



THE PARISH COUNCIL OF HELLINGLY

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Grounds Committee** held at Hellingly Community Hub on
Wednesday **25th March 2026** at 7pm

G.061.03.26 to G.071.03.26

Present: Councillors F Lulham (Chair), D White, S Davis, P Milne, D Lewin and P Young.

Officer In attendance: Jenny Hoodless, Clerk

In attendance: Andy Sievwright (Head Groundsman), Tom Milne (Grounds), Sam Hill (Hailsham Cricket Club), Kevin Loveland & Paul Kirk (Hellingly Cricket Club), Fraser Logan (Link Football) and Neil Hollebbon (Hellingly Cycle Speedway)

Apologies: Cllrs W Hesselgrave, G Hesselgrave and Natalie Rhodes.

Declarations of Interest: None

G.061.03.26 The minutes from the Grounds Committee meeting held on **1st October 2025** were approved and signed.

G.062.03.26 Matters Arising:

G.045.03.25 Cricket pitches at Country Park and LHB Rec, have both been aerated throughout the winter and will continue year round as and when required. A 3-year contract has been awarded to the current contractor as he is doing an excellent job and is below the financial threshold. This will cover rolling and aeration requirements at both LHB and the Country Park.

G.045.03.25 the path behind the Bat house has now been completed and the guys have done an excellent job as always, the walkers are very happy.

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

These are a true and accurate of the meeting.

Signed:

Date:

Cllr F Lulham - Chair

G.045.03.25 Example inclusive play equipment for Burfield Grange was researched in conjunction with Cllr P Milne and it was felt it would not be required.

G.047.03.25 LHB drainage work for the football pitch had now been completed and funds transferred from CIL earmarked reserve.

G.048.03.25 Pet Memorial in the Dog Park on hold as Hailsham have now opened one.

G.054.10.25 Uplands developer has now installed steps/ramp linking to Burfield Path, connecting the two estates. This has been funded by Orbit.

G.059.10.25 S106 funds update - the Clerk has spoken to WDC and an agreement has been drafted for the monies owed for Bovis and Bellway developments, around £400k, this will be paid to HPC shortly. The remaining funds will be paid to HPC as soon as the terms of the agreement had been reached.

G.063.03.26 HPC Activity Days & Events for 2026:

- a. All sports clubs have been invited to attend the Outdoor Activity Day at the Country Park on 29th July 10am-2pm. We are still awaiting responses from all clubs.
- b. They have also been invited to attend the Council's Annual Parish Assembly Meeting for Residents on Tuesday 21st April Hellingly. Awaiting responses.
- c. Country Park 10 year birthday event, a project team of 4 councillors had been set up to arrange a celebration of the Country Park for its 10th Birthday, meeting to be held at 7pm on Wed 8th April, prior to Council meeting.

G.064.03.26 Sports Clubs Updates

Hailsham Cricket Club - Sam Hill

After the 2025 season, the club completed its most extensive renovation in recent years, focusing on restoring and improving the cricket square. Thanks to this work and ongoing winter maintenance, the playing surface is now healthier, more even, and better prepared for the 2026 season, benefiting both performance and player safety. Investment in new equipment, supported by the Parish Council, has improved maintenance efficiency, with further upgrades planned. Ongoing work led by Gordon has also driven clear weekly improvements.

The Parish Council's support through fencing, site clearance, and contractor coordination, has been crucial. Looking ahead, planned weed treatment and regular mowing are expected to bring the outfield to a high standard.

Overall, the ground is in excellent condition, reflecting strong collaboration between the club, council, and contractors, and setting a positive foundation for the upcoming season.

These are a true and accurate of the meeting.

Signed:

Cllr F Lulham - Chair

Date:

Hellingly Cycle Speedway – Neil Hollebon

Neil advised that the club was back on the track next Thursday 2nd April and looking forward to a successful season. He reported there had been a lot of litter, beer bottles and drug paraphernalia left around the rec. Whilst the members of the Cycle Club are happy to litter pick, they would like the Clerk to report to the PCSO.

Neil advised that they would definitely like to continue being invited to our activity days as last year, they recruited two new members from the day.

Hellingly Cricket Club – Kevin Loveland & Paul Kirk

Kevin advised that they had been working hard over the winter with the grounds maintenance and thanked our Grounds Team for the amazing work that they do. He requested that the remainder of the seeding on the football pitch and cricket outfield is urgently completed as only 3 weeks to go til the season starts. Kevin offered to help and would ask other members of the Sports Club. He also mentioned that maybe next year we could discuss the possibility of the Sports Club taking over the responsibility of all grounds maintenance at Lower Horsebridge rec.

The Clerk requested that a meeting takes place prior to the season starting, with Rob Field (contractor), Andy Sievwright & Natalie Rhodes (HPC Grounds), Kevin Loveland and any other member of the Sports Club relating to the grounds maintenance, to draft a rolling maintenance programme for us all to work to.

The Clerk reported that the grounds surrounding the Clubhouse is littered with dangerous broken equipment etc and must be made safe immediately.

Hellingly Cricket would like to say a huge thanks to the HPC Grounds Team and Natalie for all their hard work and support.

LINK Football – Fraser Logan

The Club has grown hugely and rapidly over the last couple of years, now looking at around 18-20 teams with over 200 kids, for the next season which is fantastic! They are also looking at starting a girls team as that is also in demand.

Fraser would like to say a huge thanks to the HPC Grounds Team and Natalie for all their hard work and support. He also advised that he would be attending the APM and support the activity day if available, to confirm.

G.065.03.26 Grants - Cllr D White

Cllr D White advised that there is another £10,000 District Ward grant available

commencing 1st April, all clubs that wish to apply need to do so on the WDC website.

These are a true and accurate of the meeting.

Signed:

Date:

Cllr F Lulham - Chair

G.066.03.26 Sports Improvement Project

The Clerk advised that the planning application for the improvements (not including the Clubhouse) would be withdrawn to review the location of the MUGA/3G pitch. A revised plan for just the pathway and the car parks would be resubmitted along with the revised plans for the Clubhouse asap. The Play Area would proceed as no planning permission is required. The Clerk and Assistant Clerk to make decision on the Play Area supplier this week.

G.067.03.26 Grounds Maintenance Report incl. Play Areas - Andy Sievwright

After a very wet winter there are a few tasks that have been delayed but will be completed asap. All of the required equipment including the storage container, to maintain the Country Park, had been ordered (all within budget) and would be delivered once planning permission had been granted. The Committee requested that the Clerk write to the Orbit regarding the residents in Akehurst Close informing them of the Storage Container. The additional bins the Grounds Team would be taking on from 1st April had been identified and a schedule of collections would be drafted.

Andy agreed to monitor and collect if needed the rubbish on Lower Dicker Rec .

G.068.03.26 Financial Matters - none

G.069.03.26 Hub Overflow Car Parks - Cllr D Lewin

Cllr D Lewin reported that the project team had met with contractors to discuss

both overflow car parks and now awaiting quotes. The current concrete overflow to be permeable tarmac and the grassed overflow to possibly have the concrete squares from the main overflow car park, installed. No planning permission required.

G.070.03.26 Mens Shed - Location

The size and location of a men's shed would need to be reviewed and discussed in detail prior to making a decision. The Clerk would liaise with Cllr S Pilkington who had been researching the requirements and ask him to present to Council at the April Council meeting.

G.071.03.26 A22 Gifted Land

Cllr D White reported that GTA Civils had reviewed and drafted plans for the

access location but would need to liaise with Highways to see if it would be possible. A Transport assessment would now be required and the Committee agreed for the Clerk to obtain a quote from GTA Civils to carry out the work. This would be put on the Council agenda for April for approval.

These are a true and accurate of the meeting.

Signed:

Cllr F Lulham - Chair

Date:

Cllr D Lewin proposed, Cllr P Milne seconded and all in favour.

Meeting Closed 9pm

Jenny Hoodless
Parish Clerk

26th March 2026

These are a true and accurate of the meeting.

Signed:

Cllr F Lulham - Chair

Date: