

MINUTES

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

24 February 2026 | 19:30 | Marianne Simpson

26/018 Attendance and Apologies

In attendance Cllrs Kate Kay (Chair), Seb Howells, Christina McDonagh, Hannah Hartop, Chris Blackwell (arr. 7:45pm) and County Cllr Steve Robinson.

Also Present: Clerk Marianne Simpson and 4 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllrs Miranda Waller, James Bowers, Alistair Thomson and District Cllr Maggie Dutton.

26/019 Declarations of interest or requests for dispensations

Cllr Hannah Hartop declared an interest in planning application S.26/0222/VAR.

26/020 Approval of Minutes

The minutes, previously circulated, of the last meeting held on 27 January 2026 were confirmed as a true record and Council resolved to accept the minutes.

26/021 Chair's announcements

None.

26/022 Consider changes to the order of business

Cllr Kay moved up the Councillors Report and the item on Tipputs Inn.

26/023 Receive reports from District and County Councillors

County Cllr Robinson circulated a County report prior to the meeting and outlined the main points. He met with Inspector Jacqui Weller to discuss policing in Nailsworth and Horsley. A full-time Neighbourhood Police Officer will be appointed shortly. Unfortunately, our Neighbourhood Police Officer has been off on long-term sickness. The PCSO has limited powers, and there have been concerns regarding job security. Some residents have requested the potholes on the road between Horsley and the Recycling Centre are repaired at the same time as other works in Horsley, but there is no budget for this. Patching work on Hollingham Lane is due to commence on 23rd March. The road will be closed during this period. A resident has concerns regarding the gullies on Hollingham Lane and damaged drains preventing the water running away. The flood at Downend will be assessed when the water has gone. The Gloucestershire County Council Budget was set at £670m, an increase of 4.99%. (2% Adult Social Care plus 2.99% General budget). Cuts of £10m in services have been found. Political Groups were able to bid for a total of £400k. The Green Group and the Labour Member were the only ones successful. The other three groups were unsuccessful in securing any funding for their projects. Gloucestershire Police & Crime Budget set at £185m – 5.7% increase. Cuts to police staff will need to take place, to make savings.

District Cllr Kay reported the district council budget was set at 2.99% which is the maximum. Next year will have to look at savings and cuts, prior to reorganisation. Money for capital savings for local council social housing. They are also using money to buy S106 houses.

Meeting adjourned for members of the public to address the Council

A member of the public, from Ruskin Mill, was interested in the update on the Tipputs Inn. They confirmed that Ruskin Mill have bought The Tipputs Inn and want to open it as a community café and restaurant, to

provide work experience and work opportunities for their students. They noted there have been 5 previous tenants in 6 years, and the building itself is in a poor condition. The plan is to use biodynamically grown or bought-in organic products. They are planning to create a walking route around the site for family walks.

Another member of the public requested permission from the parish council to undertake litter picking for 1 hour/week over 1 year as part of the Duke of Edinburgh award. Cllr Kay approved this and requested photos are taken.

26/024 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 Tipputs Inn registration on the Asset of Community Value register. Stroud District Council (SDC) have cancelled the old restriction and are now considering the new nomination from the parish council made in October 2025.

A new cleaner has been appointed for the Pavilion at £20/hour for 4 hours/week.

Forestry England have agreed to cut back more trees and shrubs along Hartley Bridge this week.

26/025 Report on planning decisions and planning applications

25.1 Planning applications:

- S.26/0222/VAR Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) from S.25/1973/HHOLD -alteration to roof of single storey rear extension. 2 Church View, The Street, Horsley.

Cllr McDonagh noted the previous roof design was tiled, this has been changed to zinc roofing, which may be a problem for neighbours as zinc is more visible. Cllr Kay proposed 'No Comment', Cllr Blackwell seconded, all in favour.

25.2 Planning decisions:

- S.25/1502/FUL Diversification of equine enterprise into equestrian holiday accommodation. Erection of 5no cabins with deck area, car parking and planting - Barton End Stables. Upper Barton End Lane. Permission

25.3 Update on the Tipputs Inn

See Clerks report item 26/024.

26/026 To consider response to the Local Government Reorganisation consultation

Council discussed the Local Government Reorganisation consultation options. All agreed the Neighbourhood partnerships need to have more money. South Gloucestershire has abandoned neighbourhood partnerships. Council agreed that one large unitary council is the best option. Council agreed that Cllrs Kay and McDonagh will draft a response and circulate prior to submission.

26/027 To consider SDC consultation on the Climate and Nature Strategy

Cllr Kay reported that the SDC Climate and Nature Strategy is a good document. It focuses on reducing carbon emissions and enhancing nature recovery and links with farming.

26/028 To trigger the Casual Vacancy and publish the Notice of Vacancy

Council unanimously agreed to publish the Notice of Vacancy.

29.1 Payments made between meetings:

date	payee	description	Net	VAT	Pay
02/02/26	Lloyds	Service Charge – Community acct	£4.25	-	£4.25
09/02/26	Staff	Staff costs Jan	£817.79		£817.79
12/02/26	NEST	Clerk pension Jan	£28.33	-	£28.33
12/02/26	WaterPlus	Pavilion Water bill	£75.53	-	£75.53
09/02/26	GoDaddy.com	Horsleyparish.co.uk domain renewal for 1 year	£12.99	£2.60	£15.59
12/12/25	Walker Fire (UK) Ltd	Fire Risk Assessment	£395.00	£79.99	£474.00

29.2 Payments received between meetings:

date	from	description	total	pay
05/02/26	Stroud District Council	Horsley Cemetery management	£3395.53	BACS
06/02/26	D Walls	Donation for Nupend orchard	£125.00	FPI
16/02/26	British Gas	Gas refund	£3.50	CHQ
16/02/26	National Grid	Wayleave	£11.30	CHQ
09/02/26	Lloyds	Commercial Instant Access interest - Feb	£6.90	FPI

29.3 Payments for authorisation:

date	payee	description	Net	VAT	pay
13/02/26	Clare Perla	Payroll compliance Oct-Dec 2025	£45.00	-	£45.00
15/02/26	JSE Electrical	Reinstall VAS devices after repair	£200.00	£40.00	£240.00
27/01/26	CR Signs (Stroud) Ltd	1.00 (x8) circular signs with clips	£280.00	£56.00	£336.00
18/02/26	GeoXphere Ltd	Parish Online - Mapping Software (18 Feb 26– 18 Feb 27)	£37.50	£7.50	£45.00
28/02/26	M Simpson	Clerk salary - Feb	£811.59	-	£811.59

Cllr Kay proposed approve, Cllr Blackwell seconded, all in favour.

Council to note the RoSPA inspection is scheduled for April. They have included the play area and the mini bike trail. Council agreed the mini bike trail is not used anymore and can be removed from the schedule. The charge for the play area inspection is an initial set fee to inspect up to five play items, there is an additional fee of £4.00 per item over five. Parish Council basic fee is £83.00 + VAT per play area.

29.4 Council received the monthly financial update and bank reconciliation to 26th January 2026. It was noted that the Parochial Church Council has agreed to a donation of 50% of the cost of the Churchyard track and carpark.

29.5 Council agreed to purchase the horsleyparish.co.uk domain for 1 more year only at a cost of £15.59.

29.6 Council agreed to appoint Ian Selkirk, an independent internal auditor, to carry out the internal audit at a fee of £175.

29.7 Council to approve the Football licence fees for 2025-26 and 2026-27 and the revised licence agreement. Cllr Kay and Blackwell to meet the Football Club to agree the revised licence.

26/030 Consider The Pavilion and Play Area maintenance issues

The parish council has received a request to replace loose and missing tiles in the football changing room. Action: Clerk to obtain a quote.

Council to consider Play Area renovation works. Cllr Blackwell reported that the wooden snake rope requires work at the top of the wooden frame which is rotten at the point where the fittings are connected. Action: Cllr Blackwell to assess options to replace the rotten areas of wood with oak.

26/031 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) from 1 April 2026.

- 31.1 Emails and domains. The parish council already uses a .gov.uk email and domain address. Remaining councillors to be provided with a dedicated HPC email.
- 31.2 Council approved the IT policy.
- 31.3 Council approved the updated Model Publication Statement, Data Protection Policy, Privacy Notices.
- 31.4 Council noted the parish council already has a Website Accessibility statement on the website and takes steps to ensure all new content is accessible.
- 31.5 All councillors to complete online cyber security training and data protection training, as previously circulated.
- 31.6 Council considered purchasing a dedicated parish council mobile phone. Cllr Kay proposed approve, all agreed. This will enable a nominated parish councillor to take the phone during Clerk holidays or absence. Action: Clerk to purchase a basic iphone.

26/032 Update on highways and footpaths

- 32.1 Update on Downend flooding, see County Cllr Robinson report item 26/023.
- 32.2 Update on the VAS speed signs, 20mph traffic signs, and community speedwatch group. Both VAS signs, returned following repair, are working, although the parts are only guaranteed for 3 months. The community speedwatch group has been halted while the police involvement to send out letters is confirmed. There has been no contact from them in the last 2 months. The '20mph please' signs are ready for collection and installation.
- 32.3 Update on Lower Hay Lane Farm kissing gate by the beech woods. Cllr Blackwell reported that the kissing gate is being installed tomorrow. to install. The Cotswold Warden has funds to contribute and the parish council agreed to contribute £150.
- 32.4 Update on Forestry England. They have been asked to cut back further the overgrown trees and shrubs along Hartley Bridge.

26/033 Consider updates of the burial ground documents

The Clerk has produced an Exclusive Right of Burial (EROB) document. This will be sent to Funeral Directors to ensure they understand the legal requirements when transferring an EROB.

26/034 Councillor items for future discussion

Cllr Hartop is considering project costs to run cinema nights in the 3in1 Church Hall and asked about access to the hall.

Cllr Hartop noted there is a fallen tree blocking a path in Kingscote Woods.

26/035 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