**Washington Parish Council**

**Open Spaces, Recreation and Allotment**

 **(OSRA) Committee**

Draf**t MINUTES** of the OSRA Committee Meeting held on Monday 21st July 2025 at the

Washington Village Memorial Hall (Doré Room).

 **PRESENT**: Cllr C. Brookes, Cllr A. Dillaway, Cllr B. Hanvey, Cllr O. Jupp and

 Cllr T. Keech (Chairman)

**ALSO**: Ms Z Savill, Clerk to the Council. No members of the public.

**ABSENT**: None

 The meeting was opened at 8:00pm.

**O/7/25/1 Apologies**

 None. All present.

**O/7/25/2 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations.**

 None declared as defined under the Localism Act 2011 and the Council’s Code of

 Conduct.

**O/7/25/3 Minutes of the last meeting**

The Committee **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the OSRA Committee Meeting held on 16th June 2025 and were duly signed by the Chairman.

**O/7/25/4 Public Speaking**

 There were no public representations.

**O/7/25/5 Actions and Matters Arising**

 The Committee noted the report of completed actions and those to be

 followed up by the Clerk (Appendix A).

 The Clerk reported one matter arising: the new Tenant of Plot 6 had

 requested clarification on the Council’s decision at its meeting on 7th

 July 2025 Min Ref: **FC/25/7/26** regarding the proposed mobile chicken tractor.

 The Committee **RESOLVED** to clarify that the Council had agreed to the

 proposals for the mobile hen tractor as described by the Tenant; and that the

 Council’s condition imposed for the hen house and run to be permanently

 located to the right-hand side of the plot did not apply to the mobile hen

 tractor. Otherwise it would have conflicted with the Tenant’s scheme for

 improving the soil condition of the plot.

**O/7/25/6 Allotment: site report**

**Rainwater harvesting project**

It was reported that some of the Plot Holders were struggling to keep their

 crops watered during the recent hot weather. A Steward is consulting

 with them about interest in a rainwater harvesting scheme which may be

 eligible for funding up to £5,000 from HDC’s Community Climate Fund.

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 A selection of site meeting dates with HDC to advise the Stewards on the

 various options and funding process were shared with the Committee should

 any members wish to attend.

 The Committee noted the report and **RESOLVED** to invite the Stewards to

 report back on the meeting outcomes and project proposals for further

 consideration at the next OSRA Committee meeting. Clerk to follow up.

**O/7/25/7 Allotment: To Approve Tenancy applications.**

The Committee **RESOLVED** to note that there were no tenancy applications

 received for vacant plots. It was further noted that the new Tenant for Plot 6

 had signed the Council’s tenancy agreement and paid the rent due for the

 remaining year.

**O/7/25/8**  **Washington Recreation Ground Charity**

 The Committee reviewed safety inspection findings of Council property and

 noted the following planned action:

* Top fencing rail at the start of the Cinder path is broken: quotation sought by the Clerk for replacement
* Dry weather has caused the ground to contract underneath the Team Room benches and the legs need anchoring into the ground: quotation sought by the Clerk for the repair.
* Animal holes on the Recreation Ground to be filled. Completed by the Groundsman.
* Weeds growing through some of the safety surfacing on Play Area – quotation sought from the Groundsman (5.6.2025). Clerk to follow up.
* Picnic bench repairs: repairs by Mr Collis are in hand.
* Graveyard gates: due to be replaced in June but still pending. Clerk to follow up.

**O/7/25/9 Washington Recreation Ground Charity: Memorial Bench application**

 To Committee considered an application from Mr Neil Hughes for a memorial

 bench on the Recreation Ground for the Late Mr Jerry Newham,

 a resident of many years in Washington village.

 Following a discussion the Committee **RESOLVED** to approve the application

 and for the bench to replace the one near the Play Area which has fallen into

 disrepair. Clerk to action.

**O/7/25/10 Grounds maintenance review**

 To Committee reviewed the Council’s Grounds Maintenance Schedule

 for the Recreation Ground, Allotment and First Extension Graveyard.

 It was noted that the three-year grounds maintenance contract will end

 before 31st March 2026

 Following a discussion, the Committee **RESOLVED** to adopt the Grounds

 Maintenance Schedule without amendment. Clerk to seek quotations for

 a new three-year maintenance arrangement to be approved ahead of the

 2026.27 budget review in November.

**O/7/25/11 First Extension Graveyard: inspection report**

 The Committee received and reviewed the inspection report from Cllr Lisher

 for July. It was **RESOLVED** to note there were no matters requiring further

 action and that the ivy on the wall had been safely removed near Banks

 Cottage by tree surgeon Mr Morley.

**O/7/25/12 Annual Audit of the Parish Grit Bins**

 Notification was previously circulated from WSCC for the Council to report the

 annual audit of the parish grit bin levels.

 The Committee **RESOLVED** that the audit be carried out by the Clerk before

 1st August deadline. Clerk to plot location of the grit bins using the

 ‘WhatThreeWords’ application to enable future audits to be carried out

 by nominated members from the Committee.

**O/7/25/13 Any urgent Open Space, Recreation & Allotment and Footpaths and**

 **Conservation issues that may arise.**

 None reported.

 **O/7/25/14 Date and Time of next OSRA Meeting**:

 The Committee noted the date of the next meeting on Monday 15th

 September, at 7:45pm which will include the annual review of the

 Allotment rent for 2026 and Tenancy terms.

 There being no further business, the was closed at 8:32pm

 Signed………………………………………

 Dated……………………………………….