

Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Spaces Committee
held on 16 September 2025 at 7:30pm
in the Council Chamber, Town Hall

Councillors present: Cllr John Reynolds (Chair)
Cllr Chris Bloor
Cllr Danny Bonnett
Cllr Christine Carter
Cllr Chris Davies
Cllr Fiona Deas
Cllr Gil Gilroy
Cllr James Murray
Cllr Chris Rowe

Officers present: Wendy Sydenham (Deputy Clerk)

Councillors absent: Cllr Phil O'Rourke
Cllr Emma Shepherd
Cllr Chris Woodhouse

There was one member of the public present

OS2526.40 TO CONSIDER ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Phil O'Rourke and Chris Woodhouse.

OS2526.41 TO RECEIVE ANY MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Reynolds declared an interest in matters relating to Thornbury In Bloom, as a family member is involved in the organisation.

OS2526.42 TO RECEIVE ANY REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There was one member of the public present, but no representations were made.

OS2526.43 TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 JULY 2025

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the minutes of the Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on 22 July 2025, and they were then signed by the Chair.

OS2526.44 TO CONSIDER FEEDBACK ON THE CONSULTATION ON POSSIBLE CHANGES TO THE PATCH OF TARMAC NEAR LARKSPUR AVENUE AND AGREE NEXT STEPS

In relation to the feedback on the consultation on the patch of tarmac near Larkspur Avenue and the information in the officer's report regarding ownership of the land, the following was **RESOLVED**:

- Officers should continue efforts to contact the developer who owns the site to ascertain their views on the Town Council potentially making changes to the land.
- To refer this potential project to the Capital Strategy Group, so that this can be captured within their list of projects and considered further in relation to other planned projects.

OS2526.45 TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THORNBURY IN BLOOM FOR AN ALTERNATIVE LOCATION FOR THE THIRD BENCH ON ROCK STREET GARDEN.

It was noted that Thornbury In Bloom had withdrawn their request for consideration of an alternative location for the bench and therefore the original resolution regarding the placement of the third bench would stand (to be installed in the same location as the Remembrance Bench that was due to be relocated).

OS2526.46 TO CONSIDER A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CLIMATE & NATURE COMMITTEE FOR WILDFLOWER PLANTING ON THE MUNDY PLAYING FIELDS

In relation to the recommendation from the Climate & Nature Committee, it was **RESOLVED** to agree to the planting of wildflower seed in existing areas of wildflower meadow, hay meadow and tall grassland at the Mundy Playing Fields, as set out in the officer report.

OS2526.47 TO RATIFY AN OFFICER DECISION REGARDING ALLOWING PLAQUES ON PUBLIC GRAVES AT THORNBURY CEMETERY

It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the officer decision to allow any requests made to the Town Council to place a marker on public graves. The requester would be allowed to purchase and have installed through the Town Council, a small bronze plaque to be placed on the plot, the same as that allowed on cremated remains plots.

OS2526.48 TO CONSIDER PROCEEDING WITH ENTERING THE MUNDY PLAYING FIELDS INTO THE GREEN FLAG AWARDS AND DELEGATE AUTHORITY FOR ANY ASSOCIATED EXPENDITURE

The Committee discussed the Green Flag Awards in general, noting how they linked with the work currently being carried out through Full Council on the potential development of a Land Management Plan. It was **RESOLVED** to put this item on the next Open Spaces Committee agenda, by which time there may be more certainty through Full Council on a potential Land Management Plan and Committee members would have had more time to look through the Green Flag Awards criteria. The aim at the next Committee meeting would be to consider this criterion in more detail and highlight any areas that the Committee would not feel comfortable with working towards.

OS2526.49 TO CONSIDER A REQUEST TO ALLOW THE ADOPTION OF AN EXISTING BENCH AS A MEMORIAL BENCH

It was **RESOLVED** that requests to adopt an existing bench as a memorial bench would be allowed, on the basis that the bench would then become a “shared” memorial bench, which could have a number of plaques on it. As a shared bench is already an option in the existing policy, the placement of a plaque on an existing bench would be covered by the same terms and conditions as that, including the fee. This policy change would be made in the form of a recommendation to the next Finance & General Purpose Committee to agree the amendment to the policy.

OS2526.50 TO NOTE THAT THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ITEMS TO THE DEPUTY CLERK FOR INCLUSION IN THE NEXT AGENDA IS WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2025

The deadline for submission of items to the Clerk/Deputy Clerk for inclusion in the next agenda was noted to be Wednesday 5 November 2025.

OS2526.51 TO NOTE THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2025

The date of the next meeting was noted to be Tuesday 18 November 2025.

The meeting closed at 20.20.