

# MINUTES

## Horsley Parish Council Virtual Meeting Minutes

25 January 2022 | 19:30 | Marianne Simpson (Parish Clerk)

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### 22/1 To note attendance

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Alistair Thomson (Acting Chair), Bryn Howells, Chris Blackwell, Christina McDonagh, Seb Howells, James Bowers, David Walls, District Cllr Natalie Bennett and County Cllr Steve Robinson, Marianne Simpson (Clerk)  
Apologies: Cllrs Kate Kay, David Marsh, District Cllr Norman Kay

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### 22/2 Declarations of interest or requests for dispensations

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There were none.

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### 22/3 Approval of Minutes

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The minutes, previously circulated, of the last meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 were confirmed as a true record and will be signed by Cllr Alistair Thomson (Acting Chair).

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### 22/4 Receive any reports from District and County Councillors

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District Cllr Norman Kay had circulated a written report, prior to the meeting, and this was noted. Cllr Thomson noted SDC is inviting applications for a Community Wellbeing grant with a deadline of 31st January and suggested the parish council apply for one for the village hub project. Cllr Walls proposed to apply for a grant to develop the play area and to improve access to it by providing a safe footpath for children and disabled users.

Cllr Robinson had been contacted about reducing the duration and intensity of street lighting in the village. GCC Highways have said the streetlights are dimmed by 50% at 12:00am, and they can be switched off completely at night but that would require a full village consultation. Cllr Thomson requested this is deferred to the next meeting. Cllr Robinson reported LHM (Local highways manager) Paul Helbrow is not due back for a while so another LHM will be progressing the 20mph zone outside the school. The current wigwam will be replaced with a larger wigwam further down the hill, and road markings will be added. He reported that SDC are allocating £50,000 for flood alleviation in Nailsworth, plus GCC are putting in £250,000. They are working up options of where to hold the water, one possibility is the Lake in Ruskin Mill to take water to alleviate problems with flooding further down the valley. Cllr Robinson reported that Children's services in Gloucestershire are still overspending and a further £11m will be added to next year's budget for this. Gloucestershire has 830 children in care which is the highest in the South-West. It is likely that the GCC precept will go up by 2.99%, SDC council charge for band D is going up £5/year and the police budget will also be increasing to fund extra police and IT improvements.

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### 22/5 Receive any comments from members of the public

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There were none.

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### 22/6 Clerk's report and Correspondence

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The Clerk's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and all relevant correspondence received had been forwarded and noted. The Clerk had received two oak trees for the platinum jubilee, donated by the Honourable Company of Gloucestershire. All agreed to plant them either side of the football shelter. Dates for the parish council meetings in 2022 were discussed and it was agreed to hold an August meeting but not a July meeting, to be confirmed nearer the time.

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## 22/7 Consider initiatives in response to Climate emergency

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A survey has been carried out on the Village Hall and the Pavilion. The Pavilion, and the Village Hall, may need additional insulation. The report is due soon and will be considered at the next meeting.

The nature trail grant application has been withdrawn as a landowner did not give permission for it to go across their land.

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## 22/8 Receive update on the Village Hub proposals

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### Village Hub update

Cllr Walls gave an update on the Village Hub proposals and discussed the sample options with costings. Consulting engineers Jubb had provided layout options for the track for 25 or 30 car parking spaces. The drainage will need to be a soakaway within the track as it will not work to take it across the road. The full scope estimate from Jubb is coming in significantly higher than the March 2021 estimates, giving a total cost in the region of £434,000. Sources of funding were discussed, including PWLB, Lottery funding, other grants, use of reserves. Cllr Walls had been advised an application for lottery funding will take 12 to 15 months. Cllr Walls proposed that £2500 is spent to do test bores to check the ground conditions of the track.

Cllr Thomson proposed the track test bores work goes ahead now at a cost of £2500, Cllr Blackwell seconded, all in favour.

A village consultation on the Village Hub will be held after the March meeting, when all the options and potential funding sources are clearer.

### Community Shop report

Cllr Walls had attended a Shop Committee meeting. The profitability and performance of the shop remains stable, and profitability has continued, so council is due £272 in accordance with the shop agreement. Fire survey was carried out in Oct/Nov and a registered fire plan is needed. The likely source of a fire is the kitchen, so it is recommended the shop window is the exit point in the event of a fire, which requires the window railings to be removed and a shutter to be added. Cllr Bowers suggested other options are a fire door to the kitchen, a sprinkler, or railings that are removable.

### Consider the Football Club agreement and review of licence

The parish council has a copy of the original agreement. Cllr Thomson requested this is added as a separate agenda item at the next meeting.

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## 22/9 Consider the SDC proposed community asset transfers to the parish council

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Stroud District Council are willing to transfer the woodland it owns in Priory Fields, the Village car park and the cemetery in line with the protocol agreed at a committee meeting on 13/6/2019. It was noted that the previous offer to the parish council to take on the burial ground had been refused due to the sizable dowry the PC was seeking to take on the liability. Cllr Thomson noted that SDC pay the PC £2700/year to maintain the burial ground. All councillors agreed that the burial ground was a liability and the parish council has previously said they did not want ownership of the burial ground. The other 2 parcels of land were considered. As the woodland area cannot be used as a solution to the track drainage, it was questioned whether ownership of that land would be beneficial. It is steep and may be unstable as a lot of spoil was deposited there during the Priory building works and the wall has partially collapsed. The car park is needed in Horsley; however, it was noted it would need to be managed if it was in parish council ownership.

Action: Cllr Thomson to write to SDC to ask if they will carry out a survey on the Priory Field woodland and ensure the spoil is removed before the parish council considers taking ownership.

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## 22/10 Update on the play area

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Cllr Walls had a meeting with the residents who have requested a skate ramp for the play area. The size of the ramp is now larger than originally thought and will not fit alongside the basketball area and would cost in the region of £30-40,000. Further information gathered will be considered at the next meeting.

The Finances were moved up the agenda.

## 22/11 Authorise payments of the parish council and receive Financial Matters

The Payment schedule for January was previously circulated to all Councillors. Council resolved to ratify and approve all payments as detailed. Unanimous decision.

### Payments made between meetings

24/11/2021	British Gas	Pavilion elect Nov	£239.58	DD
25/11/2021	Robert Kent	Make tree safe in play area	£150.00	
01/12/2021	A R Plumbing	Pavilion toilet repair	£107.94	
01/12/2021	L McLaughlin	Pavilion cleaning Nov	£166.50	
02/12/2021	NEST	Clerk Pension Nov	£19.78	DD
07/12/2021	British Gas	Pavilion gas	£15.34	DD
24/12/2021	British Gas	Pavilion elect Dec	£419.16	DD
04/01/2022	L McLaughlin	Pavilion cleaning Dec	£135.00	
11/01/2022	A R Plumbing	Pavilion outside tap	£71.99	
13/01/2022	NEST	Clerk Pension Dec	£15.67	DD
13/01/2022	British Gas	Pavilion gas	£24.94	DD
24/01/2022	British Gas	Pavilion elect Jan	£403.42	DD
			<b>£1769.32</b>	

### Payments received between meetings

26/11/2021	HUFC	Football club rent (half 2020, full 2021)	£630.00
04/01/2021	Community shop	Pavilion cleaner Aug-Oct 2021 (reimburse half)	£246.60
05/01/2021	Community shop	Rent arrears and contribution towards elect and gas 30/9/2019 – 29/9/2020.	£4000.00
06/01/2021	Community shop	Rent arrears and contribution towards elect and gas 30/9/2020 – 29/9/2021.	£4000.00
			<b>£8876.60</b>

### Payments for authorisation

10/01/2021	David Walls	Reimburse Pavilion misc + highways record	£101.28
21/12/2021	Clive Hathaway	Gravedigger fee – ashes interment 21/12/21	£80.00
14/01/2022	Golden stones	Fence works between play area and churchyard	£540.00
14/01/2022	Golden stones	Daffodil planting	£540.00
14/01/2022	Golden stones	Pavilion track re-surfacing	£1080.00
04/01/2022	GAPTC	Being a Better Councillor training	£50.00
24/01/2022	C Perla	Payroll Oct - Dec	£45.00
23/01/2022	A R Plumbing	Pavilion kitchen tap repair	£92.39
			<b>£2528.67</b>

### Receive financial update and bank reconciliation

Council noted the financial update and bank reconciliation, previously circulated.

### Consider foodbank support for villagers

Deferred to next meeting.

### Consider the budget 2022-23

The draft budget 2022-23 had been circulated prior to the meeting. This was used to inform the precept.

### Approval of the precept for 2022-23

The tax base, produced by Stroud District Council, was set at 364.9 for 2022-23 for Horsley (it was 357.56 in 2021-22), which is an increase of 2.05%, which means the precept can be increased by 2.05% at no additional cost to individual households. It was noted that last year the precept was not increased, and council was keen to keep the

precept as low as possible this year in recognition of the difficulties parishioners have faced throughout the covid pandemic. After discussion of planned projects and concerns about inflation and rising costs, Council resolved to set the precept at **£34,058**. This will mean an increase of **£3.48** on the annual charge for a Band D (average) property, which is **7p per week**.

Action: Clerk to submit precept request to Stroud District Council.

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## 22/12 Update on burial ground

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There was nothing to report.

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## 22/13 Update on Highways and Footpaths

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Update on progress for the 20mph limit in the village was discussed under item 22/4.

The VAS signs along the B4058, which are solar panel operated, are now working, but both have been temperamental during cloudy weather. Cllr McDonagh to contact the installers to ask whether the VAS should be switched back to electrical cable.

There was no update on the Whiteway bank footpath.

Cllr McDonagh said there were problems with parking at the entrance to Narrowcut Lane and double yellow lines are being considered.

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## 22/14 Update on gigaclear

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The gigaclear community engagement manager for Horsley has recently left, awaiting contact details of the new manager. The gigaclear rollout in Horsley has now resumed, however it is slow, as they do not have the resources, and they must re-apply for all the road permits. They are currently working on Hay Lane.

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## 22/15 Consider planning applications

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### **Planning decisions:**

- The Poultry Unit, Bath Road, Nailsworth - Variation of Condition 2 (plans) of S.21/0063/FUL – Approved
- S.21/2835/AFPA Forestry Extraction Track Wormwood Hill Horsley - Withdrawn

### **Planning applications:**

- S.21/2717/HHOLD 2 Lockyer Cottage Barton End Lane Washpool Horsley - Erection of extension.  
Cllr Thomson proposed No Comment, Cllr McDonagh seconded, all agreed.
- S.21/3038/HHOLD 1 Field View Bath Road Nailsworth - Erection of side and rear extension to dwelling.  
Cllr Thomson proposed No Comment, Cllr Wall seconded, all agreed.

A parishioner reported several residential buildings at Wheelbarrow Farm have been added, without planning permission. Action: Clerk to notify planning enforcement.

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## 22/16 Consider nominations for Horsley Hero

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Nominations were considered for this year's Horsley Hero and the arrangements for announcing the Horsley Hero were discussed and agreed.

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## 22/17 Consider holding a community event for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

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Cllr McDonagh to write in the local newsletter to ask parishioners opinion on whether there is a desire for a village event for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on 2-4 June 2022 and whether other groups or businesses are organising anything.

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22/18 Councillor items for future discussion

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None.

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22/19 Date of Next Meeting

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The next meeting will be on Tuesday 22 February 2022 in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 21:40

Chair's signature..... Date .....