

HILDENBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

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**Remote Meeting of the Open Spaces Committee to be held on Wednesday 7 April 2021 at
7.30pm via Zoom**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Cllr D Haugh (chair) Cllr W Allingham Cllr C Lewis
 Cllr A McNeil Cllr G Paterson Cllr E Simons

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs P Gow (clerk)

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 6 January 2021

These were agreed as a true record.

2. Matters Arising

There were none.

3. Maintenance Contract Progress Report

It was reported the usual maintenance work had been undertaken which included litter, leaf and snow clearance, receiving, storing and installing the new bench for West, work on the playground gate and removal of wreaths from the War Memorial during the past month.

4. Recommendations to the Parish Council

4.1 The acceptance of the quotation totalling £8,499 from MPC Groundwork & Building Ltd. for the removal and replacing of the storage garages in the Recreation Ground.

Comparative quotations of £10,210 and £14,041 were recommended to be declined because it was felt that these options would not be as vandal proof, need more maintenance, be prone to dampness and were both more expensive.

4.2 Following information from KCC drainage officer it is recommended that the Parish Council proceed with contacting Southern Water to obtain an indication of cost and feasibility of using Section 115 of the Water Industry Act 1991 to obtain a site drainage connection to the Highway Way Drainage System adopted by a sewerage statutory undertaker to be adopted by KCC for the drainage of the Village Green.

4.3 An offer of plants for the Village Green should be accepted and a suitable tub be purchased to be sited on the patio area.

4.4 The request from a local resident be accepted to remove dead wood and cut back by 2/3m an overhanging oak tree in their and neighbouring gardens. Further, their offer of volunteer work for West Wood be accepted. The person in question is a qualified tree surgeon.

4.5 Projects for 2021/22 should be restricted to the storage replacement until the final agreement has been signed regarding the S106 funding from Berkeley Homes.

4.6 A number of residents had responded to the call for litter pickers and it is recommended that in view of the regulations now allowing up to 6 people to meet outside, the group

should be mobilised at the beginning of May. The Council currently had no stock of litter pickers but these and other equipment were available on loan from Hildenborough Conservation Group.

5. Updating Highways Improvement Plan

The improvements to Nizels Lane undertaken by KCC had been minimal consisting of three SLOW signs on the road. The ditches continued to be blocked and there were numerous potholes all of which had been reported to 'KCC Report a Fault' and the Highways Steward had been out to investigate. KCC had said in the past they were unwilling to undertake the other items requested by the local residents. A decision on whether to include on the Highways Improvement Plan would be left to the Parish Council when the response from KCC would be made available to members.

ACTION: The clerk to supply the relevant information for the Parish Council Meeting on 14 April 2021

6. Councillors' items notified prior to meeting

6.1 A request to use the Recreation Ground car park for Catford CC time trial on Sunday 16 May 2021 between 5.00am and 10.00am. They had supplied details of the event's organisation and it had been agreed that marshals would oversee the use of toilets in the Village Hall. Noise would be kept to a minimum.

6.2 Replacement Play area gate

Members agreed that payment should be made in order that the replacement gate could be delivered prior to the Parish Council meeting at a cost of £1,308.

6.3 Train warning noise

A temporary closure of the Foulsham's crossing of the main rail line had been agreed and was now in operation on the grounds of safety. Network Rail would be investigating a long term solution to this problem.

6.4 Opening of Library

A query had been raised by a local resident regarding a consultation from KCC on library opening. No trace of a recent consultation had been found.

ACTION: The clerk to contact Hildenborough County Councillor for an update.