

HILDENBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

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**Meeting of the Open Spaces Committee to be held on Wednesday 27 October 2021 via
Zoom at 7.30pm**

MINUTES

Present: Cllr D Haugh (chair) Cllr C Lewis Cllr A McNeil
 Cllr E Simons Cllr I Sklavenitis

Also present: Mrs P Gow (clerk) Mrs S Moore (RFO)

Apologies: Cllr W Allingham Cllr G Paterson

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 1 September 2021

These were agreed as a true record.

2. Matters Arising

There were none.

3. Maintenance Contract Progress Report

Weekly risk assessments had been undertaken, various maintenance issues dealt with including the rehangng of the swings, strimming of footpaths and cycle track and completion of the painting projects.

ACTION: The guttering on the pavilion still needed to be replaced. Cllr Haugh agreed to look to see if there was some way of securing back the barrier to Riding Lane when opened.

4. Recreation Ground – review of projects completed, quotes received and those to be completed later during 2021/22

4.1 **Storage:** This project had now been completed at a total cost of £7,095, as saving of just under £5,000 on the projected budget.

4.2 **Car Park lighting:** There had been no progress on that to date.

5. Village Green – update on KCC drainage engineer

5.1 The replacement tree was on order at a cost of £65. The cost of planting would need to be added to this. A landscape gardener had been asked to review the planters replacing compost/plants where necessary and would also replant the borders and mow the grass around the War Memorial in time for the Remembrance Day Service.

RECOMMENDATION: The Village Green should be the site for the commemorative tree for Queen Elizabeth’s Platinum Jubilee and a further seat should be purchased for the community area in the centre.

5.2 **Drainage issues:** Currently our County Councillor was working with residents to find a resolution for the drainage of the ponding during wet weather. It was thought that it

may be necessary to obtain a drainage expert's analysis of the capacity of the drainage system in the area. Other lines of enquiry were also underway.

RECOMMENDATION: That £5,000 should be available for work on the Village Green during 2021/22

6. West Wood – review of projects completed, quotes received and those to be completed later during 2021/22

Consideration and debate were given over to the proposed dog exercise area, training cycle track and resurfacing of the service road.

RECOMMENDATION: The proposals for the dog exercise area and the cycle track should be put on hold in preference to the resurfacing of the service road at a cost of £19K-£25K in 2021/22.

7. Highways Issues – update on Highways Improvement Plan progress

7.1 Nizels Lane: signage had been agreed and work completed by KCC

7.2 Other items on Highways Improvement Plan: decisions from KCC were expected during November on measures to ensure pedestrian access to the footway in London Road, the enhanced belisha beacons on the B245, signage at Watts Cross, and improvements to the junction of B245 with Brookmead

RECOMMENDATION: £10,000 should be set aside split over 2021/22 and 2022/23 to part fund reports or improvements on the Highways Improvement Plan.

8. Project proposals for 2022/23 – identification of those to be included in the Infrastructure Plan.

8.1 Recreation Ground:

- 1. provision of play equipment for disabled children:** included in S106 funding from the Berkeley Homes development in Tonbridge Road (£30,000)
- 2. foot path around the perimeter:** included in S106 funding from Berkeley Homes development in Tonbridge Road (£50,000)
- 3. lighting the car park:** This project to be brought forward to 2021/22 and funded from the Council's budget set at £6,000.

RECOMMENDATION: Advice should be sought on the types of suitable lighting for the car park which would not be intrusive to neighbours but ensure more security for users after dark.

- 4. Resurfacing the Ball Court:** identified following the Annual Safety Inspection Report.

RECOMMENDATION: One quotation had been received, two others should be sought. £7,000 should be allocated from 2022/23 budget

8.2 West Wood:

- 1. Dog exercise area or cycle track:** see recommendation in 6. above

2. **Resurfacing the pump cycle track:** included in S106 funding from Berkeley Homes, provisionally in 2022/23
3. **Provision of play equipment for disabled children:** included in S106 funding from Berkeley Homes, provisionally in 2022/23
4. **Tree planting, participation in Queen's Green Canopy:** there was much discussion on suitable places for tree planting to take place. An offer had been received from a local tree surgeon of 120 saplings (30 Downy Birch, 30 Rowan, 30 Oak and 30 evergreen oak and Hildenborough CEP School were seeking sites for their tree project.

RECOMMENDATION: Hildenborough CEP School suggested planting in the Recreation Ground – it is recommended that no planting takes place in the Recreation Ground as this needs to be kept free for leisure activities. It is recommended that West Wood should be the site for any planting project and that the wood should be further developed. There were many ash trees infected with ash die back. Already a large number had been felled. Advice should be sought on this from Hildenborough Conservation Group and other experts on tree management.

8.3 Highways:

1. **Parking on footway, London Road** see 7. above
2. **Enhanced belisha beacons Riding Lane/Tonbridge Road junction:** see 7 above
3. **Improvement to Brookmead junction with Tonbridge Road** – see 7 above
4. **Signage at Watts Cross** – see 7 above
- 5.

9. Identification of projects to be included on the Infrastructure Plan.

A number of projects were considered:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

To be put on hold:	dog exercise area (10,650 railing + set up costs £5,500) cycle track (trainer track) (£13,500)
Infrastructure Plan:	car park extension (£50,000) Electric charging points (cost?) Skate park for Recreation Ground (£60,000) West Wood: Improving footpaths with signage and raised boarding (£20,000)
Council's budget	recycling and litter bins for all Council areas (£2,000) Tree planting (Tarmac in front of goals in West Wood and Recreation Ground

Three members agreed to begin planning for some of the major projects to work with the clerk/RFO

10. RECOMMENDATIONS TO FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Project	Current Year 2021/22 (£)	2022/23 (£)	S106 agreed (£)	Future projects (£)
R.G. storage	7,095			
RG play equipment			15,000	
RG perimeter footpath			50,000	
RG car park lighting	6,000			
RG ball court		7,000		
RG car park extension				50,000
RG Skate Park				60,000
VG seating, trees/planting	2,000			
VG drainage	3,000			
WW service road	19K-25K			
WW pump cycle track resurfacing			3,856	
WW play equipment			15,000	
WW footpath improvements				20,000
WW recycling bins		2,000		
Highways issues	4,000	6,000		
WW + RG play surface improvement		5,000		
WWTree surgery/replacement overspend of budget 21/22	3,000	15,000		£20,000
TOTAL	44,095-50,095	35,000	83,856	150,000

Notes: Projects Budget £35,273, spent £11,273, committed £3,000 (£6,000 in budget tree surgery total cost £9,000)

£10,000 in reserve account for ash die back could be used but need to plan for more in future years

Car park lighting and Highways issues may not be able to be planned and paid for in 2021/22