Minutes of the Planning Committee
11 November 2026

Present:

Councillor D.L. Geraci (Vice-Chair)

Councillors:

C. Bateson	K.M. Grant	K.E. Rutherford
M. Buck	K. Howkins	P.N. Woodward
T. Burrell	M.J. Lee	
D.C. Clarke	L. E. Nichols	

Substitutions: Councillors J.A. Turner

Apologies: Councillors S.N. Beatty

43/26 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 14 October and 28 October 2026 were approved as correct records.

44/26 Disclosures of Interest Under the Member's Code of Conduct

There were none.

45/26 Declarations of interest under the Council's Planning Code

There were none.

46/26 Planning application - 26/00739/FUL - Memorial Gardens, Market Square, Staines-upon-Thames TW18 4SD

Description:
New children's play facility with associated railings, seating, flooring and landscaping.

Additional Information:
There was none.

Public Speaking:

In accordance with the Council's procedure for speaking at meetings, Mr I Anderson, Senior Director, Lichfields, spoke for the proposed development raising the following key points:

1. The site was originally occupied by the Fiver Swimmers Statue which has now been relocated leaving the site vacant and in a derelict state.

2. Th development would provide an accessible play area for children aged 2-12.

3. The proposed development would make efficient use of the site.

4. None of the statutory consultees had objected and the development was noted as acceptable by the Council's Planning officers.

5. The proposed development would provide community benefit and would be paid for by monies collected by the Council through its Community Infrastructure Levy.

6. Bringing this vacant, derelict site into use would be an advantage to the surrounding conservation area.

7. The impact on the nearby listed buildings, adjacent neighbouring properties, flooding and archaeology has been considered and deemed acceptable.

8. The proposed development would bring vitality and viability to the town centre.

Debate:

During the debate the following key issues were raised:

1. There would be a lack of additional lighting
2. The Police had asked that the final design be low profile to avoid creating areas that would allow potential concealment
3. Staines Memorial Gardens should remain as a place of contemplation and not a play area
4. Had a public consultation been held
1. The proposed development area has remained derelict for a number of years so the plans would enhance the riverbank area of Staines.
2. The population within Staines is growing so this play area would provide a recreational benefit to residents.
3. The play area was considered too small, and concerns were raised over how many children would be able to use it at any one time
4. Memorial Gardens is a large area, and the introduction of a play area would still allow residents plenty of space to find quiet areas for reflection
5. Had the costings been finalised?

10. The costings had been finalised and would be covered by Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding.

Decision:

The application was approved subject to conditions as set out in the Recommendation Section of the report (paragraphs 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3).

47/26 Planning Appeals Report

The Chairman informed the Committee that if any Member had any detailed queries regarding the report on Appeals lodged and decisions received since the last meeting, they should contact the Planning Development Manager.

Resolved that the report of the Planning Development Manager be received and noted.

48/26 Major Planning Applications

The Planning Development Manager submitted a report outlining major applications that may be brought before the Planning Committee for determination.

Resolved that the report of the Planning Development Manager be received and noted.