

HILDENBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Pavilion and Recreation Ground – Riding Lane – Hildenborough – TN11 9HY
Telephone: 07818 329029 email: clerk@hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk
website: www.hildenboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk

OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MINUTES on Wednesday 29th July 2026

In Attendance

Cllr Wynne, Cllr Sklavenitis, Cllr Haugh and Cllr Gabriel,
Stephanie Dill Parish Admin

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr McNeil, Cllr Wills (Family Commitments), Cllr Connor (Work Commitments)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – Held on 27th May 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th May were approved unanimously and signed.

4. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report was noted.

5. OPEN SPACES WORKING GROUP'S, WEST WOOD WALK ABOUT

Councillors surveyed West Wood and noted the following observations and follow-up points:

- It was noted that several dead and fallen trees or branches were located on the Medical Centre side of the boundary fence to West Wood.
- It was noted that Three Counties had made a good job of clearing vegetation one metre either side of the service road.
- Playground equipment was noted to be in good condition. Some sensory panels had slipped down to ground level and require follow-up.
- Councillors noted concern regarding extensive damage to the ground in front of the football goal mouth area. Relocation of the goal posts should be considered to allow the original area to be repaired.
- One tree was noted as overhanging a resident's garage and another tree near the Leigh Road entrance was noted as having a split trunk. These trees to be included in the forthcoming scheduled tree survey.

6. PARISH INFRASTRUCTURE STATEMENT

Councillors reviewed the updated Parish Infrastructure Statement, including comments added following the Full Council meeting. Typo errors and wording issues were corrected. Following discussion, it was agreed that the remaining comments should be marked as resolved for reference. It was noted that the Plan is a working document and will continue to develop.

It was proposed and agreed that projects M9 West Wood Car Park, M10 West Wood Community Orchard and M11 West Wood Community Food Sharing Shed be moved to the "Short-term" section. Due to Local Government Reorganisation, it was also agreed that L23 KCC Asset, War Memorial, L24 KCC Asset, Library, and L25 TMBC Asset, Car Park Riding Lane be moved to the "Short-term" section.

It was agreed that project L15 Replacement Pavilion be moved to the “Medium-term” section. It was proposed that a Pavilion Working Group be formed in October to support the further development of this project.

7. VILLAGE GREEN, WATER FOUNTAIN

Councillors reviewed three quotes for planters. It was agreed to purchase three stone troughs from Amberol Ltd at a cost of £849 plus VAT, with delivery at £95 plus VAT. An additional allowance of £200 was approved for soil and plants.

8. RECREATION GROUNDS, BIKE RACK

Councillors reviewed installation quotes for a concrete base. It was agreed to appoint NW Landscape Construction at a cost of £1,700 for the base, all excavated soil to remain on site.

9. MAINTENANCE TEAM, HEDGE CUTTER

Councillors reviewed the equipment quotations and approved the purchase of a Mowshop hedge cutter at £216.66 plus VAT, plus any delivery cost.

10. WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Councillors reviewed the suppliers’ quotes and agreed to appoint Bios Rural to prepare the Woodland Management Plan. It was also agreed that Bios Rural submit the woodland registration and grant application. The approved cost was £1,500 plus VAT for the plan and £150 plus VAT for the registration.

11. APPLICATION - CRICKET CLUB – rental request

Councillors reviewed an enquiry from a Tunbridge Wells cricket club to hire the Pavilion and cricket pitch on Saturdays during the 2027 cricket season. Hildenborough Cricket Club had commented on potential issues of conflict. No decision was made. The matter was deferred pending receipt of further information from the applicant club.

12. CURRENT PROJECTS – All current projects formed part of the Clerk’s report.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

Hotshotz Tennis Club Open Spaces application – Councillors approved the application.

KCC Highways – Emails between the Parish Council and KCC regarding damaged road surfaces in Hildenborough were noted. Councillors also raised the poor condition of local cycle paths. Cllr Sklavenitis and Cllr Wynne will meet online with KCC Highways in September.

MEETING CLOSED at 20.53

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Cllr Wynne, Cllr Sklavenitis, Cllr Gabriel, Cllr Connor, Cllr Wills, Cllr McNeil, and Cllr Haugh