

MINUTES

Horsley Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

23 May 2023 | 22:05 | Marianne Simpson (Parish Clerk)

Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Clrs Kate Kay (Chair), Alistair Thomson (Vice-Chair), David Walls, Chris Blackwell, Seb Howells, James Bowers, Christina McDonagh, Matt Peters. Also Present: Clerk Marianne Simpson.

Apologies: Cllr Bryn Howells

Approval of Minutes

The minutes, previously circulated, of the last Annual Parish meeting held on 24 May 2022 were unanimously confirmed as a true record and will be signed by Cllr Kate Kay (Chair).

Matters Arising

None.

Chair's Report

The Chair had previously read her report at the start of the Annual Parish Council Meeting, as she wanted to read it while the members of the public were present, copy attached below. This was approved as a true record.

Public Questions

There were no public questions.

Any other business

There being no other business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 22:15.

Chair's signature..... Date

Chair's Report

Horsley Parish Council

Annual Report 2023

Every year we give an account to our village of the work we have done. Your Council has 9 Parish Councillors who are elected for a term of 4 years. All are unpaid volunteers. We meet each month, save for July and December, and also have occasional meetings of sub groups who may be considering specific issues. All decisions are made at our monthly meetings, and we try to work in an apolitical way.

Staff

We have a part time Clerk who is responsible for advising us on legal and technical issues. We also employ contractors to carry out day to day tasks such as maintaining the playing field and burial grounds. All other work is undertaken by the Councillors themselves. Our Clerk is professionally qualified (CILCA).

All our minutes and reports are on our website together with all our minutes and policy documents. We are committed to equal opportunities for staff, councillors and volunteers.

How do we spend your money?

We receive £ 34000 as an annual precept (you pay this as a share of Council Tax) . We also receive some additional funds from burial ground fees and developer contributions .Our income is used to pay our Clerk and contractors, and to maintain the green spaces and buildings that we are responsible for . We have faced the same pressures as villagers with increased energy costs which meant we had to budget this year for an additional £10000 in energy costs.

We support our village groups with grants and aid to the Village Shop, the Horsley Orchard Project, & the Horsley Climate Action Group . This accounts for almost 22% of our budget.

In 2022 we gave £1000 to the Youth Club to help them reform.

Each year our accounts are independently audited and published for comment.

We have moved to a paperless system to cut down on costs and wasting paper.

We contributed to discussions to set up a Town and Parish Charter with SDC which will improve how we work together. We also adopted a new Code of Conduct for our councillors

2022 - A resilient village

We have recognised the importance of strengthening our community links and improving the resources in the village . It has been a tough few years for everyone and so this past year we have concentrated on some key areas.

1. Improving our environment

In 2019 we declared a climate emergency , and since then we have tried to ensure all our decisions are made mindful of our carbon footprint.

- We have replanted trees in the nutgrove at the top of Sealey Wood, and have also planted a laurel hedge on the boundary of the play area.
- We responded to the Gloucestershire CC consultation on recycling and again emphasised the need to retain the appointment system at the Horsley Tip to reduce traffic movements in the village.
- We are part of a county wide group arguing for 20mph speed limit in rural areas.
- With support from our County Councillor we finally saw the implementation of have a new advisory 20mph scheme by the School .
- We adopted “no mow May” and are reducing grass cutting in parts of the burial Ground to encourage pollinators..
- We commissioned an energy audit for the Village Hall and Pavilion
- We are exploring options to have EV charging points in the village .
- We collected and published contact details of villagers who have experience of installing energy efficient systems and can talk about their practical experiences with anyone thinking about doing the same.
- We appointed a village flood warden to help us respond to any incidents as some villagers have had real problems after significant rainfall.
- We comment on all planning applications in the village and argue for the policies which were agreed in our Neighbourhood Development Plan.

2.Improving village resources

- We have spent some time this year finalising proposals for improving the area around the Village Hall and shop, which were the subject of a well attended village meeting in April 22. A film of the event is on Everything Horsley. Plans have now been agreed and a contractor has been appointed with work due to start within the next couple of weeks. The work will improve accessibility to the shop, and rationalise parking.
- We have set aside funds to repair and replace facilities in the play area as this is one of the best used resources in the village.

- We continue to support the Community Shop and are grateful for the input of Cllr Dave Walls who has chaired the Shop committee . This year the Pavilion has been repainted and we have had an energy audit carried out .
- We celebrated the Queens Platinum Jubilee with an oak bench which is now sited at the village shop.

3. Supporting village groups

- Local parents restarted the Youth Club which has been very important for young people in the village after the stress of lockdown. We gave them a start up grant and will continue to provide funding as well as setting aside some space near the play area for their activities.
- We have continued to work collabaratively with HCAN . In the autumn we jointly organised a series of monthly talks which have regularly drawn in 40/50 villagers to hear some of our own villagers talk from their own experience on supporting young people , sustainable gardening, effects of climate change on nature, alternative solutions to housing, - all with a cup of tea and a chance to meet. The Horses Mouth has contained full reports.
- We also organised a welcome evening for people new to the village in January. This was very successful - 20 people attended and we hope made new friends and contacts.
- A new cycling and walking group was recently established to bring forward a potential bid to SDC to improve our footpaths a facilities for cyclists. We have taken the first steps to set up a speed watch group in the village.

Plans for next year

We will seek to improve our response to the climate emergency as our small contribution.

Traffic on the B4058 continues to increase as it is a direct route to the Horsley Tip - we estimate around 250000 movements in the year. This coming year we would like to raise the issue up the agenda as we think about about prioritising walking and cycling and reducing our carbon useage.

We will continue to do our best for Horsley , and we need to hear from you as villagers so please talk to your Parish Councillors, come to one of our meetings and let us know what is important for you.

Kate Kay

Chair 2022/23.

HPC is responsible for the playing fields/play area/Pavilion and track/Horsley orchard / nutgrove at Sealey Wood/burial ground and maintenance of the old churchyard/the war memorial/bus shelters/bike trail

What do other councils do?

- The District Council - housing ,planning, benefits,sport and leisure, rubbish and recycling
- The County Council - education, social care, childrens services, fire service, libraries, roads ,streetlights, drainage