

MINUTES

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

23 September 2025 | 19:30 | Marianne Simpson

25/114 Attendance and Apologies

In attendance Cllrs Kate Kay (Chair), Seb Howells, Chris Blackwell, Matt Peters, Hannah Hartop (joined the meeting at 7:50pm after co-option) and District Cllr Dutton.

Also Present: Clerk Marianne Simpson and 3 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllrs Alistair Thomson, Christina McDonagh, Miranda Waller, James Bowers and County Cllr Robinson

25/115 Declarations of interest or requests for dispensations

None.

25/116 Approval of Minutes

The minutes, previously circulated, of the last meeting held on 26 August 2025 were confirmed as a true record and Council resolved to accept the minutes.

25/117 Chair's announcements

None

25/118 Consider changes to the order of business

Cllr Kay requested the Speedwatch and Gigaclear items be moved up the agenda.

Meeting adjourned for members of the public to address the Council

A resident of Sandgrove asked about the possibility of getting connected to Gigaclear. Cllr Howells reported that the programme running the subsidy to do the roll out is ending. Project Gigabit is now designed to bring gigabit-capable broadband to hard-to-reach areas, so Gigaclear will be coming back, but it will take some time. The schedule plan is not decided, but it is due to be complete by 2030.

District Cllr Dutton had received a report from Fastershire. The SDC Chief Executive requested Gigaclear provide information on properties in the district who are still not connected.

Sarah Walker from GRCC (Gloucestershire Rural Community Council) had attended to talk about housing needs surveys. They carry out housing needs surveys with a view to accelerate the delivery of community-led rural exception sites. They get their grants through housing associations or other registered providers. Cllr Kay responded that the parish council have a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) which was approved in late 2021. The parish council did a very wide consultation across every hamlet in the village; it was a detailed piece of work and identified the housing needs. She recommended Sarah Walker look at the Horsley NDP on the website. The parish council is not looking at doing another NDP for a while. Cllr Kay noted there are 5 houses empty at The Priory. As part of the S106, one of the five houses must be affordable, but it has been difficult to get a Housing Association that is interested. Stroud District Council

are currently looking at buying 1 of the houses for social housing. All 5 houses at the Priory have been empty for a couple of years. Sarah Walker offered to liaise with SDC to get the 5 empty houses allocated as social housing. Cllr Howells added that the current NDP allowed for appropriate organic growth.

A resident raised concerns about road safety due to the speed of traffic through the village. He had volunteered to undergo speed gun training, but this has not happened. He has lived in Horsley all his life and has real concerns about the excessive speed of traffic through the village. The Clerk reported that Nailsworth Town Council are organising some speed gun training, which Horsley parishioners can attend. The parish council has supported a 20mph speed limit in the village as part of the new GCC initiative, but this will take 3 years to implement. He felt a 20mph will make no difference as most drivers are not driving below the 30mph limit. There is already a 20mph zone by the school. He noted the 30mph sign in Nupend is covered by an overgrown bush. Cllr Kay reported the PC has had conversations with highways officers – trying to explain the issues and have argued for more specific changes. Highways will not approve speed bumps. The PC can gather data, on the VAS devices, when they are repaired, or by paying for a GCC traffic survey.

25/119 Receive reports from District and County Councillors

District Cllr Maggie – SDC report on Local government organisation had been circulated. The first part was a bit vague, but the second part was about the options: 1 unitary for whole county, or 2 unitaries - East and West (Stroud, Gloucester, Forest of Dean), and 2 unitaries - Gloucester City and the rest of the County). Town and parish councils will remain. A report will be out on 28th November. The Local Plan is being reviewed by the Inspectors following further modelling of junctions 13 and 14 by GCC, indicating the junctions may be able to take the development being proposed. Now waiting to hear from the Inspectors. A 6-week consultation period to consider the adoption of the plan is now taking place. If the Inspector considers the local plan is out of date, the Inspector will ask the council to withdraw the plan.

The SDC budget for next year will consider what services the bigger town councils can take over.

Cllr Dutton left the meeting.

25/120 Receive applications for the office of parish councillor and co-opt a candidate

The council had received an application for co-option onto the council. Cllr Kay proposed Hannah Hartop be co-opted onto the council, all in favour. Hannah signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office book and joined the meeting.

25/121 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 burial ground contract 2008 between SDC (owners of the burial ground) and HPC (responsible for maintenance) had been circulated. This may need to be updated.

25/122 Report on planning decisions and planning applications

Planning applications

- S.25/1612/HHOLD Erection of a two storey extension and replacement garage. - The Woodlands Barton End Lane Washpool Horsley GL6 0PP

It is not visible and not controversial. Cllr Kay proposed No Comment, Cllr Howells seconded, all in favour.

Planning decisions

None

123.1 Payments made between meetings:

Date	payee	description	Net	VAT	total	pay
04/09/2025	Clare Perla	Payroll services Apr-June 2025	£45.00	-	£45.00	
09/09/2025	NEST	Clerk pension Aug 2025	£25.82	-	£25.82	DD
02/09/2025	Fred Stevens Ltd	Refund for overpayment of interment fee RDGR (as per SDC-corrected fee sheet)	£102.00	-	£102.00	
12/09/2025	WaterPlus	Pavilion water	£71.30	-	£71.30	DD
01/09/2025	Lloyds	Service Charge – Community acct	£4.25	-	£4.25	DD
26/08/2025	British Gas	Pavilion Electricity	£514.94	102.98	£617.92	DD

123.2 Payments received between meetings:

date	from	description	total	pay
09/09/2025	Lloyds	Commercial Instant Access bank interest - Sept	£14.15	DD
26/08/2025	British Gas	Solar Feed in Tariff (FiT) payment	£517.22	chq

123.3 Payments for authorisation:

date	payee	description	Net	VAT	Pay
08/09/2025	PKF Littlejohn LLP	Limited assurance review of Annual Governance & Accountability Return for year ended 31 March 2025	£315.00	£63.00	£378.00
19/09/2025	JSE Group Services Ltd	Disconnect speed sign to be sent to manufacturer.	£75.00	£15.00	£90.00
15/09/2025	JSE Group Services Ltd	Electrical installation condition report. PAT test. Repair to socket.	£500.00	£100.00	£600.00
18/08/2025	Maxine Relton	Creative Celebration Art Day on 18/08/25 *	£175.10	-	£175.10
08/09/2025	Joseph Price Grave digger	Ashes plot dug on 31/7/25 and 7/10/25– Horsley burial ground	£280.00	-	£280.00

*to be taken from the Horsley festival funds

30/09/2025 Precept (final 50%) to be received on 30 September £23,402.50

Council agreed to transfer £20,000 to the Charity Bank 40-day Notice Account.

123.4 The NJC Pay Agreement was reached in July on rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2025 (covering the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026). The new pay rates, increased by 3.20 % per annum. Council agreed to pay the Clerk the new rates of pay.

Council agreed the payroll quote of £20 to calculate the Clerk backdated pay to 1 April 2025.

123.5 Council approved the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Report 2024-25.

The report allocated £5000 spend for the Horsley Play Area project in March 2025 which included new posts for the sunsail, replacement log stepping stones and improved entrance area with new gravel grids.

Remaining CIL funds of £11,531.15 to be carried over to 2025-26. Council agreed to allocate the spend on the Village Hall carpark in the 2025-26 CIL report.

Cllr Blackwell approved all payments, Cllr Peters seconded, all in favour.

123.6 The external audit was completed on 8th September. No matters were raised. The Notice of Conclusion of Audit which details the rights of inspection, in line with the statutory requirements, was posted on the website and the notice boards for 14 days.

Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no matters to be brought to the attention of the Council.

Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the published AGAR have been added on the website to remain available for public access for a period of 5 years.

25/124 Agree the Football Club review of licence and a Football Club sign on Pavilion

No update on the Football Club review of licence.

Council agreed for the Football Club to put a sign on the pavilion. This will help visitors see where the football club is.

It was noted that the football club have not paid rent for 2 years.

Action: Clerk to contact the playing field contractors to ensure the field is cut to the boundary wall.

25/125 Update on highways and footpaths

125.1 Both VAS speed signs are with Roadside Technologies for repair. Action: Clerk to obtain cost of GCC speed survey.

125.2 Update on a community speedwatch group. Action: Clerk to contact Nailsworth Town Council and the PCSO to arrange a date for speed gun training.

125.3 Update on traffic signs. The 'Go Slow and Wide' horse posters have been installed on existing posts.

125.4 Update on repair of damaged bollard outside the Pavilion. Action: Clerk to obtain cost for replacement.

25/126 Consider solar panels on the playing field

Cllr Kay noted the community interest company, spoke to us regarding solar panels on the Village Hall, but the roof was not suitable. However, the far bank of the playing field could be a suitable location. This could then serve the 3in1 Church Hall. A pre-application consultation with SDC could be considered. Cllr Blackwell proposed a small turbine at the far end of the field could be an option. Action: Cllr Kay to talk to Peter Boit. Could then go to consultation with both options of solar and wind turbine.

25/127 Consider the burial ground and Churchyard memorial testing

Cllr Blackwell reported he had carried out some checks of headstones in the Churchyard and will carry out some minor repairs to glue the loose ones.

25/128 Review Horsley Orchard

Cllr Kay updated that HOP have advertised for additional volunteers to help with the orchard. Currently a Sealey Wood resident is paying for the maintenance. Need to consider convening another meeting with the HOP and councillors to work out what can be done, and whether the licence should continue or be cancelled.

25/129 Update on areas in Horsley still awaiting a Gigaclear connection

A few properties in Horsley are still waiting to get a Gigaclear connection. This was discussed in the public session.

25/130 Councillor items for future discussion

CLlr Blackwell reported that the Tipputs Inn has new owners. Need to check the Asset of Community Value (ACV) expiry deadline.

No other items.

25/131 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 28th October 2025 in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 9:30 pm

Chair's signature..... Date