Minutes of the Sports Committee meeting held on Monday 1 September 2025, in Suite 2, Taverham Village Hall, commencing at 2pm when there were present:

Mrs J Latchford was in the Chair
Mrs B Clarke   Mr S Matthews
Mrs C Karimi-Ghovanlou

Also present: Clerk

Apologies for absence: Mrs S Parkinson

Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda: None

The Minutes of the meetings held on 23 June 2025 were agreed and then signed by the Chairman.

To consider request from Taverham Football Club for a rent reduction
The Football Club Chairman had contacted the Council to request a reduction in rent due to the poor quality of some of the pitches at Hinks Meadow meaning that the Club might have to hire other facilities to play some of their matches. There had been a long dry spell throughout the summer, and the pitches were well-known for being free-draining due to the high concentration of sand in the area. The Clerk had met with the Council's horticultural contractor who advised that there was nothing within the Council's power that could have stopped the pitches from deteriorating and that once there had been some substantial rain pitch conditions could improve. Some of the Councillors had visited the site and agreed that some of the area was in very poor condition.
The Meeting was advised that the contract for maintaining only the pitches costs the Council £21,597 per year and the Football Club was currently charged £9,061 per year. The 2020/21 pre-covid rent charged for the pitches was approximately £400 more than the Club currently pays but costs to the Council had risen by nearly £5600 in the last 5 years. It was commented that local taxpayers would consider it unreasonable for the Council to shoulder even more of the burden of maintaining the pitches when the area was not easily publicly accessible.
It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that the request for a rent reduction for the use of the pitches at Hinks Meadow be refused.

The meeting closed at 2.17pm.

Signed…………………………………..   Dated…………………………………