

WINSFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **External Committee** held in Room G1, Wyvern House on **Monday 6th July 2026**.

PRESENT

Councillors Fitzsimmons, Mault, Fletcher, and Newton (substitute for Cllr Welch).

IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr M Bailey (Town Clerk)
Members of the public

1	ELECTION OF CHAIR/DEPUTY CHAIR	Members considered the matter of electing a Chair for the Committee. It was agreed that Councillor Fletcher be elected Chair of the Committee. Cllr Mault was elected as Deputy Chair.
2	APOLOGIES	Apologies were received from Cllrs Welch (substitute – Cllr Newton) and Hulmston.
3	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	No declarations of interest were received.
4	OPEN FORUM	There were members of the public present at the meeting, but no issues were raised.
5	MINUTES – 10th MARCH 2026	Members noted the minutes of the meeting held on 10 th March 2026, which had been ratified at the Town Council meeting held on 16 th March 2026.
6	MATTERS ARISING/ACTIONS	The Committee considered the above minutes and the action log, and the following items were raised: - • Recreation Grounds Re-surfacing – it was reported that there had been no quotes received for the work. Members asked whether staff could be trained to do the work and agreed to seek like for like quotes. It was suggested that different options are considered and to look at Sandiway Park. • CCTV Town Park – it was reported that groundwork still needs to be done and a timeline was requested. • Rilshaw Meadows – this was considered separately at the meeting. • Police Attendance – it was noted that a invite would be provided for specific issues. • Ways Green –this was considered separately at the meeting.

		• Walk of Contribution/James Clarke Memorial Garden – it was reported that slabs had been laid and waiting on the 2026 slab to be installed (to take place between 15th and 21st July 2026). • Telephone Box – it was reported that a quote from the electrician was awaited. It was agreed to follow this up. • Townfields – it was reported that the project had been completed. Members asked that bug hotels are installed. • Padel Tennis – this was considered separately at the meeting. • MUGA development - this was considered separately at the meeting. • Prairie Zone at Town Park – it was confirmed that the area had been strimmed and sprayed. It was agreed to approach suppliers about the salt stacks. • Climate Action – it was noted that the solar panels had been installed and a separate report was on the agenda. • Accessible Provision (Recreation Grounds) – it was noted that the CWAC Accessibility Officer will be assessing the facilities.
7	ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE	The following items were considered by the Committee. <i>Budget Update 2026/27</i> Members noted the current position up to the end of May 2026. <i>Allotments</i> Members noted the current waiting list of approximately 169 people. It was noted that a raised bed had been let and that other vacant plots had been let. It was agreed to use funds to make improvements to accessibility at the Over Allotments site. It was noted that there is around £60,000 from s106 available for allotments in Winsford. It was agreed to flatten the ground at Over; look at purchasing storage areas for those who used raised beds. Members agreed to develop proposals designed to enhance the raised beds at Over. Members also agreed to approach the owners of allotment land off Delamere Street. <i>Climate Action</i> Members considered a report which proposes the

		installation of a 'mini forest'. It was agreed to progress this at the Townfield site. <i>Wharton Recreation Ground</i> Members noted that there are six raised beds at the site which required tidying. It was reported that a resident had approached the Council to work on these. Members asked for a plan from the resident. <i>Rilshaw Meadows</i> Members considered a report on the site focused on whether to continue with the extension to the car park – it was agreed to do so. It was agreed to arrange a site visit to examine the nature recovery options at the site.
8	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	The following matters were raised under this agenda item. • Rilshaw Meadows – it was agreed to install the other bench • Signs – it was agreed to install signs for trees at Townfield and to check on the sign at Meadowbank
9	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	It was noted that the date of the next meeting would be held on 14 th September 2026.
10	EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS	Members RESOLVED that, due to its confidential nature, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following matters in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.
11	WAYS GREEN	Members considered proposals for the area including sculptures (reflecting charities and local wildlife). It was also agreed to include a large bench in the plans, and a other benches. It was also agreed to include a Winsford sign along the lines of other places like Snugburys Farm. Further it was agreed to include a sculpture of a lighthouse.
12	PARKS AND OPENS SPACES	The Committee agreed to maintain the existing arrangements and continue with locking parks. It was agreed, during the period of staff shortages, to provide keys for the bowling clubs.
13	DEVELOPMENT OF PADEL COURTS – OVER RECREATION GROUND	Members agreed to progress the project with assistance from the LTA and to request assistance from contractors together with exploring s106 options.
14	BIODIVERSITY REPORT	Member agreed to the quote for a biodiversity audit and to progress the work around BNG.

CHAIR