

Yateley Town Council

**Minutes of the Community and Environment Committee held on Monday 1st June 2026
at 6.30 pm in the Oak Room, Council Offices.**

Present Councillors (Committee Members)

Cllr Drage (Chairman)
Cllr Higgins
Cllr Phelps-Jones
Cllr Spencer
Cllr Wedlock

Absent Councillors (Committee Members)

Cllr Crisp
Cllr Harward

In Attendance – Non-Committee Members and Officers

Deputy Town Clerk – Alison Blanchard
Cllr Cockarill

1893 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received.

1894 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

1895 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd March 2026 were confirmed as a true record. Members agreed that Minute No. 1887, Cricket on Yateley Green, should refer to a committee discussion about potential future charges for the use of the cricket pitch.

1896 OPEN FORUM

There were no questions.

1897 COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members reviewed the committee's terms of reference and **RESOLVED** to adopt the updated version.

1898 FOOTBALL PITCHES

Members considered changes to the booking and charging arrangements for the Council's football pitches and **RESOLVED** to do the following:

1. All pitches will be added to, and booked through, the Council's online booking system.
2. The two local clubs, Yateley United FC and Darby Green and Potley FC, will be given priority booking at the beginning of each month for the subsequent month. After this, pitches will be opened to other teams. If a club wishes to

secure exclusive use of a particular pitch for a whole season, a retainer fee will be payable. This will be set at 10% of the annual income for that pitch.

3. All pitches will be chargeable, and no special arrangements will be permitted.
4. Cancellations made with less than two weeks' notice will be chargeable, in line with the Council's arrangements for other facilities, unless the pitch is deemed unplayable by Yateley Town Council or the match referee.

1899 DARBY GREEN CENTRE

Members agreed to establish a working group to consider the usage of, and opportunities for, the Darby Green Centre. Cllrs Wedlock, Drage and Higgins volunteered to serve on the group. Other members of the Council will also be given the opportunity to join.

1900 YATELEY GREEN POND

Members carefully considered the contents of the report examining the current problems associated with Yateley Green Pond and the options available to address them. The two principal issues were the harm to wildlife caused by discarded fishing line and the loss of aquatic life resulting from the presence of illegally introduced carp.

RESOLVED that, given the availability of other local fishing opportunities and the current harm being caused to wildlife and biodiversity, it was appropriate to prohibit fishing at Yateley Green Pond; effective immediately. This will be achieved through updated signage and publicising and the physical removal of the fish in the autumn/winter by a specialist aquatic consultancy.

Members asked the Council to explore ways in which it could support junior fishing in the local area in more appropriate settings.

1901 PURCHASE OF SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES

The committee **RESOLVED** to approve expenditure of £12,160 on three new Speed Indicator Devices. These will replace the old and outdated devices and improve functionality. Funding for the devices has been received from the Police and Crime Commissioner's Emerging Needs Fund (Road Safety 2026/27) grant scheme.

The meeting concluded at 7.31 pm.