

MINUTES

Horsley Parish Council Meeting Minutes

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

22/41 To note attendance

Cllrs Alistair Thomson (Chair), Bryn Howells, Chris Blackwell, Seb Howells, David Walls, Kate Kay and County Cllr Steve Robinson, Marianne Simpson (Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllrs Christina McDonagh, James Bowers, David Marsh, District Cllrs Natalie Bennett and Norman Kay

22/42 Declarations of interest or requests for dispensations

There were none.

22/43 Approval of Minutes

The minutes, previously circulated, of the last meeting held on 22nd February 2022 were confirmed as a true record and will be signed by Cllr Thomson (Chair).

7:40pm Cllr Kate Kay arrived as she had asked to be allowed to relinquish her role as chair for this meeting, in favour of the vice-chair Cllr Thomson, as she had not had time to prepare for the meeting.

22/44 Receive any reports from District and County Councillors

County Cllr Robinson outlined how accommodation can be offered to people from Ukraine via the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme. He noted that the covid infection rate is very high in the area now. The person interested in setting up a Youth Club in Horsley may get help from the Build Back Better Fund. Paul Helbrow, Local Highways Manager (LHM), will not be back for a while so the 20mph zone outside the school has been delayed and another LHM has taken over his work. There is still funding for a 20mph zone around the school, but the flashing sign will not now be replaced and moved closer to the school, as visibility is better as the bush has been cut back, so it is not considered worth the cost of moving it. In early April, they will look at the signage again. Double yellow lines near the Cross, on Narrowcut Lane, are being considered. There were concerns that this will simply move the parked traffic to other areas in Horsley. The solar-operated VAS in Nupend is unreliable and may need to be switched back to an electricity cable. Cllr McDonagh has contacted GCC Highways and is pursuing the installers for more information and costs for making changes. The PROW officer has approved the Whiteway Bank footpath steps.

22/45 Receive any comments from members of the public

One member of the public was interested in the Village Meeting, one wanted to report on skate ramp options, and one was there to observe the meeting.

A resident outlined the pros and cons of different locations and materials for a skate ramp. The preferred site is on the basketball area, as there is room for a runoff and there will be no need to lay foundations.

22/46 Update on the play area

This item was moved up the agenda.

Cllr Thomson proposed that, if the council approves a skate ramp, it should be concrete and located on the basketball area. Council unanimously agreed.

Cllr Thomson proposed that if funding is available for a skate ramp, the council should support the idea. Cllr B Howells was concerned about the cost and questioned how many parishioners would use it. Five councillors were in favour of supporting a skate ramp if grant funding is available, Cllr B Howells was against.

There has been no feedback on the Community Wellbeing grant application.
Bike trail is on-going.

22/47 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.

22/48 Consider initiatives in response to Climate emergency

Village Hall eco improvements

Cllr Kay reported the Village Hall committee are gathering quotes following the energy audit and will bring forward their proposals with costed items to the next meeting. The less expensive items are LED lights and insulation at a cost of £3,000 to £4000.

Consider reducing the intensity of the LED street lights in Horsley

Cllr Kay had spoken to Lee Cordery at GCC about the possibility of turning street lights off post-midnight. It would be possible in some hamlets, but not in the centre of the village and a consultation would have to be held. Cllr Kay suggested councillors ask residents in their areas for feedback on this. GCC will then do a technical assessment.

Pavilion energy assessment

Severn Wye Energy (SWEA) will carry out an energy assessment on the Pavilion on 12th May. The assessment will be done on the basis that it is part of the Village Hall Target 2030 assessment and there will be no cost for this.

Consider attending the Community Emergency Planning workshop 7th or 27th April

GRCC are holding a Community Emergency Plan workshop on 7th and 27th April via zoom. Cllr Walls to attend.

22/49 Receive an update on the Village Hub project

Village meeting

Cllr Kay outlined plans for the village meeting to be held on Sunday 24th April. It will be an open meeting with opportunities for discussion. There will be a presentation on the village hub outlining the parish council's proposal to the village. Parishioners will be consulted on what they want.

Village Hub progress

Cllr Walls said the test holes were dug, as part of the track drainage assessment, last week and the report will be available shortly.

Cllr Walls outlined funding opportunities: 'The power to change' grant (funded by the national lottery provides match funding up to £100,000). 'Good finance' is an investment, and a return on the money is expected.

Community shop update

The community shop has a new manager and Sarah (previous shop manager) is the new Chair of the community shop committee. Installing a fire window in the shop would cost £3600, however a local carpenter could modify the existing window for £900, this option was agreed.

Consider requesting funding from GCC Education budget for extra classroom space at the Village Hub

Cllr Thomson reported that it is unlikely GCC will want to fund an extra school classroom as the pupil numbers next academic year could be below 100, so there will only be 3 classes not 4.

22/50 Consider the Football Club agreement and review of licence

Cllr Kay and Cllr Blackwell to review the original licence and agreement and to meet with the football club to agree a new rent.

22/51 Consider the Pavilion and Football hut maintenance and repairs

Cllr Walls noted the football club has reported repairs needed in the Pavilion and the football viewing stand. This includes faulty radiators and lights. There is also glass and litter in the football hut. Action: Cllr Walls to assess the repairs needed and Clerk to report the faulty gas cabinet to British gas.

The Clerk has received complaints about the mud in the pavilion following football matches.

22/52 Consider Stroud District Council proposed community asset transfers

Stroud District Council (SDC) to confirm the legal boundary of the woodland area. They may need to commission a land survey to establish the boundary line and will get back to us once this has taken place.

22/53 Consider the village hall energy audit and costs

See item 22/48.

22/54 Update on the burial ground

The memorial testing will be carried out in the next couple of weeks and the report will cost £400.00 + vat. Council unanimously agreed. The large lime tree in the churchyard had 2 lower branches cut back as they had been falling into the neighbouring garden during the stormy weather.

22/55 Update on highways and footpaths

Covered in item 22/45.

22/56 Update on Gigaclear

Cllr S Howells gave an update on the progress of the gigaclear rollout in Horsley. They are making progress but not all roadworks are added to one.network. The Gigaclear community engagement manager said they should finish in Horsley in 2-3 months. Cllr Howells noted that the road closed signs on Hollingham Lane had repeatedly been ignored and pushed aside by drivers during the gigaclear work, causing problems with the tarmac setting and significant delays to the work as it had to be re-done on 2 occasions. Action: Cllr Kay agreed to notify parishioners on the importance of observing road restrictions.

22/57 Report on planning decisions and planning applications

S.22/0586/HHOLD Erection of ground floor extension - Melbourne House, Tickmorend, Horsley

Councillors discussed this application and agreed to comment as there were concerns about the design, materials, visibility, and key views. Cllr Kay stated there should be due regard to the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

S.22/0206/OUT Proposed Eco-Park development comprising a 5,000 capacity football stadium at M5 Junction 13

Cllr B Howells noted this development could cause additional traffic through Horsley and proposed the council should request S106 money to mitigate the increase in traffic. Council unanimously agreed.

Appeal Notification - Land at The Priory, Priory Fields, Horsley APP/C1625/W/22/3291058 (S.21/1782/FUL)

Cllr Kay outlined the history of the planning application. It was refused due to failure to lodge a 106 agreement for affordable housing. Cllr Kay proposed the parish council submit comments to the appeal, Cllr Howells seconded, council unanimously agreed.

Council to refer to original comments and emphasise:

1. Given the planning history we seek strict conditions attached to any consent requiring the s106 agreement to be enacted before any of the houses can be occupied.
2. Issues around car parking need to be properly addressed by SDC for the whole site, bearing in mind that the main building could potentially be developed. There has been a longstanding issue with car parking space within the village hub area and there will be no extra parking to accommodate additional cars from The Priory. The parish council to consider limiting parking and charging for parking.
3. Council supports local residents who seek strict conditions to be applied to any consent to ensure reinstatement of the land, protection of the trees on site, and all spoil to be removed. There need to be appropriate time limits placed on these conditions to ensure the site is properly managed. None of the houses must be occupied prior to these conditions being fulfilled. Additionally, conditions should be attached on how work is carried out (for example, no working before 8am or after 5pm).
4. The parish council does not consider that the original SDC decision properly addressed the lack of gardens for the five houses, therefore it seeks a financial contribution to address this and to enable us to improve our facilities.
5. There is also concern whether effective building control inspections were carried out during the build and whether records of these were maintained.

22/58 Receive financial matters

Cllr Kay proposed all payments are approved, Cllr Thomson seconded, all in favour.

Payments made between meetings

03/03/2022	L McLaughlin	Pavilion cleaning Feb	£153.00	
03/03/2022	NEST	Clerk Pension Feb	£22.07	DD
15/03/2022	British Gas	Pavilion gas	£21.47	DD

Payments received between meetings

None

Payments for authorisation

Date	Payee	Description	VAT	Total
22/03/2022	GAPTC	GAPTC annual subscription		£210.93
22/03/2022	HM Prison & Probation	Leyhill working party Oct/ Nov/ Dec 2021	£90	£540.00
22/03/2022	SLCC	Risk management course	£6	£36.00
22/03/2022	SLCC	Project management course 3 part	£18	£108.00
22/03/2022	HOP	Reimburse bird and bat boxes materials		£47.64
22/03/2022	ICO	Annual ICO Data Protection fee		£40.00

Council considered a foodbank support scheme

Cllr Thomson had circulated a policy and procedure document to provide foodbank support to parishioners who may be in financial difficulty, due to the cost-of-living increase. Council agreed to support a foodbank scheme, with co-operation from the community shop to accept food vouchers, and it will be launched at the Village Hall meeting in April. An independent person will manage it and it will be confidential. Council unanimously agreed to allocate £500 for the scheme for the year.

Council approved annual membership of GAPTC at a cost of £210.93.

Council approved the annual Information Commissioners Office (ICO) Data Protection fee of £40.

Council noted the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has agreed the new rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2021. It is an increase of 1.75%. Council approved the new rates of pay and agreed the new rates be backdated to 1 April 2021.

22/59 Consider holding a community event for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Cllr Kay had received no further offers of help to hold a community event. Council agreed a bring-your-own picnic on the playing field on Thursday 2nd June would be good way to celebrate the jubilee. Council agreed to apply for a road closure along the B4058 during the afternoon.

Council unanimously agreed to purchase a commemorative bench, to be located at the top of the burial ground. Clerk had sent details of the Kenilworth Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bench (5ft with panel in FSC Certified Teak wood) cost £816 including £136 tax, and council unanimously agreed to purchase 1 jubilee bench.

Consideration will be given for further wooden benches to be located across the parish if suitable locations can be found.

Action: Clerk to apply for a road closure on the B4058 for the afternoon on 2nd June.

22/60 Councillor items for future discussion

None.

22/61 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 26 April 2022 in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 21:55

Chair's signature..... Date