

MINUTES OF LEISURE FACILITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 17th FEBRUARY 2026
AT MILLFIELDS PAVILLION MILL WAY NEEDINGWORTH AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT:

Cllr C Pearce (Chairman)
Cllr R Fountain
Cllr E MacPherson
Cllr S Martin
Cllr S Mortlock
Cllr J Neish
Cllr A Whyte

IN ATTENDANCE:

Miss J Bowd (Parish Clerk)

There were no members of the public present.

19. To Receive Apologies for Absence.

None.

20. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2025.

Resolved: That the minutes of 21st October 2025 be signed as a true and correct record.
(Prop Cllr MacPherson, 2nd Cllr Martin) 4 in favour. 3 abstentions.

21. Millfield's.

- 21.1 To consider email from Needingworth cricket club regarding the all-weather wicket and nets and agree actions.

Members raised several questions and Cllr Neish suggested it may be worth asking a representative to attend a meeting.

Cllr Whyte spoke to say that he had visited the site and in his opinion the surface could easily be lifted and the base then sorted, built up and seeded in the Autumn.

Cllr Pearce felt that if the club want improvements, then they should seek grant funding. In his opinion the priority for CIL money should be sorting the car park.

Resolved: That no action is taken until Autumn when Council will review the matter again.
(Prop Cllr Mortlock, 2nd Cllr Martin) All in favour.

- 21.2 To consider request from Needingworth Colts to play postponed matches on Thursday evenings in April.

Resolved: That the Clerk request more information. number of matches, time of play, confirmation of all being home games. Item to be taken to full Council 3rd March for a decision. (Prop Cllr Pearce, 2nd Cllr Whyte) All in favour.

- 21.3 To consider request from resident for removal of rabbits from the area.

A lengthy discussion took place. It was agreed that the area (Millfield's/garden plots) is badly affected by rabbits which cause a lot of damage.

Resolved: That the request be allowed on a trial basis subject to:

- Provision of insurance
- Signage being displayed when pest control being undertaken
- Closure of the area- car park/Falklands
- Rabbits only to be culled.
- Early mornings only.

(Prop Cllr Neish, 2nd Cllr Mortlock) 6 in favour. 1 abstention.

- 21.4 To consider the installation of solar panels on Millfield's pavilion.

Clerk provided quotes from 2 companies along with supporting reports.

Cllr Mortlock asked if both had visited the site, Clerk confirmed that 1 company had the other used google earth.

Cllr Fountain spoke to say that it is important to minimise the amount of power sold back to

the grid, battery storage required.

Cllr Mortlock felt other measures could be taken to reduce power costs e.g. insulation.

Resolved: That the item be progressed by looking into renewable energy grants and the roof inspected. (Prop Cllr Neish, 2nd Cllr Mortlock) All in favour.

22. Overcote Lane playing field.

22.1 To receive report on 6 monthly play area inspection by RoSPA.

Resolved: That the annual inspection be undertaken in April with the interim inspection delayed until October (Prop Cllr MacPherson, 2nd Cllr Martin) All in favour.

23. Items to report.

- Cllr Whyte reported the “mess” behind the tractor shed at Millfield’s. Tyres/netting/white boarding etc and suggested that the clubs be contacted asking them to remove items.

Being no further business the meeting closed at 8.26 pm

Chairman

Date