

MINUTES

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

26 November 2024 | 19:30 | Marianne Simpson

24/128 Attendance and Apologies

In attendance Cllrs Kate Kay (Chair), Alistair Thomson, Chris Blackwell, Christina McDonagh, Matt Peters, Miranda Waller and District Cllr Maggie Dutton. Also Present: Clerk Marianne Simpson

Apologies: Cllrs Seb Howells, James Bowers and County Cllr Steve Robinson

24/129 Declarations of interest or requests for dispensations

None.

24/130 Approval of Minutes

The minutes, previously circulated, of the last meeting held on 22 October 2024 were confirmed as a true record and Council resolved to accept the minutes.

24/131 Chair's announcements

None.

24/132 Consider changes to the order of business

None.

Meeting adjourned for members of the public to address the Council

There were no members of the public present.

24/133 Receive reports from District and County Councillors

District Cllr Dutton reported on Stroud District Council (SDC). An arts and cultural strategy approved and awarded funding. Leisure centre has been improved and is now fully open. The Health suite has been kept open and has undergone a good clean. Stroud Council Plan consultation is open until 8th December. CIL money for infrastructure. More infrastructure will be needed following increase in housing in the local plan. The Forest Green football stadium application is going to Development Control Committee. The site is proposed for 80-90 houses. Capacity is an issue with the current stadium in Forest Green, and traffic issues. There are still some areas without superfast broadband and are waiting for Gigaclear installations.

District Cllr Dutton left at 7:50pm.

Cllr Kay reported that County Cllr Robinson has £1500 in his GCC build back better fund. It was agreed that the Parish Council will apply for funding to repair the log steps in the Horsley play area.

24/134 Clerk's report and Correspondence

The Clerk's report (for information only) and all correspondence had been circulated prior to the meeting and confirmed. There were several items raised by the Clerk to be considered and addressed.

1. The government has launched a consultation on enabling remote and hybrid attendance at council meetings, and proxy voting for councillors who cannot attend meetings.

Councillors expressed a preference for in person meetings. However, it was recognised it would allow greater flexibility for councils, an issue noted during the COVID-19 pandemic. Clerk to

respond to the consultation and note that Accessibility and Resource implications could be an issue for small councils.

2. Clerk reported that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has agreed the new pay scales for 2024 - 2025 to be implemented from 1st April 2024. For all grades up to SCP 43 the agreed amount is £1,290 per annum, pro rata for part-time employees. Council approved the new pay scales and agreed to ask the payroll provider to calculate the backdated pay to 1 April 2024.
3. Following an interim report on 15th October, due to delays by the external auditor being unable to certify completion of the review, PKF Littlejohn have now sent the final report on 5th November.
4. Clerk gave an update on the CIL money as the parish council must produce a CIL report to SDC by 13 December 2024. Total unspent CIL money is £16557.88.

24/135 Report on planning decisions and planning applications

Planning applications

- S.24/1923/LBC Removal of existing modern post and timber beam within the kitchen and replacement with new beam and steel lintel. Horsley Court, Narrowcut Lane. No Comment.

Planning decisions

- S.24/1521/FUL Erection of tractor shed to replace existing stores. Horsley Court, Narrowcut Lane. Permission
- S.24/1408/HHOLD Installation of natural living swimming pool with associated air source heat pump, hard and soft landscaping, decking and hot tub. Blackberry Hill House, Rockness Hill. Permission

Farwood Farm (field at the top of Nupend). No update regarding the camp site application.

The Priory and lack of progress on the 5 houses which are empty. Cllr Kay reported that SDC are looking into the possibility of purchasing one of the houses as a social house, as one of the houses has a restriction on it.

24/136 Authorise payments of the parish council and receive financial matters

136.1 Council ratified payments made between meetings:

date	payee	description	total	VAT	pay
18/11/24	Drew Landscaping Ltd	Remove Hop Shed to new location and Install Bike Shed base	£4212.00	£702.00	£3510.00
14/11/24	PWLB	Public Works Loan	£1428.80	-	
25/11/24	British Gas	Pavilion electricity	£573.58		DD
14/11/24	Nest	Pension	£27.48	-	DD
05/11/24	Water Plus	Pavilion water	£69.70	-	DD
12/11/24	British Gas	Pavilion gas	£38.87		DD

136.2 Payments received between meetings were noted:

date	from	description	total
04/11/24	SDC	CIL (must be spent within 5 yrs)	£2426.95

136.3 Council approved payments for authorisation:

date	payee	description	total	VAT	pay
05/11/24	PKF Littlejohn LLP	Limited assurance review of Annual Governance &	£504.00	£84.00	£420.00

		Accountability Return for year ended 31 March 2024			
31/10/2024	HM Prison And Probation Service	Leyhill supervised work party 17th October	£300.00	£50.00	£250.00
26/11/2024	The Tree Fella	Orchard hedge cutting – reduce around the perimeter	£780.00	-	£780.00

136.4 Council received the monthly financial update and bank reconciliation to 31 October 2024.

136.5 Council to consider budget spend 2024-25 in preparation for the precept setting in January 2025.

136.6 Council considered quotes and options for the Village Hall carpark works. There were concerns regarding water runoff. A full drainage solution is prohibitively expensive. An estimate for the Village Hall resurfacing and kerbing, with entrance off the track was around £19,000 to accommodate 29 car spaces. Cllr Thomson proposed, Cllr Peters seconded, to progress with the tarmac resurfacing of the Village Hall carpark to obtain the maximum number of spaces. All agreed, except Cllr McDonagh who abstained.

136.7 Council noted the actual monthly costs for a cloud-based financial management solution were higher than previously reported as the council would require great functionality than the basic package. The package for Scribe accounting would be £30/month. Cllr Thomson suggested this was deferred until the January meeting when the annual budget will be agreed.

136.8 Council noted and considered the Final External Auditor Report and Certificate 2023/24 in respect of Horsley Parish Council GL0120.

On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority: None

24/137 Consider the Football Club agreement and review of licence

No report.

24/138 Update on highways and footpaths

122.1 The bike shelter is being progressed. The concrete slab has been installed and the bike shelter should be delivered and erected in the next few weeks.

122.2 No update on the Community Speedwatch Group and additional traffic calming signs.

122.3 Nothing to report on the VAS data. Both VAS are currently working, but no data has been downloaded.

122.4 Nothing to report on stiles. A reported damaged stile was outside the Horsley boundary.

24/139 Consider maintenance of Parish Council owned land

139.1 Cllr Matt Peters gave an update on the Pavilion refurbishment and the community shop. Both toilets are now done, and the new flooring should be installed by the end of the year. Cllr Peters is looking at options for a toilet door lock/keypad and for collection of waste.

The community shop turnover was £10,800, sales to October. The committee is considering a rebrand of the shop signs along the road.

139.2 Consider Village Hall carpark – see item 136.6.

139.3 Cllr Chris Blackwell reported on some repairs required in the playground. The stepping stone logs up to the play castle have rotted and need to be replaced and the surfacing by the entrance gate is becoming worn.

Action: Council agreed for Cllr Blackwell to urgently remove the rotten logs to prevent a child falling on them.

Action: Clerk to obtain quotes to replace the logs with new treated hardwood logs, plus quotes to repair the surfacing at the play area entrance as the surface is worn and plastic rings exposed. If the cost is within £1500-£2000, the council to go ahead without delay with the replacement.

139.4 Update on the Horsley Orchard Project (HOP) and on-going maintenance of the orchard. The Horsley Orchard Project (HOP) have pruned the fruit trees. The orchard hedges have been trimmed.

139.5 Update on GCC ash dieback. Council agreed that the parish council application for 1000 trees will be merged with Cllr Miranda Waller's application for £1500.

Action: Cllr Waller to contact the GCC Ash Dieback officer to detail when and where the whips/trees will be delivered.

24/140 Consider Policy updates and a new Biodiversity policy

Cllrs McDonagh, Kay and Waller had a meeting with members of HCAN (Horsley Climate Action Network) to develop a Biodiversity Policy for Horsley. There is a lot already in the Neighbourhood Development Plan. They are looking to find out what people have been doing in the parish eg identifying wildlife corridors. There is a lot of interest in biodiversity. There is a Gloucestershire mapping project being developed to identify where action should be to benefit biodiversity.

24/141 Update new website

The new website is live and gov.uk emails are ready to use. Clerk to ensure the Neighbourhood Development Plan is on the website.

24/142 Councillor items for future discussion

Cllr McDonagh had attended the recent 3in1 meeting. The group is making progress on applying for grants, eg heat pumps, although the diocese needs to approve all new work and decisions can be slow. There are some big grants possible.

Cllr Kay suggested Stroud Rotary are offering small grants for up to £500.

24/143 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 29th January 2025 in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 9:10 pm

Chair's signature..... Date