

HILDENBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of Remote Meeting of the Open Spaces Committee to be held on Wednesday 6 January 2021 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Mr D Haugh (chair) Mr W Allingham Mrs M Coles
Miss K Dobson Mr C Lewis Mr A McNeil
Mr I Sklavenitis

ALSO PRESENT: Mr P Gow (clerk)

Apologies: Mr G Paterson Mrs E Simons

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 2 September 2020

These were agreed at a true record.

2. Matters Arising

There were none.

3. Maintenance Contract Progress Report

The Maintenance Contractor had completed the weekly risk assessments, cleared footpaths and ditches following the storm, leaf clearance of play areas and car park, undertaken repairs to the swing seat, erected new signs on the fitness area, repaired fencing around the play area, bought and cut the basket ball court back board ready for painting and drained the water system in the pavilion.

4. To prioritize projects for 2021/2022 onward

DECISION: Following a lengthy discussion it was agreed to recommend to the Parish Council the following order of priority for projects during the year 2021/22 and beyond:

- 1. Footway around the Recreation Ground**
- 2. Resurfacing the cycle track**
- 3. Dog exercise area**

Elements already allocated funding are: Storage replacement next to the pavilion (£12,000), village green development (£8,000 should the full amount not be required this would be reallocated to another priority for 2021/22), highways related improvements to the zebra crossing in Tonbridge Road near to Riding Lane (£4,000).

A revised 3 – Year Plan to be presented for approval to the Parish Council on 13 January 2021.

5. Open Space items to be covered by insurance

DECISION: It was agreed to cover the same items as those listed for 2020/21.

6. Up date on Highways Improvement Plan

It had already been reported that KCC is to cover the cost of improvements to Nizels Lane and Watts Cross.

ACTION: It is recommended to the Parish Council that the interactive road sign should not be replaced at Watts Cross as a cost of £7,500.

7. Hildenborough Tennis Club Lease

DECISION: The Tennis Club had requested a revision to item 2(13) of the lease dated 16 November 2011 but following discussion it was agreed that there was sufficient provision for negotiation as to obligations on returning the ground to its original state should the Club need to relinquish the lease early.

8. Location for seat in West Wood

DECISION and ACTION: It was agreed the seat should be erected opposite the cycle track with a hard surface surrounded by a suitable environment free of invasive vegetation, for instance brambles etc. The clerk to contact the maintenance contractor regarding installation and to arrange for delivery for it to be stored near to the site.

9. Litter picking group

DECISION and ACTION: It is recommended to the Parish Council that the Litter picking group originally arranged to commence on 6 February, should be postponed due to the current Lockdown Regulations but that planning should be undertaken for this to recommence when regulations are lifted to allow groups of residents to meet together. This to be publicised in Centre Piece and on the Council's website.

10. Any Other Business raised with the clerk prior to the meeting

10.1 Request to extend play area in Recreation Ground

DECISION and ACTION: This would be included on the Parish Council Agenda for 13 January, but it was thought that the playground could already accommodate more use and that in 'normal times' it was generally underused. It would not be possible to organise an extension within the coming financial year as the budget had already been ratified, following which it is to be hoped the current pandemic will have run its course.

10.2 Tree removal from Cycle Track

A willow tree had been identified as unsafe and a quotation for its removal had been accepted of £175,000. This would be removed within the next 8 weeks. The tree surgeons had stated that it was not in imminent danger of falling.

10.3 Hildenborough Conservation Group

The Group had sent in a report and plan of the coppicing undertaken during November. This would be circulated to members for the Parish Council Meeting on 13 January 2021.