EVERCREECH PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of meeting 13 10 26

Held in Evercreech Village Hall, Rear Room

Present: Derek Sharp, Roy Williams, Gail Wakeford (Chair), Murray Stewart, Daryl Issit
10 members of the public.
Lynn Crisp – Clerk

	Public Open Session: A resident of The Cedars, whose property backs onto The Drang, reported that bottles had been thrown into The Drang, which provides a walkway to the Mill Gardens. The resident had collected and disposed of the broken glass. They also reported that apples had been thrown at their windows. A resident reported repeatedly having to pick up bottles from their garden and being continually hassled by young people in the area. A resident reported regularly picking up litter from the area. It was reported that the bench was being used as a ladder to climb the trees. A resident asked how the foliage would be disposed of. A resident asked whether the identities of those responsible for the issues were known. A resident asked whether a police representative should be present at the meeting. It was confirmed that the PCSO had been emailed about the meeting but was unable to attend.
001	Meeting Open Time 7.05
002	To receive apologies for absence and approve the reasons given Cllr Sellar – personal – received and accepted. Cllr Reed – absent.
003	Declaration of interests None declared.
004	Millenium Gardens **Background and Purpose of the Meeting** The Chair explained that the seating area had been fenced off due to young people gathering in the area and that, during this period, the area had remained peaceful. A trial was subsequently undertaken to reinstate one bench in the middle of the gardens. However, anti-social behaviour started again following its reinstatement. The foliage had been cut back in the hope that this would deter the behaviour. One shrub had been left uncut at the request of a resident. At the previous meeting, held on 6 October 2026, a resident became very upset during the public open session when describing the anti-social behaviour they were experiencing. RW arrived at 7.08 pm and declared no interests. Councillors were unable to discuss the matter or make decisions at the previous meeting, as it had not been included on the agenda. Consequently, an extraordinary meeting had been called as a matter of urgency to allow the issue to be discussed fully and to work towards an appropriate resolution. Cllrs then discussed the matter: One Councillor expressed the view that anti-social behaviour was a matter for the police and questioned why Councillors had been called to discuss the issue. They further felt that Councillors

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	had contributed to the current situation by fencing off the seating area following the circulation of footage showing young people dancing there. Felt that residents should engage positively with young people. Another Councillor welcomed the meeting, commenting that in over 30 years as a Councillor, they had never witnessed someone so upset. The trial placement of the bench in the middle of the gardens had been assessed and was clearly not working. Further discussions took place. The Chair then invited comments from each Cllr: One Councillor felt that the bench should be removed. One Councillor stated that the fencing had been effective and that the subsequent trial of reinstating a bench was not working. One Councillor expressed sympathy for the affected residents but emphasised that the rest of Evercreech also had the right to use the area. They felt that anti-social behaviour was a matter for the police. One Councillor felt that the fencing should be removed and the seating reinstated. One Councillor commented that both approaches had been tried to resolve the issue. A bench had been reinstated to allow other residents to use the area, but this had not been successful. They also expressed concern about the significant damage to the gardens and reported that a person walking through the area had been harassed the previous week. It was noted that the Parish Council has a duty of care in relation to health and safety. It was recorded that Aster Properties had originally provided the benches mainly for its residents to use when walking to Victoria Square. GW proposed: To remove both benches, store in cemetery shed, remove the fencing. Seconded: RW 5 for 0 against The foliage will be chipped, and residents will be invited to take away chippings on the day. Three Counties will spread any remaining chippings.
005	Meeting Close Time: 7.27 Name: Lynn Crisp

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