Horndean Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE GROUNDS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT JUBILEE HALL ON 24th Nov 2025

PRESENT Cllr A Redding (Chair), Cllr J Lay, Cllr D Prosser, Cllr R Sowden and Cllr J Tyler

IN ATTENDANCE Sarah Guy (Interim Proper Officer), Matt Madill (Grounds Manager), Susan Blake (Minute Taker)

PUBLIC — 1 member of the public

Meeting Opened 6.30pm by Cllr A Redding

G 31/25/26 **To receive apologies for absence**.

Apologies received from Cllr R Smith

G 32/25/26 **Declaration of interest**

No declaration of interest

G 33/25/26 **To open the meeting to members of the public**

Meeting opened to the public 6.30pm - Cllr A Redding

G 34/25/26 **To receive and approve the Minutes of the Grounds Committee meeting held on Monday 18th August 2025.**

Minutes duly signed – All approved

G 35/25/26 **To receive and consider an update regarding the current contractual usage of the football pitch at Five Heads Recreation Ground**

Martyn Everitt from Horndean Hawks updated the committee with regards to the use of Five Heads Recreation Ground. Currently using the pitches on Monday evening and sometimes on a Saturday. Five Heads Recreation pitches are being used for under 13's and HTC pitches being used for under 15's.

Council discussed whether the current arrangements with Hawks and Horndean FC were providing the most effective use of the facilities; it was agreed that this is not the case and that the lack of co-operation between the two clubs was a significant factor. The Grounds Manager agreed to take the matter up with both teams in order to agree an interim solution and an update would be provided at the next Grounds Committee

meeting. Council also agreed that if there was no improvement to the current position, then a full review of pitch allocations to both teams would be necessary at the end of the 25/26 season.

To be put on the next agenda – 2nd Feb 2026

G 36/25/26 **To receive and consider the Council's position with regards to land on the north-east side and land on the west side of Wagtail Road (Title Number SH48937), pertaining to a property in Redshank Road.**

Resident to be written to regarding making good the HPC owned bollards that were damaged during the work at their property. If a mutually acceptable agreement could be reached, then Council would not pursue the matter further.

G 37/25/26 **To receive an update in respect of the completed projects/significant works undertaken by the Countryside Team.**

- Play area tender bid is live on Find a Tender, started 7th November 2025
- Pollinator Pledge grant awarded for £1395 for hedge laying at Parsonage Field
- Rural payment grant awarded for £7500 to help Dell Piece West fencing grant
- Cedar in village has been pruned and xmas lights with star installed. Lights due to be switched on 1st December 2025.
- Matt (Estate Warden) completed his chainsaw cross cutting course – still needs small fell but he showed good competency is using a saw.
- Tia (Estate Warden) met with the Local PCSO
- Continue to hedge cut
- Clearance works started at Downs Park
- HPC volunteers were given their waterproof coats
- HPC volunteers have been undertaking work on Hazleton Common – Heathland restoration.
- Both Staff and volunteers worked in the village square in readiness for Remembrance Sunday.
- Replaced 4 new bins in the parish – Hawthorn Road, Downs Park, Five Heads Road and Lychgate Drive.
- Everyday tasks/works – leaf blowing, play area works, patrols etc

G 38/25/26 **To receive an update in respect of the Horndean Green Trail and Heritage Network.**

Boards and gateway marker are in production. To be placed across the parish. Countryside team to install.

S106 application for £48k submitted for joint road safety/green trail project work at Napier Road including 2 additional speed indicator devices.

G 39/25/26 **To note all aspects of the Pollinator Pledge & grant funding received.**

Grant funding received for hedge laying (stakes, bill hooks and saws).

Horndean Parish Council pledge :-

- Avoid cutting during peak flowering and nesting seasons, allowing hedgerows to support bees butterflies, birds and small mammals
- Share our learning and celebrate our progress with the wider community, encouraging others to value and protect hedgerows as vital pollinator habitats.
- Look for opportunities, where practicable, to plant new hedges with native species that offer nectar, pollen and shelter for pollinators throughout the seasons.

All agreed

G 40/25/26 **To note and recommend to Council to accept the £7,500 Rural Payments grant towards repairing the fence at Dell Piece West.**

Bid was successful for standard fencing.

Matt Madill suggested Metal fencing if the bid is accepted.

Quotes have been sourced in the region of £20k-£25k.

It was recommended that a site visit would be worthwhile as there are a couple of options to be considered with regards to the fencing.

Plenty of time to get the works done: works to be completed by December 2028 and need to claim by March 2029.

To be Noted – Recommend to Full Council

G 41/25/26 **To receive and consider the Pond Survey and Management Plan.**

Pond Survey and Management Plan from Arcadian consulting was circulated.

It was agreed that the survey was very detailed and has good management advice/steps to take to improve our ponds. Plan is good guidance.

Grounds Manager suggested we adopt the plans recommendations – All agreed

Recommended to go to Full Council

G 42/25/26 To receive an update with regards to the Catherington Down Lease (due to expire April 2026)

Matt Madill gave an update on the lease – nothing to report as yet. Emailed on the 13th October & 19th November no response. Lease end is April.

Cllr J Lay proposed we contact Cllr Marge Harvey. Sarah Guy to draft a letter and send to Council for review.

G 43/25/26 To receive a quotation in respect of repair and maintenance work to The Granary, Grade II listed building and discuss the way forward

Updated quote was circulated

2 more quotes to be sourced. Interim Proper Officer to contact Historic England to gain list of approved/recommended contractors, who specialise in historic listed building repair work.

Next meeting to be held on 2nd February 2025

Meeting Closed 7.50pm

Signed……

Dated……

Clerk Summary Report to Grounds Committee of 2nd January 2025

Agenda Item 5
To consider a wayleave request from CityFibre at Land At Catherington Lith And Stubbins Down [Title No. HP528224] in respect of the UK Government's Project Gigabit.

Project Gigabit is a UK Government funded initiative to deliver ultrafast full-fibre broadband infrastructure to 'hard to reach' and underserved rural communities across the country, including Horndean and the surrounding area, which are not considered viable by commercial operators.
In Hampshire, the network rollout is being implemented by CityFibre. The network is designed to use public land as much as possible, however in some cases it inevitably crosses private land. CityFibre have therefore requested that HPC grant them a wayleave [circulated separately as marked confidential] to install infrastructure at land owned by HPC at Catherington Lith and Stubbins Down (see attached maps [pgs 10 & 11] which correspond to the roughly drawn route shown in the image below).

CityFibre's contractors, UpConnect, advise that the works will involve digging a trench to site a 90mm duct which will be positioned 450mm below ground under hard surfacing and 350mm under soft surfacing. The chamber connections (shown on the CityFibre maps as red squares) are approximately 915 x610 mm in dimension and are sunk below the surface so that only the 'lid' remains above ground. Soft surfacing areas will be restored with the appropriate seed mix, whilst tarmac areas will be resurfaced leaving a small trench 'scar'. Access will be prioritised for residents at all times during the works.

The indicated routes are all single track and designated public footpaths; a site visit and liaison with HCC's PROW team is therefore recommended to UpConnect prior to any commencement of works. There is no income associated with the proposed wayleave (which are traditionally nominal in value) however, improvements in rural broadband bandwidth and speed support social connectivity, resident wellbeing and the local economy and encourage entrepreneurship and investment. Declining permission may mean that the location is removed from the current rollout contract.

Officer Recommendation: Approve grant of wayleave for signature, subject to UpConnect's confirmation that a site visit will take place before works are scheduled.

Agenda Item 6

To determine next steps regarding the current contractual usage of the football pitch at Five Heads Recreation Ground.

The Council would like to see all pitches in regular use and co-operation between clubs is essential to this aim. Since the last Committee meeting the Grounds Manager has been in touch with both Football Clubs as requested, however no progress has been achieved regarding improved access to pitches. The contracts with the club run on a year to year basis.

Officer Recommendation: Request that Horndean Football Club and Horndean Hawks attend a joint meeting with the Clerk, the Grounds Manager and the Chair of Committee to discuss the existing arrangements and those for the forthcoming 2026/27 season to allow clear and equitable agreements to be issued to each club in a timely way.

Agenda Item 7

To receive and consider an update regarding options, as advised by the landowner Hampshire County Council, for the lease negotiations in respect of HPC's management of land at Catherington Down.

Horndean PC has leased Catherington Down from Hampshire County Council since 2006, renewing the agreement in 2016. HPC receive £750 per year towards maintenance of the land from HCC, which is managed in accordance with HCC's Site Management Plan 2004-2009, which was appended to the 2016 lease agreement, although not updated. The lease is due to expire in April 2026 and HPC have been in contact with HCC regarding the options for renewal over the past year. Following a meeting with a member of the HCC Countryside Team, attended by the Grounds Manager, the Clerk and Cllrs Redding and Prosser, at which possible options for the way forward were discussed, HCC has now outlined their position as follows:

Future Management Options

Option 1. The lease on Catherington Down is not renewed and Hampshire County Council's Countryside Service carries out the management of the site as before the 2006 lease.

Under this option the site would be managed by the Countryside Service's Eastern National Nature Reserve (NNR) Team. The site would still be managed for Nature Conservation and Public access.

Option 2. Hampshire County Council relinquishes the ownership of Catherington Down Local Nature Reserve handing it over to Horndean Parish Council.

Because of the financial issues currently besetting Hampshire County Council, it is unlikely that the Council would not be able to offer any dowry as part of this handover. HCC might be open to negotiations pertaining to possibly undertaking some infrastructure or tree related works, prior to any handover.

Option 3 Hampshire County Council offers a two-year lease which includes an increase in the amount paid to Horndean Parish Council.

This option is being proposed by Hampshire County Council as LGR makes offering a 10-year lease renewal a non-viable option at this time. The two-year lease would reflect the same terms and conditions as the previous 10-year lease, however there would be an increase in the annual payment from £750 per year to £1500. Additionally, the County Council would retain the responsibility for maintaining but not necessarily replacing roadside fences. Likewise, the Hampshire County Council would take on the responsibility for the roadside trees. All other infrastructure and tree management would remain as per the original leases, the responsibility of the Parish Council. It is hoped that at the end of the two-year lease the new Local Government Arrangements will be in place and at that time if so desired by Horndean Parish Council longer term lease arrangements for the management of Catherington Down LNR can be negotiated with the new Unitary Authorities.

No recommendation.

Agenda Item 8

To receive an update in respect of potential tree works at Wagtail Road and determine next steps.

Two separate residents have been in touch regarding a HPC owned tree which is covered by a Tree Preservation Order. They report debris, dead wood, bird droppings and squirrel access and are requesting the tree be cut back. Property owners are entitled to cut back trees which are overhanging their boundary but are still required to apply to EHDC for permission in light of the TPO. This information has been shared with the residents. Both the Grounds Manager and the Clerk have made site visits and the tree, whilst quite large in height and reach, appears to be healthy, having been cut back five years previously. The tree in question is on the list for inspection during the annual survey. The approximate location of the tree, marked in blue, is shown on the image below.

No recommendation.

NB.

Agenda Items 9 – 11 will be covered by verbal reports.

Agenda Items 13 – 15 are confidential due to personal or business sensitive data.

Becky White
Clerk to the Council
27th January 2026

HORNDEAN PARISH COUNCIL,

Jubilee Hall,

Crouch Ln,

Waterlooville PO8 9SU.

25th July 2025

Wayleave Reference: HAV-34-PN9-003

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Request for permission to access your land at Land At Catherington Lith And Stubbins Down, Horndean PO8 0EU- Title No HP528224.

We are pleased to confirm that CityFibre are building full fibre, ultrafast broadband in your area and work will begin soon.

CityFibre are building this important infrastructure to connect rural communities which otherwise would not benefit from ultrafast broadband services. Fast and reliable broadband can help transform local businesses, enable home working, support requirements for online learning and education, and provide property owners with access to a range of ultrafast, stable and reliable internet services.

The CityFibre network rollout is made possible through their partnership with the UK government's Project Gigabit.

Project Gigabit is the UK government's flagship £5 billion programme to enable hard-to-reach communities to access lightning-fast gigabit-capable broadband.

The network is designed to utilise public land as much as possible. However, in some cases it is necessary that the network crosses private land. We are writing to you as part of the planned network runs across land that we believe you own at **Land At Catherington Lith And Stubbins Down, Horndean PO8 0EU**.

We would like to request your permission for CityFibre to carry out their network installation on your land as per the enclosed wayleave agreement. Included with this letter is a wayleave agreement detailing the extent of the proposed works. If you are happy with the proposed works, we would be grateful for you to sign the wayleave agreement and return to us.

Please return your signed wayleave agreement either by post or e-mail; scan/take a clear photo and email it to us at or by post x1 copy to us using the stamp addressed envelope enclosed.

We have a team ready to address any questions you may have, please contact them on the details below.

Please be assured by signing this agreement you are not agreeing to take up any service on the network, you are solely providing permission to CityFibre to install their apparatus.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely/ faithfully,

JOHN CALEY
Wayleave Surveyor
M:
E:

The Up Connect Team on behalf of CityFibre

CityFibre

Key:

Route -

Chamber -

New Pole -

Cabinet -

Land Registry Title -

Wayleave Ref: HAV-34-PN9-003

CityFibre
15 Bedford Street
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