

MINUTES

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

24 March 2026 | 19:30 | Marianne Simpson

26/036 Attendance and Apologies

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

26/037 Declarations of interest or requests for dispensations

None.

26/038 Approval of Minutes

The minutes, previously circulated, of the last meeting held on 24 February 2026 were confirmed as a true record and Council resolved to accept the minutes.

26/039 Chair's announcements

None.

26/040 Consider changes to the order of business

Cllr Kay moved Planning, Planning enforcement and Community energy up the agenda.

26/041 Receive reports from District Councillors

District Cllr Kay had sent a report prior to the meeting. She had attended an SDC meeting where the potential closure of the Lido at Stratford Park was raised due to health and safety concerns. The Lido is a valued part of Stratford Park so there are ongoing efforts to fund the repairs.

Meeting adjourned for members of the public to address the Council

Two parishioners were there to outline a planning application they had submitted. This followed a previous application that had been withdrawn. They had made changes to include a green roof and an office pod in the garden, and a heritage impact assessment had been carried out. The house changes keep the footprint the same. Cllr Kay thanked them for coming to present their plans to the parish council. The parish council supported the application, see section 43.1.

A member of the public raised concern regarding a building, visible from his house, that has been built by Ruskin Mill without any planning permission. It is between the woodland kitchen and the farm. He had contacted Ruskin Mill and they said it is being built under permitted development but gave no further details. Cllr Kay noted the previous erection of a roundhouse in ancient woodland, without planning application. Cllr Howells suggested they have not followed the right process of permitted development as there has been no notification. Cllr Thomson said traffic is an issue on Hay Lane due to the number of pupils accessing the Ruskin Mill site every morning.

One parishioner had attended a demo by a Stonehouse Company GSHP using heat from ground source drilling to power a large heat pump. Community solar panel projects had been considered, but it is not considered a viable option on the Church roof. GSHP had acknowledged that the pay back of the ground source scheme does not meet their returns. Schlumberger SLB technology drills down to 200m or more. In

their Stonehouse office they have done it and generate 180 kW to heat or cool their building. That would heat around 90 homes; however the heat pump is very noisy. Cllr Kay noted the HOP group now have links to Community cafés and to other community hubs, to use the fruit from the Orchard.

26/042 Clerk's report and Correspondence

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

26/043 Report on planning decisions and planning applications

43.1 Planning applications:

- S.26/0215/HHOLD Demolition of the existing front porch. External material and roof alterations to the existing single-storey extension and construction of a modest first-floor extension. New solar panels on roof. New pod at bottom of garden and associated landscape works. Hartley House, Hartley Bridge Hill, Horsley.

The applicants outlined their revised plans during the public session.

Cllr McDonagh had reviewed the application. It was an improvement on the previous plans. An office pod is proposed in the garden. The house retains the same footprint. The design is good. The owner of the listed building next door had some concerns regarding light to his workshop.

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

43.2 Planning decisions: None

43.3 Update on planning enforcement at Ruskin Mill

- A roundhouse had been erected in Ancient Woodland – Site Park Wood, Wormwood Hill in 2023. Part of the woodland was removed. SDC enforcement are investigating this. Following the refusal of application S.25/1246/CPE and previous refusal S.24/1406/FUL, the expediency of the matter is under review.
- Planning breach – an additional building at Ruskin Mill is currently under construction with no planning permission. It has been notified to SDC planning enforcement.

43.4 No update from Stroud District Council (SDC) on the Tipputs Inn Asset of Community Value Registration.

26/044 To note response to the Local Government Reorganisation consultation

Council agreed that one large unitary council is the best option. Cllrs Kay and McDonagh to draft a response prior to submission before the deadline on 26th March.

26/045 Authorise payments of the parish council and receive financial matters

45.1 Payments for authorisation:

date	payee	description	Net	VAT	pay
10/03/2026	Goldenstones	12/13 February Willow weaving	£331.25	£66.25	£397.50
23/03/2026	Reuben Case	Pavilion Cleaning 27/02-23/03/26 16hrs @ £20/hr	£320.00	-	£320.00

45.2 Ratify payments made between meetings:

date	payee	description	Net	VAT	Pay
03/03/26	Lloyds	Service Charge – Community acct	£4.25	-	£4.25
05/03/26	Staff	Staff costs Feb	£811.59		£811.59

05/03/26	NEST	Clerk pension Feb	£28.33	-	£28.33
16/03/26	WaterPlus	Pavilion Water bill	£75.53	-	£75.53
25/02/26	British Gas	Pavilion electricity	£361.63	£72.32	£433.95

45.3 Payments received between meetings:

date	from	description	total	pay
09/03/26	British Gas	Solar fund payment 19/10/25-17/02/26	£91.45	CHQ
09/03/26	British Gas	Solar fund payment 18/06-18/10/2025	£511.16	CHQ
09/03/26	British Gas	Solar fund payment 24/06/2024	£852.56	CHQ
04/03/26	PCC Horsley	Half payment for Churchyard track	£500.00	FPI
09/03/26	Lloyds	Commercial inst access acct interest	£4.84	FPI
20/03/26	GCC	Air monitoring device grant	£1200.00	BGC

Cllr Thompson proposed approve all payments, Cllr Kay seconded, all in favour.

45.4 Council received the monthly financial update and bank reconciliation to end of February 2026.

45.5 Council agreed to purchase a Parish Council iphone 17e 6.1" for £599 and a sim-only contract from EE.

26/046 Council to approve the Football licence fees for 2025-26 and 2026-27

Cllrs Kay and Blackwell to meet with the Football Club to agree a revised licence.

26/047 Consider the Pavilion and Play Area maintenance issues

The parish council agreed to replace loose and missing tiles in the Pavilion football changing room. Clerk to ask Cllr Bowers to provide advice on what is required.

Council to consider Play Area renovation works. Cllr Blackwell advised the play area snake rope wooden frame will need some repair. He advised waiting for the findings of the RoSPA report. Action: Clerk to arrange a date for the play area refurbishment day when the sand pit will be re-filled.

26/048 To assert the parish council meets the Assertion 10 requirements 1 April 2026

Council agreed that parish council meets the Assertion 10 requirements.

- councillors to complete online cyber security training and data protection training
- all councillors to have a horsleyparish.gov.uk email

26/049 update on highways and footpaths

- Update on road closures – Hollingham Lane is due to be closed this week. Downend is also scheduled for closure again.
- The flooding in Downend has cleared. GCC to investigate blockage.
- Clerk reported there are 2 options to replace the unreliable VAS. A British company can provide a VAS with an ANPR mounted above. This company is approved by GCC, but not the Road Safety Police. The other option is a MAV Rapier ANPR camera which collects data in both directions. This is approved by the Road Safety Police, but not GCC Highways. Council agreed to the VAS + camera option with an electrical connection, not solar panel as these are not reliable.
- Update on the 20mph traffic signs, and new design for village gateway. Deferred to next meeting.
- The Lower Hay Lane Farm kissing gate has been completed.
- The overgrown trees and shrubs on Forestry England owned land have been cut back.

26/050 consider Biodiversity Policy update

The biodiversity policy to be updated. Cllr McDonagh reported a bio blitz is being scheduled in the Graveyard.

26/051 Consider community energy options

Discussed in public session.

26/052 Update on grant application for air monitoring devices

The parish council submitted an air monitor device grant application which was approved and £1500 was granted to the parish council. This should enable 2 or 3 devices to be purchased. Council agreed to install one outside the school by the road.

26/053 Update on burial ground

Council agreed to charge single fees for those in hardship, even if they lived outside the parish.

26/054 Councillor items for future discussion

Cllr Howells noted there is a new broadband national program and Gigaclear have been appointed. However, connecting to all properties could take until 2030.

26/055 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 28th April 2026 in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 9:20 pm

Chair's signature..... Date