

Kings Hill Parish Council - Sports Park Committee

Minutes from the meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday, 22 July 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Kings Hill Community Centre, 70 Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, ME19 4LG

Present: Cllrs. Colman, Hartman, & Mclymont

Also Present: K Bell (Parsh Clerk), Representatives from TMA (2), KHFC (1) & KH Hockey (1)

Apologies: Cllrs. Barker & Petty

Absentee: Cllr. Kirk

Cllr. Hartman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

SP 24 Apologies for Absence: It was proposed, seconded and:

RESOLVED: To approve the apologies received from Cllr. Barker (Prior Commitment) and Cllr. Petty (Holiday) **Unanimous**

SP 25 Declarations of Interests / Lobbying / Intention to Record: Committee members were invited to declare any interests, lobbying, or intention to record the meeting. No declarations were made. **Noted**

SP 26 Minutes of Previous Meeting

SP 26.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2025 were reviewed. It was proposed, seconded and:

RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved as an accurate record of the proceedings.

Unanimous

SP 26.2 Matters arising:

SP 16.2 Fence Repairs (380 Watringbury Road): Works completed **Noted**

SP 19.3 Croquet Club: Email sent; no response received. **Noted**

SP 27 TMBC S106 Allocations: It was reported that the TMBC S106 Officer was awaiting on the outcome of further internal discussions before formal allocations could be made. It was further reported that TMBC had confirmed that the mains water connection, deemed essential for irrigation improvements, would be covered under the existing allocation. **Noted**

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Chairman: **Date:** 23 September 2025

SP 28 Irrigation: It was reported that the trench for the mains water connection had been completed and that SE Water had connected the supply. It was noted that Cllr. Petty was due to meet a potential contractor on 24 July 2025 regarding Phase 2 and that detailed proposals would be considered by the Committee and Full Council. **Noted**

SP 29 Expansion of Sporting Facilities

SP 29.1.1 Padel Tennis: Cllr. Hartman provided an update on the padel tennis project, including details of his recent meetings with two potential contractors. He advised that quotes were still awaited and confirmed he would follow these up. He also drew attention to coppicing and shrub clearance works around the Sports Park environs, noting that these could present a potential health and safety issue if not addressed. **Noted**

SP 29.1.2 Kings Hill Football Club (KHFC): It was reported that Cllrs. Petty and Hartman had met with representatives from KHFC to discuss the club's application for FA funding. The Clerk had supported the process by assisting with the completion of the required proforma paperwork. KHFC is in the process of appointing a bid consultant to support the application, with the contractual relationship to be held directly between KHFC and the consultant.

The Football Foundation (FF) had confirmed that, upon receipt and approval of the title documents, it would appoint a Design Consultant through its AGP Framework and cover up to £35,000 in design and planning fees. A formal letter confirming this arrangement was required. It was noted that KHFC could commit to contributing £2,000 towards the initial drawings. However, costs were expected to increase as the project progressed. Should the project not proceed for any reason, any fees incurred under this arrangement would need to be repaid. In such a case, the financial liability would fall to either Kings Hill Parish Council (KHPC) or KHFC, depending on the circumstances. Any costs exceeding the £35,000 covered by the FF would also be the responsibility of either KHPC or KHFC. Following a discussion, it was proposed, seconded and:

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RESOLVED: That as the Sports Park Committee did not hold delegated authority to make financial commitments of this nature, it was agreed that a recommendation should be made to Full Council for formal consideration at its meeting on 31 July 2025.

Unanimous

SP 29.1.3 Kings Hill Hockey: The Committee received an update on Kings Hill Hockey Club's current position and ongoing facility needs. Members noted that a collaborative meeting had been scheduled for August with Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council (TMBC), at which Helen Grant MP will be present. This meeting would focus on the club's displacement from Cobdown Sports and explore potential solutions. KHPC representatives were invited to attend.

It was noted that work was ongoing to secure a compensation package to support the club's relocation and future development. It was further noted that the club continued to receive active support from both Sport England and England Hockey, who were engaged in discussions to help identify suitable long-term arrangements.

It was also noted that the club had expressed interest in a recent funding opportunity through Fusion for Business, which might offer additional support for their development plans. This opportunity was being explored further.

Noted

SP 29.2 Prologis Liaison: The Committee noted with concern the continued lack of response from Prologis following the submission of a formal proposal by Kings Hill Parish Council on 21 May 2025. Despite follow-up emails sent on 3 July and 9 July 2025, no reply had been received at the time of the meeting.

The unresolved status of the Licence to Alter was highlighted as a key issue, as it was preventing progress on several time-sensitive projects. The Committee expressed frustration at the lack of engagement, which was now causing reputational concern and operational delays.

It was confirmed that the Council's legal representatives were fully briefed and ready to proceed, but without a response from Prologis, the matter remained at a standstill. The Committee agreed that an urgent response was required and that further escalation may be necessary if no communication was received in the near term.

Unanimous

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SP 29.3 Planning Applications: The Committee discussed the importance of early engagement with TMBC and Sport England in relation to future planning applications. Whilst members acknowledged the value of seeking pre-application advice and preparing the necessary supporting documentation, it was agreed that the project was not yet at a stage where this could be progressed. **Noted**

SP 30 Outside Drinks Area: Deferred. **Noted**

SP 31 TMA Liaison

SP 31.1 Financial Report: The Committee received the May 2025 management accounts, noting that income was ahead of budget with only minor expenditure variances. **Noted**

SP 31.2 Joint Bank Account: It was noted that KHPC signatories had signed the required mandate, which had been returned to TMA for onwards processing. **Noted**

SP 31.3 Fire Alarm Sensor Replacement: The Committee discussed the safety, compliance, and reliability concerns associated with the ageing fire alarm system. It was proposed, seconded and:

RESOLVED: To recommend to Full Council that the fire sensors be replaced, as outlined in the supporting documentation. **Unanimous**

SP 31.4 Installation of Solar Glass: The Committee noted that quotations for the installation of solar glass were awaited. Members reiterated the benefits of this solution and agreed to review the quotes once received. **Noted**

SP 31.5 KHSP Newsletter: The Committee noted that the copy deadline for the next KHSP newsletter coincided with that of the KHPC newsletter. Editors of both publications would coordinate articles to ensure consistency of messaging and content. **Noted**

SP 32 Exolum Pipeline System Ltd: Annual safety letter noted. **Noted**

SP 33 Date of Next Meeting: Confirmed as Tuesday, 23 September 2025.

Noted

SP 34 Consideration in Private: None **Noted**

There being no additional business the meeting concluded at 7.40 p.m.

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