

# MINUTES

## Parish Council Meeting Minutes

25 August 2026 | 19:30 | Marianne Simpson

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### 26/115 Attendance and Apologies

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In attendance Cllrs Kate Kay (Chair), Alistair Thomson, Hannah Hartop, Christina McDonagh,  
Also Present: Clerk Marianne Simpson, 1 member of the public and 2 volunteers from the  
Nailsworth Swift Project.

Apologies: Cllrs Miranda Waller, James Bowers, Seb Howells, Chris Blackwell, County Cllr  
Robinson and District Cllr Dutton

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### 26/116 Declarations of interest or requests for dispensations

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None.

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### 26/117 Approval of Minutes

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The minutes, previously circulated, of the last meeting held on 23 June 2026 were  
confirmed as a true record and Council resolved to accept the minutes.

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### 26/118 Chair's announcements

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None.

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### 26/119 Consider changes to the order of business

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The talk by the Swift Group to move after the public session.

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### Meeting adjourned for members of the public to address the Council

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A parishioner asked when the culvert in Narrowcut Lane is going to be cleared of the  
blockage. His cottage in Downend is prone to flooding from the blocked culvert and asked  
why it has not been cleared during the summer months. He has lived by the culvert and  
stream for 50 years and understands the issue. He is concerned that the GCC engineers and  
County Councillor do not understand the issue and are insisting he puts the incorrectly sized  
grid back. The stone comes through into the culvert, and further stones block it. When it  
flooded in 2018 the contractors were brilliant and spent 3 days fixing the problem by fitting  
a grid that was large enough for sticks and leaves to pass through, but not the stones. More  
recently the wrong size grid has been fitted with a grating that is too small and results in  
sticks and leaves blocking the culvert. So far this year, GCC engineers have sent a camera  
crew to investigate the problem but nothing else has happened. It needs fixing now before  
it rains otherwise it will flood, putting their property at risk.

Cllr Kay responded that the parish council will ask the parish flood warden to look at it and  
will design and install a correctly sized grating.

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## 26/120 Talk from the Nature group on swifts and swift boxes

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Two members of the Nailsworth Swift Project gave a very informative and interesting presentation on swifts. They are setting up a swift project in Horsley. Swifts have declined 60% in 30 years and are now on the UK Red list, due to the loss of natural nesting sites. There are some swift colonies in Horsley, and the aim is to increase those numbers. They demonstrated 2 types of swift boxes and a swift caller device which plays pre-recorded calls to encourage the swifts to nest in the box. They asked if the parish council could support the project with a grant to subsidise the cost of the swift boxes or swift callers and requested help to publicise the project.

The parish council agreed to donate £250 so that the first 10 people who sign up to purchase a swift box will receive one for half price. The parish council will display the swift boxes and details of the project at the upcoming village fete on 19<sup>th</sup> September.

Swift boxes cost £50. They should be placed under roof eaves, at a height of 4 to 5m, and ideally on a north facing wall to protect the swifts from summer heat. The swifts arrive in April and leave in September to fly back to Africa.

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## 26/121 Receive reports from District and County Councillors

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District Cllrs Kate Kay reported the Mayor of Stroud has announced the new model for Gloucestershire and the Local Government Reorganisation. There will be a single Unitary Council. Town and parish councils and neighbourhood associations will play a role.

Stroud District Council are to embark on a period of budget review which will involve cuts. There will be elections in May 2027 for town and parish councils and the county council.

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## 26/122 Clerk's report and Correspondence

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

It was noted SDC have set up a consultation on allotment provision in the District. Horsley has no allotments.

The parish council noted that there was the option for a councillor to attend Fire Warden training for £39. Cllr Hartop is the Horsley Fire Warden and lives very close to the Pavilion, so it was not considered necessary at this time. Action: Clerk to remind the Shop Manager and the Chair of the Shop Committee that the Fire Policies are kept in the Pavilion wall cupboard and all volunteers should be made aware of the policies.

Councillors were reminded to attend the free cybersecurity and data protection online training and to log their attendance with the Clerk.

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## 26/123 Report on planning decisions and planning applications

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To consider planning applications

S.26/1360/VAR Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) from S.24/0536/FUL (appeal: APP/C1625/W/24/3347823) - alteration to design of dwelling. Grange Cottage Upper Barton End Lane.

Council considered this application. Council agreed No objection.

To note planning decisions

None

Planning enforcement update

- EN24/0066 Part Of Ancient Woodland was removed - Park Wood, Wormwood Hill.

14/08/26 The appeal process is still ongoing and there is no further update.

- Update on an additional building being built by Ruskin Mill without planning consent. Cllr Kay had spoken to the planning enforcement officer. Action: Clerk to obtain an update.

Planning Ref:2025/0014/ASSETC - Tipputs Inn Asset of Community Value

Stroud District Council have confirmed the Approval of Nomination for Community Asset and Tipputs Inn has been added to the Register of Assets of Community Value.

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## 26/124 Authorise payments of the council and receive financial matters

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124.1 Council authorised payments:

| Inv date | payee  | description                 | Net     | VAT | pay     |
|----------|--------|-----------------------------|---------|-----|---------|
| 10/06/26 | R CASE | Pavilion Cleaning Aug 14hrs | £280.00 | -   | £280.00 |

124.2 Council ratified payments made between meetings (no meeting in July):

| Date       | Payment                 | Description                     | Total     | VAT     | Net       |
|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| 26/06/2026 | BRITISH GAS             | Pavilion electricity            | £438.24   | £73.04  | £365.20   |
| 30/06/2026 | LLOYDS                  | Service Charge – Comm acct      | £4.25     | £0.00   |           |
| 07/07/2026 | THE COMMUNITY HEARTBEAT | Defib supplies                  | £59.95    | £0.00   |           |
| 13/07/2026 | GOLDENSTONES            | May / June hours                | £1,365.00 | £227.50 | £1,137.50 |
| 13/07/2026 | GOLDENSTONES            | 21st May; 4th & 18th June       | £127.50   | £21.25  | £106.25   |
| 13/07/2026 | GOLDENSTONES            | 04.06.26 Nutgrove               | £97.50    | £16.25  | £81.25    |
| 13/07/2026 | GOLDENSTONES            | labour & materials for Sand Pit | £544.80   | £90.80  | £454.00   |
| 13/07/2026 | J E SMITH               | Reimburse HOP shed padlock      | £23.99    | £0.00   | £23.99    |
| 13/07/2026 | M C SIMPSON             | Clerk salary and expenses June  | £811.79   | £0.00   |           |

|            |                           |                                     |           |         |           |
|------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| 13/07/2026 | R CASE                    | Pavilion Cleaning June 16hrs        | £320.00   | £0.00   |           |
| 13/07/2026 | SIREN ALARMS              | Pavilion alarm                      | £216.00   | £36.00  | £180.00   |
| 13/07/2026 | TW HAWKINS & SONS         | Playing field mowing                | £581.28   | £96.88  | £484.40   |
| 13/07/2026 | WALKER FIRE LTD           | Pavilion fire inspection            | £441.60   | £73.60  | £368.00   |
| 13/07/2026 | NEST                      | Clerk pension June                  | £28.33    | £0.00   |           |
| 13/07/2026 | WATER PLUS                | Pavilion water                      | £71.42    | £0.00   |           |
| 17/07/2026 | BENCOMBE TREE CARE LTD    | Clear fallen trees play area woods  | £598.80   | £99.80  | £499.00   |
| 17/07/2026 | C PERLA                   | Payroll compliance April - June     | £45.00    | £0.00   |           |
| 17/07/2026 | SOMERSET WEB SERVICES LTD | Renewal .gov.uk domain to 11/9/27   | £72.00    | £12.00  | £60.00    |
| 17/07/2026 | HMRC                      | Outstanding HMRC 6/3/25-5/4/26      | £698.25   | £0.00   |           |
| 17/07/2026 | HMRC                      | HMRC April 2026                     | £62.15    | £0.00   |           |
| 17/07/2026 | HMRC                      | HMRC May 2026                       | £62.15    | £0.00   |           |
| 17/07/2026 | HMRC                      | HMRC June 2026                      | £62.15    | £0.00   |           |
| 27/07/2026 | BRITISH GAS               | Pavilion electricity                | £483.18   | £80.53  | £402.65   |
| 31/07/2026 | D LOVERIDGE               | Reimb Nature Fest expenses          | £55.66    | £0.00   |           |
| 31/07/2026 | J E SMITH                 | Reimb Nature Fest expenses          | £120.93   | £0.00   |           |
| 31/07/2026 | LLOYDS                    | Service Charge – Comm acct          | £4.67     | £0.00   |           |
| 31/07/2026 | R LIENGAARD               | Reimb Nature Fest expenses          | £63.09    | £0.00   |           |
| 10/08/2026 | WATER PLUS                | Pavilion water                      | £70.47    | £0.00   |           |
| 14/08/2026 | NEST                      | Clerk pension June                  | £28.33    | £0.00   |           |
| 21/08/2026 | GOLDENSTONES GARDENING    | Orchard maintenance 2nd & 13th July | £90.00    | £15.00  | £75.00    |
| 21/08/2026 | GOLDENSTONES GARDENING    | July hours excluding Orchard works  | £1,260.00 | £210.00 | £1,050.00 |
| 21/08/2026 | MR J A PRICE              | Gravedigger fees 24,29/6,24/7       | £1,600.00 | £0.00   |           |
| 21/08/2026 | M C SIMPSON               | Clerk salary and expenses July      | £817.79   | £0.00   |           |
| 21/08/2026 | HMRC                      | HMRC July 2026                      | £62.15    | £0.00   |           |
| 21/08/2026 | R CASE                    | Pavilion Cleaning July              | £360.00   | £0.00   |           |
| 21/08/2026 | P HOFMAN                  | Nature Fest expenses                | £40.00    | £0.00   |           |
| 25/08/2026 | BRITISH GAS               | Pavilion electricity                | £489.86   | £81.64  | £408.22   |

124.3 Council noted payments received between meetings:

| Date       | Receipt              | Description                          | Total     |
|------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| 25/06/2026 | British Gas          | FiT payment (solar) 18/2-10/6        | £443.91   |
| 30/06/2026 | Charity Bank         | Interest                             | £382.29   |
| 09/07/2026 | Lloyds               | Instant Access Account interest July | £12.57    |
| 27/07/2026 | Fred Stevens FD      | Burial fees                          | £1,144.00 |
| 29/07/2026 | Cottle Memorials Ltd | Memorial fees Townsend               | £127.00   |
| 10/08/2026 | Lloyds               | Instant Access Account interest July | £10.22    |
| 14/08/2026 | Cottle Memorials Ltd | Memorial fees Young                  | £257.00   |

Cllr Thomson proposed approve all payments, Cllr McDonagh seconded, all in favour.

124.4 Council received and noted the bank reconciliation to 31 July 2026.

124.5 Council considered Pavilion repairs. Deferred to next meeting.

124.6 Council considered play area repairs following the RoSPA inspection. Council noted that 4 sections of the Cotswold stone wall between the play area and the Churchyard had been repaired. The rope swing has been repaired.

Cllr Kay noted the play area is 10 years old and proposed that Cllr Bowers and Cllr Blackwell have permission to carry out repairs, up to £500 on submission of an invoice for each item.

124.7 Council received and approved the Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Report 2025-26. CIL money was allocated to the Village Hall car park, as agreed.

124.8 Council considered a grant request for £54 from Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold Districts. Council approved the grant of £54.

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### 26/125 Consider the Football Club agreement

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Cllr Thomson reported back on the meeting he and Cllr Blackwell had with Horsley United Football Club (HUFC) in July. The objective was to receive payment for the backdated years up to the 2025/26 season and to create the principles going forward.

He had forwarded minutes of the meeting with HUFC prior to the Parish Council meeting and had requested clarification whether the cost of cleaning the changing rooms was included in the overall cleaning costs.

The Clerk confirmed that cleaning the changing rooms has been included up till the end of last season.

Cllr Thomson proposed that the process for 2027/28 and beyond should be that the HUFC should be treated as any organisation applying for a grant to HPC. The total cost paid by the PC of having the Football Club should be calculated and the PC should decide each year what the grant should be for the upcoming year based on a number of factors such as how many Horsley residents were in the team, the development of youth and women's teams etc. This would lead to the cost for the following season.

Cllr Thomson would write to HUFC explaining this and the position for the 2026/27 season.

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### 26/126 Update on highways and footpaths

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126.1 Council considered a replacement to the lower VAS sign which is broken.

Council considered the Westcotec ASW Automatic SpeedWatch Camera mounted on a fixed pole. This can be mains operated, eg from a streetlight, or solar powered.

The Clerk noted that Westcotec was approved by GCC Highways but is not officially approved by the Gloucestershire road safety police. However, the Gloucestershire Police had noted that the cameras do not interfere with their system so they see no reason why we can't have whatever device we prefer. Also, Westcotec tripod mounted devices have got

approval from Hampshire and Thames Valley Police. A couple of County Councils have supported them, in collaboration with their Local Police.

The device reads the number plate of speeding vehicles. Data includes speed, make and model of vehicle. The recommendation is to download the data weekly. A datasheet is then sent to the police, and they can issue up to 10 educational letters per week. They charge 70p/letter, invoiced quarterly. The fixed pole model is £4315+VAT.

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

Action: Clerk to send potential locations to the Gloucestershire Police for consideration and to obtain approval from the GCC Highways Manager.

126.2 Council considered footpath improvements to the steep path in Nupend which needs steps to make it more accessible. Action: Obtain costings for steps.

126.3 Council to submit requirements to GCC for winter preparations.

126.4 Council considered the requirement for No Dog Fouling notices. Council agreed to install one on the gate into the playing field. Action: Cllr Kay to draft a sign.

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#### 26/127 Consider burial ground maintenance and management

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127.1 Review and confirm sustainable maintenance schedule for positive impact on biodiversity. The area should be mown and raked off, to increase biodiversity.

Council considered the repair or replacement of the bench at the top of the burial ground. It is a memorial bench; however, the original purchaser moved away a while ago. Cllr Thomson proposed the parish council buy a new bench and add a plaque stating 'Gifted by Horsley Parish Council.' Clerk to obtain a quote.

127.2 Council to confirm double fee structure, for anyone outside the parish, as detailed by Stroud District Council. Cllr Thomson proposed agreed, all in favour.

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#### 26/128 Consider a National Emergency Briefing event in Horsley

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The parish council does not want to hold a National Emergency Briefing event but agreed they would support a group that wanted to organise one.

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#### 26/129 Councillor items for future discussion

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Cllr Thomson asked that a notice is attached to the windscreen of vans which regularly park in the Village Hall car park, informing them the carpark is for cars only and for users of the Village Hall. If the free parking is abused the parish council will have to start charging.

Cllr Kay noted that the parish council have a stall at the Village Fete on 19<sup>th</sup> September, and will include the Nature group, and the Swift group.

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#### 26/130 Date of Next Meeting

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The next meeting will be on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2026 in the Village Hall.

*Meeting closed at 9:45 pm*

Chair's signature..... Date .....