

MINUTES

Horsley Parish Council Meeting Minutes

26 April 2022 | 19:30 | Marianne Simpson (Parish Clerk)

22/62 To note attendance

Cllrs Kate Kay (Chair), Alistair Thomson, Bryn Howells, Chris Blackwell, Seb Howells, David Walls, Christina McDonagh, and Marianne Simpson (Clerk) and 5 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr James Bowers, District Cllrs Natalie Bennett, Norman Kay, County Cllr Steve Robinson

22/63 Declarations of interest or requests for dispensations

There were none.

22/64 Approval of Minutes

The minutes, previously circulated, of the last meeting held on 22nd March 2022 were confirmed as a true record and will be signed by Cllr Kay.

22/65 Receive any reports from District and County Councillors

There were none.

22/66 Receive any comments from members of the public

Two members of HOP (the Horsley Orchard Project) asked who had pruned the fruit trees in the Churchyard in March as the HOP group had been carefully pruning the trees, over many years, and were shocked to see they had recently been severely cut back. This had damaged the trees, and they were concerned the fruit crop will be lost. Cllr Kay apologised for the upset caused as the parish council did not realise there were HOP fruit trees in the Churchyard. Cllr Blackwell said the Leyhill group of workers had been in and cleared the churchyard of overgrowth and it was mostly now looking good. Cllr Kay and Blackwell agreed that the fruit trees should be marked to identify them as HOP trees so that only HOP members will touch them in the future.

Two members of the public were reinstating the Horsley youth club and asked if the parish council could provide a financial contribution. They circulated an outline of the likely costs. There is no-one to run the Youth Club, so funding is needed to pay for a Youth Leader. The plan is to run the club every week for 15-30 children. County Cllr Robinson has pledged some money from his Build Back Better Fund and the Youth Club will do some fundraising. The parish council agreed to support the club, in principle, and requested that they investigate SDC and GCC grants. The parish council will include this on the May meeting agenda and will consider a grant application for a specific activity or equipment.

Simon Allen (HCAN - Horsley Climate Action Network) thought it was a very good Village meeting on Sunday 24th April. The meeting was a collaboration between the parish council and HCAN got a lot of sign-ups. The council agreed that the meeting comments will be collated by Paul Archer (HCAN) and Cllr S Howells. Those who were unable to attend can submit comments to the Clerk until 15th May. The results of the Village meeting will be reported at the June parish council meeting.

22/67 HOP management plan 2022-23 as per licence agreement

This item was moved up the agenda.

A member of the HOP group reported they are keeping to the 5-year plan. The fruit trees are pruned in March and the HOP group take full ownership of the fruit trees in the churchyard. General maintenance of the Nupend orchard continues and bird and bat boxes have been installed. A wetland area is currently being developed.

22/68 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 jubilee bench has been ordered, and the council agreed to delay delivery until the location, in the centre of the village near the pavilion and playing field, is finalised, and the fixing mechanism for the bench is agreed with Cllr Bowers.

22/69 Consider initiatives in response to Climate emergency

Village Hall eco improvements

Cllr Kay reported the energy audit and quotes for energy improvement work will be considered by the Village Hall committee at their meeting this week.

Consider reducing the intensity of the LED street lights in Horsley

At the village meeting, residents were asked if they wanted the streetlights in their hamlet turned off after midnight. Cllr McDonagh outlined there was only a small number of responses to the poll, however, in Downed the preference was for the lights to be dimmed or turned off after midnight.

22/70 Receive an update on the Village Hub project

Village meeting

An update on the village meeting held on Sunday 24th April was given in item 22/66.

Village Hub progress

Comments and responses to the village hub proposals can be submitted until 15th May. The findings from the consultation will be determined prior to the June parish council meeting so the decision on which areas to progress can then be made.

Track drainage test results

Cllr Howells asked what the results of the track drainage assessment showed and what solution is recommended. Cllr Walls replied that based on the soakaway test there is no viable drainage solution. It may be possible to tarmac part of the access track by the end house but the area by the pavilion will need to be left as chippings and provide plastic grasscrete for the parking bays.

Community shop update

Cllr Walls reported the cost of goods has increased by around 15% this year and the shop sales are down slightly on a year ago. The parish council's share from profits, to contribute towards the running costs, will be calculated from the year end results.

The pavilion external window frames and eaves need renovating. Scaffolding will be required, and the contractor must be insured. Action: Cllr Walls to assess quotes.

22/71 Consider the Football Club agreement and review of licence

Cllr Kay and Cllr Blackwell to meet with the football club to agree a new rental agreement.

22/72 Consider the Pavilion and Football hut maintenance and repairs

Cllr Walls had circulated a quote to repair the leaking radiators in the changing rooms, this was unanimously agreed by the councillors. The Clerk reported the Pavilion gas meter cabinet will not be replaced by British Gas as, since 2018, they no longer replace cabinets as smart meters are waterproof. Action: Cllr Walls to check with the plumber who carried out the pavilion gas service inspection whether a cabinet is required.

22/73 Consider Stroud District Council proposed community asset transfers

Stroud District Council (SDC) need to consider some outstanding issues before they can proceed.

22/74 Update on the play area

The RoSPA inspections on the play area and the bike trail were carried out this month and circulated. Cllr Blackwell and Howells noted there was some repair and remedial work needed on the play area. Some timbers need replacing and there are worn areas of ground. The bike trail requires signage and some trees removed and paths widened to make it safer.

Action: Cllrs Blackwell and Bowers to review the reports and compile a list of work for the next meeting.

22/75 Consider the village hall energy audit and costs

See item 22/48.

22/76 Update on the burial ground

Awaiting memorial mason to carry our memorial safety testing. Cllr Blackwell reported a wall has collapsed at the bottom end; however, it is a retaining wall of the garden of the adjoining property and is the resident's responsibility.

22/77 Update on highways and footpaths

The Clerk reported that County Cllr Robinson has agreed to contribute £5,500 for the news flashing signs, and the parish council will contribute £1000 for lines to be painted on the road to mark the school zone 20 mph scheme. It should be completed this summer. Cllr Robinson was absent as he was attending a county meeting regarding 20mph zones in villages across Gloucestershire (GCC passed Motion 876 in June 2021).

Cllr Kay reported the GCC have provided money for safety issues and Cllr Kay reported the proposal is for yellow lines in Narrowcut Lane to prevent vehicles parking near the junction with the B4058. Cllr B Howells questioned if Narrowcut Lane has yellow lines where the displaced vehicles will park, as parking is an issue in the area.

Cllr Mc Donagh reported the VAS in Nupend is still not working; still waiting for a response from the original installers of the VAS with a view to re-connecting the VAS to the electricity cable as the installers previously said solar powered VAS devices are dependent on the weather and are not always reliable, although it was noted that it had previously worked. Action: Cllr Kay to contact the installers.

22/78 Report on planning decisions and planning applications

S.22/0811/HHOLD Creation of parking space and installation of dropped kerb – Whiteway Cottage, Horsley Bridge

Councillors discussed this application and agreed No Comment.

22/79 Receive financial matters

Cllr Kay proposed all payments are approved, except the payment to Terra Firma, as the council disputes the Wales and West Utilities charge of £619.00 for the damaged gas pipe, Cllr Walls seconded, all in favour.

Payments made between meetings

25/04/2022	SP Memorial Benches	Platinum Jubilee bench	£816.00	
12/04/2022	British Gas	Pavilion gas	£18.39	DD

01/04/2022	NEST	Clerk pension	£25.27	DD
30/03/2022	L McLaughlin	Pavilion cleaning March	£168.30	
24/03/2022	British Gas	Pavilion electricity	£389.17	DD

Payments received between meetings

Cheque	British Gas	Feed in Tariff (FiT) payment 28/02/2017 to 22/02/2022	£3766.14
Cheque	S P Cottle	Memorial – I Cleaveley	£105.00
Cheque	Western Power	Wayleave 2022	£11.03
01/04/2022	Horsley Community shop	Reimburse half pavilion cleaner costs Nov 2021 – March 2022	£385.65
04/04/2022	S Lynch	Ashes interment fee – R Lynch	£405.00

Payments for authorisation

date	payee	description	VAT	total
26/04/2022	Terra Firma	Track drainage testing (includes Wales and West Utilities charge for damaged gas pipe £619.00)	£637.80	£3826.80
26/04/2022	C Perla	Payroll services Jan – March 2022	£0	£45.00
26/04/2022	Golden Stones Gardening	Maintenance burial ground 11.11.21-28.03.22	£155	£930.00
26/04/2022	HOP	Reimburse sand and butyl lining for wetland	£6.50	£63.36
26/04/2022	Siren Alarms	Pavilion alarm monitoring services 1/3/22-1/3/23	£36.00	£216.00
26/04/2022	ROSPA Playsafety Ltd	Play area and bike trail annual inspection	£31.50	£189.00
26/04/2022	A R Plumbing & Heating	Pavilion kitchen tap and Annual gas boiler inspection and safety check	£39.90	£239.40

Quotes (estimate) for approval

date	payee	description	VAT	total
22/04/2022	A R Plumbing & Heating	Repair leaking radiators in the Pavilion	£75.70	£454.22

The quote to repair the leaking radiators and to fix the main boiler coil was accepted.

Council received the financial update and bank reconciliation

Council received the financial update and bank reconciliation for Year End to 31 March 2022 and reviewed the actual spend against the budget 2021-22. The budget 2022-23 was updated against the actual 2021-22 figures.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - Neighbourhood Portion April 2022

Council noted the CIL payment 1st October 2021 - 31st March 2022 CIL funding £910.77 from application S.20/2488/VAR (Rover Coaches site). The payment is 15% of the final 2 CIL payment instalments collected from this permission.

Council considered a foodbank support scheme

Council agreed to support a foodbank scheme, with co-operation from the community shop to accept gift vouchers. An independent person will manage it and it will be confidential. Council unanimously agreed to allocate £500 for the scheme for the year.

22/80 Approve document update

Council to review documents for the May meeting.

22/81 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 previously agreed a bring-your-own picnic on the playing field on Thursday 2nd June to celebrate the jubilee.

22/82 Councillor items for future discussion

CLlr Kay formally acknowledged David Marsh's resignation and appreciation of his efforts during his time as a councillor. Clerk to go ahead and advertise the casual vacancy.

22/83 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 24 May 2022 in the Village Hall.
Meeting closed at 22:10

Chair's signature..... Date