

MINUTES

Horsley Parish Council Meeting Minutes

31 January 2024 | 19:30 |

24/1 To note attendance

Cllrs Kate Kay (Chair) Alistair Thomson, Chris Blackwell, Christina McDonagh, Matt Peters, David Walls, Seb Howells and County Cllr Steve Robinson

Apologies: District Cllrs Natalie Bennett, Parish Cllr James Bowers, Miranda Waller and Marianne Simpson (Clerk)

Three members of the public were in attendance.

24/2 Declarations of interest or requests for dispensations

Cllr Walls – agenda item 12. Sealey Wood.

24/3 Chair's announcements

None

24/4 Approval of Minutes

The Chair apologised for not preparing the minutes of the 28 November 2023 as a result of a personal bereavement. It was agreed that the minutes of both the November and January meetings would be approved at the February meeting.

24/5 Consider changes to the order of business

None

24/6 Reports from the County and District Councillors

District Cllr Robinson presented his report. He confirmed that he had been able to provide £1,000 grants to both the Horsley Arts and Crafts Festival and the Cycling and Walking Project. The Council thanked him for his support for Horsley activities.

He advised that he is trying to bring forward the repaving of part of the Street which is in poor condition by allocating £15,000 from his area budget.

24/7 Chair's report and Correspondence

None

24/8 Update on Highway Matters

Vehicle Activated Signs – Cllr McDonagh reported back that Gloucestershire Highways had advised that there was no budget nor need for a VAS sign coming up B4058 from Nailsworth

Downend Lane Road Barrier – Highways will assess the site but due to limited resources they are unsure when this can be done. Cllr McDonagh recommended initially consulting with neighbouring householders regarding the problem. This was agreed. **ACTION: Cllr McDonagh**

24/9 WALKING and CYCLING PROJECT

Cllr Walls confirmed that Stage 1 of the project had been completed (Red Route – Village Centre to Boscombe Lane) in line with the budget and grant received from Stroud District Council.

The Blue, Green and Purple routes are being scheduled after discussions with the landowners. The Cycle project is awaiting for feedback about the potential Sport England grant.

24/10 Horsley Cultural Festival

The website is up and running at www.horsleyunwrapped.org . There is a full calendar of events between 17 – 25 February and many are getting filled up quickly.

24/11 SEALEY WOOD TREE REPORT

Representatives from the Sealey Wood Management Group presented a report on the state of Trees, in particular one which is on Parish Council land and is suffering from Ash Dieback. Cllr Blackwell confirmed that he had obtained a confirming opinion and a price from a tree surgeon.

It was agreed that the Parish would arrange the felling of the tree at a cost of £800 - **ACTION: Cllr Blackwell**

24/12 Report on planning matters

Planning Applications:

S.23/2425/Ful – Ruskin Mill, Park Wood ~ this application was withdrawn on February 1st.

S23/2432/Ful – Horsley Hill Single Storey extension ~ no comment

S23/2407/Ful – Agricultural Building Upper Lutheridge ~ it was considered that this probably came within the Permitted Development regime ~ no comment

S23/2406/HHold. - Greenhouse Downend: it was noted that the greenhouse could impact on Key Views laid out in the Neighbourhood Plan and it was agreed that Cllr McDonagh, who lives in the hamlet would prepare a comment referring to the HNPD.

During the open part of the meeting, a member of the public ask if the Parish Council considers the Neighbourhood Plan in relation to Planning Applications. Cllr Kay confirmed that it is always a factor and referenced when a comment or objection is submitted. Cllr Howells advised that while it might be raised by the Parish Council, it wouldn't necessarily be taken into account by SDC planning.

The Neighbourhood Plan was adopted in 2022 and would be subject to review by 2027. It was confirmed that the Stroud Local Plan is currently under review due to the situation on building in the M5 J12/13 corridor.

Planning Decisions

None

24/13 To consider Financial Matters

Expenditure made since the 21 November 23 meeting and the ones that are to be made are as follows:

DATE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION OF WORK	TOTAL £	VAT £	MODE
12/12/23	British Gas	DD	£44.45		
14/12/23	Youth Club	Grant	£1,500.00		
27/12/23	C Prince	Locum Duties	£2,222.50		
29/12/23	C Miller	Horsley Festival programme	£187.00		
29/12/23	P Hofman	Horsley Festival website	£301.52		
3/1/24	British Gas	DD	£55.16		
3/1/24	British Gas	DD			
15/1/24	Ace Comfort Coolin	Air conditioning service	£262.74		
25/1/24	British Gas	DD	£518.56		

PAYMENTS PENDING/TO BE MADE

DATE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION OF WORK	TOTAL £	VAT £	MODE
31/1/24	Forest Green	Armistice Wreath	£25.00		
31/1/24	Goldenstones	Maintenance	£1,342.50		

Budget

Cllr Walls provided the meeting with a summary of the bank accounts, including committed expenditure and anticipated income. He and Cllr Thomson outlined the anticipated income and expenditure for 24/25 as follows:

Income

Precept (23/24 figure)	£37,000	
Burial Fees estimate	£4,000	
Rent from Horsley Football Club		to be negotiated

Expenditure

Staffing	£13,000
Community Shop	£12,000
Church and other Maintenance	£12,000
Other	£7,000

This shows an income of £41,000 against expenditure of £44,000 without any contingency for increased energy costs / inflation.

Precept 2024/25

A discussion then took place to as to setting the Precept for 2024/25 which covered the shortfall in income, the small component of total Council Tax the Parish Council accounts for and the fact that following the 2023 Precept decision, an article was put in the Horses Mouth outlining the background to the decision and encouraging people to come forward if they have any concerns about the level of Council Tax, there had been no comments.

A figure of a 10% increase in the Precept was discussed which it was estimated would be an additional £11per annum for a Band D property.

Cllr Thomson expressed concern at such an increase bearing in mind that we were coming to the end of our term, with elections in May and the cost of living problems for families had not gone away. Cllr Howells countered this with saying that if the increase was significantly less that we would be leaving the new Council to face an unavoidable deficit.

A figure of 10% was proposed by Cllr Kay and seconded by Cllr Blackwell with all in favour apart from Cllr Thomson who abstained.

. ACTION: Cllr Kay to advise SDC

24/14 Councillor items for future discussion

Cllr Thomson raised the matter that when the new Council is elected in the summer, they should be encouraged to carry out hamlet meetings as were done prior to the Neighbourhood Plan adoption. The objective of the meetings would be to engage with residents what the Council spends its money on, what plans there are for the next five years, and an early review of the Neighbourhood Plan. It is also hoped it might encourage people to get involved with the Parih Council.

24/15 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 27 February 2024 in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 21.00 p.m.

Chair’s signature..... Date