

Facilities Report – October 2026

Facilities and Amenities Committee, Thursday 22nd October 2026

Completed Since the Last Meeting

Village Hall sound system – The new wireless audio transmitter has been installed and the Bluetooth problem is resolved. Hirers can now play music from their phones through the hall's sound system.

Electrical remedial works – The remedial works identified in the Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR) have been carried out.

Football goals – The football goals will be wheeled to the back of the Pavilion and chained together when not in use.

1. Maintenance and Ongoing Works

Recreation Ground Bench (FAC 28.26)

The grounds maintenance contractor has been asked to move the existing bench to replace the damaged plank section at the bottom of the Recreation Ground. We are waiting for this work to be carried out.

Football Goals

The football goals will be wheeled to the back of the Pavilion and chained together when not in use.

2. Village Hall

Kitchen Water Heater (FAC 30.26(b))

The new instant water heater will be installed on Monday 19th October 2026.

Storage Container (FAC 31.26)

Cllrs Johnson and Eydmann were asked to review the container options and bring a recommendation to this meeting. Their recommendation is on the agenda at item FAC 39.26.

3. Pavilion

Pavilion Toilet Refurbishment (FAC 30.26(a))

RGB Engineering will start the refurbishment of the Pavilion toilets on Wednesday 21st October 2026, during the October half-term. The work includes new toilets, cisterns and taps, a stainless-steel trough urinal and non-concussive taps, and removal of the existing asbestos-containing cistern.

Pavilion Flooring (FAC 30.26(c))

Replacement flooring for the toilets and foyer, and the associated redecoration, is funded from the Pavilion earmarked reserve. There is no installation date as yet.

4. Play Areas

Avon Fields Play Area

A quotation has been received for new play equipment at the Avon Fields play area. It will be circulated with the agenda and is for consideration at item FAC 41.26(a), including whether the cost should be included in the 2027-28 budget.

Fargo Road Play Area

The Clerk is chasing the DIO for a response on the renewal of the Fargo Road play area lease.

5. Recreation Ground

Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)

A quotation has been received for resurfacing the MUGA. It will be circulated with the agenda and is for consideration at item FAC 41.26(b).

Pump Track Project

Construction of the pump track by On Track (Back on Track Mountain Bike Solutions Ltd) is due to start on Monday 26th October 2026. The Sport England grant towards the project has been awarded and accepted. Residents will be notified of the start date.

6. Allotments

Allotment Car Park Bollards (FAC 32.26)

It should be noted that the Council has not received any complaints about parking at the allotments.

The Deputy Clerk has found emails sent to the Administrative Assistant at the time the previous bollards were in place. These show that allotment holders found it too much trouble to unlock the bollards and parked on the roads instead to avoid them.

It would not be good practice to put new bollards in without first finding out whether allotment holders would be happy to use them. The Deputy Clerk will speak with allotment holders to canvass their views.

Quotations for replacement bollards are still awaited, and the cost can be included in the 2027-28 budget. This is on the agenda at item FAC 40.26.

Allotment Water Meter Chamber

Wessex Water have been advised that the water meter chamber is damp. No response has been received as yet.

7. Council Vehicle and Electric Vehicle Charging

The proposed Council vehicle and electric vehicle charging point are still being looked into. A further report will be brought to the Committee when more information is available.

8. Recreation Ground Toilets

Ideas for toilets at the Recreation Ground were gathered from exhibitors at the national conference. Their brochures will be circulated at the meeting.

Members should note that, as well as the cost of installation, any toilets will bring ongoing maintenance costs, including cleaning and possibly emptying of a septic tank. These running costs will need to be considered as part of the budget.

9. Budget and Finance

2027/28 Budget

Under its Terms of Reference (2.5), the Committee must recommend its budget for 2027-28 to the Finance Committee by the end of October. This meeting is the Committee's last opportunity to do so. At item FAC 43.26 members are asked to agree the revenue and capital requests for the Village Hall, Pavilion, Cemetery, Allotments, Amenity Areas, Community Services and facility projects.

Items identified so far include:

- Avon Fields play area equipment;
- MUGA resurfacing;
- Allotment car park bollards;
- Allotment fencing at Avon Fields;
- Tennis court fencing;
- Pavilion car park;

Fees and Charges

At item FAC 44.26 the Committee is asked to recommend to the Finance Committee the hire charges for all Council facilities and hires for 2027-28, cemetery fees for 2027-28 and allotment fees for 2028-29.

Facilities Hire Policy

A draft Facilities Hire Policy is circulated for item FAC 45.26. It brings the hire conditions for the Village Hall, Robinson Room, Pavilion and Recreation Ground into one policy and sets out the standard of behaviour expected of all hirers and everyone attending their bookings.