

Minutes of the **OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE** held at Pembury Parish Council offices on **Monday 23 JUNE 2025** at 3.00pm.



Councillors Present:

Cllr C Snow (Chair)
Cllr P Gillan

Cllr M Weaver

Apologies:

Cllr L Maddison- Brown

Cllr P Simmons

Officers present:

H Munro (Clerk)

M Brooker (Assistant Clerk)

25/085. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Apologies were received from Cllrs Maddison-Brown and Simmons. It was **RESOLVED** that the apologies and reasons be accepted.

25/086. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** There were none.

25/087. **MINUTES.** It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes from the committee meeting held on 31 March 2025 be approved and were signed by the Chair as an accurate record.

25/088. **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.** The Chair welcomed Cllr Maddison-Brown to the committee. They reported on the floral displays and thanked the groundsmen for watering them. They also commented on how lovely the fruit tree avenue in Lower Green Recreation ground was looking.

25/089. **CLERK'S REPORT.** The following report was noted:

- a. Multi Use Games Area
Line marking has been completed.
- b. Fruit tree avenue review.
Pruning has been completed, and the groundsmen have been trained on what to do, so they can continue this each year.
- c. Allotments Raised Beds
An article has been included in the summer edition of the Pembury Village News, this includes more information about growing your own produce in raised beds with a step-by-step guide, to see if there is more interest. It was reported at the meeting that no other responses have been received.
- d. Litter Bin on Henwood Crescent
Permission still to be obtained from Town & Country Housing to put an additional litter bin on Henwood Crescent.

25/090. **OPEN SESSION.** A resident, spoke about their interest in agenda item 7 (minute reference 25/085), the Memorial Bench.

25/085. **MEMORIAL BENCH.** Consideration of relocating a bench donated by Town & Country Housing from the Village Green was discussed. It was proposed to move the bench to Lower Green Recreation Ground and install a new replacement memorial bench on the Village Green. It was **RESOLVED** to publicise the relocation of the existing bench and, if no objections were received after a 4 week period, then the relocation to the recreation ground can go ahead, and the new memorial bench to be located on the Village Green.

The member of the public left the meeting at 3.21pm.

25/086. **LOWER GREEN RECREATION GROUND.**

- a. Consideration to register for the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) was discussed. It was **RESOLVED** that more research on the application to become an LTA registered venue was required.
- b. Recent events at the tennis courts were discussed. It was **RESOLVED** to write a formal letter detailing concerns to those involved.
- c. Consideration of a resident self-funding the addition of Pickleball lines to the tennis courts was discussed. It was **RESOLVED** not to go ahead with the Pickleball lines currently but to reconsider this in the future if a booking system was introduced.
- d. Consideration of allowing the Recreation Ground to be used for commercial exercise classes was discussed. It was **RESOLVED** not to allow this due to the concern that this is a public space.
- e. Consideration of allowing commercial mobile café businesses to be in the Recreation Ground was discussed. The following concerns were raised and would need to be taken into consideration.
 - Parking on the grass, especially when wet and muddy.
 - Parking in the carpark would take up much needed spaces.
 - No toilet facilities available.
 - Additional litter in the recreation ground.
 - Impact on the community café at the pavilion.

It was **RESOLVED** that this could be trialled on Saturdays during the football season.

- f. Available options for the broken skier were discussed. It was **RESOLVED** to remove the broken skier and keep it for spare parts. Quotes would be obtained.
- 25/087. **BURIAL GROUND.** A refund of a reserved burial plot was discussed. It was **RESOLVED** to refund the fee paid for the reserved burial plot at Pembury Burial ground minus an administration fee.
- 25/088. **WAR MEMORIAL.** Quotes for a new handrail were considered. It was **RESOLVED** to appoint The Handrail People for £540.
- 25/089. **KENT TREE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION.** It was **RESOLVED** to suggest the Green Pembury Working Group consider entering the competition.
- 25/090. **GROUNDSMEN EQUIPMENT.**
- a. The specification and quotes for a new strimmer were discussed. It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Kidman at £685 for a petrol strimmer.
- b. The need for a new ride-on mower was noted and quotes will be obtained for future consideration.
- 25/091. **CLIMBING FRAME.** Changing the tender specification to keep the original multi play senior unit and replace the platform panel or to go ahead with the removal of the unit was discussed. It was **RESOLVED** to make a recommendation to Full Council to change the tender specification to keep the original multi play unit and replace the panel with the hole to a solid panel.
- 25/092. **RISKS.** No new risks had been identified.
- 25/093. **QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS OR AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS.** A suggestion to consider having Remembrance Day statue silhouettes permanently at the War Memorial, will be added to the next meeting agenda.
- 25/094. **MEETING DATES.** The next meeting will take place on Monday 22 September at 3pm in the Parish Office Meeting Room.
- 25/095. **CLOSED SESSION.** Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960, it was **RESOLVED** to exclude the public and press from the meeting for the next items of business on the grounds that it will involve the likely disclosure of exempt information at 4.21pm.

The Clerk entered the meeting at 4.21pm

25/096. **CLIMBING FRAME.** Results of the tenders received were evaluated and reviewed. It was **RESOLVED** to make a recommendation to Full Council to appoint Contractor D.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 4.30pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chair