



HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL

CLERK'S REPORT

Golden Valley – Tilford Road verge

This land is owned by the National Trust but grounds care is managed and paid for by HTC.

The National Trust has recently agreed to enter into a grant funding contract with BugLife, who are an invertebrate conservation charity, to create a wildflower corridor or “B-Line” on the Tilford Road verge (also known as Golden Valley).

This will slightly change the management regime in place. Currently the entire grassed area is mown 14 times per year. With immediate effect our contractor will be mowing approximately 1 metre in from the pavement and 1 metre in from the footpath close to the tree line leaving the middle strip to grow, giving the visual clue that the area continues to be maintained. The National Trust will cut and collect the entire area at the end of summer, rake and then sow wildflower seed. In the following years, the Council’s contractor will continue to mow the 1 metre strip either side of the B-Line.

Memorial bench request

We received an application for the installation of a new bench on Lion Green. The Green already has circa 15 benches, excluding the picnic benches. The memorial bench policy (available on our website) gives the options the Council and applicant’s have:

- 1) install a bench if there is a need for one;
- 2) details be kept on a list if there is a need for a replacement bench; or
- 3) install a plaque to an existing bench.

The applicant was advised that there was no requirement for a bench at the location requested. They were further advised that the Museum was looking for new memorial benches, but this was discounted by the applicant as it was not at the desired location. They have said they would like to install a plaque on the bench which is in the Lion Green orchard.

Lion Green broken stream-side fencing

At the meeting on 5 October, it was agreed that a Town Hall officer, the Chairman and Cllr Austen would undertake a site visit as the committee was unable to reach a decision based on the information provided. The recommendation at the November meeting was that the Chairman and clerk had delegated authority to make a decision whether to replace the fence or rely on the risk assessment previously provided (which is appended to this report).

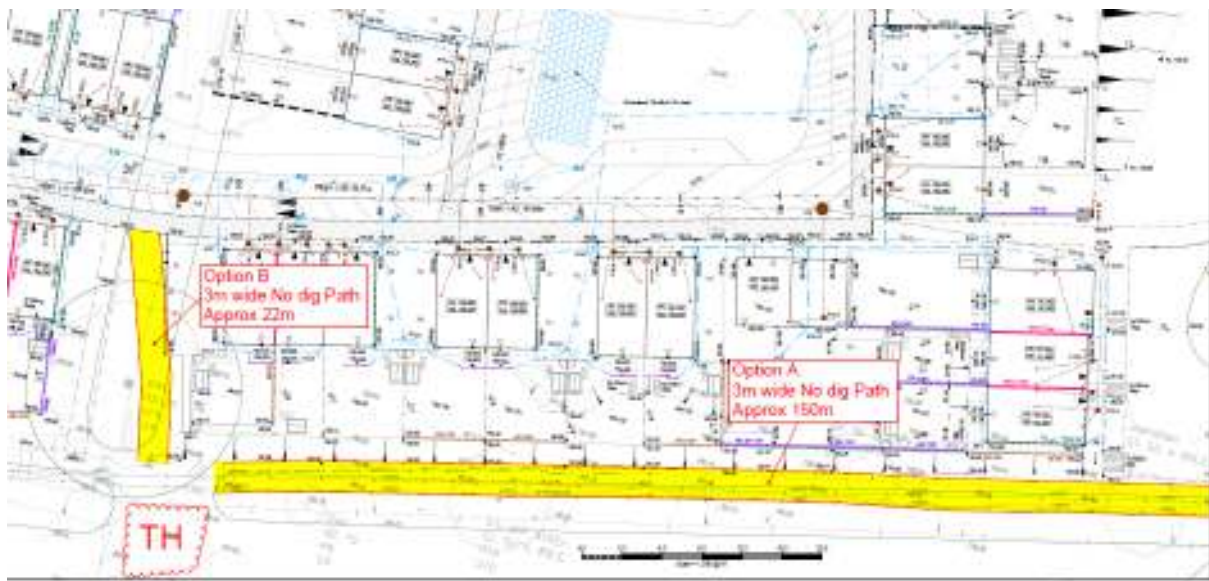
War Memorial repair

Despite asking a number of companies to quote for the repair to the wall surrounding the war memorial, we only received one. The insurance company has finally accepted this quote. The repair and the whole memorial clean, which is being funded by Your Councillor Community Fund, will take place this summer.

SANG update

The long stop date for completing the lease has been extended to end of April, with approval by the Chairman of Amenities and the Town Clerk, as there are a couple of outstanding issues to finalise.

It has been agreed that the access way to the SANG for the purposes of maintaining the SANG has been moved. Instead of vehicular access down Footpath 35 from Longdene Road (option A below), which runs to Sturt Road, the contractors will drive through the new estate and drive straight across the footpath into the SANG (option B below). First occupation of houses is expected by the end of April, at which time the footpath improvements should have taken place.



There was an incident with the badger sett, where the police were called out. Following a walk round with Town Hall officers, Councillors, Stonewater and Thakeham it was agreed that Thakeham would move the lower the accessway (originally within a couple of meters of the sett) to a much-improved location. Their contractors started dead hedging between the new access and badger sett to deter users and dogs from straying close to the sett. The hedging was constructed too close to the sett following a miscommunication between Thakeham and their contractor. The Police were called but following further meetings we are advised no further action will be taken and the dead hedging will be completed shortly.



Risk assessment: Lion Green Stream – Storm Water Outlet.

Company name: Haslemere Town Council, Assessment carried out by: Martin Wellen 14/09/2023

Background.

The stream between Lion Green and Weysprings has always been open and access unfettered. The small area at the concreted outlet was fenced by Waverley Council when the storm water outlet was installed; however this was removed after it rotted through in early 2023. The Council's insurer was consulted on whether a replacement fence was necessary and the Council was advised to conduct a risk assessment.

RISK: The risk of anyone falling at this site is very minimal. However, the Injury risk if a fall should occur is high.

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing to control the risks?	What further action do you need to take to control the risks?	Who needs to carry out the action?	Needed by	Done
Unfenced access above the storm water outlet site currently not visible due to course undergrowth. Fall height 38 inches.	All users of Lion Green. Fall injuries including head injuries and possible drowning.	Leaving the course (bramble) undergrowth alongside the stream in place. This serves to reduce the risk of anyone straying to the top edge of the outlet and falling in.	Nothing at this time as existing control measures are working.	Haslemere Town Council	N/A	