



Howden Town Council



Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee meeting held on Tuesday October 13th 2026 at 7.15pm at the Town Council Offices, 17 Bridgegate, Howden.

Present: Councillors Drury (Chair), Pears, McLellan, Young, Howard, Cave, Coutts

In attendance: L Smith (Tourism and Marketing Officer)

Clerk: S Boggitt

2026-53-AM: Apologies for absence – to receive and accept.

Apologies were received from Councillors Hart and Levitt – both accepted.

2026-54-AM: Declaration of Interest –

2025-54.1-AM Declarations of Interests, in respect to Agenda items, to be made and recorded in the minutes even if an interest has been declared in the register.

None.

2025-54.2-AM For the Council to note any dispensations presented to the Clerk prior to the meeting and their resolution.

None.

2026-55-AM: Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday August 4th 2026 – to agree and approve as a true record.

The minutes of the meeting held Tuesday August 4th 2026 were received and were agreed and approved as a true record.

2026-56-AM: Howden Marsh Update and Marsh Management Plan. To receive a report from the Clerk, Councillor Drury and Councillor Cave; to include (but not only) meadow management discussions, tree survey update, Friends of Howden Marsh dates and container purchase update and to then agree any actions and/or make any recommendations to Council.

Items were discussed and agreed as follows:

- 1) The tree survey has been completed and should be received by the end of the week. If there are any major works to agree, it was agreed to discuss these at the Full Council meeting under the Amenities minutes agenda item.
- 2) Following correspondence from a resident who was approached in 2023 regarding the riparian rights of the Howden Marsh drain/dyke, Councillors Drury and Cave will make a further site visit to decide what needs doing on the Town Council's side of the drain as per the letter ie trees, hedges and ivy. If there is anything dangerous or encroaching agreed to delegate this to the Clerk and Chairs to remove.
- 3) A complaint has been received from a resident of the ERYC bungalows where some trees are causing an issue over their property. Agreed the trees are within



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the Marsh boundary but in the past these have been maintained and cut back by ERYC as they are also within the boundary of the properties. SB to contact ERYC.

- 4) The Marsh Management Plan was looked at and under highlighted item 'Removal of willow and other trees/shrubs encroaching floodplain meadow and pond' it was agreed to look at now cutting down the small coppice on the floodplain meadow. These trees had self-populated in this area and were not in keeping with a floodplain and could cause nutrient issues in the future. Due to the need to keep heavy machinery off this area it was agreed to cut them down ourselves. Councillor Cave and SB to liaise on a press release for this before the works are started.
- 5) Councillor Drury reported the gearbox had failed on the flail mower and was in to be fixed. The blades and the bearings would also need replacing at a cost up to £1,000. Committee agreed this was a vital piece of equipment and having it saved a lot of money in contractors.

2026-57-AM: Councillor Howard. To receive update from Councillor Howard in relation to the proposed Community Garden. To then agree any actions and/or make and recommendations to Council.

Councillor Howard reported the resident who was wanting to set this up had not been contactable therefore there is no update.

2026-58-AM: Streets and Amenities. To receive report from the Clerk, to include request from residents for additional bins on public highway.

The Clerk presented a request from residents for a public bin on the public highway at the back of Agar Crescent. Committee agreed to look into the purchase of one for that area (has to be through an SLA with ERYC as it's on a public highway). SB to speak to them regarding cost and the location. It was also agreed to recommend to RAM (via the budget) for budgeting for further bins for the town in future years.

Committee agreed they would like the Christmas lights installing and ready to be on by the last week of November. SB to speak with the installation company and Councillor Drury to look at the socket side. The Clerk reported the electricity checks had been done on the sockets and all the documentation had been presented to ERYC for the permit to be released. Reported the Christmas tree order had been placed and a reminder that Council would be paying for this moving forwards. A banner is to be designed and ordered.

2026-59-AM: Building Update. To receive report from the Clerk and agree any actions.

Reported that the roof works had been completed.



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2026-60-AM: Derwent Play Park. To receive report from the Clerk, update from Councillor Howard on community tidy up proposals and agree any actions and/or make any recommendations to Council.

There was no update regarding the community tidy up proposal, however Councillor Howard would look at this. The repairs to the floor area had again been vandalised, agreed to ask the handyman to now secure this with concrete, and attach more tie wraps to the top of the swings to deter birds. Otherwise the area was being kept tidier since the removal of the small play equipment.

2026-61-AM: Site Safety Sheets. To receive a report from the Clerk and agree any actions.

It was noted that there are a couple of site safety sheets outstanding. Agreed all outstanding to be with SB by the end of the week.

2026-62-AM: Howden Events/Tourism and Marketing. To receive report from the Tourism and Marketing Officer and agree any actions and/or make any recommendations to Council.

A report was presented noting the Halloween events in Howden, plus the calendar and the Christmas fliers. All paperwork was in for Remembrance Sunday, however no contact could be made with the bugler. A back up plan to speak to Richard Acklam to see if this could be played through the speakers instead if the bugler cannot be reached.

2026-63-AM: Correspondence.

Councillor McLellan noted the doors on the Old Fire Station can now be painted now that the new Fire Station has opened.

2026-64-AM: Items for Next Agenda.

Howden Show offer of funds towards the hanging baskets/planters. Budget request.

2026-65-AM: Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday December 1st 2026 at 6.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.11pm.