



Garstang Town Council

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Amenities & Public Realm Committee Meeting, 10th February 2025 Agenda

Amenities & Public Realm Committee Members and members of the press & public

You are summoned to attend the meeting of the Amenities & Public Realm Committee to consider the items detailed on the attached agenda.

The meeting will be held at Garstang library,
Windsor Road, Garstang, PR3 1EX
on Tuesday, 10 February 2026 **at 5.00pm**

If you are unable to attend please could you submit an apology to the Clerk.

Please contact the Clerk by 13.00, Tuesday, 10 February, to express your interest in attending the meeting. This helps Council answer your questions on the evening.

Recording of Public Council Meetings

Please be aware that the public meeting may be recorded for the accuracy of the minutes.

As per standing orders 12g; for any meeting that has been recorded the recording will be kept for a period of 6 months after the minutes have been approved as accurate before the recording is deleted.

E Parry

Town Clerk,
5th February 2026

Agenda

(Time allocation for items 1 to 4 – 5.00pm – 5.05pm)

1)

Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence.

2)

Declaration of Interests and Dispensations

To receive disclosures of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests and dispensation requests from Councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting.

3)

Public Participation

The Chairman will ask Councillors to agree to adjourn the meeting to allow non-Councillors to speak and will ask Councillors to agree to reconvene the meeting on the conclusion of the public participation.

4)

Minutes of the last meeting – for decision

Councillors are asked to approve, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2025.

5)

United Utilities will attend the meeting, to update Councillors on Garstang Wastewater Treatment works – for information.

(Time allocation, 5.05 – 5.25pm)

Work is due to start in the next few weeks, and United Utilities are attending to attend to discuss their plans.

(Time allocation for items 6 to 16 – 5.20pm – 6.00pm)

6)

Chairman's report – for information

7)

Friends of Kepple Lane Park – for decision

Recommendation	Reconstitute the Kepple Lane Park Working Group to allow it to resume advisory activity in support of park improvements.
Background (brief)	The group has not met since December due to the resignation of a councillor member, leaving it without sufficient membership to function. Prior to this, the group was established to provide focus and continuity for site-specific issues and improvement work.
Implications Summary	Other: Delay to advisory input and progression of improvement work while the group remains non-operational
Recommendation	To resolve to appoint a replacement councillor member to the Kepple Lane Park Working Group to enable it to resume activity.

Further Discussion Required: No

8)

Kepple Lane Park – Goal Posts – for decision

Full report is detailed in the Appendix.

Recommendation	Replace the existing goal posts at Kepple Lane Park with a more appropriate, wildlife-safe alternative.
Background (brief)	The current goal posts are in poor condition and no longer suitable for the site. As part of the work to achieve hedgehog release site certification at Kepple Lane Park, football netting must be raised or replaced with wildlife-safe alternatives to prevent harm to hedgehogs.
Implications Summary	<p>Financial: Cost to council – to be confirmed</p> <p>Risk / H&S: Reduces risk to wildlife and addresses deteriorating equipment</p> <p>Environmental: Supports biodiversity and hedgehog release site requirements</p> <p>Operational / Asset: Improves asset condition and reduces maintenance issues</p>
Recommendation	“To resolve to approve the replacement of the existing goal posts at Kepple Lane Park with a wildlife-safe alternative that meets hedgehog release site certification requirements.”

Further Discussion Required: Yes

9)

Kepple Lane Park – Outdoor Stage (Structural Issue Identified During Works) – for decision

For decision:	Determine how the Council wishes to proceed following the discovery of structural deterioration beneath the Kepple Lane Park outdoor stage.
Background (brief)	During ongoing works to the outdoor stage at Kepple Lane Park, the contractor has identified that the underlying timber structure is rotten. While the contractor can complete the works to the original specification, they have advised that this would result in a cosmetically acceptable finish only and that the stage would lack long-term structural stability, with a risk of failure in the near future. As an alternative, the contractor has proposed removing the existing base materials and constructing a new timber truss structure, onto which the existing edging sleepers (already owned by the Council) would be fixed, before infilling and resurfacing to provide a durable, long-term solution.
Implications Summary	<p>Financial:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option A (continue to current specification): no additional immediate cost, but high likelihood of future failure

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option B (rebuild structure): estimated £2,500–£3,000 (subject to formal quotation) • Option C (remove asset): cost implications to be confirmed <p>Risk / H&S: Continuing without structural remediation presents a foreseeable risk of collapse and injury</p> <p>Operational / Asset: Option B provides long-term asset stability; Option A likely results in repeat intervention</p> <p>Community Impact: Stage has potential to become valued feature; removal or failure may negatively affect public perception</p>
Recommendation	<p>To resolve to determine how the Council should proceed, either:</p> <p>a) continue works to the current specification, b) proceed with a long-term structural solution subject to receipt of a formal quotation, or c) remove the outdoor stage entirely.</p>

Further Discussion Required: No

10)

Kepple Lane Park A6 Entrance – for decision

Recommendation	Determine whether the informal access point to Kepple Lane Park from the A6 should be closed or formalised, and approve the commissioning of cost estimates.
Background (brief)	An informal entrance to Kepple Lane Park has developed from the A6 through repeated use by residents, likely intensified by recent housing development in the area. The route currently consists of a narrow squeeze between a garage fence and a hedge, followed by a steep descent onto boggy ground. Increased footfall has exposed tree roots, creating significant trip hazards, and the surface becomes extremely slippery in wet conditions.
Implications Summary	<p>Risk / H&S: High risk of slips, trips, and falls; potential liability if injury occurs on Council land</p> <p>Community Impact: Clear desire line exists; local residents and Friends of Kepple Lane Park favour a formal entrance</p> <p>Operational / Asset: Ongoing deterioration of ground conditions if unmanaged</p> <p>Legal / Governance: Potential duty of care implications if the route remains accessible but unmanaged</p>
Recommendation	To resolve to commission cost estimates to assess options for either making the informal access from the A6 impassable or creating a formal, safe entrance to Kepple Lane Park.

Further Discussion Required: No

11)

Allotments – Ash Tree Removal – for decision

Recommendation	Approve the removal of an ash tree located on Council land adjacent to the allotments, subject to confirmation of permissions and final checks.
Background (brief)	An ash tree located on Council land at the allotments has been raised by a plot holder due to significant shading impacting plot productivity. The plot holder has engaged with the adjoining property owner, who has confirmed their consent to the tree's removal. Quotes have been obtained by the plot holder, with the lowest quotation received being £325, which is well below typical market rates for works of this nature. The tree is suspected to be suffering from ash die back.
Implications Summary	Financial: £325 estimated cost Risk / H&S: Tree works to be carried out by a competent contractor with appropriate insurance Legal / Governance: Tree located on Council land; consent from adjoining property to be confirmed Community Impact: Positive outcome for allotment productivity and neighbour relations Operational / Asset: Removal resolves an ongoing issue with minimal intervention
Recommendation	To resolve to delegate the removal of the ash tree at the allotments to the Clerk as per Financial Regulations, subject to final checks on contractor competence and insurance.

Further Discussion Required: No

12)

Memorial plaques and trees, Clerk – for information and decision

The Clerk has been approached about:

- i) placing a plaque on a bench owned by the Town Council. The Clerk has [produced a draft policy](#). Does the Committee approve that this is reviewed with the Chair, Councillor Pearson and Lengthsman, and put forward to Full Council for approval.
- ii) the possibility of installing a memorial bench or planting a memorial tree in Garstang in memory of my late father. [The email has been circulated](#).

How does the Committee wish to respond to the request?

13)

Memorial Bench for AFVBC Members, Councillors Allan and Pearson – for decision

The Garstang Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club (AFVBC) have asked if they could install a Commemorative Bench at the War Memorial to which they would add Memorial Name Plaques for members who have passed away. The Bench and plaques would be funded by the club and there would be no cost to the Town Council.

The recommendation is: That the Amenities & Public Realm Committee recognises the Service of the Garstang AFVBC members and will recommend to Full Council the installation of a Bench in a suitable location.

Background Information:

The AFVBC have several members who served in WW2, One passed away late last year, one is now 100 years old and another who is 98 years old.

The family of the member who passed away has given the AFVBC a generous donation and the committee would like to provide a memorial bench.

14)

Date of next meeting – to be discussed & determined

Monday 6th or Tuesday 7th April 2026, time to be determined.

A)

Appendix

Item 8: Kepple Lane Park – Goal Posts – for decision

1. Recommendation	Replace the existing goal posts at Kepple Lane Park with a more appropriate, wildlife-safe alternative that complies with hedgehog release site certification requirements.
2. Background Information	The existing goal posts at Kepple Lane Park are in poor condition and are no longer appropriate for the site. As part of the process to achieve certification of the park as a hedgehog release site, Blackpool Hedgehog Rescue guidance requires that football netting is either raised or replaced with wildlife-safe alternatives to prevent entanglement and injury. Replacement of the goal posts provides an opportunity to address current asset condition issues while ensuring compliance with hedgehog release site specifications.
3. Background Documents	Example Compliant Options (Wildlife-Safe Goal Frames) Option 1: Secure Fixed Steel Goal Frames (No Loose Netting) These are heavy-duty steel goal frames designed for permanent installation in public parks. They are typically installed using concrete-set ground sockets or root-fixed posts and do not require netting , making them suitable for use within a hedgehog release site. This type of goal is commonly specified by local authorities due to its durability, vandal resistance, and low ongoing maintenance requirements. Example suppliers / products (illustrative only): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anti-vandal steel football goal posts (various sizes): Harrod Sport socketed steel football posts (nets optional and can be omitted):

	<p>https://www.newitts.com/harrod-sport-socketed-steel-football-posts</p> <p>Summary: Best suited to long-term public park use where durability, safety, and low maintenance are priorities. Fully wildlife-safe when installed without netting and securely fixed into the ground.</p>
	<p>Option 2: Rebound-Panel / Solid Backboard Goals (Net-Free)</p> <p>Rebound-panel or solid backboard goals provide a net-free alternative that still allows for effective informal play. These systems use steel or aluminium frames with rigid panels rather than netting, eliminating the risk of wildlife entanglement. They are commonly used in MUGAs and public recreation spaces and can be adapted for grass or verge installations with appropriate foundations.</p> <p>Example suppliers / product types (illustrative):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steel football goals with rebound panels (MUGA / park-grade): • Playground and public-realm sports equipment (bespoke park installations): https://www.playgroundequipment.com/sports-equipment/football-goals <p>Summary: Provides enhanced play experience without loose materials. Higher upfront cost but improved safety, robustness, and visual quality in public spaces.</p>
4. Implications (Expanded)	<p>Financial: Cost to council anticipated / Provision within existing budget to be confirmed</p> <p>Risk / H&S: Reduces risk of injury to wildlife and addresses deterioration of existing equipment</p> <p>Environmental / Sustainability: Supports biodiversity objectives and hedgehog release site certification</p> <p>Community Impact: Maintains provision for informal recreation while improving safety and stewardship of the park</p> <p>Operational / Asset: Replacement improves asset condition and reduces ongoing maintenance and inspection issues</p>
5. Recommendation	<p>To resolve to approve the replacement of the existing goal posts at Kepple Lane Park with a wildlife-safe alternative that meets hedgehog release site certification requirements.</p>

B)

Amenities and Public Realm Committee – Officer Project Update (For information)

i. Moss Lane Park – Church Street Entrance (Accessibility)

Accessibility concerns raised by residents have been formally progressed with Lancashire Highways. The constraint created by a highway chicane approximately 900 mm from the park boundary fence has been assessed against statutory and best-practice accessibility standards.

Current position:

The issue was logged via the Love Clean Streets system. An initial rejection was challenged and re-submitted, referencing the legal minimum access width of 1000 mm and the preferred accessible width of 1500 mm.

What's next: A response from Highways is awaited.

ii. Kepple Lane Park – Working Group

The Kepple Lane Park Working Group was established as an officer-supported advisory sub-group of the Amenities Committee.

Current position:

The group is temporarily non-operational following the resignation of a councillor member.

What's next: Appointment of a replacement councillor will allow the group to resume activity.

iii. Friends of Kepple Lane Park

Following the park's Silver Gilt award in Britain in Bloom, an officer-led initiative successfully re-established structured community involvement. Eight stakeholders were identified through advertising in The Green Book, and a well-attended first meeting was held in January.

Current position:

The group is now established with £500 start-up funding allocated.

What's next: A February meeting will include a site survey and leaflet campaign aligned with the hedgehog highways initiative.

iv. War Memorial

Visual investigation suspects subsidence affecting the rear wall. Early engagement with the War Memorials Trust has clarified funding routes.

Current position:

The memorial remains open. The Trust typically funds up to 50% of eligible repair costs.

What's next: A grant pre-application will be prepared before works proceed.

v. Biodiversity – Hedgehog Habitat (Kepple Lane Park)

This project has been refocused toward certification of Kepple Lane Park as a hedgehog release site. Blackpool Hedgehog Rescue has confirmed this is achievable.

Current position:

Certification requirements have been issued, and the Friends group is engaged. What's next: Operational changes will be implemented with the aim of achieving certification by June.

vi. Park Hill Road Rain Garden

A multi-agency flood mitigation project has moved from concept to delivery, replacing grass verges with a planted wet garden.

Current position:

United Utilities funding is available, and Lancashire County Council has agreed to act as lead applicant. A Highways meeting was held in January with positive feedback.

What's next: The proposal is progressing through Highways approval prior to implementation planning.

vii. Parish Maintenance Expansion / SLAs

An officer-led expansion of the Lengthsman service generated expressions of interest from eight neighbouring parishes. Site meetings, pricing, and supplier engagement (including three product demos) have been completed.

Current position:

Four parishes have confirmed proceeding, with two continuing discussions.

What's next: Plans of work and SLAs will be finalised before equipment procurement and recruitment.

viii. Completed and Closing Projects

Allotments – Composting system installed and project closed in January.

Moss Lane Playground – Resurfacing completed.

Kepple Lane Park – Furniture replacement completed.

Pat Seed Garden – Resurfacing expected February.

Moss Lane – Fence replacement expected February.