

# MINUTES

## Horsley Parish Council Meeting Minutes

22 November 2022 | 19:30 | Marianne Simpson

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### 22/183 To note attendance

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CLRs Kate Kay (Chair), Alistair Thomson, Chris Blackwell, Seb Howells, David Walls, James Bowers and District Cllr Norman Kay

Apologies: Bryn Howells, Christina McDonagh, District Cllr Natalie Bennett and County Cllr Steve Robinson

Also present: Marianne Simpson (Clerk) and 1 member of the public

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### 22/184 Declarations of interest or requests for dispensations

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None.

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### 22/185 Chair's announcements

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Cllr Kate Kay attended the Remembrance Service on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November and laid a wreath on behalf of the parish council. The road was closed and the service was attended by around 50 people, including a Ukrainian refugee who is living in Horsley.

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### 22/186 Approval of Minutes

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The minutes, previously circulated, of the last meeting held on 25 October 2022 were confirmed as a true record and will be signed by Cllr Kay. All agreed.

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### 22/187 Consider changes to the order of business

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Cllr Kate Kay requested item 22/189, to consider the councillor vacancy, is moved to the end of the meeting. There were 2 applications to consider so these will be discussed and voted on in confidence.

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

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There was 1 member of the public present who was interested in item 22/191.

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### 22/188 Reports from the County and District Councillors

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County Cllr Steve Robinson had sent a written report which was circulated prior to the meeting. As Chair of the Gloucestershire Police and Crime Panel, Cllr Robinson is working with the Police and Crime Commissioner, Chris Nelson, who has included Violence against Women and Girls as one of his priorities. As a member of the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee, Cllr Robinson attended a meeting with the Heads at the Hospital Trust; the Trust has taken on a consultancy group, Newton Europe, to produce an improvement plan for when patients enter the hospital until they leave.

District Cllr Norman Kay had circulated a written report. He highlighted that councils can raise their precept by 5% without holding a referendum. Stroud District Council (SDC) has not decided on this yet. There is a strong argument for a minimum rise as household finances are under pressure due to the energy and cost of living crisis, however the costs for SDC have also gone up.

Cllr Walls asked about the provision of Warm Hubs in the area. Cllr N Kay reported he had attended a meeting recently to set up Warm Hubs in Nailsworth. Warm Hubs have been set up at various locations around Nailsworth 7 days a week and will serve tea and coffee and sometimes light lunches. Different interest groups have been involved. Cllr N Kay to circulate the timetable. Cllr K Kay said it would be difficult to set up a Warm Hub in Horsley as the Village Hall and Church 3in1 are used during the week by the school and community groups. Horsley residents can attend the warm spaces in Nailsworth, if they are able.

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### 22/189 Consider the councillor vacancy

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To be discussed during the confidential item at the end of the meeting.

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### 22/190 Clerk's report and Correspondence

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The Clerk's report and correspondence was circulated prior to the meeting. The Clerk noted that the SDC Monitoring Officer had circulated a Draft Proposed Code of Conduct. It is a single member Code of Conduct, with the ambition that it is used in each of the Councils (County, District and Town/Parish Councils). Cllr K Kay proposed the parish council support it, all agreed.

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### 22/191 Climate Emergency

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Cllr K Kay proposed planting 4 or 5 more trees in the Nutgrove and laurel and yew trees between the Churchyard and play area. Cllr Blackwell said it was too late to plant daffodils along the verges. Council unanimously agreed.

Cllr K Kay asked the member of the public if they wanted to add anything. They reported that the Horsley Climate Action Network had published a newsletter. The Hope talk on trees and plants last month was very successful. David Bullock gave a positive talk, however he observed that the least robust tree, for coping with rising temperatures, is Beech. The next Hope talk on mental health is on 6<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm in the Hog.

Cllr Thomson suggested that the talk targets a wider audience and includes parents of young people and those who want to help others should also attend. Cllr Thomson is researching solar panels and is gathering advice and experience from households who have fitted them in the village and will arrange a talk on this in March next year.

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### 22/192 Consider the Village Hub project

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Cllr Walls circulated a scope of work for the play area access path within the agreed overall scope of the Village Hub project. This includes demolition of the Stone garages but leaving the back wall to the height of the churchyard wall and the removal of part of the wall at the side, west of the churchyard path, to enable pedestrians to walk round away from traffic and parked cars. The HOP shed to be moved towards the back wall to enable space for the Pavilion extension in the future.

The existing path along the Village Hall to be moved to the opposite side of the track. This necessitates modification of the bank and part removal of the existing steps. This work will provide a safe area with a tarmac surface, for pedestrians, pushchairs, and disabled access, between Priory Fields, the churchyard, the Pavilion, and the play area. Handrails to be added along the pedestrian path to enhance safety and a cycle rack to encourage more cycling.

Section S106 and CIL money will be used to fund most of the work, and reserves used for the remainder. The track will be maintained in good condition with gravel for the time-being. Cllr Walls proposed Council agree a maximum spend of £50,000 to complete these works. Council unanimously agreed. Action: Cllrs Walls, Blackwell, and Bowers to obtain full quotes and circulate.

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### 22/193 Update on the community shop

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The shop has agreed to pay £3000 towards the utility bills for year ending April 2022. This is based on the cash reserves available and is in lieu of the monthly variable payment based on the shop profit.

The Clerk has completed the Valuation Office Agency request for rent, lease and ownership details, based on the community shop payments are not fixed and are variable or uncertain, and contribute to the running costs, primarily utility bills, but no rent is paid, or profit made by the parish council.

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### 22/194 Update on the play area

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Cllr S Howells reported that he had attended a meeting with the SDC Officer to agree the location of the rain gauge in the playing field. The best place was the far South-East end of the playing field so that it did not interfere with the football pitch and was clear of trees. The rain gauge installer will assess the position before installation of the rain gauge and fence for protection.

Cllr Bowers reported he still needs to get the signage agreed for the bike trail.

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### 22/195 Update on highways and footpaths

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Cllr Kay reported that the Nupend VAS is to be switched to electricity soon. She is contacting David Marsh to provide the login details to access the speed data for both VAS. Cllr Kay is awaiting a response from GCC regarding dimming the street lighting in Wallow Green, Tickmorend and Downend.

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### 22/196 Update on the burial ground

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Council confirmed that it no longer allows burial plots to be reserved. Council agreed that if someone has previously purchased a burial plot, but no longer requires it, the council will consider buying it back at the current burial plot rate. Council does not agree to mark, previously reserved plots, with Reserved plaques, as the parish council cannot be held responsible for the random unauthorised removal of Reserved plaques.

Cllr Bowers to find someone to refurbish the war memorial.

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### 22/197 Update on the Community Governance Review

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Cllr S Howells had attended the Community Governance Review meeting at SDC. It had included a boundary change in Nailsworth and Horsley. This has now been withdrawn by Nailsworth Town Council as it was included by the Town Council several years ago and a proper consultation had not been carried out. As the Community Governance Review has already started, Cllr Howells proposed that the parish council write to SDC stating that Horsley Parish Council is happy with the existing boundary and do not want any changes to it. Council unanimously agreed.

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### 22/198 Discuss the Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan Consultation

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Cllr K Kay had asked District Cllr N Kay to review the Cotswolds National Landscape (AONB) Management Plan Consultation. District Cllr N Kay had circulated his views on the consultation document and Cllr K Kay proposed the parish council submit those views. Council agreed.

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### 22/199 Discuss the Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership Consultation

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The Clerk reported that Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership Consultation survey was a short survey and recommended that the council submitted a response as the traffic generated by the Pyke Quarry tip is significant and impacts Horsley residents and increases carbon emissions. Any waste initiatives that lead to an increase in traffic, increase carbon emissions and should be avoided to mitigate the impact of climate change. Council agreed to submit a response to the consultation to emphasise these points.

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### 22/200 Update on the Gigaclear rollout

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Cllr S Howells gave an update on progress by Gigaclear. A Downend resident had raised concerns that some properties have not had pots fitted. Cllr Howells had visited and agreed pots on one side of the road had been

missed and will be reported to the Gigaclear Local Manager. Generally, road closures are happening on time and should be complete by Christmas, however Cllr S Howells will also ask when the remaining pots in other areas of the village will be connected.

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## 22/201 Report on planning decisions and planning applications

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### Planning Applications

None.

Cllr Kay noted the parish council had written to ask SDC planning why the tree, with a TPO (Tree Protection Order), in the Priory was approved to be felled, when it was a lime tree, and they are very robust. Other villagers were sad to hear a tree with a TPO was being felled.

### Planning Decisions

S.22/1227/FUL 1 & 2 Field View, Bath Road, Nailsworth - Part demolition of existing semi-detached dwelling to facilitate creation of two detached dwellings. Two storey extension. Permitted.

S.22/2060/HHOLD Morning Cottage, Whiteway Bank - Erection of side extension with patio over. Permitted.

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## 22/202 Consider website quotes

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The Clerk had obtained a 3 outline quotes for a new website. Some web designers work specifically on parish and town council websites so understand the legislative requirements. Costs will need to include website design and build, domain name and hosting. Action: Clerk to liaise with Cllr Kay to determine requirements, specifications, and design for a new website and to circulate full costs for the next meeting.

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## 22/203 Authorise payments of the parish council and receive financial matters

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The payments made between meetings were ratified:

date	payee	description	total	pay
24/10/2022	British Gas	Pavilion Electricity	£699.50	DD
31/10/2022	L McLaughlin	Pavilion cleaning	£147.60	
02/11/2022	NEST	Clerk pension (Oct)	£27.79	DD
14/11/2022	PWLB	Public Works Loan Board payment	£1428.80	DD

Payments received between meetings were noted:

Interest            £36.82

Council approved the accounts for payment:

date	payee	description	VAT	total
15/11/2022	Goldenstones	Burial ground maintenance	£230.00	£1380.00
02/11/2022	CR Signs	2 A4 aluminium parking signs and fitting	£19.00	£114.00

Council approved a donation of £25 to the Royal British Legion for the Remembrance Day wreath.

Council considered the following quotes:

### Nupend VAS repair

To switch the Nupend VAS from solar-powered to mains powered

Cost £395 (exc VAT) for parts, labour and travel. Plus, an electrician will be needed to connect it.

Council accepted the quote.

### Hedge along the Churchyard wall by the play area

Laurel on the play area side of the churchyard wall and Yew on the Churchyard side

Yew and Laurel to 1m high - all at £15 each.  
With 5 Laurel and 5 Yew  
Total cost £225 plus 2 hours labour to plant.  
Council accepted the quote.

Nutgrove trees

4 x natives trees to 2m.  
Propose 4 trees for the Nutgrove - at £15 each  
Total cost £60.  
Council accepted the quote.

Council approved the October bank reconciliation.

Council considered items for the 2023-24 budget.

- Minor refurbishment of the pavilion, to replace the shower heads and missing roof tiles.
- HOP - £200
- Replacement of broken and missing Pavilion roof slates - £500
- Track repairs (potholes) - £2000
- Website design, domain, hosting, and email £1500

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22/204 Councillor items for future discussion

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None.

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Confidential items

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Separate business Pursuant to 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it is resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press leave the meeting.

No members of the public or press were present. Two items were discussed in confidence.

1. Council considered the applications for the casual vacancy. Council was impressed with the strength and calibre of the candidates and agreed they would both be a valuable addition to the council. It was a close vote and Cllr Kay asked the Clerk to thank both candidates for applying and encourage the second candidate to apply again when a vacancy arises in the future.

Matt Peters was voted onto the council and will be co-opted at the next meeting.

2. Council noted the national pay award for Local Councils to be paid to the Clerk.

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22/205 Date of Next Meeting

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The next meeting will be on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023 in the Village Hall.

*Meeting closed at 21:30*

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