

MINUTES

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

29 April 2025 | 19:30 | Marianne Simpson

25/046 Attendance and Apologies

In attendance Cllrs Kate Kay (Chair), Seb Howells (Vice-Chair), Alistair Thomson, Christina McDonagh, Chris Blackwell, Matt Peters, Miranda Waller, James Bowers. Also Present: Clerk Marianne Simpson, County Cllr Steve Robinson and 4 members of the public.

25/047 Declarations of interest or requests for dispensations

None.

25/048 Approval of Minutes

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

25/049 Chair's announcements

None.

25/050 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 report an overgrown hedge which is reducing visibility when turning right down the B4058 from the Cross and had asked if a mirror could be installed on the other side of the road to enable traffic coming up the road to be seen. There have been several near misses.

County Cllr Steve Robinson replied that GCC Highways no longer put mirrors up as they can become misted up, although he thought residents are allowed to put a mirror up. If you need to install the mirror on a new post, you will need to apply for permission. He agreed to meet with the residents concerned.

Two members of the public had attended to discuss the sale of the Tippetts Inn and the removal of the Asset of Community Value condition that it remains a pub. The current owner of the Tippetts Inn gave assurances that it will be sold as a pub and the new owners will keep it as a pub and will not develop it. It will continue as an ACV. See item 25/054.

25/051 Receive reports from District and County Councillors

County Cllr Steve Robinson reported the barrier on the B4058 has been repaired. The work on the wall is continuing and will be on-going for another month. Double yellow lines will be added to the Cross area of Horsley soon.

Cllr Kay noted that on two occasions when driving up the one-way system on Narrowcut Lane, workmen were repairing potholes, and drivers were told to wait 10-15 minutes. She requested that Cllr Robinson ensure that no further pothole work will be carried out while the one-way system is in place on the single track lane.

District Cllr Kay added that the SDC cultural strategy was adopted last autumn and there is funding available.

25/052 Clerk's report and Correspondence

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

The Clerk asked if Cllr Blackwell and Cllr Bowers can take a water meter read as the monthly estimated bill is high. The meter is difficult to read as it gets silted up due to poor drainage.

Cllr Howells noted that the sign at Washpool brook which directs horses and motorcycles to use the stream, rather than the path, is legally permissible as the stream is a class 4 highway. Cllr Bowers to find out who has put the sign up.

25/053 Report on planning decisions and planning applications

Planning applications

S.25/0511/HHOLD - 7 Sealey Wood Lane, Horsley. Loft conversion with dormer extension above garage.

Cllr Kay noted that there is a covenant on the Sealey Wood houses to ensure they were not extended upwards to increase the height of the buildings. The site is in a prominent location at the top of the village and is visible from many points in the village and is a protected view in the Horsley Neighbourhood Plan. Therefore, there needs to be an assurance that the covenant is not being breached in this application.

S.25/0487/HHOLD - Worthy View Hay Lane Horsley. Erection of a first floor extension, external alterations and solar panels. External alterations to detached garage.

No comment.

S.25/0747/HRA Field Off B4058, Nupend, Horsley - Formal request for an Section 77 HRA (Habitats Regulations) application under Regulation 77 - Notification of 60 day campsite

Cllr Howells to submit previous comments. Cllr Kay noted there has been a dipper survey on the stream and Cllr Howells noted several years ago water monitoring was done and the stream was found to be of drinking water standard. There are concerns regarding toilet facilities as there is a septic tank fitted. The stream flows down into Horsley and affects many properties. The campsite application is an environmental issue. There are concerns about the environmental damage a campsite will cause. Cllr Thomson proposed that a water quality report is obtained; ask SDC to do one in the first instance.

Cllr Howells noted that the red phone box is listed (ref S.25/0552/LAC Consultation). Residents can write in directly to the district council to request it is kept as a working phone box.

Planning decisions

None.

25/054 Notice of intention to enter into a relevant disposal, The Tippetts Inn, Asset Community Value

The present owner attended the meeting to clarify the current situation during the public session. He advised that he was in the final stages of sale of Tippetts Inn to a group whose business is restoring pubs and then leasing them out, which is considered the best business model: the purchasers had paid a deposit. He assured the Council that it was their intention to retain it as a pub.

The owner was led to believe that by selling the freehold, he had to trigger the process of it being on the Asset of Community Value (ACV) Register and wanted the Parish Council to release the Tippetts Inn from the ACV.

Cllr Blackwell advised that he had been in contact with Simon Maher the relevant officer in SDC who confirmed that provided the property was being kept as a pub/restaurant the vendor/purchaser had no need to start any process and could continue to complete the sale without hindrance.

Cllr Thomson reminded the owner that when they had purchased Tippetts Inn 10 years ago, it had been closed for two years, while the community had fought a potential change of use by Ruskin Mill, so there was no difference in the current proposed sale.

Cllr Kay stressed, with the agreement of all present, that the sole objective was to retain the property as a pub and any attempt by a future owner to apply for a change of use would be resisted by the Parish Council and the Community.

25/055 Authorise payments of the parish council and receive financial matters

55.1 Payments for authorisation:

date	payee	description	Net	VAT	pay
24/04/25	Abbey Surfacing	Village Hall carpark resurfacing	£19,400.00	£3,880.00	£23,280.00
15/04/25	Playsafety Ltd	RoSPA annual inspection Play Area and Mini Bike Trail	£180.00	£36.00	£216.00
15/04/25	Clare Perla	Payroll Jan-Mar 25	£45.00	-	£45.00
26/03/25	Hellion Environmental Ltd	Remove & dispose gas boiler & cap off existing LPHW pipe.	£120.00	-	£120.00

55.2 Council ratified payments made between March meeting:

Date	payee	description	Net	VAT	total	pay
29/04/25	British Gas	Pavilion electricity			£426.34	DD
22/04/25	Nest	Clerk pension			£51.64	DD
16/04/25	Water Plus	Pavilion water		-	£67.84	DD
14/04/25	Argos	Floating shelf – for VH Gigaclear router	£6.67	£1.33	£8.00	DC
03/04/25	British Gas	Pavilion gas			£15.05	DD
31/03/25	Lloyds	Community account fee			£5.09	

Note: the ICO (Information Commissioners Office) direct debit was paid on 17th April and cost £47.00, not £52.00 as originally reported in last month's finance schedule, as the council received a £5 reduction for paying by direct debit.

55.3 Council noted payments received between meetings:

date	from	description	total	pay
28/04/25	SDC	1st 50% Precept Payment 25-26	£23,402.50	BGC
16/04/25	Community Shop	Half community shop cleaning costs 1 Apr 24 – 31 March 25	£916.00	FPI
09/04/25	Lloyds	Instant Access Account interest Apr	£25.90	
25/03/25	D Walls	Cycle event coffee and cake takings	£84.42	FPI

55.4 Council received the financial update and bank reconciliation to 31 March 2025 Year End

55.5 Council considered the insurance requirements for 2025-26, previously circulated, and approved them. Clerk to obtain 3 quotes for next years insurance, based on the same level of cover. Also to obtain quotes for cyber security insurance for consideration.

55.6 Council to consider the Horsley football club licence fee. Cllr Kay to circulate an updated licence agreement for consideration at the next meeting.

25/056 Update on highways and footpaths

56.1 Bike shelter is now complete. Council agreed that the GCC Build Back Better payment, once received, can be paid to Transition Stroud to insure and manage the e-bike.

56.2 No update on the Community Speedwatch Group and additional traffic calming signs. Council agreed that the best time to gather speeding data, using a speedgun is during commuting time.

56.3 Nothing to report on the VAS data. No data has been downloaded and both the lower and Nupend VAS are not working properly. Cllr Peters to continue trying to contact the supplier to get them to repair the VAS.

56.4 Forestry England have agreed to cut the overgrown trees and bushes along Hartley Bridge Hill. However, they have said they need to check the overhead lines are BT lines only and not National Grid.

25/057 Consider maintenance of Parish Council owned land

57.1 Consider solar electricity proposal for solar panels on the playing field. Defer to next meeting.

57.2 Consider play area repairs following the ROSPA inspection. Cllr Blackwell to review the inspection findings. The Clerk asked if the bike trail was still used. Cllrs Bowers thought not. Cllr Blackwell and Bowers to view the bike trail and assess if the sign need to be removed, if it is not being used.

57.3 Update on Village Hall carpark. Cllr Blackwell reported the carpark resurfacing has been completed. All agreed it was a huge improvement. Cllr Thomson asked if white lines can be added to make the maximum parking spaces available. Clerk to find a contractor who will design the spaces.

57.4 Horsley orchard project. The parish council and the HOP group to meet in May or June to discuss on-going maintenance of the Nupend Orchard and whether the council will fund further works. Defer any decision to June meeting.

25/058 Update on Gigaclear

Cllr Howells reported that a shelf will be installed so that the router will be high up out of reach of children. A dedicated double plug socket will be installed by an electrician at a cost of £150. The Village Hall committee have previously agreed to contribute to costs. The work should be completed in a couple of weeks.

25/059 Consider Policy updates

- Biodiversity Policy had been circulated with aims and objectives. Cllr Kay proposed council adopt the biodiversity policy, Cllr McDonagh seconded, all in favour. Policy to be reviewed in 5 years.
It was noted that the list of landowners who have given permission for habitat mapping of their land need to submit their details on the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust website.
- Asset register – bike shelter has been added. Clerk to include the Village Hall, with a proxy value of £1. Cllr Kay proposed adopt the register, all agreed. Asset register to be reviewed in 1 year.

25/060 Councillor items for future discussion

Cllr McDonagh asked about dates and times for a village meeting. Cllr Thomson and Blackwell preferred an evening drop-in session of 2 hours, rather than a meeting on a Sunday. Cllr Kay proposed a meeting is scheduled one evening in June.

25/061 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 27th May 2025 in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 10:00 pm

Chair's signature..... Date