

**Minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee Meeting
held on Monday 1st September 2025 at 6.15pm at The Beechfield Centre,
Beechfield Road, Fremington**

Present: Cllrs J Bridgeman (Vice Chairman), D Dixon, E Smlatic

Mrs J Wood, Administration and Projects Manager

Two Members of the Public

2509/01 **Apologies for Absence**
Cllr N Denton.

2509/02 **Declarations of Interest**
None.

2509/03 **Public Participation Period**
Two members of the public addressed the Council.

The first provided an update on Lagoon View Community Orchard. Councillors were informed that Pearce Construction, the current landowner, has issued notice for the Community Group to vacate the site in October 2026. It is understood that the company intends to close the orchard and create road access to the adjacent field for potential development. The Community Group is considering options to safeguard the orchard, including an application to register it as a Village Green. Discussions have taken place with MP Ian Roome, and a meeting has been scheduled involving Cllr Frank Biederman, Pearce Construction, and their architect to explore the matter further.

The second member of the public reiterated concerns regarding the orchard, noting that the area has been used by his family for several generations. He also presented Councillors with a report highlighting traffic congestion along the Yelland–Sticklepath corridor and its negative impact on children's education. It was reported that pupils are frequently late for school and, in some cases, have missed early morning examinations due to congestion. He requested that his report, along with copies of correspondence he has sent, be forwarded to the relevant authorities.

2509/04 **Minutes**
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 16th of June 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

2509/05

Lagoon View Community Orchard

Correspondence in relation to the Officer's Note on Planning Status relating to the public open space at Lagoon view was circulated prior to the meeting and is attached as Appendix One. It was noted that the report confirms that the intended use of the area is to serve as Public Open Space and the use a community orchard is a form of acceptable Public Open Space, however, there is no legal agreement requiring the land is conveyed to the authority and is secured only by a planning condition, however, this does not provide a timescale by which the land should be conveyed.

The Administration & Projects Manger echoed the comments of the member of the public in regard to the information on the current situation at Lagoon View Community Orchard. Members were informed that the developer had said that they are working on generating a new site in the immediate area for an orchard and other community uses, which Pearce would consider transferring. It was noted that the Community Group did not find this approach acceptable.

Members, again, expressed their disappointed with the lack of community spirit from Pearce.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to continue to support the community group to secure the Public Open Space.

2509/06

Ellerslie Road Play Area – Ground Trampoline

Members were provided with a briefing note; In summary the trampoline had been closed off to public as the Parish Council were made aware that insurance companies were withholding cover for ground trampolines. This was because insurance companies are including them in the same category as above ground trampolines.

The Parish Council's Broker had advised that the Parish Council does not necessarily need to remove the piece of equipment but should evaluate its own risk. As long as the Parish Council's inspections were up to date, it would be difficult to prove negligence.

Members were provided with three quotes to remove and replace the ground trampoline with another piece of accessible equipment, the cheapest quote being £10,560.00 including VAT.

After consideration members reviewed the risk of keeping the ground trampoline. It was felt that the risk would be low given the inspection regime for all Parish Council equipment and therefore it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to **not** remove the ground trampoline and ensure that the Parish Council continues with fully documented checks and the yearly Playground Inspections.

2509/07

Strategic Review of Play Areas

Members were reminded that at a previous Parks & Open Spaces Committee meeting there was an agreement to undertake a strategic review of all the play areas. Since that meeting the Executive Officer and Administration & Projects Manager have been compiling a list of all the areas where equipment/street furniture is the Parish Council's responsibility. For the most part items have been listed for each area with the cost of the equipment and installation, expected lifespan, and approximate date for replacement and potential costs of replacement. Members were informed that the process was ongoing.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to contrary, to circulate the spreadsheet to the Committee and to defer to the next meeting for further discussions.

Meetings ended at 6.51pm

Signed: Dated: