



# THE PARISH COUNCIL OF HELLINGLY

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Grounds Committee** held at Hellingly Community Hub on Wednesday **1<sup>st</sup> October 2025** at 7pm

## **G.049.10.25 to G.060.10.25**

- Present:** Councillors W Hesselgrave, G Hesselgrave, D White, F Lulham and P Young.
- Officer in attendance:** Jenny Hoodless, Clerk and Natalie Rhodes, Grounds Assistant
- In attendance:** Andy Sievwright (Head Groundsman), Tom Milne and Billy Mitchell (Groundsmen) and Steve Wennington (Hellingly Sports Club) & Gordon Taylor (Hailsham Cricket Club)
- Apologies:** Cllrs D Lewin, S Davis and P Milne. Also, Neil Hollebon (Hellingly Lions Cycle Speedway)

**Declarations of Interest:** None

**G.049.10.25** The Clerk opened the meeting and asked members for nominations for Chairperson. Cllr D White proposed Cllr W Hesselgrave, Cllr F Lulham seconded and all members in favour.

**G.050.10.25** The minutes from the Grounds Committee meeting held on **19<sup>th</sup> March 2025** were approved and signed.

### **G.051.10.25 Matters Arising:**

G.140.03.23/G.044.03.25 LHB Rec ditch belongs to Highways and has been cleared.

G.045.03.25 Cricket pitches at Country Park and LHB Rec, have both been aerated throughout the winter and made a big difference so we will continue this winter.

G.045.03.25 the path behind the Bathouse will be done this winter.

G.045.03.25 LHB Rec – the condemned play equipment was removed.

G.045.03.25 Lower Dicker – the condemned play equipment was refurbished by Andy and passed the annual RoSPA inspection, so remains.

G.045.03.25 Burfield Grange new Baby/toddler play equipment installed and replacement items for the rear play area.

G.045.03.25 Example inclusive play equipment for Burfield Grange as requested at the last meeting by Cllr P Milne. The Clerk to liaise with Cllr P

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Milne regarding the equipment and put a recommendation to the Finance Committee.

New Play Area Inspection Company was good and we'll continue with them for next year. The Groundsmen are working through the repairs that they can do and ordering replacement parts when required. This winter the Grounds Team would have some training with a qualified RoSPA Inspector, who is an employed Groundsman for Hailsham TC.

G.046.03.25 the pond work was completed and will be maintained by the Grounds Team.

G.047.03.25 LHB Rec drainage work for the football pitches has now been completed but the Clerk unsuccessful in obtaining a contribution from WDC.

G.048.03.25 Pet Memorial in the Dog Park, Cllr P Young to review.

### **G.052.10.25 Sports Clubs Reports**

**Hellingly Lions Cycle Speedway** - Yesterday 28th September we completed are Southeast League programme with an away fixture at Great Blakenham in Ipswich. Last Thursday was our last Club night of the year as the evenings are now too dark to enable us to run. These will start again April 2026. Our Under 16s side managed to win the Southeast league they competed in this season winning 7 out of the 8 matches and drawing the other. So from the young lads and their parents very rewarding for their efforts. The club attended with some of its members to the two events staged over the summer at Horsebridge Recreation Ground and the one at Roebuck Park. The Horsebridge event was more productive from our clubs point of view as we saw a few from that day start attending our Thursday evening club nights. We will be hoping to retain their interests over the winter for next year. We will again be looking to attend the events next year if they are held.

There have been no problems at the Recreation Ground to report.

**Hailsham Cricket Club** – gave our Grounds Team a huge thank you for all their hard and excellent work carried out on the Cricket Areas. Their Junior teams did very well this season, 3 out of the 4 teams were promoted. They requested we continue with aerating the pitch as this made a big difference this summer. HCC have installed a higher fence to prevent dogs and children from damaging the cricket square.

**Hellingly Sports Club** – reported that all clubs are thriving and the numbers have increased tremendously for all the teams based at Lower Horsebridge Rec. Link football now have 6 junior teams with around 100 children taking part. There is a junior girls rugby team started up again and hope to do well. All the clubs are very grateful for all the support that HPC give them. The drainage work for the football pitches had been completed and the contractor, Turfdry had agreed to seed the areas at no extra cost.

Cllr P Young requested that the Clerk contact Hellingly Cycle speedway Club to see if lighting would be beneficial for use of the track in the winter. If yes, then they can apply for the District Councillor's grant.

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### **G.053.10.25 Head of Grounds Report**

Firstly, I would like to say we now have a fantastic grounds team with Tim and Billy joining Tom and myself this year. All work exceptionally well together, are hard working and very dedicated in achieving the workload within the parish.

#### **COUNTRY PARK**

- Orchard up and running with a successful crop of fruit for the first year
- Pavillion – front; new lawn laid and general tidy up
- Pond area has been cleared with ongoing maintenance to the bridges
- Playparks inspection went very well with only a few minor issues which will be completed this winter
- New Basket swing and new double swing installed
- Councillors ‘walk around’ feedback provides ongoing maintenance
- Installed 3 new general waste bins

#### **BURFIELD**

- weekly rubbish collection
- hedge cutting and strimming
- refreshed children’s play area

#### **VILLAGE**

- Cemetery Lodge – internal clearance in preparation for decorator, external drainage clearance and tidied garden in preparation for rental
- Cleared footpaths and cut hedges through village to school
- Repaired bus shelter

#### **LOWER DICKER**

- Play equipment repair in conjunction with feedback from ROSPA report
- New roof and general repair to bus shelter
- Ongoing work to clear paths and hedges

#### **FUTURE PLANS**

- Training for the grounds team
- Move to winter task list
- Continue clearing area near hub for new container
- Create pathways in wooded area in Country Park with access over boggy areas
- Make 4 new benches
- Complete clearance of paths and hedges in Lower Dicker

**G.054.10.25** Cllr P Young asked if the Uplands developer, Saige Homes, would install either steps or a ramp to join up the paths that link with Burfield Grange.

**G.055.10.25** The Committee approved the following expenditure requests:

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- i. Another replacement double swing unit for Junior area at Country Park as existing wooden legs in the ground are crumbling. The Wicksteed quote being the best value was appointed. The Clerk to arrange for the installation.
- ii. Cricket Pavilion new decking required approx. cost £1,500 for materials and our groundsmen to do the work. The Committee agreed providing the Cricket Club use a hard surface on top when in use, to protect the new decking or not wear cricket shoes at all. Also, display a new sign to say no cricket spikes to be worn on the decking.

Cllr P Young proposed, Cllr G Hesselgrave seconded and all members in favour.

**G.056.10.25** The Committee would like the Clerk and Head of Grounds to research in more detail, the areas that Highways currently cut and review what equipment and staff hours would be required. This would be for Urban areas only, not rural. The Committee agreed that taking the responsibility for the Country Park would be a sensible decision as the contract expires at the end of March and the costs are spiralling.

The Committee agreed for the Grounds team to take responsibility for emptying all bins in the Parish but would wait until the research for all aspects of these items had been completed and presented to Council for the final decision.

The Committee agreed to take all Public Open Space and Play Areas on the Pelham Place and Magnola Gardens developments, providing the commuted sum was sufficient and all planning conditions had been completed. The Clerk to contact Bellway to obtain details of the commuted sums.

Cllr P Young proposed, Cllr F Lulham seconded and all members in favour.

**G.057.10.25** The Committee approved the 2026/27 proposed budget with estimated salaries but would finalise once a decision had been made (by Council) regarding our Grounds Team taking responsibility of grass & hedge cutting.

Cllr P Young proposed, Cllr F Lulham seconded and all members in favour.

**G.058.10.25** The land owner raised concerns about incomplete work at Carters Corner roundabout (Park Farm West). Cllr White to follow up with WDC Planning.

**G.059.10.25** Cllr D White reported that the Section 106 funds (approx. £1.2m) due to Hellingly Parish Council from five developments have not been paid. He will request a detailed breakdown of WDC's spending. These funds would be invaluable for the Lower Horsebridge Project.

**G.060.10.25** Cllr P. Young proposed holding a community celebration event on 24th June 2026, to mark the 10th anniversary of the Country Park.

Meeting Closed 9pm

Jenny Hoodless  
Parish Clerk

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025

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**Signed:**  
Cllr Bryan Hesselgrave - Chair

**Date:**