

## **Meeting of Amenities and Environment Committee Minutes**

A meeting of the Amenities and Environment Committee took place on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026 19.00 in the Meeting Room, Tiptree Community Centre, 1A Caxton Close, Tiptree CO5 0AH.

### **Councillors Present:**

Cllr Diana Webb - *Chairman*

Cllr Christian Kitley

Cllr Jonathan Greenwood

Cllr Tony Peck

**Also in attendance:** Clerk to the Council the Head groundsman.

### **176/25 Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence from Cllr Wood was proposed, seconded, and unanimously accepted as they were unavailable for the meeting.

### **177/25 Declarations of interest:**

No Declaration of Interest were made.

### **178/25 Chair's Announcements:**

The Chairman informed the meeting that:

- She had attended an online biodiversity emergency course that reminded everyone on the course that local authorities have legal duties regarding biodiversity. There were good ideas that came out of the course to follow up, and Tiptree green spaces project with TCV was mentioned on the course.
- Windmill Green's new notice board was being unveiled tomorrow at 9:30 am.

### **179/25 Minutes of Meeting:**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 were proposed, seconded, and unanimously Resolved as an accurate record and duly signed.

### **180/25 Public questions:**

There were no questions from the public.

### **181/25 The Clerks report and Head groundsman updated the committee on the following points:**

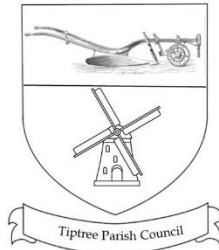
- Windmill Green's new notice board is ready for tomorrow's unveiling.
- Nine Acres has movement from Crest Nicholson - the work site is being set up, and preliminary work is being carried out.
- All the councils' sites will have had the grass cut by the end of the week; Grove Road Playing Field will be closed on Thursday so the grass can be cut.

### **182/25 Financial Overview:**

The Committee received the financial overview from the Clerk.

### **183/25 Consideration of quote for replacement parts for play equipment at Grove Road Play field:**

19.15 a member of the public entered the meeting room



After discussion It was proposed, seconded and unanimously **resolved** that the full amount of the quotes would be recommended to Full Council for use of general reserves.

The clerk is to set up a ERM for Grove Road Playing Field and a separate ERM for maintenance of all the councils play equipment.

**184/25 Consideration of site visits schedule.**

After discussion It was proposed, seconded and unanimously **resolved** that

- Park Lane is to have a site visit in May and October.
- Grove Lake is to have a site visit in June.

**185/25 Consideration of letter to Colchester City Councillors for Torquespeed:**

After discussion It was proposed, seconded and unanimously **resolved** that the letter drafted by the Clerk is to be sent to Cllr Dundas for his support on this issue.

**186/25 2025/26 A&E project list review:**

After discussion It was proposed, seconded and unanimously **resolved** that the Clerk is to chase the requested assets from Colchester, the S106 for Scarlet Mews, Barnbrook Lane S106 and speak to Wivenhoe's clerk about their Environment page on their website set up. The upgrades to the toilets at Grove Road Playing Field was added to the project list.

**187/25 Consideration of working with a student who is writing their dissertation on green infrastructure design:**

After discussion It was proposed, seconded and unanimously **resolved** that the Committee would work with the student from the University of Westminster.

**188/25 Planning for new equipment for the grounds team:**

After discussion it was **resolved** unanimously that the Grounds Staff are to create a five-to-ten-year plan for new or replacement equipment for the council so the committee can budget correctly for the future. The Clerk is to create a ERM for Vehicle Repair/Replacement and another ERM for new equipment.

**189/25 Consideration of a reduced cutting program:**

After discussion it was **resolved** unanimously that the if the price of fuel remains high or increases over a prolonged period the ground staff can increase the size of the environmental wild areas and will priorities Grove Road Playing Field and Grove Lake over the council's other sites.

**190/25 Criteria for the shade sails in Grove Road:**

After discussion it was **resolved** unanimously that the criteria for the shade sails are to be made of metal the shape is square.

**191/25 Consideration of testimonial for Caxton Close:**

After discussion it was **resolved** unanimously that the Clerk, Head groundsman and the chair are to work together to complete the testimonial.



**192/25 Climate Action Plan Review:**

After discussion it was **resolved** unanimously that the amendments made would be adopted.

**193/25 Report from allotment visits:**

After discussion it was **resolved** unanimously that this item would either be brought back to this committee or recommended to the Allotment Subcommittee depend on which one has a meeting first.

**194/25 Website open space mapping narratives:**

After discussion it was **resolved** unanimously that the Chairman will update the narratives add Nine acres, Caxton Close, Warrior's Rest and Thyme Road and the clerk to look in to adding mapping to show the public where the councils open spaces are, and to add a biodiversity page.

**195/25** Chair closed the meeting at 20.41.

Date of next meeting Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 19.00.

Signed ..... **Date** 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026