DURRINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

COUNCIL OFFICE, VILLAGE HALL, HIGH STREET, DURRINGTON, SP4 8AD

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 27th October 2026 at 7p.m. in the Robinson Room, Village Hall, Durrington, SP4 8AD.

Present

Members **Cllr G Wright – Chair**
Cllr S Smith – Vice Chair
Cllr P Paul
Cllr A Stafford
Cllr R Lock
Cllr S Paines
Cllr S Rennie
Cllr S Botham
Cllr K Johnson
Cllr G Eydmann
Cllr C Butler
Cllr A Hatt
Cllr J Painter
Cllr Galan-Bamfield

Officers **J Tudor – Clerk** **A Budge – Deputy Clerk**

Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

53/26 – Acceptance of Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Todd.

54/26 – Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest. Cllr Paines asked whether she should declare an interest in item 58/26d, as she delivers the Christmas gifts to Durrington Ward, and in item 58/26b, as the fees report refers to the angling club. The Clerk advised that Cllr Paines had no pecuniary interest in either item and no declaration was required.

55/26 – Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 29th September 2026 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

56/26 – Minutes for Information

The minutes of the Facilities and Amenities Committee dated 2nd September 2026 were received for information.

57/26 – Accounts

A Member queried a receipt of approximately £810 shown in the accounts. The Clerk explained that £810 had been received in error from a funeral director, intended for the Parochial Church Council, and had been refunded.

Cheques and debits for September 2026 were approved.

The September 2026 bank reconciliation for the current account was also approved.

58/26 – Proposals

a. Sport England award

The Council resolved to ratify the acceptance of the Sport England award of £15,000 (URN 2026013655) towards the pump track on Sport England's Standard Terms and Conditions of Award, and the signing of the Award Acceptance Form by the Chairman and the Clerk on behalf of the Council on 12th October 2026. It was noted that a copy of the Terms and Conditions was circulated to all councillors before the form was signed.

b. Hire charges, cemetery fees and allotment charges

Cllr Galan-Bamfield noted that the recommendation to freeze charges would mean no increase in the Pavilion hire charge for the pre-school and stated that next year would be five years since the pre-school's charge was last increased and he stated that the playgroup is charged £63 a day, which works out at £9 an hour. Cllr Galan-Bamfield stated that the charge was not increased last year or in the three years before, that this had been debated at the Finance Committee last year, and asked that it be reviewed again.

The Clerk advised that the pre-school's charge had increased over the last 4 years.

Cllr Butler then stated that the Facilities and Amenities Committee may have been misled, as it had been assured that the charge had increased, and expressed concern that the Committee's recommendation had been based on erroneous information. Cllr Butler asked that the Finance Committee look into the matter first and advise formally of the facts, saying it was because they had the wrong information, and asked whether there would be an investigation to establish whether the Committee had got it wrong.

The Clerk advised that the pre-school's hourly rate was increased over the last few years.

The Vice Chair suggested that the matter be included in the Clerk's Report for next month and noted that it does not fall within the Finance Committee's Terms of Reference. The Chairman stated that the item would be placed on the next agenda and did not need to go back to a committee.

A member also queried the recommended increase in the annual fee charged to Salisbury and District Angling Club from £750 to £800. The Clerk confirmed that the fee is exclusive of VAT.

As the charges apply from next year, it was agreed to defer this item to the November meeting so that full details can be provided.

Action: Clerk to bring the fees and charges recommendations, to the Full Council meeting on 24th November 2026.

c. Christmas office closure

The Council resolved to approve the closure of the Office, with no ad hoc bookings taken, from 21st December 2026 to 4th January 2027, and acknowledged that the two statutory days' holiday are 29th and 30th December 2026.

d. Christmas gifts

The Council resolved to approve Christmas gifts for Durrington Ward at Salisbury District Hospital.

e. Royal British Legion donation

The Council resolved to approve a donation of £300 to the Royal British Legion for wreaths and crosses for Remembrance 2026.

f. HR Committee membership

Cllr Galan-Bamfield raised concerns about the proposed membership of the HR Committee, including whether the Chairman of the Council should sit on the Committee given his role in receiving complaints, and whether members of the HR Committee should also sit on other committees. He also stated that he had reservations about Cllr Rennie being on the HR committee due to a previous matter which he alleged was never followed through. Cllr Rennie replied that Cllr Galan-Bamfield had his facts wrong. Cllr Butler then joined the discussion referring to a previous matter at which point the Vice Chair stopped further discussions about HR as it was not appropriate at full Council. The Vice Chair offered to meet Cllrs Rennie, Butler and Galan-Bamfield separately. The Chairman agreed and this part of the discussion was closed.

It was noted that the Terms of Reference for the HR Committee were adopted at the 29th September Council meeting. The FHR committee, which held delegated responsibility for HR within its terms of reference, selected members from that committee to form the HR committee. The Amended Terms of reference for both committees were agreed at the September full council meeting including the membership of the new HR Committee and this item before members was the formal appointment. The Clerk confirmed there is no legal bar to the Chairman sitting on the Committee. The Chairman advised that there is no restriction on members serving on more than one committee.

It was noted that the Council's complaints procedure needs revising. Cllr Smith is currently reviewing the policy.

Action: Cllr Smith to bring the revised Complaints Policy to Council.

Cllr Botham proposed that he be appointed in place of Cllr Wright, and Cllr Wright agreed.

The Council resolved to appoint Cllrs Botham, Smith and Rennie to the HR Committee. Two members voted against. Carried.

g. Internal auditor's interim report

The Council noted the internal auditor's interim report and the recommendations contained in it. The Chairman thanked the Clerk and the office team for a good outcome under the new internal auditor.

h. Invoice checks

The Council acknowledged that the invoices from April to August 2026 have been checked by Cllr Johnson in accordance with Financial Regulation 2.6. The Chairman thanked Cllr Johnson.

i. Play park inspections

The Council noted the play park inspections for August and September 2026. In answer to a question, it was confirmed that the inspections include Fargo Road play park.

j. Reports from the Chairman and the Wiltshire Councillor

No written reports were circulated. The Chairman, who is also the Wiltshire Councillor, reported verbally that:

Wiltshire Council is holding a meeting at 6.30pm on Wednesday 28th October 2026 about funding streams that may be available to the Council. As the Clerk is unable to attend, the Chairman will attend on behalf of the Town Council, and other members are welcome to join.

Two new SID posts have been installed in Durrington. The High Street SID is to be repositioned, as its current position near the 20mph limit does not allow it to work effectively.

Cllr Paul stated that the reports had not been circulated before the meeting, which did not follow the Council's procedure. The Clerk confirmed that her report had been circulated with the meeting papers. He also suggested a timetable for supporting papers similar to the deadline for agenda item requests.

59/26 – Planning

No planning applications were considered. It was noted that a notification of tree works had been received the previous day.

60/26 – Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 24th November 2026. Cllr Botham gave apologies for that meeting.

The Chairman announced that an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 3rd November 2026 in the Robinson Room, Village Hall.