



Garstang Town Council

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Amenities & Public Realm Committee Meeting, 1st September 2026 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, 1 September 2026 **at 7.00pm**

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

Please contact the Clerk by 13.00, Tuesday, 1 September, 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,
26th August 2026

Agenda

- 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 [30 June 2026](#).
- 5) **Chairman's report – for information**
- 6) **Kepple Lane Park signage, staff – for information**
New welcome signs for the park remain at design stage. A requested mock-up is still to be completed. The new signs should include Council contact information directly; QR codes were considered unnecessarily complicated. Hedgehog habitat signage is a separate project. Feedback and a decision on the preferred design will be sought from the Committee.
- 7) **Town Maintenance Service reports, Lengthsman Team – for information/decision**
The Town Maintenance Service reports for [June](#) and [July](#) 2026 have been circulated.
It provides an overview of work carried out across the town recently. Is there anything the Committee would like the Lengthsman Team to focus on or prioritise?
- 8) **Green flag award, Staff – for decision**
Following circulation of Wyre Council information on Green Flag Award status, several Councillors have asked whether Garstang Town Council should aspire to achieve Green Flag status for its parks and open spaces. Kepple Lane Park has been mentioned because it previously held accreditation; Moss Lane Park may also be a potential candidate.
[What is the green flag award](#)
[Benefits of Green Flag Award](#)

That the Committee considers whether achieving Green Flag Award status should be included within the forthcoming Council's Strategic Plan and, if supported, instructs officers to investigate the requirements, costs and suitability of a future application. Members are asked to note that neither site has yet been assessed against the current criteria. Pursuit of accreditation would require additional officer and Lengthsman Team time, liaison with the

accrediting body, and potentially additional planting, mulching and other inputs. Kepple Lane Park is currently in a transitional phase and its developing Friends of Kepple Lane Park and hedgehog-release-site management approach would need to be considered alongside any Green Flag requirements. Moss Lane Park may offer a more straightforward candidate for initial assessment.

9) **War Memorial Bench and Planters, Staff and Councillor Pearson– for decision**

This item links to minute 254(2025-26), Memorial Bench for AFVBC Members. The bench has been selected and the installation process is in progress.

As this work affects the Youth Council legacy planter and accompanying pots, the Committee is asked to accept the following recommendation.

Recommendation to Committee: That the Committee delegates authority to staff, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, to determine where the Youth Council legacy planter should be relocated too, and to progress the refurbishment or replacement of the accompanying planters through partnership working with Garstang in Bloom, AFVBC and other relevant partners.

10) **Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 - Exclusion of the Press and Public for**

To resolve that in accordance of Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

11) **Quotation for works**

12) **Enquiry on land use of Moss Lane Park**

13) **Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 - Re-admission of the Press and Public.**

To resolve that the confidential business having been concluded, the press and public be re-admitted to the meeting

14) **Date of next meeting**

7.00pm, Tuesday 3rd November 2026.

Appendix

Officer Project Update (For information)

a) Outstanding resolutions of the Clerk

047(2025-26) Allotments – Ash Tree Removal

Resolved: That authority be delegated to the Clerk, in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations, to arrange for the removal of the ash tree, subject to final checks on contractor competence and appropriate insurance.

045(2025-26) Kepple Lane Park – Outdoor Stage a) That officers include questions relating to the need for and potential use of a stage within the playing field questionnaire being circulated to local schools. That the Friends of Kepple Lane Park, along with other park users and local drama/musical groups, be consulted for their views.

b) That, subject to receipt of a formal quotation, a long-term structural solution be progressed (Option B). Councillor Allan suggested that any long-term solution should include a canopy over the stage.

Current position: No further stakeholder feedback has been received (No questionnaire sent out to date from Clerk). The long-term future of the stage remains unresolved and no structural option has progressed.

Next step: Member direction is required on whether to continue pursuing retention/refurbishment or to consider removal.

The Theatres Trust

Deadline: Midday on 11th September

Who for: Organisations owning or running theatre with leases of more than 5 years

What for: Purchase of key plant & machinery, replacement of inefficient and out-dated equipment, improvements to heating and building insulation, planting sedum roofs or green walls, and general impactful, high-quality interventions.

How much for: Grants of up to £20,000

Link: <https://www.theatrust.org.uk/how-we-help/grants-funding/theatre-improvement-scheme>

046(2025-26) Kepple Lane Park A6 Entrance

a) That officers obtain quotations for both options: making the informal access from the A6 impassable, and creating a formal, safe entrance to Kepple Lane Park.

b) That the Clerk seek advice from Wyre Council regarding the potential availability of Section 106 funding associated with the nearby development.

b) 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 Lancashire Highways is still awaited.

c) 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 within the park.

Current Position: The group continues to meet twice monthly and remains in an establishing phase, with a small but steady core of regular participants. The pollinator bed has now been fully restored and the group continues to support wider biodiversity and community activity within the park.

Britain in Bloom judging in July produced very positive feedback on Kepple Lane Park. Friends of Kepple Lane Park members were present during judging, providing a welcome demonstration of the increased community participation at the site.

A sponsorship board has been designed and quotations obtained, but it has not yet been installed and no sponsorship leads have been secured to date. No applications have yet been received for a volunteer "digital friend" role to support social media activity.

What's Next: The group would benefit from further support to broaden participation, develop sponsorship and strengthen its online presence, while continuing practical biodiversity and community work within the park.

d) War Memorial

Visual investigation suggests possible subsidence affecting the rear wall of the memorial. Early engagement with the War Memorials Trust has clarified potential funding routes.

Current Position:

The memorial remains open and safe for public use. The Trust typically funds up to 50% of eligible repair costs.

What's Next:

The Clerk to lead with a grant pre-application and further investigation work will be progressed before any repair works are undertaken.

e) Biodiversity – Hedgehog Habitat (Kepple Lane Park)

This project has evolved from an initial biodiversity proposal into a wider programme aimed at securing accreditation for Kepple Lane Park as a recognised hedgehog release site.

Current Position:

Blackpool Hedgehog Rescue has visited the site and provided accreditation criteria. Significant progress has been made towards meeting those requirements.

Management practices have been amended to improve habitat quality, including the creation of longer grass areas, the cessation of routine herbicide use within designated habitat zones, and the construction of a dead hedge which now functions both as wildlife habitat and a replacement barrier for a damaged section of fencing. The former access route has been successfully

closed and the area is now providing additional habitat and nesting opportunities for wildlife.

The Friends of Kepple Lane Park group has supported habitat planting and wider biodiversity improvements. Nesting boxes have now been installed and the community leaflet drop promoting hedgehog highways has been completed. Communication with Blackpool Hedgehog Rescue continues.

Friends group members are gathering supporting information for a Lancashire County Council Champions Fund application to support the remaining habitat enhancement works, principally signage and additional planting required to complete the accreditation programme.

What's Next: Accreditation has not yet been achieved. The revised maintenance regime is working well, including longer grass, designated no-stim/no-herbicide areas and the dead hedge. Accreditation will be pursued once the remaining signage and planting requirements are complete; hedgehog releases cannot take place until accreditation has been achieved.

f) Kepple Lane Park – Football Provision

Current Position: Officers have met with representatives of Garstang Juniors FC regarding potential use of Kepple Lane Park for training and match play. A no-cost summer trial was offered; take-up and any use of the pitches are to be confirmed with the Clerk.

The club's involvement could provide access to Football Association funding opportunities for replacement goalposts and pitch improvements, helping address existing deficiencies in football infrastructure at the site. Garstang Juniors FC have also expressed an interest in becoming involved as a stakeholder within the wider Friends of Kepple Lane Park initiative.

What's Next: The Clerk will confirm, at the meeting, whether the summer trial was taken up. Further discussions on future use, replacement goalposts and potential Football Association-supported pitch improvements can then be progressed as appropriate.

g) Park Hill Road Rain Garden

A multi-agency flood mitigation project has progressed from concept stage toward formal development.

Current Position:

Lancashire County Council has agreed to act as lead authority for the project and outline designs have been prepared. The project remains focused primarily on flood alleviation while delivering biodiversity benefits where possible. Funding applications have now been formally submitted and the project is progressing through the appropriate approval processes.

What's Next: No further update has been received. Officers will follow up with Lancashire County Council for an update on the funding application and progression of the project.

h) Parish Maintenance Expansion / Service Level Agreements

The expansion of the Lengthsman service has now moved from development into operational delivery.

Current Position: Five neighbouring parish councils continue to receive services under agreements with Garstang Town Council: Cabus, Claughton, Cockerham, Kirkland and Winmarleigh. Feedback from partner parishes remains very positive. Further contract opportunities are visible and potential new contracts are being explored.

An Assistant Lengthsman remains in post at 18 hours per week. All planned equipment has now been delivered, with the final equipment arriving in early July. The compact tractor has recorded approximately 65 operational hours and has completed its initial break-in service.

The service has fully recovered from the earlier equipment-related delays. Programmed work is up to date and there is capacity to undertake small additional works where appropriate. The previously considered one-off work for Bonds and Barnacre Parish Council was subsequently delivered by Lancashire County Council and was therefore not required from the Town Council.

What's Next: Officers will continue to monitor service performance, workload, financial performance and opportunities for further work. With the contractual notice date of 9 November approaching, officers will review performance and liaise with partner parishes regarding continuation of existing agreements and any opportunities for additional provision. A fuller service and financial review will be presented following completion of the first year of operation.

Operational Infrastructure

Current Position. Temporary storage arrangements remain in place and continue to create some operational inefficiency, although this is less significant now that the earlier service backlog has been cleared. No security concerns have been identified.

Existing arrangements remain workable pending delivery of the permanent storage solution.

What's Next: The new storage container is scheduled for delivery on 12 September 2026, after which the service will move to the permanent storage arrangement.

i) Britain in Bloom 2026 - Judging took place on 22 July 2026. Formal results and detailed feedback are awaited.

Kepple Lane Park received particularly positive feedback during its judging visit, reflecting the developing character of the site and its approach to community involvement and biodiversity.

Members of Friends of Kepple Lane Park were present during judging, demonstrating the increased community participation that has been a focus following feedback from the previous year. Further feedback and results will be reported when received.

Allotments changeover of tenants?

Allotments – Tenant Changes: Two plots have recently changed tenancy and have been successfully reallocated. Both were surrendered for personal reasons and were left in good condition, with no remedial works required from the Lengthsman Team. One former tenant has subsequently become involved with Friends of Kepple Lane Park.