

MINUTES

Horsley Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

21 May 2024 | 20:00 | Marianne Simpson (Parish Clerk)

Attendance and Apologies for Absence

CLRs Kate Kay (Chair), Alistair Thomson, Chris Blackwell, Seb Howells (Vice-Chair), Christina McDonagh, Matt Peters, Miranda Waller. Also Present: Clerk Marianne Simpson.

Apologies: Cllr James Bowers

Approval of Minutes

The minutes, previously circulated, of the last Annual Parish meeting held on 23 May 2023 were unanimously confirmed as a true record and will be signed by Cllr Kate Kay (Chair).

Matters Arising

None.

Chair's Report

The Chair read her report, 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 20:15.

Chair's signature..... Date

Chair's Report

Horsley Parish Council

Annual Report 2024

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 subgroups 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 £ 36000 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 and grants. 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 costs because of inflation and higher 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 2023 we gave £1500 to the Youth Club, and £1000 to support the cultural Festival Horsley Unwrapped held in February.

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

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

We contributed to discussions to set up a Town and Parish Charter with SDC which will improve how we work together.

2023 - A resilient village

We have recognised the importance of strengthening our community links and improving the resources in the village .

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

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.

We have adopted “no mow May” and are reducing grass cutting in parts of the burial Ground to encourage pollinators.

We have built a good working relationship with HCAN and continue to support their initiatives

We collected and publish 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 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 concluded the major project to improve the area around the Village Hall and shop, We have improved the track surface making it more hardwearing; moved the pathway so that there is a safe passage from Priory Fields through to the shop and play area; rationalized parking to reduce congestion at busy times; created disabled parking; removed the old dilapidated garages and created a patio seating shop.

We have repaired and replaced 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 chaired the Shop committee .

3. Supporting village groups

Local parents run the Youth Club which has been very important for young people in the village after the stress of lockdown. We gave them a grant of £1500 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 collaboratively with HCAN.

We supported a second welcome evening for people new to the village in January. This was very successful - we hope that people made new friends and contacts.

A new cycling and walking group was established which successfully bid for grant funding from SDC to improve our footpaths and facilities for cyclists. The work on this has been concluded and four of our footpaths have had a major upgrade. The recent bid for a cycle storage has also been successful and this will be installed shortly to positively encourage people to use their bikes.

Plans for next year

We will seek to improve our response to the climate emergency as our small contribution. We are the most nature depleted country in Europe and so will work with others to improve awareness of our environment

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 prioritising walking and cycling and reducing our carbon usage.

We want to initiate a series of hamlet meetings based on the work we did for our NDP to ask the village about their priorities for the next few years.

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 2023/24

HPC owns and 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?

SDC is primarily responsible for Housing, Waste and rubbish collection, leisure facilities.

GCC is primarily responsible for Education, Social Services, and Highways.