

HILDENBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

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Meeting of the Open Spaces Committee to be held on Wednesday 8 November 2017 in the Committee Room of the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

MINUTES

Present: Mr M Baker (chairman) Mrs C Baker Mr D Haugh

Mr C Lewis Mr M Nairne

Also present: Mrs L Flower (Hildenborough Conservation Group)

Mr P Richardson (caretaker)

Mrs P Gow (clerk)

1 local resident for item 5.1

Apologies: Mrs L Homewood, Miss C Sheldon

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 4 September 2017

It was agreed these minutes were a true record.

2. Matters Arising

7.1 The electric and water meters now seem to be recording accurately.

3. Caretaker report

3.1 Work completed included fixing the loose litter bin, replacement of the logs, removal of stones and bramble from the cycle track in West Wood and checking the fencing posts in the Recreation Ground.

3.2 Outstanding work included in the Recreation Ground: sweeping the path, replacing a picket, cleaning the back board on the goal and turning the bolts in the ball court and in West Wood building up the path, and repainting the multi unit ladder.

3.3 Mr Richardson, Mr Nairne and the clerk would meet on 9 November on the village green to agree the site for the new rowan tree to be delivered on 5 December. Mr Richardson would mark the spot and ensure access for the delivery lorry on that day.

3.4 Notices for the play areas, ball court and pond had been order and were due to be delivered on 16 November. Mr Richardson would install, together with a marker post showing 1.4m height beside the fitness area. The seats in West Wood would be renovated during the winter.

4. West Wood:

4.1 Extension of Play Area

ACTION: It was noted the Finance Committee had approved an expenditure of up to £15,000 for a small extension to the play area in West Wood. It was further agreed the clerk would find illustrations and costs of suitable equipment and ask if the local primary schools would like to have input into the choice staying within budget. It was further agreed the clerk would look into the possibility of grants to supplement this expenditure.

4.3 Any other business associated with West Wood

4.3.1 Mrs Flower reported that she had, with other members of the Conservation Group met Louise Smith to discuss the development of the Flood Alleviation Scheme in West Wood. They had agreed to install ditch peak flow deflectors along the stream flowing into the pond and placing brash bunds around the coppiced area. They had started coppicing the section just below the Medical Centre to the left of the path. Louise Smith had a budget of £2,000 to help provide tools and materials for the work. Mrs Flower said work on the stream would be undertaken in January/early February to clear the ditches etc. Under consideration was further work on the outlet from the pond.

4.3.2 Mrs Flower was aware of the agreement reached with Stocks Green residents over who is responsible for the maintenance of the Hawden Stream passing along the boundary.

4.3.3 The clerk reported that a meeting had been held with the Highways Steward regarding the problem of flooding both sides of Stocks Green Road. The County's Drainage Engineer had been on site earlier in the day to investigate the problems.

4.3.4 Mrs Flower enquired whether the Parish Council knew how the FAS was progressing in the field next to West Wood. The Parish Council had no further news.

5. Management of the Village Green

5.1 Boundary fence with 24 Mount Pleasant

DECISION: A local resident attending the meeting to try to establish who should replace the fence between the Village Green and their property. The current fence is in very poor condition. The resident's solicitors had said the boundary owner was not decisive. The chairman said that previous owners had been very protective of the boundary and had claimed it was theirs. It was agreed by both parties the boundary should be considered to be owned by the resident of 24 Mount Pleasant and it would be replaced by new fence

6. Recreation Ground

6.1 Update on repairs to equipment

The rower had been replaced and the wet pour had been repaired in the Activity Zone. The roundabout, following further investigations, needed to be replaced as it was not possible to repair it due to the main support frame being warped.

6.2 Request to use cricket facilities 2018

DECISION: A request from Hilden Oaks School to use the cricket square on Wednesday and Thursdays from 2-3.15pm had been received. It was agreed to recommend to the Parish Council this should be agreed provided they liaised with Hildenborough Cricket Club over its use, particularly during wet weather.

6.2 Request to use football pitch

A request had been received from chipstead JFC for a 9v9 pitch. This pitch should be 50x80 yds (45m x 72m). It was not know whether the school had a pitch marked on the field which might be suitable. It was agreed there was room for a further pitch but this would need to be marked out. It was suggested that Tonbridge & Malling may have a more suitable pitch at North Farm or the Sports Ground.

DECISION: The clerk to suggest they contact Tonbridge & Malling in the first instance and explain should they still want to come to Hildenborough they would need to mark and prepare their own pitch and warn them of the wet conditions.

6.3 Update on lease with Hildenborough Scouts

The Scouts had now agreed to pay out solicitor's fees and they would now proceed with preparing the Variation to the Lease.

6.4 Any other business associated with Recreation Ground

6.4.1 In response to an enquiry it was stated that refreshments had not been provided on the Recreation Ground in the summer due to the refurbishment of the Pavilion not being completed until near to the end of the Summer school term This would be looked into again for Summer 2018 .

7. Review of 3-year plan

DECISION: it was agreed to recommend to the Parish Council that during 2018/19 funds should be available for the replacement of the roundabout and the extension to West Wood play area with the ground work of deciding on what equipment, applying for grants and the placing or orders should be completed before 31 March 2017 in order that work could be undertaken early in the new financial year.

8. Any other Business

There was none.