

Friends of Portwood Rec

Minutes of the Committee Meeting 6 May 2026 held at 2 Holyrood Avenue

LE in the Chair

Present:

Kat Barbour, Linnet Evans, Nigel Hodge, May Lindsey, Denise Long, Garth Long.
Nigel and Kat were welcomed to the Committee.

1. Apologies

Bev Pearce, Tony Ridley , Louise Anderson.

2. For Approval:

The Minutes of the Public Meeting of 14 January 2026 were approved; any matters arising were dealt with as part of the agenda.

3. Changes to bank authorisation

The following amendments for the NatWest bank mandate as a result of changes to the Committee at the AGM on 18 March 2026 were agreed:

- Nigel (taking the role of Treasurer) to be added as an Account Leader and address to be used for correspondence,
- May's role to change from Account Leader to Account Viewer
- Louise (retiring as Treasurer) to be removed

BP to action

4. Grant funding

FoPR received 2 major grants as described in the previous minutes.

Some major items have been purchased, and others being progressed. An update on total spend to be provided at the next (1 July) meeting.

The decision on the planter is being deferred.

GL, LE, BP to progress

5. SCC Management Plan

As background: this is owned by SCC, helping to inform the Green Flag status for the Rec, but with input from FoPR. While acknowledging a 5 year plan it is a rolling document and can be updated periodically.

The most recent version has gone back to Richard Kelly (replacing Kelvin Wyatt as the lead for the Rec). The document on the website and does not show the website for the FOPR.

Agreed to contact Richard Kelly asking for an update

LE and GL action

6. Gardening

General

A loose rope fence has been erected alongside the meadow to demarcate the area and reduce the risk of damage by visitors.

The new compost bins have gone in. The bowser has been commissioned to assist watering

David is making some bee posts to go in the meadow.

There is a need for an adaptation to a gate into the dog walking area. A local wheelchair user has asked for a vertical grab rail as they are struggling to gain access.

Action: GL/LE pass to Richard Kelly

Pond

Denise is keen to have a wildlife pond installed and has recently met with Dawn Bannantyne and Richard Kelly about this. Three actions were identified:

- survey and public consultation to see if there is support for a wildlife pond,
- test the water quality locally; Dawn has agreed to investigate this.
- Location needs to be agreed, two likely options being the marshy area (far corner, dog-walking area, or the play area (infield)

There was a subsequent debate about the safety of ponds for children, to be explored in any consultation.

Gardening group

The group currently has around 10 to 15 volunteers coming each week including some new people, and some younger volunteers.

7. Membership

57 people have paid and around 28 people need to pay.

The matter of acknowledging membership payment was discussed. May did not feel this was necessary. New members using the Google form receive a digital acknowledgement. It can also capture what volunteering activities (e.g. gardening or children's activities) people are interested in. We are not currently taking advantage of this.

GL and ML to liaise

8. FoPR Kids

The children's event on 2th May went well, and was supported by new volunteers, Jeni and George Marshall and Ruth Maginnis

Tony plans to continue running events for children on first Saturday monthly during the summer months.

Next session scheduled for Saturday 6th June with volunteer entertainers Lizzie and Les already signed up.

9. Insurance

Insurance is due mid June. For reference, last year's premium was £170.54.

GL to follow up and ensure there is enough cover against loss or damage of key items. Many hand tools have been donated, or regular gardeners bring their own.

GL, LE action

10. General issues

SCC notices

Some of the council notices are out of date and need to be updated. May to remove items from noticeboard and notify Garth.

ML, GL action

HRA walk

An HRA group are coming on 14th June for a second guided walk around the Rec. This is part of their 50th anniversary celebrations, and is open to HRA members only.

GL, DL

Meeting with Tony Head (Headmaster, Portswood Primary School)

Linnet has circulated notes of this meeting. It would be good to have closer links with the School and for the Rec to help meet some of the curriculum goals, which Tony Head will be considering after the half term break.

Meeting with Gareth 'Giles' Giles (Head of Public Policy, University of Southampton)

Garth and Linnet met with Giles to initiate work on building new relationships with the university community.

Survey to membership – to get feedback about the proposed pond, and to inform future rounds of funding applications -

LE to draft

Bike Racks – There had been divided views within the Committee about whether, and where, racks should be sited. However, the likely location indicated by SCC remains the gravel area by the School, to support more sustainable travel and for which there is no room on the school site itself.

11. Additional notes

Next public meeting Wednesday 1st July. All Scout Hut meetings booked up to 2027 AGM. Next Committee meeting 9th September 2026. KB to arrange meetings for 2027/28 after the AGM

FoPR's primary email address, info.friendsofportswoodrec@gmail.com should be cc'd into in any relevant correspondence.