

MINUTES

Horsley Parish Council Virtual Meeting Minutes

22 February 2022 | 19:30 | Marianne Simpson (Parish Clerk)

22/20 To note attendance

Cllrs Kate Kay (Chair), Alistair Thomson, Bryn Howells, Christina McDonagh, Seb Howells, James Bowers, David Walls, David Marsh, District Cllr Natalie Bennett and County Cllr Steve Robinson, Marianne Simpson (Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

Apologies: Cllr Chris Blackwell, District Cllr Norman Kay

22/21 Declarations of interest or requests for dispensations

There were none.

22/22 Approval of Minutes

The minutes, previously circulated, of the last meeting held on 25th January 2022 were confirmed as a true record and will be signed by Cllr Kate Kay (Chair).

22/23 Receive any reports from District and County Councillors

District Cllr Bennett reported that the SDC budget was passed last week, despite opposition to the 10p increase in parking charges. Council tax will increase by 2.3% which is £5/yr for a band D (average) property. The Ringfield Close development in Nailsworth for 15 new affordable rent homes and 5 new shared ownership homes will be completed and handed over on 30th March and will be available for bidding on HomeseeckerPlus. Cllr Bennett informed the council that the usual temporary road closure fee will be waived for closures for events during the Queens Platinum Jubilee bank holiday (2nd -5th June 2022) and have to be submitted no later than 22nd April 2022.

County Cllr Robinson reported that the GCC annual budget was agreed last week with a 2.99% increase which includes 1% for adult social care. He had been contacted regarding rumours about the No.40 bus service being cut. The head of public transport at GCC has said the service is procured until January 2023. Cllr Robinson has asked for a meeting to discuss changes to the route to include Amberley and Pinfarthings as those areas currently have no bus services. There is concern that the withdrawal of covid grants to the bus operators at the end of March could lead to reductions in services. A sign is being selected for the 20mph school zone so that costings can be determined. There has been some flooding in the dip on the Horsley Road opposite the Ruskin Mill entrance and had been jetted, but the pipe descaling will be carried out in the next financial year. A consultation will take place next month regarding moving Stroud Library into the Five Valleys shopping centre. The Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group is being set up for young people 16-25 years of age.

Cllr Kay asked about reducing the intensity of LED lighting in the village as some residents have asked for them to be switched off at midnight. Action Cllr Kay to obtain information from GCC on consultation requirements.

Cllr McDonagh said the VAS sign in Nupend may be faulty or may need switching back to electrical cable as the solar panels are obscured by a high hedge. Cllr Robinson said the council needs to contact GCC to switch back to electrical wiring. Action: Cllr Walls, in the first instance, to ask the hedge owner to cut back the hedge.

Cllr Howells asked Cllr Robinson if he had spoken to the Education department about using the Village Hub units as extra classroom space in return for funding for the Village Hub project. Cllr Kay replied that she had contacted the school to gauge interest and they are considering it.

22/24 Receive any comments from members of the public

A member of HCAN asked when/if the parish council would be holding a village meeting this year. Cllr Walls said the council needed to hold a councillor meeting first to discuss and agree the Hub project options, then a village consultation can be held in April.

22/25 Clerk's report and Correspondence

The Clerk's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and all relevant correspondence received had been forwarded and noted.

A representative of Forestry England, who manage the Kingscote Wood, had visited the bike trail, and had noticed the boundary between parish council land and their land was unmarked. The Clerk had advised that the parish council was aware of the bike trail and has insured it. It was noted that some of the bike jumps were very large and erected from Forestry England logs and there were some safety concerns. A disclaimer notice and map showing the 3 different trails for different rider abilities needs to be installed. Action: Cllr Bowers to review the status of the bike trail and outline what is still to be done.

Some residents are keen to re-start the Horsley Youth Club during the summer term and have asked if the parish council would help with funding. The council gave unanimous support to restarting the Youth Club. County Cllr Robinson suggested the council apply for funding from the GCC Build Back Better Fund. Action: Clerk to ask the Youth Club to outline their project needs and funding requirements.

The Horsley Football club have reported some repairs are needed in the Pavilion. The gas box cabinet is loose, a couple of radiators are not working, and some light bulbs need replacing. Action: Clerk to report the gas box and assess the other repairs.

Council unanimously agreed for the Clerk to spend £150 on training webinars.

22/26 Consider initiatives in response to Climate emergency

Severn Wye Energy have carried out an energy audit on the Village Hall. Their report has been circulated to councillors. The Village Hall Management Committee are in the process of getting quotes for additional loft insulation, a more efficient boiler, double glazing the single glazed window, new outside door and fire door, and low energy light bulbs. When they have gathered the quotes, they will assess what is affordable and will apply for a partial grant (up to 30% of the installation cost). They have asked if any of the energy savings measures are not affordable would the parish council consider a contribution. Action: Cllr Kay to ask the Village Hall committee to submit costs before the next meeting and the council will consider any funding requests.

Consider turning off streetlights after 12pm to enjoy dark skies. This was discussed under item 22/23.

Council agreed to support the 'No Mow May' campaign to increase bee numbers and pollinators. An area of the lower burial ground and cemetery is already set aside to be cut just once a year to increase biodiversity.

The Clerk reported that British Gas is investigating why the council has not received any feed in tariff payments for several years from the pavilion solar panels.

22/27 Receive update on the Village Hub proposals

Cllr Walls reported that the firm carrying out the test holes for the track soakaway, and to test the tarmac surface, have quoted £2750, rather than £2500 as originally reported. Council unanimously agreed to pay £2750 to check the drainage. Cllr Walls disclosed that the National Lottery are no longer supporting business-based fundraising, so if an application is submitted to include the 2 commercial units the council will need to apply for a different grant. It is a 2-stage process, 12 weeks for approval and a 6 to 12 month timetable for funding.

Cllr Walls gave an update on the Community Shop. The current manager has resigned, and a new manager is being sought.

Cllr Howells had suggested the council consider requesting funding from GCC Education budget for extra classroom space for the school in the 2 Village Hub units. This was discussed under item 22/23.

22/28 Consider the football club agreement and review licence

The parish council has a copy of the original licence and agreement. Action: Cllr Kay to liaise with Cllr Blackwell on his return from holiday.

22/29 Consider the SDC proposed community asset transfers to the parish council

The council potentially supports the acquisition of the woodland and car park, but not the burial ground as the council would lose the support payments from SDC. SDC have agreed that there is a problem establishing exactly where the legal boundary of the woodland is, on the ground, given the overgrown nature of the land. It may be that they need to commission a land survey to establish the boundary line and will come back to us once this has taken place. The council will then consider this further.

22/30 Update on the play area

There is no update on the Community Wellbeing grant application.

Cllr Walls gave an update on the Skate ramp proposal. The different types of skate ramp have different construction and installation costs. Cllr Walls circulated a summary of capital costs vs maintenance costs providing 5 and 10-year life cycle costs for build and maintenance. There was also discussion on a suitable site for the mini ramp. It is larger than the initial proposal and will not fit in the grass area between the basketball area and the churchyard wall. If it was in this location it will need to spread into the basketball area. Further information will be gathered for the next meeting.

22/31 Update on burial ground

The memorial testing will be carried out when the memorial mason is available. It was noted that the PCC (Parochial Church Council) would be responsible for organising safety inspections of those in the Churchyard but whoever owns the memorial is responsible for the repair. If they cannot be traced, then the memorial would be laid down or fenced off for safety.

22/32 Update on Highways and Footpaths

No update on the 20mph school zone, except as reported by Cllr Robinson that a large 20mph sign is being selected so that costings can be determined, and any funding pledged will be carried over to the next financial year.

The VAS sign on the stretch of road before the school now seems to be working. Cllr McDonagh had been advised by the manufacturers that it is normal to have a couple of days a year when the light conditions prevent it working properly. There are still problems with the VAS in Nupend as discussed under item 22/23.

There was no update on the Whiteway bank footpath. Cllr Kay had asked SDC and the GCC footpaths officer to look at the safety of the steps. Action: Clerk to contact the footpath officer to find out if the footpath has been signed off.

22/33 Update on gigaclear

Cllr Seb Howells gave an update. Gigaclear are working whenever they get the road closures; they will be working on Hartley Bridge from 7 March. Action: Cllr Seb Howells to circulate a list of planned closures.

22/34 Consider planning applications

There are no current planning applications.

22/35 Authorise payments of the parish council and receive Financial Matters

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

Payments made between meetings

04/02/2022	L McLaughlin	Pavilion cleaning Jan	£148.50	
08/02/2022	Jubb	Track works	£2100.00	
/01/2022	NEST	Clerk Pension Jan	£21.16	DD
13/01/2022	British Gas	Pavilion gas	£20.91	DD
			£2290.57	

Payments received between meetings

None

Payments for authorisation

22/02/2022	'GeoXphere Ltd	Parish online annual subscription	£45.00
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Council considered foodbank support for villagers. In the context of the cost-of-living increase some residents may be in financial difficulty. Council agreed to investigate the viability and operation of a scheme to provide a safety net of support by providing vouchers for use at the community shop. Other ideas were to provide food close to its sell-by date for anyone in need to take at the end of the day, the idea was supported but the details of how it would be implemented needed further discussion. Action: Cllr Thomson to draft a foodbank support policy and procedure document for review at the next meeting.

Council approved the appointment of GAPTC to carry out the internal audit 2021-22 for £195.00.

Council approved the RoSPA play area inspection in April 2022 at £70.00 plus £3.50 per additional item over 5.

Council approved the Grounds maintenance quote 2022-23.

22/36 Boundary Commission consultation on the proposed new map of constituencies

The Boundary Commission for England are reviewing the parliamentary boundaries and there is a consultation on the proposed new map of constituencies running until Monday 4 April 2022. Council agreed to make an official statement for Horsley to stay in the Stroud constituency.

22/37 Consider nominations for Horsley Hero

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

22/38 Consider holding a community event for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Cllr Kay outlined some suggestions put forward by villagers. These included a bring-your-own picnic on the field, a music event, a barn dance, a quiz. A villager had also suggested placing commemorative benches around the village.

Council agreed a picnic on the field would be a possibility for a community event to mark the Queen's jubilee on Thursday 2nd June. Action: Cllr Kay to ask musicians in the village if they would be available to provide entertainment.

The council unanimously agreed to purchase some commemorative benches. Number of benches and locations to be decided at the next meeting. Action: Clerk to provide bench prices.

22/39 Councillor items for future discussion

None.

22/40 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 22 March 2022 in the Village Hall.
Meeting closed at 21:55

Chair's signature..... Date