MINUTES

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

22 September 2026 | 19:30 | Marianne Simpson

26/131 Attendance and Apologies

In attendance Cllrs Kate Kay (Chair), Alistair Thomson, Hannah Hartop, Christina McDonagh, Chris Blackwell. Also Present: Clerk Marianne Simpson, 2 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllrs Seb Howells, James Bowers and Miranda Waller

26/132 Declarations of interest or requests for dispensations

None.

26/133 Approval of Minutes

The minutes, previously circulated, of the last meeting held on 25 August 2026 were confirmed as a true record and Council resolved to accept the minutes.

26/134 Chair's announcements

Cllr Kay acknowledged the amazing response in the village last Saturday to help look for a missing lady. Wonderful news that she was found safe and well. Thanks go to all the volunteers who went out to look for her and to the police and the search and rescue team.

26/135 Consider changes to the order of business

None.

Meeting adjourned for members of the public to address the Council

One parishioner was there to ask when the apple tree in the churchyard will be cut back as it is growing over the roof of the Hog. Cllr Kay agreed that it will be cut back as soon as possible. Cllr McDonagh noted that the Horsley Orchard Project (HOP) no longer hold a HOP licence, so the management of the trees in the Churchyard and the Nupend Orchard is now the responsibility of the parish council.

The parishioner also asked when Narrowcut Lane will be repaired as there are a lot of potholes. The Clerk confirmed that Narrowcut Lane is due to be resurfaced in December.

Another parishioner had attended the fete at the weekend and wanted to praise the organisers, particularly Helen Knuckle, for organising such a marvellous event.

He also spoke on planning application S.26/1329/FUL for solar PV panels on an ex-stable building at Court Farm in Downend and asked for it to be supported. He said the stables are set down behind the house, and it does not impinge on any sensitive views. The application is to install solar panels on the roof of the stables. He asked the council to support it.

He also asked what the status is of the appeal at Ruskin Mill.

Cllr Kay reported there are 2 planning issues at Ruskin Mill. The round building built in the ancient woods and the library building both built without planning permission. The round building was built under assumed permitted development, but planning was rejected. Stoud District Council started enforcement, but Ruskin Mill have appealed that decision. The grounds to the appeal were that it was an educational establishment and therefore did not need planning. Stroud District Council are not enforcing until the outcome of the appeal. If the appeal is against, SDC will likely take enforcement action.

26/136 Receive reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Kay reported the latest information from the minister Jim McMahon, Minister for Local Government, Devolution and Growth. They had taken legal advice regarding challenges to the Government proposals on Local Government Reform and authorities in the South-West, including Gloucestershire, were being reviewed. It had previously been announced that Gloucestershire would remain as one unitary authority. It is likely there will be an indication given in January 2027 on how they will proceed with the reorganisation. Instructions from Central Government are to stop all work on the initiation of a unitary authority.

Gloucestershire wants to be involved in the West of England combined authority. The alternative is Hereford and Worcester where there is not as much economic fire power. Elections will be held in 2028.

26/137 Clerk's report and Correspondence

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

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.

26/138 Report on planning decisions and planning applications

138.1 Planning applications:

- S.26/1329/FUL Installation of solar panels on stables - Court Farm Downend Horsley.

The parishioner who spoke on this application during the public session asked for it to be supported as the owner was unable to attend. Cllr McDonagh noted the building is listed as an ex-stable block and questioned what it is to be used for. The parishioner said it is not going to be a rebuild and it is currently used for storage. Solar panels are to be installed on the roof. Cllr Blackwell proposed support, Cllr Thomson seconded, all in favour.

- S.26/1517/HHOLD Erection of a two storey and single storey side extension, and a replacement garage - The Woodlands, Barton End Lane, Washpool, Horsley

Cllr McDonagh noted the property has a big garden, and they are building an extension. No comment.

- S.26/1640/PBC Prior Notification for temporary use as a campsite for a period of 60 days - Field Off B4058, Nupend, Horsley

Council agreed to re-send comments previously sent. Comment on the environmental impact and the problems with the use of the stream and water contamination further down the valley into Horsley. It was noted there is now a shed at the entrance to the land selling snacks, so the campers will not be supporting the community shop and the pub.

138.2 Planning decisions:

- S.26/0942/FUL and S.26/0943/LBC Extension of front garden wall, creation of new parking areas and fencing, extension of domestic curtilage. Tickmorend House Tickmorend Horsley. Withdrawn.

138.3 Planning enforcement update:

- EN24/0066 Part Of An Ancient Woodland Was Removed - Park Wood, Wormwood Hill, Horsley. No update. Awaiting the result of the Appeal.

- EN26/0102 Erection Of Building - Land At, The Gables , Tiltups End. No update. Awaiting the result of the Appeal on EN24/0066.

26/139 Authorise payments of the council and receive financial matters

139.1 Council authorised payments:

Date	Payee	Description	Total	VAT	Net
18/09/2026	JOE DICKSON	REPAIRS PLAY AREA SWINGS, BARS	£521.00	£0.00	£521.00
18/09/2026	HAWKINS GROUNDCARE LTD	CONTRACT MOWING 21/7 TO 9/9	£145.32	£24.22	£121.10
18/09/2026	GOLDENSTONES GARDENING	VILLAGE HALL WISTERIA, GRAVEYARD	£1,095.00	£182.50	£912.50
18/09/2026	GOLDENSTONES GARDENING	ORCHARD MAINTENANCE	£60.00	£10.00	£50.00
18/09/2026	GOLDENSTONES GARDENING	Repairs to 4no sections of Playground wall	£360.00	£60.00	£300.00

139.2 Council ratified payments made between meetings

Date	Payee	Description	Total	VAT	Net
25/08/2026	BRITISH GAS	Pavilion electricity	£489.86	£81.64	£408.22
01/09/2026	LLOYDS	Service Charge – Community acct	£4.25	£0.00	£4.25

01/09/2026	REUBEN CASE	Pavilion Cleaning Aug 14hrs@£20/hr	£280.00	£0.00	£280.00
01/09/2026	CITIZENS ADVICE STROUD AND COTSWOLDS LTD	Grant request	£54.00	£0.00	£54.00
01/09/2026	M C SIMPSON	CLERK SALARY AND EXPENSES AUG	£811.59	£0.00	£811.59
01/09/2026	HMRC	HMRC August 2026	£62.35	£0.00	£62.35
07/09/2026	NEST	Clerk pension August	£28.33	£0.00	£28.33
11/09/2026	WATER PLUS	PAVILION WATER	£71.42	£0.00	£71.42

139.3 Council noted payments received between meetings:

Date	Receipt	Description	Total
08/09/2026	HORSLEY UNITED HUFC PITCH HIRE	Pitch and pavilion hire	£1,260.00
09/09/2026	Lloyds	Instant Access Account interest Aug	£7.76

139.4 Council received and noted the bank reconciliation to 31 August 2026. Cllr Thomson noted the council had been setting aside some funds to acquire assets following devolution. The parish council should be able to reduce the precept next year. Potential projects for this year are the play area refurbishment (10 year anniversary) and the ASWC VAS to tackle speeding in the village.

139.5 Council considered Pavilion repairs, to include new tiles in the changing rooms and replacing the taps in the toilet so they are intermittent, not continuously running. Cllr Kay to ask Cllr Bowers to quote for this.

139.6 Council considered play area repairs. Cllr Blackwell agreed to ask a parishioner, who has helped before and who has experience in play equipment, to look at the play area.

139.7 Council considered the quotes for a new bench at the top of the burial ground and agreed on the teak 4-seater bench which is made from sustainable timber.

Cllr Kay requested the contractor removes the weeds around the war memorial, in preparation for remembrance Sunday.

139.8 Council noted the 2025/26 AGAR External Auditor Report has been received. The AGAR has been completed in accordance with proper practices and there are no matters to report.

26/140 Consider the Football Club agreement

Cllr Thomson had written to HUFC explaining the position for the 2026/27 season. Cllr Thomson requested an invoice is sent to the HUFC for the 2026-27 season.

26/141 Update on Flooding in Downend

Cllr Kay has written 3 emails to GCC Highways Tom Jackson and Paul Helbrow and the GCC committee member but had not had a response.

26/142 Update on Highways and Footpaths

142.1 Update on the ANPR.
Clerk to raise an invoice to GCC Local Highways Manager to claim the £5000 traffic calming grant, which had been previously agreed.

Clerk had sent several potential locations for a CSW camera to the Gloucestershire Police for consideration and to obtain approval from the GCC Highways Manager. No response yet.

142.2 Consider footpath improvements to include steps at the stile at the bottom of Boscombe Lane. Ask the Cotswold Warden Mike Brown if he will approve it. Other routes to be improved: Hazlecote Loop from Hay Lane, Sealey Wood to main road. Council to consider pursuing these.

142.3 Cllr Kay think about other projects such as the play area.

142.4 Update on No Dog Fouling notices. Cllr Kay to put up some notices.

26/143 Consider Emergency Planning

The parish council to consider shop storage capacity, collate information on vulnerable residents and confirm pavilion key holders.

26/144 Councillor items for future discussion

Cllr McDonagh request for the Horsley nature group to reduce the grass-cutting regime. Cllr Kay proposed a nature recovery grant.

26/145 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 27th October 2026 in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 9:15 pm

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