

MINUTES

Horsley Parish Council Meeting Minutes

26 September 2023 | 19:30 |

23/137 To note attendance

Cllrs Alistair Thomson (Chair), Chris Blackwell, James Bowers Seb Howells, Christina McDonagh, Matt Peters, David Walls.

Apologies: County Cllr Steve Robinson, District Cllr Natalie Bennett, Parish Cllr Kate Kay, Marianne Simpson (Clerk)

Also present: Representatives from Horsley Youth Club, Horsley Festival and the Climate Action Group.

23/138 Declarations of interest or requests for dispensations

None.

23/139 Chair's announcements

None.

23/140 Approval of Minutes

The minutes, previously circulated, of the last meeting held on 22 August 2023 were confirmed as a true record and signed by Cllr Thomson. All agreed.

23/141 Consider changes to the order of business

None.

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

Horsley Youth Club – a representative of the club attended. Details of the activities and finances were provided. The Club has been running for a year and there are between 15-25 youngsters attending. Age range is 11 to 14. There is a financial shortfall of £1.5k. The parish council awarded the youth centre £1.5k when setting up the club in 2022. A grant had also been obtained from the Summerfield Trust and a successful jumble sale had been held that provided funding. The Youth Club asks the Council to give consideration to awarding a further grant. Before agreeing any funding, the youth club is asked to provide the council with a list of items for which they require funding. A request for top soil was made to fill tyres into which planting could take place and for the nettles to be cut back in the area behind the basketball area. Cllr Blackwell will continue to keep the area tidy. It is recommended that the top soil is obtained from a retail shop rather than recycled top soil.

Horsley Cultural Festival – a representative attended to advise the council of the organisation to date. The festival will run for 9 days during February. Out of 34 potential events, 20 have currently confirmed. The festival aims to bring people together through culture, showcasing Horsley talent. There will be a strong focus on the environment. The festival asks the Council to consider assisting with the following:

1. Cover the cost of hiring the venues, approximately £850.
2. Act as banker for the event.

County Cllr Robinson is granting £1000. Fund raising events will take place, in addition to charges on the door for some events. It is thought that the charge would be £2 for one event and £10 for attendances at all events or 'pay what you can' to enable all residents to attend.

Cllr Thomson referring to point 2 above, stated that he did not see a problem with the Council acting as banker for the larger items but would not be able to deal with small amounts. Regarding the hire charges for Council property, this will be given consideration and confirmed at the next meeting. Cllr Kay to be consulted on the rates. **ACTION: Cllr Kay**

The question was asked as to what they plan to do with any profit from the festival. The award from the County Council stipulates that any profit made, within that grant, must be paid back. Any surplus will be fed into future events and/or the hall/shop.

Cllr Thomson advised that the Parish Council would make a contribution, the amount to be confirmed at a later date.

Climate Action Group – a representative of the group attended to update the Council on activities. Reference was made to the ash trees to be provided by the County Council. Cllr Blackwell advised that this item has had to be abandoned as the Council would be unable to comply with some of the agreement details. The National Flood Management Scheme is being extended through a new programme. Fete – this event was far busier this year and realised £5k. Horsley businesses – this information is being updated. If anyone knows of a new business, they should advise the group. Flooding – Cllr McDonagh felt it would be useful if there was a presentation on this topic. It was agreed this could take place in a few month's time. **ACTION: November Agenda**

23/142 Reports from the County and District Councillors

None

23/143 Clerk's report and Correspondence

The Clerk furnished all councillors with a copy of a report prior to the meeting. Both Cllrs Bowers, Howells and Peters have confirmed no changes to their DPI's.

23/144 Hedgehog Highways Project

Hedgehog numbers are in decline. Hedgehogs R Us asks the Parish Council to consider the purchase of 50 Hedgehog Highway surrounds at a cost of £150. The surrounds would be attached to fences. It was agreed that this initiative is not practical for Horsley where fences are in the minority. A suggestion was made that an article in the Horsley Mouth about hedgehogs could be considered.

23/145 HIGHWAYS

Cllr McDonagh advised that there are two VAS on the road travelling out of the village but none coming up to the area. There is £2k remaining in the Gloucestershire Highways funding that could cover the cost. Cllr McDonagh will research this matter and report back. **ACTION: Cllr McDonagh**

Downend Road – there are approximately 12 Highway barriers on the right hand side of the road that are hazardous. Cllr McDonagh to draft a letter and send to the Clerk for forwarding to Highways. **ACTION: Cllr McDonagh**

23/146 GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT 2024 SEASON

Cllr Walls advised the committee that £1800 has been paid to T W Hawkins for the grass cutting to date. It was agreed that Cllr Walls will contact three companies and obtain quotes for the 2024 season. **ACTION: Cllr Walls**

23/147 PLAY EQUIPMENT REFURBISHMENT

The order for new play equipment was not placed in June. It has now been placed with delivery in 8/9 weeks. Cost is £2,563 supply only. Cllr Blackwell will arrange installation. Cllr Walls will include an estimate in the accounts of £4k for the whole project.

23/148 HUB – FINAL SIGN OFF

Cllr Walls provided the meeting with a breakdown of costs for the hub project. It is estimated there will be a remaining contingency of £3,074.

23/149 Walking/Cycling Grant Application

At last month's meeting an amount not exceeding £4k was agreed towards the funding for this initiative.

Cllr Walls provided the meeting with a breakdown of costs. The meeting considered the costs. It is suggested we investigate what can be done with funding from the SDC grant of £13,500, £2,500 from Caring for the Cotswolds application and £3,000 remaining from the Hub project. As the project scope is revised there will be a new contingency value. The scope will, almost certainly, be reduced as, most likely, will the contingency. The PC remains committed to underwriting this new contingency pending project review when revised scope and cost estimates are presented. **ACTION: Cllr D Walls**

23/150 Report on planning matters

Planning Applications None.
Planning Decisions None

23/151 To consider Financial Matters

Cllr Walls reported on the payments which had been made between meetings and the ones that are pending/ to be made, as follows:

DATE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION OF WORK	TOTAL £	VAT £	MODE
27.8.23	M Simpson	Clerk Salary August	745.58	0	BT
28.8.23	PK Littlejohn	External Audit	378	63	BT
28.8.23	Lola	Cleaning	134.25	0	BT
30.8.23	HMP Leyhill	Community work from May	240	0	BT
31.8.23	T W Hawkins	Playing Field grass cutting	195.73	32.62	BT
4.9.23	H Oliver	Cleaning	36	0	BT
4.9.23	Richings	Pavilion Track (4 TH Stage)	12,000	2,000	BT
11.9.23	C R Signs	Parking/patio signs	130	26	BT
12.9.23	British Gas	Priory Fields	156.56	5.02	DD
12.9.23	Drew Landscaping	Pavilion area	1223	0	BT
26.9.23	British Gas	Pavilion Electricity	1073.60	178.93	DD

PAYMENTS PENDING/TO BE MADE

DATE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION OF WORK	TOTAL £	VAT £	MODE
28.8.23	Golden Stones*	Grounds Maintenance	757.50	126.25	BT
19.9.23	Lola	Cleaning September	92.25	0	BT
22.9.23	Richings	Pavilion Track (Final)	18,508.45	3,084.74	BT
26.9.23	D Walls	Hub Project items	729.46	116.87	BT
30.9.23	Nest	Clerk Pension	7.88	0	BT

* Query on this invoice.

Councillors agreed the expenses.

Cllr Walls asked for an invoice for the Nest payment. The Clerk will investigate. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Walls provided the meeting with a summary of the bank accounts, including committed expenditure and anticipated income. A VAT claim to be made for £12,753 to date. Cllr Howells provided the Clerk with information in order to access the HMRC account to make a claim. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Thomson confirmed receipt and acceptance of PKF Littlejohn's External Auditor's Report and Certificate 2022/23. A Notice of Conclusion of Audit was posted on the web site and notice boards.

Precept 2024/25 – an initial discussion on this matter will take place in October. **ACTION: October Agenda**

23/152 Councillor items for future discussion

Gigaclear – Cllr McDonagh advised that some properties in a street have a superfast broadband connection and others do not. It is suggested that surveys of all properties are undertaken. Cllr McDonagh will draw up a letter for residents to sign asking for a survey to be carried out. Cllr Thomson will provide Cllr McDonagh with the name of the Gigaclear person. **ACTION: Cllrs Thomson/McDonagh**

23/153 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 24 October 2023 in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 20.40.

Chair's signature..... Date