



LGR Working Party (LGRWP)
Meeting 10am 7th January 2026

Cllrs *Arrick, Bridge, *Carter (Chair), *Keen, Leach, *Matthes, *Miller, Waters

*Present

Apologies were received from all Councillors unable to attend.

The meeting was clerked by the Town Clerk, Lisa O'Sullivan and Deputy Clerk Pippa Sherriff was also in attendance.

Notes of meeting

Cllr Carter welcomed those present. He asked that the working parties thanks to Cllr Miller for producing an excellent paper on potential open spaces for transfer in Haslemere be recorded.

1. Review of Open Spaces document

The working party considered Cllr Miller's suggestion that HTC apply to transfer the following sites:

- Sunbrow open space
- George Denyer Close Green
- Shepherds Hill open space (Pocket Park -already managed by HTC)
- Tilford Rd open space and playground
- St Bartholomew's Green
- Grass area at Tyndall's estate.

Cllr Carter reminded the group that a set of criteria had previously been agreed, this included not to apply for spaces where the council would take over responsibility and cost for mowing small areas. This excludes Geoge Denyer Close, St Barts Green (triangle by the Church) and grass area at Tyndall's.

Tilford Rd open space and playground has previously been discounted due to lack of community value and the fact that the play area is in a dangerous position and should really be removed.

The Sunbrow open space is a very difficult area to get to and would need specialist equipment to maintain.

All the above open spaces will remain the responsibility of the new Unitary Authority. The Working Party agreed that the best strategy in relation to them all was to see how they are maintained after the Unitary Authority comes into being and either 1) hold them to account if work isn't being done with a view to 2) seeing if further transfers may be requested from the unitary, hopefully on a non-cost basis.

2. Update from Town Clerk on progress

1. War Memorial Recreation ground.

WBC has confirmed that work on the transfer of this land can now commence and is not subject to further agreement at the Executive in February.

The Clerk noted that there are a lot of decisions to be made about how the areas outside of current leases should be run. It was agreed that HTC should be taking the lead on decisions, but consulting with other users of the site and residents.

Items that need to be considered include:

Council running the booking for public tennis courts and football / cricket pitch.

Council leasing a site for a small refreshment stand to a private company.

Provision of / update to public toilets on site.

It is recommended that a small working group is set up to look in detail at the running of the site once it becomes HTC's property. In the meantime, the Clerk will instruct Surrey Hills solicitors to act for the council in relation to all land transfers from WBC as part of an agreement to be entered into jointly with Farnham and Godalming town councils.

2. BH Recreation ground.

Nothing further has happened since the Clerk last reported to council. Work now needs to be done to:

- I. Get an update from Waverley on transfer of the land.
- II. Obtain a full handover from Waverley, including playground and tree inspections and passwords to sites such as the Charity Commission.
- III. Check for any bye laws in place on the land, for instance dogs on leads.
- IV. Arrange new signage for the site and some kind of opening event, in the Spring.

3. Church Meadow, Church Lane

This application will be considered by the WBC Executive in February.

4. High Lane recreation ground and community centre

This application will be considered by the WBC Executive in February.

In the meantime, the Clerk is meeting with the current lease holders to try and obtain letters of support which Waverley requested. It has become apparent that at least one of the leaseholders does not pay Waverley the full rent that is agreed in their lease.

Cllr Keen asked the Officers to find out whether planned drainage work at the recreation ground had taken place in the last year or so.

The Clerk will create a comprehensive report on this land and building once she has spoken to the current leaseholders and got further information from Waverley.

5. Other transfers/issue

It was noted that a new booking system needs to be implemented at the Town Hall, now that more time is being spent on this, Amelia King (AK) is currently looking into this.

The working party was reminded that Neil Francis from Woolmer Hill Sports Association will be presenting to Council at the Update and Participate session on 19th January. All councillors to attend.

6. VAT and legal advice.

The Deputy Clerk is currently seeking a review of the Council's VAT accounting to ensure that we have clear professional advice before land transfers are in place.

3. **Update to SALC members - Cllr Carter and Town Clerk**

Cllr Carter will be giving a short presentation to the SALC Councillor's forum (21st Jan) regarding HTC's progress with asset transfers.

The Clerk will be doing the same for the Clerk's forum (20th Jan).

RECOMMENDED:

- I. No further land transfer requests are made to WBC currently.
- II. A small subgroup of the Working Party consisting of Cllrs Arrick, Carter (Chair), Keen, Matthes and Miller is formed to consider the running of the War Memorial Recreation Ground once transferred and make a recommendation back to Full Council.
- III. The Clerk notifies Surrey Hills Solicitors that they are instructed to act as the town council's solicitors in legal work relating to the community asset transfers from Waverley Borough council.