

MINUTES

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

25 February 2025 | 19:30 | Marianne Simpson

25/016 Attendance and Apologies

In attendance Cllrs Kate Kay (Chair), Seb Howells (Vice-Chair), Alistair Thomson, Christina McDonagh, Chris Blackwell (arrived 7:55pm) and County Cllr Steve Robinson. Also Present: Clerk Marianne Simpson and 3 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr Matt Peters, James Bowers, Miranda Waller and District Cllr Maggie Dutton

25/017 Declarations of interest or requests for dispensations

Cllr Blackwell for item 24.8.

25/018 Approval of Minutes

The minutes, previously circulated, of the last meeting held on 28 January 2025 were confirmed as a true record and Council resolved to accept the minutes.

25/019 Chair's announcements

Cllr Kay had been involved in the recent biodiversity meetings and noted the draft biodiversity policy had been previously circulated. She noted the issues of pollution on chalk streams. Limestone streams do not have the protection they should have. No protection for specific streams. Mitigation measures: ensure farmers are aware, do not use nitrogen fertilisers.

Cllr Kay noted SDC have set up a system to raise awareness of litter. SDC can supply an information board with bin bags and litter pickers. Council agreed to sign up to the Litter Champion Hub scheme and to locate the litter station board on the play area railings.

25/020 Consider changes to the order of business

Cllr Kay moved item 25/027 Biodiversity Policy up the agenda to follow the Clerks Report, and to move up item 25/022 Community Speedwatch to after the Councillors Reports.

Meeting adjourned for members of the public to address the Council

One member of the public asked if the parish council would fund further maintenance on the Nupend orchard, after no mow May. Council replied that no financial decisions can be made during the public session, and any additional work will need to be considered as a separate agenda item. Cllr Kay proposed a meeting with the HOP (Horsley Orchard Project) group is arranged for the end of March to gauge interest.

Two members of the public were there to speak about the biodiversity policy. Cllr Kay thanked them both for the work they had done on the biodiversity policy. Jude explained that objectives and actions can be considered as guidance. The plan can be carried out over 5 years. The issue with chalk streams are that agricultural runoff or building works cause pollution and results in a lot of algal growth which is an issue. Eco systems change. There are 3 key areas. Concentrate on the very high priority areas. Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust have set up a HabiMap programme which is a collaborative effort to map and monitor Gloucestershire's wildlife habitats and raise awareness. The Wildlife Trust are undertaking the training now and anyone can express an interest in doing it. Once people are trained up to carry out the monitoring they can monitor different areas within the parish. Councillors to ask landowners whether they wanted their land surveyed and forward the details to the Wildlife Trust, who will arrange the volunteer surveys.

Cllr Kay noted the bike shelter has been installed and an epower bike is on loan. There is a cycling event scheduled for 16th March on the playing field. Action: Clerk to notify the insurers of the cycling event.

Cllr Blackwell arrived 7:55pm.

25/021 Receive reports from District and County Councillors

County Cllr Robinson had circulated his County Council report prior to the meeting. He noticed that the sign on the Green on Narrowcut Lane had been pushed to one side and the grass driven over. Action: Cllr Blackwell to check who was responsible and ask the contractors to make good.

Cllr Robinson added that the speed sign on Horsley Hill is covered by a bush and needs cutting back.

Action: Cllr Blackwell to check who owns it and request it is cut back.

Cllr Robinson reported the grill was removed from the stream in Downend. Highways have agreed to clear the stream once the grill is replaced. Action: Cllr Kay to ask Mike Vaughn, the flood officer, to assess the problem.

Cllr Robinson reported on the Downend road closure. Due to the repairs to the wall at the far end of Downend, the road will be closed from 17th March to 16th May. GCC Highways had written to all Downend residents to notify the closure and to signal residents use Narrowcut Lane. A Downend resident asked for traffic lights for the duration of the road closure; this was agreed by GCC. A few other Downend residents did not want traffic lights and requested a one-way system diverting all traffic down Hollingham Lane instead. Cllr McDonagh circulated a map of the diversion.

Concerns were raised regarding this scheme as a one-way system does not work when traffic is directed down a long single-track lane, as was proven during the gas works and the Gigaclear works when several residents on Hollingham Lane experienced damage to their properties as a lot of drivers simply ignored the one-way system, particularly as it is for 2 months.

The Clerk noted that on Monday 24th February, GCC Highways had sent a map of the closure which was the original GCC Highways plan that all Downend traffic use Narrowcut Lane.

25/022 Clerk's report and Correspondence

The Clerk's report (for information only) and all correspondence had been circulated prior to the meeting and confirmed. Clerk updated on gigaclear. The contract with gigaclear has now been signed for the free community connection in the Village Hall. Timescales are usually around two to three weeks for an install.

Cllr Howells to consider nomination for a GAPTC-led Devolution Working Group.

Council agreed that Horsley be put forward for SDC air quality and particulates monitoring. There is a lot of traffic traveling to and from the tip and the Horsley School is right on the road.

25/023 Report on planning decisions and planning applications

Planning applications

- S.25/0179/PBC PD - Temporary recreational campsites - Field Off B4058

Cllr Kay outlined concerns regarding this application, traffic and access issues, toilet facilities, grey water, impact on the stream which runs down through the village. Ask for mitigation. Financial impact. Cllr Howells to submit comments.

Planning decisions

S.24/0536/FUL - Grange Cottage Upper Barton End Lane - Appeal Allowed

24.1 Payments for authorisation:

date	payee	description	Net	VAT	pay
18/02/25	CJ Spring	Angel Duster Pavilion cleaning 2-16 Dec £15/hr		-	£150.00
18/02/25	CJ Spring	Angel Duster Pavilion cleaning 3 – 31 Jan		-	£240.00
13/02/25	Goldenstones	Tidy up Community Orchard ref David Walls	£900.00	£180.00	£1080.00
04/02/25	Goldenstones	14/15 January 2025	£475.00	£95.00	£570.00
21/02/25	GAPTC	Annual subs 1 April 25-31 Mar 26		-	£244.74
18/02/25	GeoXphere Ltd	Parish Online - Mapping Software (per Year) Feb25-Feb26	£37.50	£7.50	£45.00
24/02/25	Geoff	Disconnect Pavilion gas and remove gas boiler		-	£175.00

24.2 Council ratified payments made between meetings:

Date	payee	description	Net	VAT	total		pay
11/02/25	British Gas	Pavilion gas			£29.50		DD
14/02/25	Godaddy	horsleyparish.co.uk domain name renewal 1 year	£12.99	£2.60	£15.59		DC
17/02/25	Water Plus	Pavilion water		-	£70.51		DD
18/02/25	Nest	Pension		-	£51.64		DD
24/01/25	British Gas	Pavilion electricity			£485.72		DD
22/01/25	Nest	Pension	£25.82	-	£25.82		DD
16/01/25	Goldenstones	Burial ground maintenance			£870.00		
15/01/25	Water Plus	Pavilion water		-	£70.26		DD

24.3 Payments received between meetings:

date	from	description	total	pay
03/02/25	SDC	Burial ground allowance	£3312.71	BGC
11/02/25	British Gas	Feed-In Tariff	£587.67	cheque
11/02/25	Western Power	Wayleave	£11.00	cheque
21/02/25	GCC	Build Back Better Fund for play area repairs	£1500.00	BGC

Awaiting receipt of:

SDC Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) application for the Bike shelter of £5712 approved for payment.

24.4 Council received the monthly financial update and bank reconciliation to 23 February 2025.

24.5 Council considered the appointment of an internal auditor. Council approved the appointment of Iain Selkirk at a cost of £150. He is an independent, competent internal auditor.

24.6 Council approved renewal of GAPTC membership at cost of £244.74 due 20 May 2025.

24.7 Council considered renewal of the playing fields maintenance contract with TW Hawkins 2025. Due to the steep increase in fuel and other consumables prices, there will be a price rise for period 1st April 2025-31st March 2026 of 3%. Mowing the Football Field will be £58.79 per cut. Cllr Thomson proposed approve, all agreed.

24.8 Council considered the play area refurbishment quotes. Cllr Blackwell declared an interest and left the meeting. Three quotes had been received. Cllr Kay proposed the cheapest quote is approved, Cllr Thomson seconded, all agreed.

24.9 Council considered the request from the Horsley Festival Group to transfer the money remaining from the Horsley Festival, as they wanted direct access to the money. Cllr Kay noted the intention was for the money remaining to be held by the parish council for other cultural events in Horsley in the future.

Cllr Thomson proposed the remaining £364.74 is paid to Chris Miller, but that the £1000 that had been pledged by Horsley Parish Council is not included as it was specifically to be used for hall hire and was not needed as the parish council paid costs directly. Cllr Kay seconded, all in favour.

24.10 Council noted that SDC had agreed that the burial fee includes an administration charge. This ensures that the parish council is not out of pocket when it pays a gravedigger directly.

24.11 Council considered adjustments to the budget 2025-26 V2. Council considered the budget and made a couple of minor changes, before unanimously approving the budget 2025-26 V2.

25/025 Update on highways and footpaths

25.1 The bike shelter has a few snagging issues which need to be resolved before the final invoice (40% cost) will be paid.

25.2 Nailsworth Town Council are setting up a Community Speedwatch Group, and Horsley can join their training session and borrow their speed gun. Nothing to report on additional traffic calming signs.

25.3 Nothing to report on the VAS data. No data has been downloaded. The lower VAS is not working. Cllr Peters has reported this to the supplier.

25/026 Consider maintenance of Parish Council owned land

26.1 Update on Pavilion maintenance and consideration of additional solar panels. Defer to the next meeting.

26.2 The play area repairs to be completed as soon as possible.

26.3 Update on GCC ash dieback tree-planting project. Need to arrange a date for delivery. Defer until Cllr Waller is back.

26.3 Village Hall car park is scheduled for 14th April. This is the week before Easter weekend. Car park will be closed; it should be completed within 4 days. The contractor can do the white lining if the parish council provide a solid plan of car spaces layout. The cost will be in region of £500. Alternatively, a company can mark the spaces later.

25/027 Consider Policy updates

- Biodiversity Policy – in progress. Feedback discussed under the public session. Council agreed to provide details of landowners, who are willing for their land to be surveyed, to Gloucestershire

Wildlife Trust who will send volunteers to carry out a biodiversity survey. Cllr Kay proposed the draft Biodiversity Policy is adopted, all agreed.

- Asset register review – add bike shelter.
- Risk management schedule – defer to the next meeting.

25/028 Councillor items for future discussion

Cllr Thomson suggested a video could be an alternative to hamlet meetings. He also noted the vegetation on Harley Bridge Hill is overgrown. Need to contact Forestry England to cut it back.

25/029 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 25th March 2025 in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 10:00 pm

Chair's signature..... Date