**Horndean Parish Council**

**Policy for assessing HPC’s capacity to accept asset transfers**

**Introduction**

HPC has finite resources (currently eleven councillors) and limited expertise (many councillors are new to the parish council) to progress essential ongoing work and the initiatives which have been identified as being important to the residents of Horndean and which are included in each annual Parish Plan.

It is important that additional initiatives, or assets, are only taken on where they are considered unlikely to threaten existing ones. Current ongoing work and initiatives include:

* Supporting and Championing Improvements.
  + HNIP
  + Discover Horndean (HGT&HN)
  + Joined up Southern Parishes working
* Representing Horndean’s interest in external projects.
  + Havant Thicket Reservoir
  + Aquind
* Giving small grants to eligible organisations supporting our aims
* Being an effective Planning consultee
* Maintaining existing assets in our care
* Engaging with prospective developers
  + Seeking to minimise negative impacts
  + Seeking positive outcomes

Accordingly, HPC requires a policy to manage the variety of assets that may be offered, whether those would be devolved by District or County Council, offered by a developer (probably under a S106 agreement) or simply “gifted”.

**Additional assets that will normally be considered**

HPC will assess, and consider adopting, additional assets if there is felt to be benefit to a wider cross section of residents from across Horndean and where the operation of those assets falls within our current experience, expertise and capacity

**Some relevant areas within our expertise/experience/capacity**

* Open Spaces and nature reserves
* Play Areas
* Recreational space, including grass playing fields and exercise areas
* General use halls

**Additional assets that will normally be rejected**

HPC will not normally consider taking on assets that may only benefit residents of a single development, unless a strong business case can be made.

HPC will not normally consider taking on assets that fall outside our experience, expertise and capacity unless an assessment of the impact on Councillors, Officers and the precept has been prepared and that impact is positive.

HPC will not normally consider taking on assets that require significant capital expenditure, unless this is offset by associated income.

**Some areas beyond our expertise/experience/capacity**

* SuDS
* Sports facilities requiring significant management or maintenance