

MINUTES

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

25 March 2025 | 19:30 | Marianne Simpson

25/030 Attendance and Apologies

In attendance Cllrs Kate Kay (Chair), Seb Howells (Vice-Chair), Alistair Thomson, Christina McDonagh, Chris Blackwell and District Cllr Maggie Dutton. Also Present: Clerk Marianne Simpson and 4 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr Matt Peters, Miranda Waller, James Bowers, and County Cllr Steve Robinson.

Prior to the meeting a public presentation was given by Peter Boait of the Gloucestershire Community Energy Co-op to assess the viability of solar panels on community land or buildings in the Village.

25/031 Declarations of interest or requests for dispensations

None.

25/032 Approval of Minutes

The minutes, previously circulated, of the last meeting held on 25 February 2025 were confirmed as a true record and Council resolved to accept the minutes.

25/033 Chair's announcements

None.

25/034 Consider changes to the order of business

None.

Meeting adjourned for members of the public to address the Council

Two members of the public were there to speak about a planning application they are submitting regarding alterations to Hartley House on Hartley Bridge Hill. They were accompanied by their architects who outlined their plans. They noted they have had a pre-application meeting with Stroud District Council.

25/035 Receive reports from District and County Councillors

Council noted purdah (pre-election period) started today.

Cllr Dutton reported on Stroud District Council (SDC) and the Local government reorganisation. There was an extraordinary meeting last Thursday to agree the SDC formal response to the options for the future unitary authority. The letter went out on 21 March to Government Ministers, to find a proposal that is acceptable. The letter was agreed by all districts, county and city councillors to go forward with 3 options.

- A unitary council for the whole county, population 659k
- Two unitary councils: in the west, the districts of Gloucester, Forest of Dean and Stroud and in the east, the districts of Cheltenham, Cotswolds and Tewkesbury/
- A city-based unitary council based around a 'Greater Gloucester' area along with one or two unitaries for the rest of the county area (the doughnut option)

The implications of each of these has not been fully considered yet. A report on the County option has been done by the County Council and one for the east / west split from Cheltenham Borough Council, but not for the doughnut option. It is not all about cost savings but what works for residents. The SDC Council

program continues. County elections are taking place on 1st May. A decision on the option going forward will be made in November 2025. A response to that back from Government is expected in August 2026. It will be 2028 when the new authority is in place.

District Cllr Kay added that there is also devolving of powers to mayoral combined authorities. Somerset County Council recently went through the process and has discarded most of its non-statutory services. It is likely Town and Parish Councils will consider taking those services on.

Cllr Dutton said SDC is to carry out community engagement on devolution. The inspectors have asked SDC to withdraw the Local Plan as M5 J12 and 14 need improvements. SDC has sent a detailed response to the response. The junctions are likely to be improved.

The Environment committee is to trial free bulky waste collections for low-income households.

25/036 Clerk's report and Correspondence

The Clerk's report (for information only) and all correspondence had been circulated prior to the meeting and confirmed.

WaterPlus have requested a meter read. This is difficult as the track has drainage issues.

Insurance is due in June; Clerk to obtain 3 quotes. Councillors to review the current values in the insurance renewal document (circulated to all councillors). Also obtain quotes for cyber security insurance.

25/037 Update on Local Government Reorganisation

See item 25/035.

25/038 Report on planning decisions and planning applications

Planning applications

S.25/0552/LAC Consultation - Removal of public payphone. The Cross, Horsley, GL6 0PR.

Cllr Howells proposed the public payphone is kept as the mobile signal is not great in Horsley and in a dire emergency phone boxes are useful. Horsley is a remote village, and the phone box should be kept for community resilience. Councillors all in favour to keep the phone box. Cllr Howells to submit a response to object to the removal of the public payphone.

S.25/0485/VAR Variation of Condition - Blackberry Hill House, Rockness Hill, Stroud.

Variation of Conditions 2 & 3 (Revised Reptile Mitigation Strategy) from Application S.24/1408/HHOLD - Installation of natural living swimming pool with associated air source heat pump, hard and soft landscaping, decking and hot tub.

No Comment.

Planning decisions

None.

25/039 Authorise payments of the parish council and receive financial matters

39.1 Payments for authorisation:

date	payee	description	Net	VAT	pay
13/03/25	Tim Bevan	Bike shelter sign on behalf of Horsley Cycling and Walking Project	£82.38	£16.48	£98.86

17/03/25	Goldenstones	Horsley Play Park to include new posts / stepping stones / reinstatement of 6no gravel grids on entrance Inv 2987.	£5000.00	£1000.00	£6000.00
05/03/25	Wheatley Printers	Cycle event flyers		-	£40.00
29/11/24	The Bike Storage Company	1No. Bespoke 8 Space Amazon Eco Shelter - 40% balance to be paid upon completion of the works.	£3500.00	£700.00	£4200.00
21/02/25	GAPTC	Annual subs 1 April 25-31 Mar 26		-	£244.74

Direct debit due 20/04/25: ICO Information Commissioners Office annual data protection fee £52.00

39.2 Council ratified payments made between meetings:

date	payee	description	Net	VAT	total	pay
13/03/25	British Gas	Pavilion gas			£29.51	DD
17/03/25	Water Plus	Pavilion water		-	£67.51	DD

39.3 Payments received between meetings:

date	from	description	total	pay
03/03/25	SDC	Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) for the Bike shelter	£5712.00	BGC

39.4 Council received the monthly financial update and bank reconciliation to 24 March 2025.

39.5 Council noted that the Horsley Festival Group have agreed that the cultural fund money £1364.74 will be held by the Parish Council for future Arts and Cultural events in Horsley.

25/040 Update on highways and footpaths

40.1 The bike shelter snagging issues have been resolved this week. Therefore, the final invoice (40% cost) will be paid. The cycling event on Sunday was well attended and resulted in a net surplus of £84.42.

The e-bike is available and stored in the bike shelter. It can be booked for hire on the website. The cycle group volunteers meet the hirer and give them the digital code and show them how to use the bike. Someone has booked it out for a month.

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

40.3 Nothing to report on the VAS data. No data has been downloaded. The lower VAS is not working, this has been reported to the supplier. The Clerk noted that there was around £2000 left in the GCC Highways pot from the Sealey Wood S106 money. Need to ask if this could be used towards repair of the VAS.

40.4 Downend roadworks – Downend residents have asked for additional signage as traffic is not adhering to the one-way system. The Clerk had spoken to a GCC Highways person, as the PC had not received any formal notification of the works or diversion; they thought a diversion down Hollingham Lane was not needed as the footpath repair works will be 'give and take' and the Downend road will not be continuously closed.

25/041 Consider maintenance of Parish Council owned land

41.1 Pavilion maintenance and consideration of additional solar panels. Peter Boiat has ruled out additional solar panels on the Pavilion.

41.2 Horsley orchard project. The parish council and the HOP group to meet in May to discuss on-going maintenance of the Nupend Orchard and whether the council will fund further works.

41.3 Replacement of the stepping logs and sunsail support timbers in the play area is complete.

41.4 Update on GCC ash dieback tree-planting project. GCC were late in delivering trees to some projects, so the parish council has agreed that the tree whips will now be delivered in early autumn 2025.

41.5 The Village Hall car park is scheduled to be resurfaced during the week beginning 14th April. The car park will be closed; it should be completed within 4 days. Once complete the parish council will consider a separate job to have marked parking spaces.

25/042 Update on Gigaclear

Cllr Howells reported Gigaclear have now resolved a blockage in the ducting. Council agreed the router will be located on a shelf high up in the Village Hall out of the way of the play group. It requires a dedicated double plug socket. There may be a small cost for a shelf and a new electrical connection. The Village Hall committee have agreed to contribute to costs.

25/043 Consider Policy updates

- Biodiversity Policy – in progress. Cllr McDonagh reported she attended a biodiversity meeting and a Horsley Local Nature Action Plan and a priority list of actions for the first year have been drafted. Cllr McDonagh has applied for funding to publish a pamphlet outlining footpaths in Horsley to encourage more parishioners and visitors to walk. A list of landowners who have given permission for habitat mapping of their land to be sent to Jude to liaise with the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.
- Asset register – bike shelter has been added. Do we include the Village Hall.
- Risk management schedule was circulated. Cllr Thomson proposed the council approve the Risk management schedule, Cllr Kay seconded, all in favour.

25/044 Councillor items for future discussion

Cllr Thomson reported the hedge along Hartley Bridge Hill is overgrown and oil tankers have been unable to pass down the road. Clerk to ask Forestry England to cut it back. Hay Lane residents who have had issues with the overgrown lane to report these to the Clerk.

Cllr McDonagh asked about a half-day village meeting to consult residents on what the parish council should prioritise. Cllr Kay propose a meeting is scheduled in June.

Cllr Kay agreed the Football club licence needs reviewing.

25/045 Date of Next Meeting

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

Meeting closed at 9:20 pm

Chair's signature..... Date