

MINUTES

Horsley Parish Council Meeting Minutes

25 October 2022 | 19:30 | Marianne Simpson

22/164 To note attendance

Cllrs Kate Kay (Chair), Chris Blackwell, Seb Howells, Christina McDonagh, Bryn Howells, David Walls, James Bowers and Marianne Simpson (Clerk)

District Cllrs Natalie Bennett, Norman Kay, County Cllr Steve Robinson

Apologies: Alistair Thomson

1 member of the public

22/165 Declarations of interest or requests for dispensations

None.

22/166 Chair's announcements

None.

22/167 Approval of Minutes

The minutes, previously circulated, of the last meeting held on 27 September 2022 were confirmed as a true record and will be signed by Cllr Kay. All in favour.

22/168 Consider changes to the order of business

None.

The meeting was adjourned for members of the public to address the council

There was 1 member of the public present who asked to speak during item 22/172.

22/169 Reports from the County and District Councillors

District Cllr N Kay reported that he has been elected as Vice-Chair of Council.

Cllr Bennett outlined the changes the administration of the Council. She, and 4 other councillors, have left the Labour group and formed a new Independent Left group, but she is still the Council Deputy Leader. There is an agreement for £100,000 funding for the cost-of-living crisis, of which £43,000 is for long-term community resilience. There will also be money for carers. There will be a plan in place and a dedicated phone line and a portal for sign-posting warm places. There is pressure on the budgets this year.

Cllr Robinson reported that the 20mph flashing wigwags are installed and the road markings have been refreshed. There have been concerns regarding the bus services across the County as Stagecoach is not continuing with some services across Gloucestershire, although at the moment, our District is not affected. Cllr Robinson suggested the Clerk contact the Integrated Transport Officer to ensure the bus service No. 40 continues in Horsley. GCC is currently engaged in a consultation with residents following the decision to apply for Department of Transport Powers, which runs until 10th November. Gloucestershire has been included in the Government's list to become an Investment

Zone. There is concern regarding any loss of planning regulations and Stroud District Council has objected to any Investment Zones in the district. GCC has given a further £128,000 to each District Council to continue support for food vouchers for those eligible. He requested that during heavy rain, if it is safe to do so, that the top of the drains are cleared of leaves to ensure the water runs away, otherwise report it to GCC highways.

Cllr Kay asked Cllr Robinson about the GCC consultation on Waste management and requested that Horsley is not considered for any further sites. Cllr Robinson was not aware of the consultation.

Cllr Howells reported he had attended the Community Governance Review at SDC and asked about the Nailsworth Town Council plans to move the boundary which would mean some properties in the parish becoming part of Nailsworth parish. Cllr Bennett replied that it will involve a lot of consultation and it may not go ahead.

22/170 Consider the councillor vacancy

The Clerk reported there had been 1 applicant who had expressed an interest in filling the vacancy. However, they could not attend the meeting this month. Defer to next month's meeting.

22/171 Clerk's report and Correspondence

The Clerk's report and correspondence was circulated prior to the meeting.

GCC public consultation on Waste Management, specifically asks what land could be available in the next 15 years to accommodate new waste management facilities. The parish council to respond to ensure no further sites are considered in Horsley.

Applications for Phase 2 of the Community Speed Watch Fund opened on 10 October 2022 and must be submitted no later than 31st of January 2023. Cllr Kay to request funding for flowers along the road banks and verges.

Stroud District Council will be holding a Cycling and Walking event during the morning of Friday 18th November at Ebley Mill. Clerk to forward the email to HCAN.

Cotswolds National Landscape (AONB) Management Plan Consultation. A review of the Cotswolds National Landscape (AONB) Management Plan is being undertaken. The deadline for comments is 2nd December 2022. District Cllr N Kay agreed to review the consultation document.

GCC has a useful Hub providing information on support for the cost-of-living crisis. Clerk to add the Horsley hardship fund to the list.

22/172 Climate Emergency

Simon Allen reported that HCAN will be running an evening for new arrivals to Horsley to promote the HCAN group. They have also organised several Hope talks and are working on a 'virtual sustainability trail' to provide advice to parishioners looking to switch to electric cars, solar power, etc.

The Clerk had requested GCC assess the Village Hall and Holmridge car parks for suitability for EV charging points but had not received a response yet. Cllr Mc Donagh requested that the Stevens Way car park be added to the list.

22/173 Consider the Village Hub project

Cllr Walls outlined where we are with the Village Hub project. Council agreed that it will need to be carried out in phases. The Clerk noted that the council holds £36,000 of S106 funds. Council agreed that the funds should be put towards moving the pavement to the north side of the track. This is a priority to improve safety of pedestrians walking to the pavilion and play area. The new path will enable children to safely access the play area from the church path and will improve access for users of mobility vehicles and pushchairs. Action: Cllrs Blackwell, Bowers and Walls to cost the project to move the pathway to the north side of the lane.

Grant funding will be required. The parish council to check the criteria and timescales to apply to the Rural England Prosperity Fund and the Barnwood Trust.

22/174 Update on the community shop

Cllr Walls had circulated a Report on the Community Shop and provided financial information. The shop has turned off 2 of the 8 chillers to save energy. The solar panels are running well but may be improved if the panels are cleaned. Action: Cllr Walls to check with the manufacturer.

The shop has a licence because it is a community interest society. It pays rent to maintain the costs of running the shop. There is no profit taken from it. The rent is on a sliding scale to ensure the costs are met as far as possible. It is not a charity but is analogous to a charity. Action: Clerk to complete the Valuation Office Agency request for rent, lease and ownership details.

22/175 Update on the play area

Cllr Bowers to identify any actions from the RoSPA inspection on the bike trail. Cllr Bowers reported that the bike trail is not used much. There is a need for signage. Action: Cllr Bowers to produce a sign outlining the different ability levels and advice.

22/176 Update on highways and footpaths

Parking continues to be an issue in the Village, particularly along Priory Fields. Parked vehicles have blocked the road and prevented lorries getting through to deliver goods at the shop. Action: Cllr Bowers to ask the Hog to open up their car park now that the outdoor marque is being removed.

Cllr McDonagh reported on the Nupend VAS which is still not working as the solar panels are overshadowed by a tall hedge. The installers have quoted £398 to switch it to an electric sign, it will then also need a local electrician to connect it up. Council unanimously agreed. Action: Cllr McDonagh to arrange for the VAS to be converted to an electric sign. Action: Cllr K Kay to ask David Marsh to provide the login details to access the speed data for both VAS.

Cllr K Kay reported that residents of Wallow Green, Tickmorend and Downend have requested that the streetlights are dimmed overnight. Action: Cllr K Kay to contact GCC to ask that the streetlights in these areas are dimmed.

22/177 Update on the burial ground

The Clerk reported that a safety check on the gravestones in both the burial ground and the Church graveyard has been carried out and a report produced. There are a few stones that are loose and in need of attention but nothing too serious. Four memorials in the Churchyard behind the Church were found to be loose and dangerous. There were other memorials which were slightly loose and will be monitored. To repair and refix the 4 memorials which were loose and dangerous will cost £230.00 per memorial + VAT. Cllr Kay said it is the responsibility of the burial plot owners to repair the headstones, it is not the responsibility of the parish council. Council agreed that the Parochial Church Council, who hold the records for the Churchyard graves, be asked to arrange the repairs of the 4 dangerous memorials. Action: Clerk to write to the Parochial Church Council to ask them to contact the family owners to arrange or pay for the repair of their memorials, otherwise the parish council will arrange for the dangerous memorials to be laid down.

The Clerk reported that a quote was requested for cleaning the war memorial. Unfortunately, the war memorial was found to be in such a poor condition that it is not something the stonemason can do. Action: Cllr Bowers to ask another stonemason if they can refurbish the war memorial.

22/178 Update on the Gigaclear rollout

Cllr S Howells gave an update. Gigaclear are running behind, but their schedule does show they will finish the current package of work, Downend, Tickmorend and The Fooks, by Christmas.

22/179 Report on planning decisions and planning applications

Planning Applications

S.22/2060/HHOLD Morning Cottage, Whiteway Bank, Downend - Erection of side extension with patio over. (Resubmission of S.22/1307/HHOLD).
Council agreed to submit No Comment.

The Clerk had previously circulated 2 tree applications which had a short time to respond.

S.22/2334/TPO The Priory, Priory Fields, Horsley - Tree Preservation Order Lime trees T2, 3 & 4 - remove epicormic growth on the base of the tree and crown raise each tree by 3 metres.

Council agreed to request that the trees are assessed by a qualified arborist. The council would expect a qualified arborist to be involved in any decisions concerning trees which are protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO).

S.22/2265/T5DAY The Priory, Priory Fields, Horsley. 5 Days Notice - Trees. Lime Tree T1 - dead tree to be removed on safety grounds. Replant to be made in a more suitable location.

Council agreed to request that the tree is not removed until it has been assessed by a qualified arborist. Please can you confirm the qualifications of the tree surgeon who wrote the report. The council would request that any replacement tree is planted of an appropriate size and species, at the same place, and as soon as possible.

Planning Decisions

S.22/1116/HHOLD Well Cottage, Wallow Green - Erection of two storey and single storey rear extensions and alterations to dwelling, and reconfiguration of external fenestration. Outbuilding to be used as ancillary. Permitted.

S.22/1716/HHOLD Barton End Manor, Shiptons Grave Lane, Barton End - Relocation of a swimming pool. Permitted.

S.22/1649/CPE Land at Barton End –Certificate of lawfulness of use of the land as agricultural land. Granted.

22/180 Authorise payments of the parish council and receive financial matters

The payments made between meetings were ratified:

date	payee	description	total	pay
11/10/2022	L McLaughlin	Pavilion cleaning	£167.40	
19/10/2022	NEST	Clerk pension (Aug)	£14.60	DD

Payments received between meetings were noted:

Precept (second half) £17029.00

Council approved the accounts for payment:

date	payee	description	VAT	total
20/10/2022	HM Prison and Probation Service	Leyhill work party to cut back burial ground 23/9/22	£40.00	£240.00
24/10/2022	Ransome Memorials Ltd	Churchyard and Burial Ground Memorial Safety Report	£32.00	£192.00
30/09/2022	C Perla	Payroll services July - Sept		£45.00
25/10/2022	D Walls	Reimburse Pavilion mouse traps		£39.90
03/10/2022	TW Hawkins & Sons SGMS	Contract mowing from 7/7 - 23/9	£50.82	£304.92
21/10/2022	CR Signs	2 A4 aluminium parking signs £60 + VAT, fitting £45 + VAT.	£21.00	£126.00

Council noted the PWLB payment of £1428.80 due on 14 November and the outstanding balance of the loan is £50.237.71.

Council noted the conclusion of the external audit 2021/22 and the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) for Horsley Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2022 was circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting.

Two matters were raised, which the council needs to consider formally at the meeting:

1. The smaller authority failed to approve the AGAR in time to publish it before 1 July 2022, the date required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and did not disclose this by answering 'No' to Section 1, Box 1.

The Clerk explained that the HPC June meeting was not quorate due to Councillor illness and had to be re-scheduled to 7th July, which resulted in the accounts being submitted after the deadline of 30 June 2022. The council will answer 'No' to section 1, box 1 next year and ensure the accounts are completed on time.

2. The AGAR was not accurately completed before submission for review:

- The smaller authority has not restated the 2020/21 figure when revaluing assets in Section 2, Box 9. Please note that the Practitioners' Guide allows smaller authorities to use any reasonable valuation method, provided that the prior year figure is restated for consistency and comparability.

The Clerk reported that the old benches and tables in the play area were added to the revised asset register March 2022 at a value of £460, therefore the AGAR 2020/21 asset figure should have been marked 're-stated'.

Council approved the Half-year Payments and Receipts Accounts and the September bank reconciliation.

Council considered items for the 2023-24 budget. Cllr Blackwell noted that the Village Hub project will be the focus next year and Cllr Kay agreed that there is unlikely to be any funds available for other projects unless the council can successfully apply for grants. Cllr McDonagh suggested some minor refurbishment of the pavilion, to replace the shower heads and missing roof tiles.

22/181 Councillor items for future discussion

None.

22/182 Date of Next Meeting

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

Meeting closed at 21:30

Chair's signature..... Date