

MINUTES

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

23 June 2026 | 19:30 | Marianne Simpson

26/098 Attendance and Apologies

In attendance Cllrs Kate Kay (Chair), Seb Howells, Christina McDonagh, Chris Blackwell, Miranda Waller, James Bowers. Also Present: Clerk Marianne Simpson, County Cllr Robinson and District Cllr Dutton and 1 member of the public.

Apologies: Cllrs Alistair Thomson, Hannah Hartop.

26/099 Declarations of interest or requests for dispensations

None.

26/100 Approval of Minutes

The minutes, previously circulated, of the last meeting held on 26 May 2026 were confirmed as a true record and Council resolved to accept the minutes.

26/101 Chair's announcements

None.

26/102 Consider changes to the order of business

None.

Meeting adjourned for members of the public to address the Council

A parishioner asked about the Ruskin Mill building on the other side of the valley. It is now looking very complete, built without any planning permission. Cllr Kay replied SDC planning will decide if there is a planning breach.

26/103 Receive reports from District and County Councillors

County Cllr Steve Robinson had circulated his report prior to the meeting and outlined the main items. The community gang has gone. The B4048 from Nupend to the top junction will be closed for major patching, prior to surface dressing on 2-6 November, excluding weekends. Tom Jackson is still to arrange an investigation into the blocked drain in Downend. Cllr Blackwell reported that he had asked a drain company to look at it and they said it is blocked with stones. The PC could pay to get it done. Cllr Robinson said he did not know when the drain will be done but will ask Tom Jackson how much it will cost GCC to do it. Cllr Kay added it is important to do it now in the dry weather.

A resident had asked when the Hollingham Lane laybys will be repaired. Cllr Robinson said they will not be re-surfaced as they require additional structural work first.

District Cllrs Kate Kay and Maggie Dutton reported a letter had been sent to ministers and SDC should have a decision in mid-July on which of the 3 reorganisation unitary options will go ahead. There is a Consultation for Public Space Protection Orders - dog control and prohibiting alcohol consumption in designated places (Stroud Town and Dursley Town). However, it was noted that dogs on lead orders are difficult to enforce.

26/104 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 grant application for the footpath steps was not successful. Horsley is not in the first or second round of the GCC 20mph zones so will not be considered for at least 2 years.

There have been reports of dog fouling around the village and not being picked up.

It was noted the Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service are leading on the Gloucestershire Bleed Kit Partnership, an initiative to provide emergency life-saving equipment in our communities. It was agreed the parish council could consider purchasing one for the Pavilion if there is not already one there.

26/105 Report on planning decisions and planning applications

To consider planning applications

- S.26/0942/FUL and S.26/0943/LBC Tickmorend House, Tickmorend, Horsley - Extension of front garden wall, creation of new parking areas and fencing, extension of domestic curtilage.
Council need to look at what the neighbours say. Subject to the view of the neighbours, no objections.

To note planning decisions

- None

Tipputs Inn Asset of Community Value nomination. No update.

Planning enforcement

Enforcement appeal notification EN24/0066 Park Wood Ruskin Mill College Wormwood Hill. Appeal against alleged breach of planning control without planning permission the erection of a building, associated drystone wall with stone steps and access track.

Enforcement notice by SDC issued on 10 April 2026 alleging breach of planning control.

The enforcement notice requires the following steps to be taken:

- Remove building and associated foundations from the land.
- Remove drystone wall, steps, foundations and access track from the land.
- Restore land its former condition

The appellant, Ruskin Mill, has appealed against the enforcement on the following grounds:

- there has not been a breach of planning control
- that, at the time the enforcement notice was issued, it was too late to take enforcement action against the matters stated in the notice.

Cllrs Kay to review the appeal and whether to submit a written representation from the parish council in favour of the enforcement.

26/106 Authorise payments of the council and receive financial matters

106.1 Council authorised payments:

Inv date	payee	description	Net	VAT	pay
01/04/26	ICCM	Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management annual membership	£110.00	-	£110.00
15/06/26	Mr I A Selkirk	Internal Audit of Accounts Year End	£170.00	-	£170.00
01/06/26	Town & Parish Council Websites	Annual website hosting & maintenance 01/06/26 - 01/06/27	£260.00	-	£260.00
10/06/26	Mr J A Price	Grave digging services 16/3, 8/5, 12/6	£1390.00	-	£1390.00

106.2 Council ratified payments made between meeting:

date	payee	description	Net	VAT	Pay
01/06/26	Lloyds	Service Charge – Community acct	£4.25	-	£4.25
15/06/26	Post Office Counters	Postage to internal auditor	£10.95	-	£10.95
11/06/26	Clerk/RFO	Staff costs	£811.79	-	£811.79
12/06/26	WaterPlus	Pavilion water	£70.47	-	£70.47
08/06/26	Microsoft	Annual subscription	£87.49	£17.50	£104.99
04/06/26	NEST	Clerk pension May	£28.33	-	£28.33
26/05/26	British Gas	Pavilion electricity	£318.62	£63.72	£382.34

106.3 Council noted payments received between meetings:

date	from	description	total	pay
12/06/26	Fred Stevens	Burial fees HPC 2026-041	£491.00	FPI
09/06/26	Lloyds	Commercial inst access acct interest	£8.31	FPI

106.4 Council considered Pavilion repairs. Deferred to next meeting.

106.5 Council considered play area repairs following the RoSPA inspection. Cllr Blackwell noted there is a parishioner who is qualified to check the zip wire. He will ask them to complete the zip wire checks. Cllr Blackwell also noted the Snake swing needs work to the fixings. He will ask Joe to do it.

No further tree work is required, but a warning notice will be erected to note it is the parents' responsibility if they allow their children to play in the wooden area.

106.6 Council received the Receipts & Payments 2025-26

106.7 Council received the Bank Reconciliation 2025-26 and the Asset Register to 31 March 2026

106.8 Council received and noted the findings of the Internal Auditor's Report 2025-26. Council noted the internal auditor had examined the books and records of the Council as at 31 March 2026 and confirmed the statements are in accordance therewith. They had examined the council's records and made enquiries as deemed appropriate. In their opinion the systems of internal controls is adequate for the purpose intended and there are no matters to be brought to the attention of the Council.

106.9 Council reviewed and approved the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2025-26 Internal Audit.

106.10 Council reviewed and approved AGAR Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2025-26

106.11 Council reviewed and approved AGAR Section 2 - Annual Accounting Statements 2025-26

106.12 Council approved the Explanation of Variances. The Precept variance of 15% was noted as the parish council took into account a number of factors when setting the precept for 2025-26. It resolved to set the precept for 2025/26 at £46,805 which was a 15% increase on the prior year's precept of £40,700, which resulted in a Band D charge increase of 11.64%. The increase was to ensure the parish council had adequate funds to maintain its assets, which include a burial ground, play area, pavilion with community shop, and a village hall. The parish council plans included resurfacing the village hall carpark (cost £19,400). The council was also mindful of increased energy costs for the Pavilion building. Total other receipts variance of 29.62% was noted as £12,134.74 CIL received 24-25 and no CIL in 25-26.

106.13 Council confirmed the dates for the Notice of Public Rights. Notice to be displayed on website and notice boards. Council confirmed the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights commencing on 25th June and ending on 5th August 2026.

26/107 Consider the Football Club agreement and review of licence

Council to consider football club agreement and arrears. To agree a meeting next month.

26/108 Update on highways and footpaths

Update on footpath project to improve accessibility by installing steps. The grant application for £2000 was unsuccessful.

Update on 20mph speed signs and VAS signs. The 20mph speed signs to be installed on existing posts. The VAS is awaiting location approval from Glos Road Safety Officer.

26/109 Consider grounds maintenance and management

Play area woods - need to add a sign that parents take responsibility for allowing their children to play in the wooded area.

The churchyard will not be cut until after the Nature Fest. It is a one-off. Parents and the Headteacher are concerned about ticks. The headteacher wants the grass in front of the school cut. Council agreed that the square of grass outside the school can be cut.

26/110 Burial ground updates

A new section has been added at the top of the burial ground for burial of babies and young children. Council approved a memorial Cherry tree to be added, with a memorial plaque and painted pebbles.

Parish council to consider repair / replacement of the bench at the top of the burial ground. It is a memorial bench, so will need to notify the purchaser.

26/111 Update on the free community Gigaclear connection in Village Hall

The free Gigaclear connection is dependent on advertising the connection on social media and on the Village Hall bookings site.

26/112 Finalise the Horsley Nature Fest

A nature day is being arranged for 19th July.

26/113 Councillor items for future discussion

Cllr Kay reported there has been dog fouling in Wallow Green, at the entrance to a footpath. Need to add a notice in the Horse's mouth that dog owners must pick up the mess.

26/114 Date of Next Meeting

To note there is no meeting in July. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 25th August 2026 in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 8:45 pm

Chair's signature..... Date