

Collings Park Trust Management Committee Minutes

14th July 2026

at Lexdon, Hartley Avenue

Present: Andy Stewart (Chair), Andrew Leigh, Liz Rawlings, Dy Taylor, Geraldine Whitby, Meredith Price

Apologies for absence from: Sam Smith, Maureen Geens and Lois Conrad

Liz was thanked for hosting the meeting.

Committee members paused to reflect on the sad passing of Tony Bray and to recognise his valuable contribution to setting up and running the Trust.

1. Minutes of last meeting (7th April 2026) were accepted.

Matters arising:

Plan of Tree Locations: The plan showing tree locations to be updated to show the trees planted in the lower area, and then put on display in the notice board.

2. Health & Safety

The city council have been informed about the hazards presented by the possibly unstable tree stump adjacent the Compton Knoll Close entrance and the limb of the large sweet chestnut tree in the 'ransom strip' that fractured from the main body of the tree.

3. Finance, Membership & Funding

There is **£379** in the cash account at present, and the easy access savings account balance stands at **£5,102**. The Trust has provided support to the apiary in the form of £82 to purchase 2 in No. new beehive frames. A grant of £900 has been received from local councillors, Cllrs Kelly, Penrose and Smith (£300 each), this towards pollinator information boards and a long-handled apple-picker.

Membership stands at 11 household memberships, 4 individual members and 11 supporters, bringing £748 to the accounts annually.

The matter of possibly reducing membership fees remains an outstanding action, as does the idea of doing more to publicise where we spend the money accrued through membership fees.

4. Social Media and Digital Marketing

Meredith agreed to carry on in the role of social media coordinator for the next 3-month period, also to investigate how it could be made possible to apply for membership of the Trust through one or more online channels.

5. Policies, Procedures & Key Documents

The tri-annual review of policies and procedures is largely complete. Amended documents will be submitted to Trustees for approval.

6. Progress and Planning for the Community Garden

It was agreed that the proposal from Pollenize for the supply of beekeeping/pollinator information boards was too expensive for the Trust to pursue, and that a more 'DIY' approach is to be taken. Trustees agree to consider a donation to Pollenize in recognition of the time and effort expended on producing their proposal, which will be very useful as a framework for the project.

7. Future Events Planning

- The success of the 10-year celebratory event was noted and those responsible for organising it were thanked.
- Compton Pre-School end-of-year gathering is planned for Friday 17th July.
- The Hartley WI summer picnic is planned for 5th August, 12:00 - 14:00 hrs.
- It was agreed to plan a summer picnic on Sunday 26th July at 14:00 hrs.

8. External Events

The local Open Garden Trek is set for 5th/6th September, with the community garden included once more.

9. Feedback from Board of Trustees

Andrew L. agreed to add an item to the agenda of the next Trustee meeting to review the 'Key Document' designation of the Trust's processes and procedures.

10. AOB

The annual insurance premium is due in August.

Andrew L. agreed to contact local councillors about the apparent lack of progress towards tighter restrictions on vehicular access to the main Collings Park playing field from Eggbuckland Road.

11. Date and venue of next meeting: Tuesday 13th October 2026, 19:00 hrs, to be held at *TBC* (Liz's home (Lexdon) if available, or Andrew and Lois' home (12 Fortescue Place)).