

## Sevenoaks Town Council

### Minutes of the meeting of the Community Asset (Open Spaces) Committee Held on Tuesday 05 May 2026 in the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, TN13 3QG

Livestreamed and available to view on YouTube until approved by Council:

<https://youtube.com/live/qNNGydnAtB4?feature=share>

Meeting commenced: 19:00

Meeting Concluded: 20:00

#### Present:

Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet ( <b>Chair</b> )	<b>Present</b>	Cllr Tony Clayton ( <b>Mayor</b> )	<b>Present</b>
Cllr Dr Peter Dixon ( <b>Vice-Chair</b> )	<b>Present</b>	Cllr Lionel O'Hara	<b>Present</b>
Cllr Libby Ancrum	<b>Apologies</b>	Cllr Lise Michaelides	<b>Present</b>

**In attendance:** Town Clerk, Open Spaces & Cemetery Manager, Planning Committee Clerk

#### 66 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Noted as above.

#### 67 - REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None received.

#### 68 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

#### 69 - MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 23RD MARCH 2026

The Committee received the minutes of the Meeting of the Community Asset (Open Spaces) Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 as a true record.

#### 70 - OPEN SPACES & CEMETERY MANAGER'S REPORT

The Committee received the Open Spaces & Cemetery Manager's report. Difficulties and delays of seed sowing and germination at Knole Paddock and Raleys Field were noted due to dry seasons and commencing later than normal. The Committee noted that sowing works should be completed by September. The need to adapt watering of fields was noted. The schedule of Planned Maintenance was also considered.

It was also reported to the Committee that a planning application for the proposed new floodlights was submitted to Sevenoaks District Council on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026 and the order for portable floodlights placed.

Councillors thanked Open Spaces staff for their efforts in the Town.

**71 - RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS - COMMUNITY ASSETS**

Councillors received and considered the Responsible Finance Officer's Report and Statement of Accounts for February 2026. Several small queries would be followed up after the meeting.

**72 - ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

The Committee received the Allotments Report. Process of inspections and plot gradings was noted. Councillors noted importance of The Community Payback team in helping improve quality of vacant plots.

It was noted that water on Quakers Allotment site is provided through standpipes and gutter water stored in tanks. Water provision is included in rent.

**73 - SAHA PROPOSAL - SOLAR PANEL BIRD GUARD**

The SAHA proposal for solar panel bird guards was received and noted by the Committee. It was noted that funding of £423.50 + VAT was approved under delegated powers.

**74 - WAR MEMORIAL RENOVATIONS**

Councillors received and considered the update report regarding renovation to the War Memorial. It was noted that the planning application was validated on 1<sup>st</sup> May with a decision from Sevenoaks District Council due by 26<sup>th</sup> June. Works are expected to be carried out in July. It was noted that wax protection on the memorial was removed due to it being jet washed in the past leading to further corrosion.

**75 - CCTV PROVISION IN SEVENOAKS TOWN CENTRE**

The report on CCTV provision in Sevenoaks Town Centre was received and considered by the Committee. Councillors noted lack of sufficient CCTV at Bat & Ball station platforms and removal of a ticket machine by Southeastern Railway on the northern side of the station. Sevenoaks Town Council had some CCTV on station buildings and adjacent Centre. It was noted that vandalism was recurrent at the station. Cllr Clayton noted that the Rail Travellers Association was displeased with the removal of the ticket machine and offered to contact Southeastern Railway directly with regards to its reinstatement on accessibility grounds.

It was agreed to review if it was possible for the Town Council to install CCTV to cover ticket machines.

**76 - GREATNESS RECREATION GROUND - NEW PLAY AREA**

Councillors received and noted the timetable for the new play area at Greatness Recreation Ground. High interest from members of the public was noted at recent weekend events. Public consultation would continue during May 2026.

**77 - GREATNESS RECREATION GROUND - NEW OUTDOOR GYM**

The Committee received the timetable for the new outdoor gym; it was noted that the consultation will be focused on at the Health & Wellness Fair on 30<sup>th</sup> May.

**78 - CURRENT MATTERS**

Councillors received and considered the current matters report.

Volunteer help for Longspring Wood will be recorded and invited to assist in the Autumn.

The Committee noted the issue of dog fouling; it was confirmed that the Animal Welfare Officer at The Sevenoaks District Council oversees this. The importance of monitoring dog fouling was expressed by the councillors, especially for persons using mobility scooters, wheelchairs and of limited mobility.

**79 - PRESS RELEASE**

Councillors agreed that a press release be published on the successful start to summer events at The Vine with the Climate Fair and Professor Slugs' House of Bugs theatre show.

There being no further business the Chair closed the Meeting.

Signed .....  
Chair

Dated .....