DURRINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

COUNCIL OFFICE, VILLAGE HALL, HIGH STREET, DURRINGTON, SP4 8AD
01980 654772 clerk@durringtontowncouncil.gov.uk

DRAFT MINUTES
MEETING OF THE FACILITIES AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE 22nd OCTOBER 2026 7:00pm
The Robinson Room, Village Hall, High Street, Durrington SP4 8AD.

Present

Cllr Todd – in the Chair
Cllr Botham
Cllr Eydmann
Cllr Paines
Cllr Johnson
Cllr Stafford
Cllr Butler

Jo Tudor – Clerk
Ali Budge – Deputy Clerk

Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

FAC 35.26 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received and accepted – from Cllr Hatt

FAC 36.26 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

FAC 37.26 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd September 2026

The minutes were proposed, seconded and approved as a correct record.

Durrington Town Council – Facilities and Amenities Committee Meeting on 22 October 2026. Minutes approved as a true and accurate record, and signed as so by the Committee Chairman presiding

Signed ……. Date……

FAC 38.26 Amenity Area Update from the Clerk and Review of Current Projects

The Committee received the Clerk's Facilities Report, taken as read. Members noted that the Pavilion toilet refurbishment has started. In answer to a question on the Village Hall sound system, the Clerk confirmed that the Council holds a music licence covering its use.

FAC 39.26 Container Storage for the Village Hall Courtyard

Cllrs Johnson, having met the Clerk and staff, recommended the Tank Express Kovobel UK QuickStore 4 metre unit. It is flat-packed, ventilated, secure and waterproof with end-opening doors, makes the best use of the courtyard space and is supplied by a local business. At approximately £2,500 including installation, it is well within the £15,000 budget, leaving room for shelving, lighting and power. The unit must sit 6 inches from the stage air bricks. Members agreed anti-climb measures would be added only if people climb on the unit to reach the roof. Delivery is expected about four weeks after ordering.

RESOLVED: to purchase the Tank Express Kovobel UK QuickStore 4 metre container for the Councils own use.

Action: Clerk to order the container and arrange shelving, lighting and power.

Members also raised, outside the formal business of this meeting, the idea of using the remaining courtyard space for outdoor seating such as a fixed picnic bench. As this was not on the agenda, no decision was taken.

Action: Clerk to add courtyard seating to a future agenda.

FAC 40.26 Parking Bollards at the Allotment Car Parking Spaces

Cllr Hatt's quotation for ten telescopic security posts (£1,030, supply only) was noted. Members noted that no complaints have been received by the council from residents and that the previous bollards were not used because holders parked on the road instead, and that the car park is intended for allotment holders. Members agreed not to proceed with bollards at present. Allotment holders will be consulted and signage improved, with bollards kept as a further measure if signage does not resolve the problem.

Action: Deputy Clerk to consult allotment holders on parking and bollards.

Action: Clerk to arrange improved signage at the allotment car park.

FAC 41.26 Quotations for Toddler Play Equipment at Avon Fields

Cllr Eydmann presented proposals to extend the Avon Fields play area for children aged 2 to 8, on the side away from the houses, with swings, sensory boards, a small climbing frame with slide, safety matting and fencing, together with a trail in the adjoining woodland. Two quotations are under £40,000 and two more are awaited.

The Avon Fields Section 106 earmarked reserve stands at £45,000 and is for the future maintenance of the area. Members were concerned about leaving too little for maintenance and tree work, the upkeep and safety of a woodland trail, and the need to tender for spending over £25,000. The Clerk advised that the spending should be planned in the budget and that work would be after 1st April 2027.

Members agreed to scale the scheme down to a smaller area for younger children (for example two swings, a small play house, sensory boards and rockers) or a possible woodland trail, and to consult parents before deciding. The budget request is recorded at FAC 43.26.

Action: Cllr Eydmann to obtain revised quotations for the smaller scheme and the woodland trail.

Action: Deputy Clerk to consult local parents, by an offer of a meeting.

FAC 42.26 SMART Objective – Facilities Improvement Programme 2027-28

MUGA resurfacing: Cllr Hatt's two quotations were noted (synthetic grass £19,242 and porous macadam £23,244.61, net of VAT). The surface is breaking up and drains poorly. Members favoured the macadam surface. These quotes are an indication of costs to include in next years budget.

Fargo Road play area: the DIO has passed the lease renewal to a new officer and it remains unresolved. The play area is valued by families of children with special educational needs. Members agreed improvements should be phased over several years and grants sought and an annual amount set aside until it is complete,

Action: Clerk to invite Creative Play to advise on suitable equipment for Fargo Road and to explore grant funding.

Tennis court fencing: replacement with robust anti-climb metal fencing is likely to exceed £20,000. Members agreed to save towards it over several years at £10,000 a year.

Action: Clerk to obtain a quotation from the Council's usual contractor.

Allotment fencing, Avon Fields: the fence is unstable and the posts have snapped. Members agreed it should be repaired this year, with replacement as a future project.

Action: Clerk to arrange a repair to the allotment fence this financial year.

Council vehicle: members considered that leasing an electric van (about £336 a month) was not good value given the Council's size and low mileage, and preferred buying a good second-hand van, budgeted at about £10,000 plus annual costs for insurance, servicing and Chapter 8 markings.

Action: Clerk to obtain examples and costs of suitable second-hand vans and circulate them to members.

Recreation Ground toilets: members noted the options seen at the national conference and the running costs (cleaning estimated at over £2,000 a year). Members agreed to refer this to the strategic planning meeting on 27th October 2026.

FAC 43.26 Budget Requirements for 2027-28

RESOLVED: to recommend the following 2027-28 requests to the Finance Committee:

- Avon Fields play area: up to £25,000 from the Avon Fields earmarked reserve.
- MUGA resurfacing: £25,000.
- Tennis court fencing: £10,000 a year towards replacement.
- Fargo Road play area: a further £9,000, in addition to the £9,000 already earmarked.

- Council vehicle: £10,000.

This totals £54,000 of new budget, plus £25,000 from earmarked reserves. These items will also feed into the strategic planning meeting on 27th October 2026.

Action: Clerk to write up the budget requests and SMART objectives and send them to the Finance Committee.

FAC 44.26 Annual Review of Fees and Charges

The Committee received the Clerk's comparison of local hall charges, which showed the Council's charges are in line with similar facilities. Last year the Village Hall earned £23,800 and the Pavilion £13,400. Members noted the regular community use of the halls and the planned increase in the precept.

RESOLVED: to recommend to the Finance Committee that all hire charges for 2027-28, cemetery fees for 2027-28 and allotment fees for 2028-29 are frozen at current levels.

RESOLVED: to recommend to Full Council that the Exclusive Right of Burial for new grants is reduced from 75 years to 25 years from 1st April 2027. Existing grants are not affected.

The Committee received the Clerk's report on VAT on fishing income. RESOLVED: to increase the annual fee charged to Salisbury and District Angling Club from £750 to £800, and to recommend fishing ticket prices for 2027 of £12.00 adult day, £6.00 child day and £3.00 child half-day, all including VAT.

Action: Clerk to notify Salisbury and District Angling Club of the new fee and take the recommendations to the Full Council.

FAC 45.26 Facilities Hire Policy

Members generally supported the draft policy and requested the following changes:

- reword the clause on hirers stopping the public using areas outside the booking, to make clear that a hirer may restrict access only to the area agreed by the Council;
- remove clause 7.2;
- require premises to be vacated and locked by midnight, whatever licence a hirer holds;
- replace the requirement for large-event hirers to submit their event management plan, first aid, stewarding and traffic plans with a signed declaration on the application form that these are in place, which the Council may ask to see;
- state that barriers and fencing are provided by the hirer at their own cost;
- keep the clause on stakes and excavations, as there are now cables for the lighting.

Members noted that Martyn's Law may apply to larger events and should be kept in mind.

Action: Clerk to revise the policy and hire application forms, circulate them by email for comment and take them to Full Council in January 2027.

FAC 46.26 Date of the Next Meeting

Thursday 4th February 2027, 7:00pm, Robinson Room, Village Hall, Durrington.

Meeting closed at 8:57pm.

Durrington Town Council – Facilities and Amenities Committee Meeting on 22 October 2026. Minutes approved as a true and accurate record, and signed as so by the Committee Chairman presiding

Signed ……. Date……