

MINUTES

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

27 January 2026 | 19:30 | Marianne Simpson

26/001 Attendance and Apologies

In attendance Cllrs Kate Kay (Chair), Seb Howells, Alistair Thomson (arrived 7:50pm), Christina McDonagh, James Bowers, Chris Blackwell and County Cllr Robinson and District Cllr Dutton.

Also Present: Clerk Marianne Simpson and 1 member of the public.

Apologies: Cllrs Miranda Waller, Hannah Hartop.

26/002 Declarations of interest or requests for dispensations

None

26/003 Approval of Minutes

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

26/004 Chair's announcements

Cllr Kay reported that Cllr Matt Peters has resigned from the council. It is sad news as he has been such an excellent Councillor and made a huge contribution to the village. We wish him the very best for the future.

26/005 Consider changes to the order of business

None.

Meeting adjourned for members of the public to address the Council

A member of the public raised concern regarding the financial challenges currently facing The Hog pub and asked if the parish council could help. He noted that there was a late announcement today by the Government, who announced financial support and business rates relief for eligible pubs. Cllr Kay said there was little the parish council could do, but to urge everyone to use the pub. The pub is important for the village. Cllr Kay agreed to write an article for the Horse's Mouth newsletter.

26/006 Receive reports from District and County Councillors

County Cllr Robinson circulated a report prior to the meeting, which was noted. Written reports have been circulated. Downend flooding was a problem at Christmas. The situation is being monitored, and new sandbags have been in place. Someone had put the manhole back down. It needs to be left up to allow water to disperse. As and when the water subsides highways will look at what is going on. There may need to be a cleanup of the road as it is slippery with slime. Cllr Kay requested a proper inspection of the culvert is carried out.

Cllr Robinson gave a brief outline of what is proposed in the budget. 20mph schemes commitment in next year. The money is coming from the public health budget. GCC agreed to use money for road safety, looking at accident blackspots and reducing speeding.

District Cllr Dutton questioned whether a community energy scheme could help the pub if the main costs are electricity. Gloucestershire resources and waste partnership sets out adaptation to climate change and resilience and promoting sustainable practices. She also noted District Cllr Thomas is tackling litter thrown from cars. They are monitoring where the litter is coming from to identify hotspots and take message back to fast food outlets. Cllr Dutton asked whether Nailsworth town council can use the design of the Horsley 20mph advisory signs.

Cllr Kay reported there is a government consultation in February/March on the local government reorganisation; the timetable will be summer 2028.

26/007 Clerk's report and Correspondence

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

There has been no update on the re-nomination of the Tippits Inn as an Asset of Community Value.

The Pavilion cleaner has left, so now in the process of finding a new cleaner.

Cllr Thomson said the Forestry England trees and shrubs along Hartley Bridge need to be cut back further. The parish council agreed to support a play area renovation workday, and would support crowd-funding to pay for the renovation.

26/008 Report on planning decisions and planning applications

8.1 Planning applications

- S.25/2212/FUL| Change of use of existing studio outbuilding to holiday let. |The Old Vicarage Rockness Hill Nailsworth Stroud GL6 0PJ

Council agreed 'No comment'.

8.2 Planning decisions

- S.25/1973/HHOLD Erection of a single storey rear extension and a porch.- 2 Church View The Street Horsley. Permission.
- Appeal Decision - Worthy View, Hay Lane, Horsley - The appeal is allowed and planning permission is granted for the erection of a first floor extension, external alterations and solar panels. External alterations to detached garage at Worthy View, Hay Lane, Horsley Application S.25/0487/HHOLD was refused under delegated powers.

8.3 Planning enforcement

Cllr Kay noted the Ruskin Mill retrospective planning application for the roundhouse in the woods was refused last year and the parish council had requested enforcement, but nothing has been done. Action: Clerk to follow up on enforcement.

26/009 Update on the need for a housing needs survey

A housing needs survey (HNS) was circulated by Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC) in January. The parish council did not support it as the Horsley neighbourhood development plan is still valid and the parish does not want to update it at this time. It is not clear why GRCC want to do a HNS as they have not provided any explanation. Nailsworth Town Council have been approached for a HNS. Cllr Kay suggested a wider HNS across Horsley and Nailsworth. Cllr Kay met a GRCC member at a meeting in Nailsworth at which it was discussed whether any identified affordable need for Horsley could be included

in a Nailsworth development of affordable Housing and GRCC have confirmed that this has been agreed by Stroud District Council.

26/010 Update on the unitary reorganisation

Cllr Kay reported on this during section 26/006.

26/011 Authorise payments of the parish council and receive financial matters

11.1 Payments made between November meeting:

date	payee	description	Net	VAT	Pay
25/11/25	British Gas	Pavilion Electricity			£474.00
29/11/25	T W Hawkins	Contract mowing field from 8/9 - 31/10	£293.95	£58.79	£352.74
01/12/25	Lloyds	Service Charge	£4.25	-	£4.25
10/12/25	Drew Landscaping	Replace pavilion bollard	£385.00	£77.00	£462.00
10/12/25	Horsley Youth Club	Grant	£1500.00	-	£1500.00
10/12/25	Staff	Staff costs Nov	£811.79		£811.79
10/12/25	TW Hawkins	Playing field grass cutting	£293.95	£58.79	£352.74
11/12/25	WaterPlus	Pavilion Water bill	£75.53	-	£75.53
10/12/25	Staff	Staff costs Dec	£817.79		£817.79
29/12/25	British Gas	Pavilion Electricity	370.97	74.19	£445.16
30/12/25	NEST	Clerk pension	£56.66	-	56.66
30/12/25	Lloyds	Service Charge	£4.25	-	£4.25
15/01/26	WaterPlus	Pavilion Water bill	£70.49	-	£70.49
23/01/26	British Gas	Pavilion Electricity	367.41	73.48	£440.89

11.2 Payments received between meetings:

date	from	description	total	pay
09/12/2026	Lloyds	Commercial Instant Access bank interest - Nov	£9.87	FPI
09/01/2026	Lloyds	Commercial Instant Access bank interest - Nov	£8.38	FPI

11.3 Payments for authorisation:

date	payee	description	Net	VAT	pay
04/01/2026	Caroline Spring (Angel Dustbusters)	Clean Pavilion 20/10, 31/10, 14/11, 31/11 for 2hrs @ £15/hr	£120.00	-	£120.00
22/12/2025	DSH Architects	Village Hall parking plan	£250.00	-	£250.00
27/01/2026	Goldenstones	Supply and lay shingle on Pavilion track inv 3323	£1100.00	220.00	£1320
27/01/2026	Goldenstones	Churchyard track prepare, supply and lay shingle inv 3324	£1000.00	£200.00	£1200
27/01/2026	Goldenstones	Nov/Dec 2025 maintenance inv 3325	£256.25	£51.25	£307.50
06/01/2026	National Association of Local Councils	Mastering Asset Management: Navigating new responsibilities	£35.00	£7.00	£42.00

Cllr Thomson proposed approve, Cllr Bowers seconded, all in favour.

The Parochial Church Council has agreed to a donation of 50% of the cost of the Churchyard track and carpark.

11.4 Council received the monthly financial update and bank reconciliation to 26th January 2026.

11.5 Council agreed the quote for painting white parking lines on Village Hall carpark for 13 parking bays and 1 disabled bay with symbol and hatching at £775 exc VAT. Action: Clerk to schedule the work for April, during the school holidays, when the carpark will not be in use.

11.6 Consider ownership of SDC assets in Horsley prior to the unitary reorganisation. Cllr Kay reported all SDC assets will be dealt with on a county-wide basis. Put this item back to next year. The parish council need to register an interest with SDC property.

11.7 Council to review the Horsley Orchard maintenance costs and licence. It has been agreed to cut that David Wall will give a donation to the parish council for cutting the grass in the orchard during May to November. Cllr Kay reported the Horsley Orchard Project (HOP) license has been cancelled. The parish council has taken over HOP. The allotment holders can continue. The approx. annual cost to the council for the Orchard maintenance is £1000.

11.8 Council to consider Play Area renovation works. Action: Cllr Blackwell to meet with Rachel Austen on site to agree what it needed.

11.9 Council availability of grants for HPC projects. Defer to next meeting.

11.10 Council to agree the Football licence fees for 2025-26 and 2026-27 and the revised licence agreement. Cllr Kay to meet the football club.

11.11 Council agreed the budget 2026-27.

11.12 Council considered the precept 2026-27. After careful consideration, Cllr Thomson proposed a 15% increase to enable spend on the projects identified and to maintain maintenance standards. Cllr Howells counter-proposed an increase of 11% as any increase in precept can impact on households during the current cost of living crisis, particularly young parishioners and those on low incomes. Council took a vote, and it was agreed 5 to 1 to set the precept at £53,825, a 15% increase. This is an increase of £18.38/year for a band D property, or just 35p/ week.

26/012 Consider Assertion 10 requirements

Assertion 10 is a new compliance requirement for parish councils, focusing on digital governance, data protection, and IT management, effective from the 2025 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR).

12.1 Emails and domains. The parish council already uses a .gov.uk email and domain address.

12.2 Review and approve IT policy

12.3 Review Website Accessibility statement as given on the parish website.

12.4 Review and approve Data Protection Policy, Privacy Notices, Publication Scheme

26/013 Update on highways and footpaths

13.1 Update on Downend flooding, see item 26/006.

13.2 Update on the VAS speed signs. The two old VAS signs have been returned from RT Technologies following repair and have been installed. A new Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) VAS is being considered to replace the old solar-powered VAS. This needs to be approved by GCC and Gloucestershire Traffic Safety Police. The Horsley community speedwatch group continue with the speed gun sessions.

13.3 Update on Forestry England. They have been asked to cut back further the overgrown trees and shrubs along Hartley Bridge.

26/014 Consider updating the SDC burial ground contract

Deferred.

26/015 Review the revised Parish and Town Council Charter

No comment.

26/016 Councillor items for future discussion

Cllr Thomson noted the Tippits Inn has been closed and SDC need to provide an update on the status of the Asset of Community Value designation.

The Cotswold Warden has funds to replace the Lower Hay Lane farm kissing gate by the beech wood. The parish council agreed to contribute £150.

26/017 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 24th February 2026 in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 9:20 pm

Chair's signature..... Date