

HILDENBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

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**Meeting of the Open Spaces Committee to be held on Wednesday 1 March 2017 in the
Committee Room, Village Hall at 7.30pm**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Mr M Baker (chairman) Mrs C Baker Mr D Haugh
Mrs L Homewood Mr M Nairne

ALSO PRESENT: Mr & Mrs P Flower Mr D Sharp
Mr P Richardson (caretaker) Mrs P Gow (clerk)

APOLOGIES: Mr C Lewis Miss C Sheldon

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 4 January 2017

These were agreed as a true record.

2. Matters Arising

2. KCC has now accepted the quotation from Burslems for repairs to the War Memorial and is raising an order. The Parish Council is to liaise with Burslems over the repairs.

3. Caretaker report

It was reported that most outstanding items had been completed. These included replacing the border at the War Memorial, items highlighted in the Annual Safety Inspection Report, picnic table refurbishment, work in the Churchyard, holes in the Village Green had been infilled.

Two new wooden benches had been erected in the new play area. Some discussion on the surface surrounding the benches resulted in agreement to obtain a quotation for artificial grass to be laid as the grass had not grown and due to usage the area was now very muddy.

Outstanding work included a repair to the weatherboarding in front of the Pavilion and temporary repairs to the concrete apron in front of the Pavilion as well as repairs to the wet pour in the older play area.

ACTION: obtain quotation for artificial grass around benches.

4. to discuss upgrading facilities in the Pavilion

A quotation had been received to refurbish the kitchen area of the Pavilion. This was to remove the old equipment, install sink with double drainer, storage unit, water heater, separate hand wash basin and hard flooring. A Combined Member Grant had been applied for and it was hoped the work would be undertaken in April.

5. to discuss West Wood Flood Alleviation Scheme

Members of Hildenborough Conservation Group attended the meeting together with Ms Louise Smith from KCC to discuss the concerns of members of the Conservation Group with the design of the FAS in West Wood. Ms Smith had been supplied with copies of the concerns from two members of the Group prior to the meeting.

The main concerns were that the proposed scraps would not only damage the environment but become a danger to users of the woodland, be ineffective in its aims, and be difficult to maintain. The main reason for this is that the water table is always very high and any scrap would immediately fill with water and consequently not be able to serve its purpose. It was further thought that children would ride bikes/play on the bunds causing constant damage resulting in maintenance issues.

Following discussion on these issues it was suggested the Committee took a step back to look into the reasons for the FAS. The main aim was to help prevent flooding in a few houses situated on the corner of West Wood (Leigh Road/Stocks Green Road). They were flooded as a result of run off from West Wood springs and the Hawden Stream. The aim was to slow down these flows following heavy rain. Negotiations had been successfully agreed with the land owner through which the Hawden Stream flowed prior to entering West Wood over measures to be implemented.

DECISION and ACTION: Following a long discussion it was agreed the best way forward would be to identify the houses flooded in order that the source of the problem could be established and steps agreed to reduce the flow such as faggot bundles, dead hedging and perhaps creating a wet area at the Stocks Green end of the wood moving the footpath further back into the wood. As an initial step the clerk would try to get the houses flooded in 2013 identified by Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council and where the water came from.

6. To discuss the Great British Spring Clean

A few people had already signed up to take part in the project. Dame Kelly Holmes had agreed to do a photo shoot with pupils from a local school on 14 March prior to the weekend of the Clean.

ACTION: The timetable for both days needs to be finalised together with members to lead the various teams, the provision of equipment, and collection of the rubbish collected.

7. Recreation Ground play area

7.1 It was reported that all the new equipment was now fully operational.

7.2 Roundabout

The only outstanding item is the old roundabout. All avenues pursued to get drainage installed prior to fitting a new bearing has been exhausted without success.

DECISION and ACTION: It was agreed Mr Richardson would look into finding a suitable contractor who could lay a drainage pipe across the field.

7.3 Cctv camera

An attempt to install the additional cctv camera was made but the cherry picker became stuck in the field. The company has given three alternatives; remove the stakes beside the Pavilion to allow it to travel down the footpath, fix the camera to the Pavilion or wait until the field dries out sufficiently.

DECISION: The Committee agreed they did not want the camera on the Pavilion, it would be difficult and time consuming to remove the stakes consequently it was agreed to wait until the field was sufficiently dried out. The company would be informed.

7.4 litter bin

A member felt that a litter bin in the new play area would help to encourage users not to throw litter on the ground.

ACTION: The clerk to find out the costs involved.

7.5 Pay Back Team

The clerk is to meet with the supervisor of the Pay Back Team on 2 March. It was agreed that suitable work would include washing down the Pavilion inside and out and cleaning street signage.

8. Churchyard Agreement

A response was awaited from the NALC solicitors.

ACTION: The clerk to inform the Church of the current situation.

9. Management of the Village Green

A local company's contractors had looked at the Village Green regarding its maintenance but had not come back to us with a response. A member made contact with another contractor who confirmed they had the right equipment to undertake the work. Contact details would be passed to the Clerk.

The mower for the caretaker to maintain the edge and footpath on the Village Green had yet to be purchased.

ACTION: The clerk to find the current price.

10. AOB

10.1 Southern Water had produced a telephone number to report flash flooding and problems with foul water back up. This would be circularised to Flood Wardens as Southern Water had requested they be made aware of problems.

10.2 The issue of parked cars was raised. This problem is ever growing, particularly with the popularity of the Village Hall and creates problems with access for users of Riding Lane. The Borough Council is aware of this. The Parish Council does have some funds set aside for extending their own car park but this would not be sufficient during the next financial year.

ACTION: The clerk will find out what stage the Borough Council's investigation into parking in Hildenborough is at.

10.3 Public Space Consultation: The Borough Council had confirmed that this did cover Hildenborough. The clerk would look at the consultation document to see if it was relevant to the Parish Council to respond.