

# MINUTES

## Horsley Parish Council Meeting Minutes

22 August 2023 | 19:30 |

---

### 23/123 To note attendance

---

Cllrs Kate Kay (Chair), Alistair Thomson, Chris Blackwell, David Walls, James Bowers, Matt Peters, County Cllr Steve Robinson and District Cllr Natalie Bennett

Apologies: District Cllr Norman Kay, Christina McDonagh, Marianne Simpson (Clerk) and Christine Prince (Acting Clerk)

Also present: Simon Allen, representing HCAN

---

### 23/124 Declarations of interest or requests for dispensations

---

None.

---

### 23/125 Chair's announcements

---

Cllr Kate Kay advised that the Clerk Marianne Simpson had stepped down temporarily due to a health issue. All present wished her the best for a speedy recovery. Christine Prince, who recently retired as Clerk of Chalford and Bussage has kindly agreed to step in for a couple of months and would be attending the September Meeting.

It was reported that Cllr Bryn Howells had tendered his resignation, with an offer to provide any assistance in the future. The Chair confirmed that she had written a letter of thanks accepting his resignation. It was further agreed that the process for recruiting a new councillor would take place even though there is only six months before new elections. It is hoped that, together with an article in the Horse's Mouth, this might encourage people to get involved.

Cllr Kate Kay also reported that the PC had by text exchange agreed over the summer period that the War Memorial was being cleaned at a very competitive price, at the same time as a headstone in the burial ground. The results already look greatly improved.

---

### 23/126 Approval of Minutes

---

The minutes, previously circulated, of the last meeting held on 26 June 2023 were confirmed as a true record and will be signed by Cllr Kay. All agreed.

---

### 23/127 Consider changes to the order of business

---

None was agreed.

---

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

---

Simon Allen reported on the flood attenuation work that is being carried out in the village, especially to protect Downend from severe flooding; the actions being taken would be good enough to minimise flooding for most normal events but a 2007 event would be impossible to protect against within the parameters and budget.

There was discussion regarding a farmer who is planning to draw off significant amounts of water from the Downend stream aquifer, which could have the opposite effect with detriment to the wild life in the Downend valley. Cllr Kate Kay agreed that she would clarify with the Environmental Agency the regulations and processes.

---

### 23/128 Reports from the County and District Councillors

---

District Cllr Norman Kay had sent a written report which was circulated prior to the meeting. County Cllr Steve Robinson reported that consultation had started in relation to the 'double yellow lines' plan. He agreed to see if there was a link on the GCC website detailing the proposals so all could reply.

Cllr Robinson also confirmed that he had been able to provide a grant of £1,000 for the Youth Club. The benefit of the youth club was discussed later in the meeting and its mission to provide educational and emotional support to children of Horsley who have moved on from Horsley Primary to secondary school. It was agreed that representatives of the Youth Club would be asked to the next meeting to provide an update, pending the Parish Council providing a grant.

District Cllr Natalie Bennett reported that there is an initiative with possible grants for rural areas which is due to be released at any time. She agreed to check what the timings are as it might be a source of part funding to complete the car parking outside the Village Hall.

---

### 23/129 Clerk's report and Correspondence

---

Cllr Kate Kay reported that a resident in Downend had asked if they could put up 20mph speed limit signs. They had been encouraged to discuss with neighbours with a view to using '20 is Plenty' signs

---

### 23/130 Update on Village Hub

---

Cllr David Walls gave a report on the work being carried out which was visible for all to see. The relationship with the contractor is excellent and by the end of August the project will be 95%+ complete at a cost which is within £100 of the original budget: the contingency has not been called on to date.

The Council would like to show their full appreciation to Cllr Walls who has led this project and the local contractor who has lived up to expectations.

---

### 23/131 Update on the play area

---

Cllr Kate Kay advised that before the Clerk had gone on medical leave, an order had been placed for new rockers and bases and they were expected to be installed in early September, by the supplier.

Cllr Chris Blackwell reported that a resident was still planning to assist in repairing the rope walk area.

---

### 23/132 Ash Replanting

---

Cllr Blackwell reported that Gloucestershire Highways were already planting on verges, but that in the main, the ash trees which had been cut down were in areas not appropriate to replanting. It was agreed that comment in the Horses Mouth might lead to individual residents coming forward with suggestions as to where any trees supplied by GCC might be planted.

---

### 23/133 SDC Walking and Cycling Project Funding

---

Cllr Kay reported that the grant application made by the Parish Council for funding to assist in making the parish more accessible for walking and cycling had been submitted to Stroud District Council.

The agreement made by the Parish Council, via email exchange over the summer to underwrite the contingency on the bid, a sum not exceeding £4,000, was formalised with a unanimous vote.

---

### 23/134 Report on planning matters

---

Planning Applications	None.
Planning Decisions	None

It has come to the Parish's attention that the Priory has gone on the market with the implication that it would be used as individual flats. It was recorded that for the property to be converted into six separate occupancies would require planning permission, and this was made clear in SDC planning decisions related to the property.

The Parish Council resolved to review developments and take action if necessary.

Cllr Alistair Thomson expressed concern that the Village Hall Car Park would be used as an overflow residents' car park which it is not. It was noted that a sign has been put up in the car park limiting stays and further signs will be required when the Hub Project is completed.

If the use of the car park is abused, then a parking enforcement company may need to be retained.

## 23/134 To consider Financial Matters

Cllr Kay reported that in the Clerk's absence that the process for financial payments would be made by Cllr Walls placing invoices on the Lloyds Bank Website for payment and Cllr Thomson to authorise them.

Cllr Walls reported on the payments which had been made between meetings.

The payments made between meetings were ratified:

date	payee	description	total	pay
4/7/23	Goldenstones	Burial Ground Maintenance	£1230.00	
	Walker Fire	Fire Service - Pavilion	£374.57	
	Mr I Selkirk	Audit	£145.00	
	Parish Council Web	Website	£839.00	
	L MacLaughlin	Cleaning	£197.75	
10/7/23	NEST	Clerk pension (Oct)	£44.05	DD
11/7/23	British Gas	Pavilion Gas	£54.79	DD
13/7/23	Ace Comfort	A/C Pavilion	£114.00	
13/7/23	Richings	Village Hub	£12,000	
13/7/23	TW Hawkins	Playing Field Mowing	£456.71	
17/7/23	Richings	Village Hub	£12,000	
17/7/23		Insurance	£1,857.37	
	British Gas	Pavilion Electricity	£917.34	
27/7/23	Richings	Village Hub	£12,000	
31/7/23	L MacLaughlin	Cleaning	£129.00	
7/8/23	Goldenstones	Burial Ground, War Memorial	£1,910.00	
10/8/23	British Gas	Pavilion Gas	£48.75	DD
18/8/23	Goldenstones	Benches	£630.00	

Cllr Kay proposed and Cllr Peters seconded that these payments should be ratified.

The Council had also received £5,574.40 since the June meeting including £3,154.98 from SDC to cover the Burial Ground, £1807.16 from the Community Shop.

## 23/135 Councillor items for future discussion

Cllrs Walls and Blackwell raised the issue of the gas boiler in the Pavilion which is now 12 years old and will require replacing, at a cost of ca £2500. Cllr Walls expressed his concern and that of the Fire Safety Officer of having such a fire hazard in a wooden building.

The boiler is only used for the football club's showers and the rent they pay has not covered the cost of the gas. The lease agreement with the football club is in the process of being re-negotiated, but the Parish Council must retain control of installation if the boiler is to be retained.

Cllr Thomson expressed concern that we should have to spend such a capital sum when it is costing the Parish money for a benefit that few of the parishioners receive. The options were discussed and it was agreed that the boiler should be removed and heating of showers be carried out using an immersion heater. A new payment meter would be installed purely for the immersion heater which would ensure that the football club pays the electricity.

---

### 22/205 Date of Next Meeting

---

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023 in the Village Hall.  
*Meeting closed at 21:10*

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