now been replaced. We have looked at fitting a cage over the unit, which is on the outside of the building, but we have been advised this would impact the signal.
- The Works Maintenance team have just tried several battery powered gardening tools as we look to move away from using petrol. The blower and long reach hedge trimmer proved very successful but not so the strimmer which struggled in some areas.
- Unfortunately, the skatepark has been targeted on more than one occasion with graffiti, we continue to remove as quickly as possible.
- At the time of writing this report the following work has been booked – repair to three street lights in Cale Park, Works Garage 5 year electrical instillation condition testing, fitting of new doors to Churchfield toilets and Cale Park toilet, repair/cleaning/painting of MUGA (Multi Use Games Area), annual play area independent inspections and the instillation of additional speed humps along Cemetery Lane, repair of potholes and the addition of two painted ‘Cemetery Visitor’, parking bays outside the Cemetery entrance building.
- Damage to the Cemetery building caused by high wind blowing the heavy entrance gate in to the brick work has been assessed and work will be carried once a date has been confirmed.
- Solar panels to be used to power the SID (Speed Indication Device), have arrived and we are currently looking to contract a supplier/operator of a cherry picker to install.
- The three benches donated by the former Wincanton Twining Association have arrived and been installed. Two at the top end of the Memorial Hall car park and one in Cale Park.
- Repairs to the play frame floor and replacement bearings on the see-saw at Penn View play area have been carried out by Play UK.
- Dog fouling along Thornwell Lane remains an issue.
- Over the past two years we’ve been having an intermittent problem with youths making earth ramps and wooden ramps in Coneygore Wood as part of a cycle track. This has included several trees being cut down and littering. Signage was erected to highlight the damage caused which was also reported to the Police but over a period of three weeks these were pulled down and damaged. This is

included in the report to keep Council informed. We continue to monitor the situation as it doesn't happen all the time.