

Durrington Town Council

Clerk's Report

Full Council Meeting – Tuesday 27 October 2026

1. Pump Track – Sport England Award (Agenda item 58a)

Sport England has awarded the Council £15,000 (URN 2026013655) towards the pump track. The award is made on Sport England's Standard Terms and Conditions of Award. A copy of the terms and conditions was circulated to all councillors before the Award Acceptance Form was signed by the Chairman and me on 12 October 2026. This allowed us to apply for the award before the Sport England deadline.

Council is now asked to ratify the acceptance and signing so that the decision is formally recorded. Work on site is due to start on Monday 26 October 2026.

Recommendation: That Council ratifies the acceptance of the Sport England award and the signing of the Award Acceptance Form by the Chairman and the Clerk on 12 October 2026.

2. Hire Charges, Cemetery Fees and Allotment Charges (Agenda item 58b)

As part of the annual October fees review, the Facilities and Amenities Committee considered the hire charges and cemetery fees for 2027/28 and the allotment charges for 2028/29 at its meeting on 22 October 2026. The recommended schedules will be available after the FAC meeting on Thursday and circulated.

The 50% reduction in cemetery fees for Durrington and Larkhill residents continues and hire of premises by non-residents remains at 1.5 times the resident rate.

Recommendation: That Council approves the hire charges and cemetery fees for 2027/28 and the allotment charges for 2028/29 as recommended by the Facilities and Amenities Committee.

3. Christmas Office Closure (Agenda item 58c)

The Office will close from Monday 21 December 2026 and reopen on Monday 4 January 2027. No ad hoc bookings will be taken during this time. The two statutory days' holiday fall on 29 and 30 December 2026. Regular Hirers e.g. the Library will continue to use the facilities as usual. Graham and Sue are the contacts for the Village Hall in case of an emergency and Graham is the contact for the Pavilion.

Recommendation: That Council approves the Christmas office closure and notes the statutory holiday dates.

4. Christmas Gifts – Durrington Ward, Salisbury District Hospital (Agenda item 58d)

It is proposed that the Council provides Christmas gifts for patients and staff on Durrington Ward at Salisbury District Hospital. The gifts are small inexpensive less than £50 in total. The expenditure is made under the General Power of Competence, which the Council first resolved on 13 May 2025.

Recommendation: That Council approves Christmas gifts for Durrington Ward at a cost of up to £300.

5. Royal British Legion – Remembrance 2026 (Agenda item 58e)

A donation of £300 is proposed to the Royal British Legion for wreaths and crosses for Remembrance Sunday on 8 November 2026. The donation would be made under the General Power of Competence.

Recommendation: That Council approves a donation of £300 to the Royal British Legion.

6. HR Committee Membership (Agenda item 58f)

In September 2026 Council resolved to split the Finance and HR Committee into a Finance Committee and a new HR Committee. Cllrs Wright, Smith and Rennie have put themselves forward for the HR Committee. Training is being arranged with CHRGs

Recommendation: That Council appoints Cllrs Wright, Smith and Rennie to the HR Committee.

7. Internal Auditor's Interim Report (Agenda item 58g)

The internal auditor's interim report gives the Council an overall opinion of Adequate Assurance. A separate report setting out the main issues and the proposed response to each recommendation is included in the meeting documents.

8. Invoice Checks (Agenda item 58h)

In accordance with Financial Regulation 2.6, Cllr Johnson has checked the invoices paid from April to August 2026 against the bank statements. My thanks to Cllr Johnson.

Recommendation: That Council acknowledges that the invoices from April to August 2026 have been checked in accordance with Financial Regulation 2.6.

9. Play Park Inspections (Agenda item 58i)

The Facilities Supervisor inspects the main play park daily and the other play parks weekly and reports any issues to me. All inspection reports are contained in the office for any member to access. Mark attended a recent update inspection course organised by ROSPA in September. Any items found are attended to in a timely manner.

Recommendation: That Council notes the play park inspections for August and September 2026.

Clerk, 22.10.2026