

**Minutes of the Assets & Facilities Committee Meeting
held on Thursday 26th March 2026 at 11am at The Beechfield Centre,
Beechfield Road, Fremington**

Present: Cllr H Walker (Chairman), J Cann (Vice Chairman), J Bridgeman, D Dixon, N Tamlin, Mr A Heighton (co-opted member, Barnstaple Youth Football Club).

Mrs J Wood, Administration and Projects Manager

2603/26 **Apologies for Absence**
Cllr S Kingdom.

2603/27 **Declarations of Interest**
None.

2603/28 **Public Participation Period**
None.

2603/29 **Minutes**
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, that the Minutes of the Assets and Facilities Committee held on the 29th January 2026. Cllr Walker asked that the agenda item number 4. be amended as it states the wrong Committee Meeting.

2603/30 **Parish Council Grass Cutting**
Members were provided with quotes for the annual grass cutting contract:
Ads-Tree and Garden Maintenance - £25,230.00
GTC Environmental Limited – £17,375.00
Dave Budd Gardening Services – £14,925.00

After much discussion, members agreed that all the quotes were gratefully received and it was **resolved**, with no votes to contrary to approve the quote received from Dave Budd Gardening Services.

2603/31 **MUGA – Company Road**
The Administration & Projects Manager provided details of an email received from a member of the public requesting to introduce tennis at the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area). The email included the following:

- Install removable posts with covered sockets to continue the shared use of the facility.
- Tennis use would require exclusive access for safety; suggested trial (e.g. Tuesdays, 10:00–12:00 during term time).
- Estimated costs: ~£500 for equipment plus installation; alternative freestanding option ~£1,000.

Concerns were raised in regard to the storage of the posts and nets as the Parish Council does not have any on-site storage, concerns were also raised about who would be putting then nets up and taking them down. It was also noted that the MUGA was provided to the community as an open-door facility.

Cllr Cann said the Parish Council should try to encourage healthy lifestyles and sport and perhaps there is a way that it can be trialled but without closing the facility off to others.

After detailed discussion, it was **resolved** that the facility be offered on a trial basis. Users wishing to play tennis will be required to provide their own portable netting. It was emphasised that the facility remains available for shared use, and no individual or group may prevent others from accessing it.

It was further **resolved** that, should the trial prove popular, further use may be considered in the future.

2603/32

Tews Lane Pavillion & Play Area.

The Administration & Projects Manager advised that the building is now complete. She advised that there were some drainage issues on the site around the building that need to be resolved and that these were in hand and being dealt with. The Parish Council and Barnstaple Youth will be looking at dates to organise an 'official' open day.

Members considered the provision of play equipment in the play area at Tews Lane. Quotations were circulated and considered for the replacement of the swing frame and installation of a replacement multi-play unit; it was noted that this had been removed a few years ago for safety reasons and the swing set is becoming unsafe.

Members discussed funding options for the replacement equipment, it was noted that further section 106 funds would be available, however, the timescale is unknown at this time. It was noted that there was £10,000 available in an Ear Marked Reserve (EMR) for the replacement play equipment at Tews Lane. Members discussed options and after much discussion it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary:

- For the Projects and Administration Officer to investigate funding opportunities for play equipment.
- For the Projects and Administration Officer to investigate the option of replacement swing seats on the current frame. If the condition of the frame is found to be unsafe;
- To replace the frame with the cheapest most appropriate quotation from Wicksteed using the funds available in the EMR.
- To replace the multi-play unit with the cheapest most appropriate quotation from Wicksteed, once further funding has been identified.



It was noted that a discount has been provided within the quotation from Wicksteed if both items are replaced at the same time, this would be dependent on available funding.

It was **resolved** that under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item as it involves the likely disclosure of confidential information.

Part B

2603/33

Fremington Quay Lease

Members were informed of the amendment to the lease for the Fremington Quay Café and Warden's Accommodation that was included in the revised lease. The Administration & Projects Manager advised that this has now been rectified at no cost to the Parish Council.

Cllr Cann asked if there was any new development on the renovation of the storage building at Fremington Quay. Concerns were raised that the site has now potentially become a safety concern and does not look very welcoming with the fencing. Cllr Walker confirmed that there has been no movement from the current owner for some time and she was not aware of any planning application having been submitted.

The lease holder of Fremington Quay Café had spoken to Cllr Walker about putting a fence up to disguise the area to make it more welcoming. Cllr Walker advised that they need to write to the Parish Council to request this.

It was **resolved**, with not votes to contrary to note the information on the lease and it was further **resolved**, for the Administration & Projects Manager to check boundaries and access rights, and to contact Environmental Health regarding the safety of the site.

2603/34

Beechfield Changing Rooms

Members were updated on the cleanliness of the changing rooms; to date there have been no issues with the cleanliness and removing of items after matches.

Meetings ended at 12.10pm

Signed: *Helena Walker*..... Dated: ...21/5/2026.....