WETHERBY TOWN COUNCIL
PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

Date: **Tuesday 29th September 2026**
Time: **5:30pm**
Location: **Court Room, Wetherby Town Hall, Market Place, Wetherby, LS22 6NE.**

Present:
Councillor Bradley
Councillor Chapman
Councillor Mulhall
Councillor Newcombe (Chair)
Councillor O'Byrne
Councillor Carr

In attendance:
Assistant Clerk
Facilities Officer

MINUTES

1. Apologies.
Local Government Act 1972, s 85 (3)
It was **RESOLVED** that apologies be received, and reasons for absence approved, from Councillor Moss.

2. Declarations of interests and requests for dispensations – None.
Localism Act 2011, s31
Members' Code of Conduct, para. 13-18, 19-20

3. Public participation – None.
Public bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, s 1 (3)

4. Minutes.
Local Government Act 1972, Sch 12, para. 41 (1)
It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Property Committee meeting, held on *Tuesday 28th July,* be approved.

5. Items arising from the last meeting.

5.1 Planting at Wetherby Show Gardens.
The Facilities Officer gave an update on winter planting arrangements in the show gardens. The Flower beds are expected to be emptied mid-October, while new turfing is put down, with an aim to re-plant a few weeks later, in time for Remembrance Sunday.

6. Greenspaces and recreational areas.

6.1 Millennium Field.
The committee **NOTED** that Millennium Field's lease ends in February 2027. Discussions with Leeds City Council have indicated that they are inclined to offer another 25-year lease on the same agreement as before. However, clarity is needed on the future of the land adjacent which is leased to St Josephs Primary School.

The committee considered expected costs associated with the legalities of the contracts. There is a budget for legal costs but a mandate from the Council would be required to progress with a 25-year-lease.

The Facilities Officer will liaise with St Josephs Primary School to discuss, search past records for clarification on previous agreements, and arrange a site visit with the Chair of the Property Committee.

6.2 Nidd Approach.

The Facilities Officer reported that Nidd Approach play area had been vandalised, and as a result the hanging ropes have been removed from the playground. A quote to replace the damaged ropes has been received totalling £597.00 including VAT.

The Facilities Officer reported that she has tried to contact the solicitor for Nidd Approach leasing on this issue but has had no response.

Following a discussion**,** it was **RESOLVED** that to ensure user safety and maintain use of the site, to proceed with replacing the two playground ropes using playground maintenance budget.

The gate at Nidd Approach was also damaged but has since been repaired. However, this resulted in the gate being out of order for two days and raised a discussion on a Public Rights of Way application that has been raised but not yet established. The Facilities Officer is continuing to monitor this application.

6.3 Devil's Toenail Bike Track.

The Committee received a report from SingletrAction on requested works to the Devil's Toenail Bike Track. The track was completed eight years ago and is now in need of resurfacing works requiring 60 – 80 tonnes of aggregate. Three quotes for materials have been provided.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to proceed with sourcing 80 tons from Darrington Quary up to £1,900. Rental construction vehicles to be supplied to SingletrAction.

6.4 Green Flag Awards – Best of the Best Awards 2026

Following on from success in Green Flag and Yorkshire in Bloom competitions, the committee received a proposal to nominate persons for the "Outstanding Contribution by an Elected Member" and "Volunteers Team of the Year" categories of the Green Flag Award-Best of the Best Awards 2026.

It was **RESOLVED** to submit the two proposed persons for the Green Flag 'Best of the Best awards.

7. <u>Cemetery.</u>

7.1 Church on the Corner Refurbishment.

The results of the Church on the Corner Survey were **NOTED**.

The following works have been recommended to make the church a usable space:

- Installation of new drainage and insulation
- The roof appears to be sound however would also require insulation.
- Internal heating system including a gas supply, radiators or possible heat pump (being investigated).

The Facilities Officer is awaiting quotations for works and investigating any further funding options. Consideration is also being made for the installation of toilet facilities.

7.2 Cemetery Fencing.

Following further reports of anti-social activity in the Cemetery, the Clerk, under her delegated authority, has ordered green mesh fencing to be installed on the southwest-side of the Cemetery to remove an unauthorised entrance due to the safety risk posed.

The cost of the fencing totalled £1,648 excluding VAT and will be installed by the Council's grounds maintenance contractors.

Police have been made aware of the ongoing anti-social activity and will be escalated with Ward Councillors. It was requested to add a review of security risk at Council sites to the next agenda.

8. York Road Depot.

The committee received a request from the Christmas Lights Team for easier access to the fuse board during the lights testing sessions. The use of an RCD would be ineffective due to RCD's already being fitted in the fuse box.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that due to budget constraints, the committee cannot move the fuse box. The Facilities Officer will discuss alternative options with the electrician.

9. Facilities report

The Facilities Officer reported on the following items:

- Trenches have been dug at Sandringham Park where the fly-tipped waste has been removed. This is not believed to be malicious however the Council's grounds personnel and contractors are continuing to monitor the site.
- Installation of wildlife cameras are being considered at Sandringham Park.

10. Items for information – None.

11. Next meeting.

The next meeting of the Property Committee will be held on the 20th October 2026.

The meeting closed at 6.50pm.
These minutes were recorded by the Assistant Clerk and prepared by the Administration and Burials Officer.