

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WORKING GROUP MEETING - 6 AUGUST 2025

At the remote meeting of the Recreational Facilities Working Group held by video conference on 6 August 2025, the following Councillors were present:-

Councillors (Cllrs.) Present: J Leggett (Chair)

M A Booth	-	D Coleman
M G Callam	-	W F Couzens
J H Mallen		

Officers: G Ranaweera (Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

25/053. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

25/054. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 3 JUNE 2025

Minutes of the meeting held 3 June 2025 were agreed without amendment.

25/055. MATTERS ARISING

Referring to Minute 25/041, Cllr. M A Booth reported FC Vikings new kit, purchased from his Broadland Members Ward Funding, originally intended for the under 21 was given to the first team. The first teams kit was subsequently given to the under 21's.

He would prepare an article for publication in Just Sprowston and send with a picture of the team in their new kit.

Further to Minute 25/045, Council noted that there were no parking issues during the cricket championships held at the local ground.

The Town Clerk provided an update on the Barker's Lane open space, stating that he had informed the Cricket Club that Barkers Lane open space needs to remain open to the public and Council could not offer them exclusive use. If the club would like to suggest a revised proposal of a similar model to the one at Sprowston Recreation Ground, Council would be willing to entertain it. He had not as yet had a response.

He was looking at the possibility of extending the park opening hours to accommodate FC Vikings request. However, if the club were looking to use the Woodman PH instead of the Pavilion after matches then this would no longer be necessary.

Cllr. M A Booth agreed to follow-up on potential legal action to be taken by the District Council against Halsbury Homes for non-payment of CIL receipts.

25/055. MATTERS ARISING (CONTINUED)

Cllr. M G Callam raised concerns about management company fees in the Town, noting that residents could be charged double the Town Council tax for limited facilities.

25/056. FETE

Councillors discussed organising a fifth consecutive event, considering the impact of the 2026 FIFA World Cup, which runs until 19 July 2026, the Lord Mayor's parade in Norwich and commencement of the summer holidays.

They agreed to avoid scheduling conflicts with both events and decided to postpone the decision on the exact date until the Lord Mayor's parade date is confirmed.

Cllr. J Leggett suggested recommending to the full council that they proceed with another event, with the final date to be determined after the parade's schedule is known.

Councillors also discussed the success of the fete, with positive feedback from attendees. They agreed to maintain the current format and capacity, as it was working well.

Cllr. W F Couzens expressed concern with regard to car parking, suggesting more use of the Diamond field and increase parking attendants.

Councillors considered adding more picnic tables and incorporating dedicated areas.

Cllr. W F Couzens commented on a recent event he had attended where the first aid services gave demonstrations and suggested this could be encouraged at future Sprowston fetes, given Council had contributed a full first aid kit to volunteer responders.

He also noted that despite Tannoy announcements and notices, some traders ignored the 5:30pm no-driving rule.

Cllr. M A Booth commented on the beer tent running out of some refreshments 3 hours into the fete.

It was agreed:

Town Clerk to:

- bring a detailed analysis of the 2025 fete to the Council meeting to be held on 20 August 2025;
- contact the events department at Norwich City Council to determine the date of the Lord Mayor's procession for 2026;

25/056. FETE (CONTINUED)

- consider options for expanding the Diamond Centre parking area for the next fete, including potentially removing some sleepers to use the whole field;
- make "bring your own picnic" more prominent in future fete advertising;
- research the World Cup schedule to identify potential date conflicts;
- implement closing of vehicle gates during the fete as part of Martyn's Law compliance;
- communicate to traders in advance that they will not be allowed to leave until after 5:30pm.

Cllr. W F Couzens to:

- explore inviting volunteer first responders to demonstrate defibrillator use at the 2026 fete.

25/057. COMMEMORATION TREE PLAQUES

Cllr. D Coleman confirmed commemoration plaques are being produced however, there are a number of dead trees which will require replacement.

Town Clerk to organise replacement trees for autumn planting.

25/058. VIKING CENTRE UPDATE

The Town Clerk confirmed the railing at the Viking Centre had been erected.

Snagging issues include a leak through a skylight in Ragnar Hall and some technical issues with CCTV and door control.

Town Clerk to:

- monitor the snagging work, particularly the leak through the skylight in the Ragnar Hall;
- move forward with the Car Park extension;
- set up the software for the EV chargers;
- continue working with Jason on finalizing the financial accounts for the project;
- ensure the Viking PH sign is installed in the Torben room before Alice Macdonald MP's visit;

Cllr. W F Couzens to forward a letter from Roger Starling, who donated the Viking Sign to Council, to the Town Clerk.

25/059. WHITE HOUSE FARM DEVELOPMENT

(1) Phase 1 (Current)

Concerns were raised about the progress of the White House Farm development, with Cllr. W F Couzens noting that the site appears to have been merely raked over rather than properly excavated as planned.

Town Clerk to:

- include the White House Farm Development timetable in the Council papers for the meeting to be held on 24 September 2025;
- add the White House Farm Development timetable to the website;
- arrange a site visit with skateboarding experts and SYEP to measure the skate park area; with a view to developing a preliminary specification for the skate park based on the site visit.

Cllr. D Coleman to provide contact details for the skateboarding expert.

Cllr. M G Callam to provide contact details for Sam, who runs a city skate shop and indoor park, to the Town Clerk if needed.

Councillors to form a group to organize the skate park, including input from the local skateboarding community contact.

(2) Phase 2 (Current)

Town Clerk to check if pedestrian crossings and bus stops for Phase 2 White House Farm Development are recorded in Broadland's planning documentation

25/060. BROADLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL - BEESTON PARK

Cllr. W F Couzens raised concern with regard to an area identified as a LEAP or NEAP being considered as an area suitable for drainage purposes.

Cllr. M A Booth to check and confirm the status of the wetland/sewerage works for Beeston Park relating to nutrient neutrality credits.

25/061. DEVELOPMENTS SOUTH OF SALHOUSE ROAD

Considered under matters arising.

25/062. BIODIVERSITY POLICY

Town Clerk to arrange prices for an environmental survey to inform the biodiversity policy for the Council meeting to be held 24 September 2025.

25/063. VERGE REWILDING

Town Clerk to:

- approach highways for permission to expand the rewilding program to other areas in Sprowston;
- document the administrative work involved in the rewilding program for budget considerations;
- bring suggestions to council for the new budget regarding additional capacity in the office.

Cllr. D Colman to:

- write an article for Just Sprowston and Sprowston Matters about the verge rewilding project, highlighting biodiversity benefits and social interaction aspects.

25/064. GRASS VERGE - CHURCH LANE

Town Clerk to contact Norfolk County Council Highways with regard to reinstating the grass verge at Church Lane which has been turned into an unofficial car park

Councillors also reviewed the status of trees at the Blue Boar Lane open space adjacent Lidl, noting that approximately 20 out of 100 had died despite minimal maintenance,

25/065. AOB

No matters were raised.

Date of next meeting: 14 October 2025 at 9.30am.