



ADOPTED

Minutes of the meeting of the Sports Pitch Committee of West Monkton Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st April 2026 at 9.30am at Brittons Ash Community Hall, Bridgwater Road, Bathpool, Taunton, TA2 8FT and via zoom.

In attendance: Alan Hall, Cllrs Cavill, Gage and Haskins, James Tolman, Sam Wallis and James Dean (Taunton Rugby Club), Giles Benbow and James Leck (West Monkton Cricket Club) and Amy Shepherd (Clerk).

SPC86/25 To receive any apologies (with reasons), introductions with responsibilities

Apologies were received from Cllr Munson.

SPC87/25 To approve minutes of the Sports Pitch Committee meeting held on 17th March 2026.

The minutes of the Sports Pitch Committee meeting held on 17th March 2026 were approved.

SPC88/25 Update on works / planned works:

a. Landscaping / tree planting

Tree planting has taken place on site and a watering schedule established.

Further trees are available on site to plant at the Sports Pitches or at the Country Park.

b. Pump Track

Installation of the pump track is progressing well. Tarmac is being laid this week and the track through the dog walking area is being installed next week.

The container for the pump track was delivered last week – Clerk to request that Kevin Chedzoy installs a lock box on the container.

It was noted that young people are accessing the site to go on the pump track even though work isn't complete.

Clerk to arrange signage.

Fencing between the pump track and sports pitches to be added. Clerk to liaise with the contractor and arrange a site meeting to agree requirements at the pump track and around the rest of the sports pitch site where access is being obtained.

Arrangements for operation of the site once complete were discussed. It was noted that a risk assessment needs to be developed incorporating hours of opening (site to be locked when dark) and regular checks that need to be made. Clerk to develop.

ROSPA inspection needs to be completed and pump track needs to be added to PC insurance policy prior to opening.

Access to the dog walk area was also discussed. Clerk to liaise with Kevin Chedzoy about modifications that can be made to the gate to prevent occupation of the dog walking area by horses.

Solar powered CCTV to be looked into and costs gathered for installation on the pump track container and the Cricket container – on the cricket nets.

Clerk confirmed that she had received an enquiry about sponsorship from Bicycle Chain, Clerk to discuss terms.

c. Floodlighting

Clerk reported that work is scheduled to commence on 27th April. Clerk to put company in contact with James Tolman about overnight storage of equipment.

The location of the rugby pitch was discussed and the option of moving it towards the south following the removal of some of the bund for the pump track. It was agreed to leave the rugby pitch in its current position.

d. Car parking

Clerk reported that the Parish Council has considered quotes for the car park. Work is expected to commence towards the end of May.

It was noted that spoil from the car park works will be placed adjacent to the cricket pitch on the north west boundary near the attenuation pond to form a bund. Giles Benbow to mark the cricket pitch edge to indicate where the bund can be located.

e. Drainage works

Clerk reported that the Parish Council has considered quotes for the drainage. Work is expected to commence towards the end of May.

An additional duct in the trench between the cricket nets and the pump track was discussed and agreed.

f. Utility and Drainage connections

Clerk provided an update in relation to the electric and water connections. The design approval is expected by 27th May.

Clerk to request a copy of the design and a schedule for the works.

No further update has been provided on the drainage connection. Clerk to request again a copy of the design for the drainage connection from Persimmon.

g. Pavilion

Clerk confirmed that the pavilion is the subject of grant applications and work / consideration would progress once funding has been secured.

h. Perimeter fencing

Clerk confirmed that the perimeter fencing would be considered in the future (in advance of the rugby season), once funding has been secured.

i. Ongoing maintenance of pitches

Giles Benbow reported that a roller, mower and wicket mower have been secured for the site and basic maintenance equipment is now available.

James Tolman confirmed that maintenance of the rugby pitch is going well. Plans are being made to fertilize and seed the pitch in August.

Other points that were raised were the need to tidy up the bricks at the entrance to the site and the netting / fencing to the front of the attenuation pond to stop cricket balls going into the pond.

SPC 89/25 Booking System for pitches

Clerk reported that the PC has approved a booking system for the pitches. This will be used for all facilities on site including the cricket nets. This will enable community use of the facilities outside of the use of them by the clubs.

Giles Benbow to share the times of the cricket clubs use of the facilities to be added to the booking system.

It was noted that any booking of the facilities should include terms and conditions, responsibility for the equipment should it be damaged. It was noted that CCTV should be in place prior to public use. The combination on the padlock will need to be changed frequently to ensure the nets aren't misused, although longer term it was noted that an electronic entry system would be preferable.

Clerk to develop booking system and terms and conditions of use to enable use by the community once construction works have ended on site.

Cricket Club to park inside the entrance gates when using the cricket nets / site for training.

SPC 90/25 Grand opening of the park; discuss plans / options

A discussion took place about options for an official opening event. It was agreed that an official opening could take place at the beginning of August. Local people and businesses should be invited. Food vendors to be

present and a bar. Activities could include tag rugby and cricket matches, a pump track expedition and an inflatable obstacle course.

SPC 91/25 Finance and grant funding update

Clerk reported that she is finalising the application for lottery funding and expects to submit the application shortly. Clerk provided an overview of the items to be included in the application.

SPC 92/25 Update from Taunton Rugby Club and West Monkton Cricket Club

The clubs had nothing further to report.

Clerk raised the MOUs discussed at the last meeting and requested the clubs requirements so that they can be developed.

SPC 93/25 Other matters for report

Clerk to develop a site wide risk assessment which will incorporate the pump track (discussed above).

Watering schedule to continue.

Clerk reported that the handrails for the culvert will be installed shortly.

SPC 94/25 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Tuesday 19th May at 9.30am at Brittons Ash Community Hall with the opportunity to join virtually.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting ended at 10.45am.



Signed Chairman:

Date: 19th May 2026