



Open Spaces Committee Meeting Meeting Minutes for Monday, January 19, 2026.

Present: Andrew Cooper (Chair), Alison Sercombe (Vice-Chair), Paul Willmott, Anthony Shepherd, Toby Newman, Lucy Thomas, Aaron Brooks, John Wolstenholme

Officer: Clerk / Asst Clerk

Members of the Public/ online: 0/0

The meeting opening at 19:30 and closed at 20.27

| Item | Action |
|-----------|--|
| #55/25-26 | APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – None. |
| #56/25-26 | DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Cllr Willmott Wheatley Playing Fields Trust and Wheatley Rugby Club Cllr Shepherd Wheatley Playing Fields Trust |
| #57/25-26 | TO RECEIVE & APPROVE MINUTES From Open Spaces Committee meeting on 17th November 2025- previously circulated – Were approved and duly signed by the Chairman of the Committee as a true record of the meeting. |
| #58/25-26 | TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING ACTIONS From Open Spaces Committee meeting on 17th November 2025 i. Crown Rd to Ambrose Rise ditch clearance- Work completed 10.12.2025 |
| #59/25-26 | TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM OFFICERS And includes: i. Memorial Gardens- to discuss adding solar lighting due to a resident raising a concern about trips/falls time falls due to unlit steps.- Members discussed and Cllr Sercombe to discuss this with St Mary's Church Vicar. ii. To discuss the recent Graffiti around the village – Letters have been sent to residents affected by the graffiti. Clerk seeking quotes on behalf of the residences for the removal of the Graffiti. iii. Maintenance tasks completed and planned- Staff sickness has meant reduced man hours. iv. Padlocks have been update across the village. v. Coopers Close alley tree work by Drayton Park Home Estates- work complete vi. Christmas Tree to be removed – Assistant Clerk has emailed. vii. Leaf Blower received, tool marked, added to Asset register and now in use |

21 January 2026

Signed:

Date:

- viii. Winter preparedness, salt bags delivered and bins topped up as needed by GMO's

#60/25-26 TO DISCUSS TREE WORK

- i. Tree register update ongoing, and to be sent to Tree Surgeon for survey's once ready
- ii. OCC to plant 2 trees on verge corner of Leyshon Rd/ Roman Rd- Completed 08.01.2026

#61/25-26 TO DISCUSS PLAY AREAS & RECREATION GROUNDS

- i. Ongoing maintenance
- ii. Criminal damage in Cullum Rec- all equipment fixed
- iii. Dogs in Recreation Grounds- It was agreed that further communication is needed to deter dogs being taken into recreation areas, including information in the newsletter and on social media, with reference to existing by-laws. **Clerk to action.**
- iv. Church Road Recreation Ground Refurbishment- Funding has been secured, the design finalised for all age groups, and a full proposal will be presented to Full Council in February ahead of a provisional April start.

#62/25-26 TO DISCUSS MANAGEMENT OF ALLOTMENTS AND FOOTPATH

- i. Meetings with allotment holders completed
- ii. Plots to be marked out and numbered
- iii. New tenant agreement to be created and include cultivation rules

#63/25-26 UPDATE ON LITTLEWORTH APRON

- i. Update, Agree actions and timescales – Assistant Clerk actioning

#64/25-26 HOWE TRUST NOMINATED TRUSTEE VACANCIES To discuss filling the two nominated trustee vacancies, as part of the nine trustee's. – Wheatley Parish Council reserve the right to nominate their own trustee's Cllr Sercombe to respond.

#65/25-26 TO DISCUSS ISSUES, IMPROVEMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS FOR OTHER OPEN SPACES

- i. Footpath from Beech Road to Kelham Hall Drive, uneven tarmac- investigating ownership
- ii. Footpath from Beech Road to Kelham Hall Drive, blocked pipework from catch pit in alleyway. OCC are investigating ownership
- iii. Environmental Visual Audit- Clerk has replied to recent email, awaiting dates to arrange an in-person meeting in preparation for the warmer weather.

#66/25-26 CORRESPONDENCE AND ANY URGENT ITEMS REQUIRING ATTENTION

- i. Update on Cadet Hut – Met with OCC Surveyor 16.01.2026 as final discussions to take on the lease. Proposal to be presented to Full Council.

#67/25-26 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- i. Free Gardening Service – Information passed on.
- ii. Littleworth Playing Field- Ongoing discussions with SODC about the design for Attenuation ponds for both Littleworth Field side and Shotover Estate side. Concerns have been raised as designs have been put forward with no consultation with **landowners/tenants**. There is little understanding of how wet the Littleworth Field is in the bottom left-hand corner.
- iii. Thank you from the Christmas Tractor team who attended the 2025 Wheatley Christmas Fair. They raised £5718.95 for Katharine House Hospice from all the seasonal events they attended.

#68/25-26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING Monday 16th March 2026, 7.30pm