

Approved Minutes of the meeting of the Garrison Residents Association held on 14 July 2025

Present:

Rick Mistry (Member)
Nicola Boxcer (Member)
Lara Meville (Chair)
Karim Taha (Member)
Charlotte Walker (Treasurer)
Amanda Gorman (Member)

Apologies:

Damion Beech (Member), Amanda Powell (Secretary)

24.62 Chair's Welcome and Approval of Previous Minutes

The Chair welcomed members.

Approved: Minutes of the meeting held on 1 July 2025 were unanimously approved.

24.63 Cart and Wagon Shed – Collaboration and Survey

Lara reported back on attending the Cart and Wagon Shed CIC planning session. Members agreed it was a constructive meeting.

A community survey is currently live, collecting ideas for local initiatives.

Agreed:

- GRA supports continued collaboration with the Shed team.
- **Action: Karim** to reshare the survey link on the GRA Facebook page.
- **Action: GRA** to request permission to host a GRA **drop-in session** at the Shed (originally suggested for 26 July; date to be confirmed).
- Nicola proposed potential **children's events** at the Shed over summer.

24.64 Community Engagement with MP Bayo

Nicola updated members on her meeting with **MP Bayo**.

Topics included:

- Antisocial behaviour and crime prevention
- Speed control on Barge Pier Road
- CCTV and lighting improvements
- Potential **Neighbourhood Watch scheme** and community meeting with **police attendance**

- Ongoing liaison with local businesses

Members noted this as a positive development and agreed to support MP Bayo's community engagement work.

24.65 Christmas Carols 2025

- **Provisional date:** Friday 7 December (backup: Friday 14 December)
- **Action: Karim** to invite the **Salvation Army** to attend
- **Action: Rick** to contact **Mrs Emmings** to arrange for school children to sing

24.66 GRA Bank Account Update

Charlotte and Karim provided an update on the Santander process.

- **Phil Coombe** successfully progressed the application
- **Pam and Chris** to remain on the account temporarily
- **Charlotte, Lara, and Amanda G** to be added
- Delays caused by incomplete legacy paperwork

Agreed:

- GRA needs to increase account funds to support future events
- **Action: Committee to identify new sponsors and local company supporters**

24.67 Cricket and Football Parking

Lara confirmed she had contacted cricket and football groups regarding parking concerns, particularly near the bend behind the pavilion.

Residents reported continued issues, but communication was made in a positive tone.

Further discussion on wider access and use of the pavilion is ongoing.

Note: GRA's **Big Spark application** for pavilion improvements was **unsuccessful** due to heritage concerns.

24.68 Garrison in Bloom / Garden Competition

The group agreed to proceed with this year's **Garrison in Bloom** garden competition.

- **Amanda G** to support

- **Action: Committee** to post call for interest and arrange judging walk
- Winners to be asked for permission to publish garden photos online

24.69 Schools Out for Summer Event

Event confirmed for **Wednesday 24 July 2025**.

- Dawn will support music (volume to be moderated)
- Year 6-specific activities are school-led; GRA is not responsible
- **Action: Lara** to coordinate with Gary (pavilion key contact) for potential access to electricity/water

24.70 Waste Collection (SUEZ)

Karim confirmed attendance at the **SUEZ Community Briefing** scheduled for **5 August 2025**.

- **Action: Karim** to post in Facebook group requesting resident questions
- Feedback to be shared at next meeting

24.71 New Town and Local Group Collaboration

Members agreed to continue sharing information and updates from **New Town** and the **Southend New Town/Bournes Green group** on the GRA Facebook page.

GRA reaffirmed its open approach to local collaboration and shared communications.

24.72 Date of Next Meeting

The next GRA Committee meeting will be held on:

Monday 8 September 2025 at 7:45pm (location TBC)