

MINUTES

Horsley Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

26 May 2026 | 20:15 | Marianne Simpson (Parish Clerk)

Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Kate Kay (Chair), Seb Howells, Alistair Thomson, Christina McDonagh, Chris Blackwell. Also Present: Clerk Marianne Simpson.

Apologies: Cllrs Miranda Waller, Hannah Hartop, James Bowers.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes, previously circulated, of the last Annual Parish meeting held on 27 May 2025 were unanimously confirmed as a true record and will be signed by Cllr Kate Kay.

Matters Arising

None.

Chair's Report

The Chair read her report, copy attached below. This was approved as a true record.

Public Questions

There were no public questions.

Any other business

There being no other business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:25.

Chair's signature..... Date

Chair's Report

Horsley Parish Council Annual Report 25/26

When I started to write this I thought it would be quite a short report - that we had had a quiet year. But in fact this small group of volunteer councillors have yet again achieved a great deal.

"Bread and Butter work"

We have looked after the village hub; commented and advised on numerous planning applications; supported village groups with financial grants, maintained and repaired the play area and , perhaps not so well known ,looked after the village burial ground .

"Helping to make the village a good place to live"

We have a small annual budget of just over £40000 so we look for grants and other financial opportunities. Over the past few years we have redeveloped the Hub around the shop and Village Hall. This year we put the last piece of the jigsaw in place and resurfaced the car park . We have also organised free wifi in the Village Hall via Gigaclear. We have taken the Horsley Orchard back in house , but continue to work with members of the original group to find a future use .

We are continuing the work of the cycling and walking group and repairing footpath styles in the village.

Speeding in the village is a high priority and we are negotiating for a new VAS sign , as well as installing new 20 is plenty signage on the High Street .A speed watch group has been set up , and we applied and are hopeful we will be included in the tranche of Parish Councils that have 20mph speed limits applied next year , in conjunction with Nailsworth.

We now have agreed a Biodiversity Policy and Action Plan reflecting our commitment to Nature. We are grateful to the committed group of villagers who have worked on this and contributed their knowledge and time.

The Future for Parish Councils

All of the work this year has been done in the shadow of Local Government Reorganisation. Within 2 years Stroud District Council will be abolished and we will find ourselves in a much bigger pond/s. We have tried to future proof our budget for the coming change .

The Team

We are a small group of eight volunteer councillors , supported by a part/time Clerk. We said goodbye to Matt Peters who worked hard supporting the village shop , and hello to Hannah Hartop , who is already making an impact. I would like to say a massive thank you to each and everyone.

Our work is not always done in meetings. Everyone is a “doer “ and team player . I know I can rely on everyone to help when we have a problem to solve , like resurfacing the Church entrance before Christmas at a weeks notice , or lugging 4 tons of sand into the children’s play area. There are any number of small jobs that keep us ticking over.

Last but not least I would particularly like to thank Marianne our Clerk , who quietly and calmly makes sure we operate properly and with good financial rules.

It has not been such a quiet year after all !

Kate Kay

Chair

May 2026

