



# Slinfold Parish Council

Cherrytree Farm, Hayes Lane, RH13 0SQ

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## Minutes of the Slinfold Parish Council Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024

### 1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

In attendance: Councillors Casdagli, Pegg, Pyle, Skeates, Sherwin-Smith, Paula Smith and Nigel Smith (Vice Chairman) and Walker.

Apologies from: Councillors Roberts (Chair) and Slipper which Councillors **RESOLVED** to accept.

Also in attendance: Mike Simpson (Clerk), District Councillor Kasia Greenwood and one member of the public.

### 2. To Receive Declarations of Interest, Notification of Changes to Members' Interests and consider any requests for a dispensation

Councillor Pyle declared an interest in item 8(e) relating to a grant application.

### 3. Public Session (Members of the Public may speak for up to five minutes at the discretion of the Chair)

One member of the public, who was a representative of the Community Shed, spoke about plans to add a storage shed and a surrounding fence to the side of the existing shed. He presented some plans to the Council for consideration as freeholder which the Clerk said he would circulate via email so Councillors could look at them in more detail and discuss at a future meeting.

### 4. Minutes from the previous meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes from the previous meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024 as a true and accurate record.

### 5. Chairman's Report

There was no report.

### 6. Councillor Reports

#### To receive reports from the District and County Councillors

Councillors Tricia Youtan and Christian Mitchell circulated written reports (see appendices). Councillor Greenwood presented her report to Councillors (see appendices).

### 7. Planning Applications

#### (a) To consider any planning applications

**DC/24/0190** Lower Broadbridge Billingshurst Road BroadbridgeHeath West Sussex: Removal of Conditions 9, 10 and 13 of previously approved application DC/23/0578 (Variation of conditions 5 and 6 of previously approved application DC/20/2126 (Change of use of the land and buildings for the blending, screening, storage and distribution of landscape materials (Class Sui Generis). Extension of an earth bund along the northern boundary and erection of 2.2m high wall to the western boundary (to allow for the removal of the hopper and in relation to the noise levels on site) relating to the operations at the site

Councillors **RESOLVED** to have no objection to this application.

**DC/24/0501** Nutwood Cattery Guildford Road Clemsfold West Sussex: Erection of a new Cattery building to rear of site.

Councillors **RESOLVED** to have no objection to this application.

**DC/24/0486** Lineside Cottage Hayes Lane Slinfold Horsham "Demolition of rear lean to and erection of single storey rear extension. Erection of front porch."

Councillors **RESOLVED** to have no objection to this application.

**DC/24/0526 (LIS) & DC/24/0525 (HOUS)**Bakers End Park Street Slinfold West Sussex: Construction of a log burner and associated flue to existing two storey rear extension (Listed Building Consent).

Councillors **RESOLVED** to have no objection to these applications.

**DC/24/0524** Fairmeads Lyons Road: Outline Application for erection of 1No dwelling to the east of Fairmead with all matters reserved except access.

Councillors **RESOLVED** to object to this application as the location was outside the built-up area boundary and resides in the open space between Broadbridge Heath and Slinfold. Other dwellings were well spaced in large grounds so this would be out of place. The proposals would also contravene Slinfold Neighbourhood Plan Aim 1 and strategic objectives.

**(b) To comment on any planning appeals**

There were none.

**(c) To consider any planning applications received since the publication of the agenda**

There were none.

**(d) To receive an update on any planning enforcement cases**

There was no update.

**8. Finance & Administration**

**(a) To review the schedule of payments and bank reconciliation for April 2024**

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the payment schedule for April 2024.

**(b) To review the following policies: Grants; Social Media; Members' Scheme of Allowances; FOI Publication Scheme; Complaints Policy; Code of Conduct**

Councillors reviewed the draft policies and **RESOLVED** to approve them.

**(c) To confirm the internal auditor for 2023/24**

Councillors **RESOLVED** to appoint Mulberry & Co. as internal auditors on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

**(d) To consider any grant applications**

Councillors considered a grant application from a resident of Slinfold who was a student and fundraising for a trip to Kenya. Councillors Sherwin-Smith, Keates and Walker believed the amount was too high and there was not enough information on the application. However, after discussion Councillors believed they should contribute with a donation to help achieve the total as the applicant had already fundraised a lot by herself whereupon it was **RESOLVED** to award the grant of **£500**. (Councillors Sherwin Smith, Keates and Walker abstained).

**9. Grounds and Buildings Maintenance**

**(a) To receive an update on Slinfold Football Club**

Some Councillors attended the Cherrytree Committee meeting the previous week at which some outstanding works to the football club loo were raised. The Clerk was scheduled to meet the contractor the following day to discuss further.

**(b) To receive an update on Slinfold Stores**

Works to repair the roof had been completed but further issues had been uncovered which included holes in the roof and faulty guttering. An estimate of £3,800 had been obtained so further quotes were necessary. Councillors discussed ways in which to support the shop and agreed to offer help with setting up a Facebook page for advertising products.

**(c) To receive an update on a new scout hut**

The Council had passed on the details of a contractor who could help with costings for a refurbishment of the hut. However, no further update had been received since the last meeting.

**(d) To receive an update on a padel court at Slinfold Tennis Club**

The tennis club had provided drawings of where the padel court would be located and were still working on a plan of how the membership would operate as residents would be able to use it without joining the tennis club. A court with no roof would be in the region of £70,000 and the tennis club was looking for a £35,000 grant from the Council. Councillors would consider in more detail once a business plan had been presented.

## **10. Events**

### **To receive an update on Village Day 2024**

Plans were going well; a fire engine and tank had been booked as well as a candy floss machine.

## **11. Highways**

### **(a) To receive an update on the 20mph buildouts**

No response had been received from WSCC to the Council's request to move the buildout on Lyons Road.

### **(b) To consider applying for a TRO to reduce the speed limit on the A29 to 50mph**

Councillors **RESOLVED** to submit a Traffic Regulation Order to reduce the speed limit on the A29 to 50mph.

The zone would start (travelling north) at the end of the 40mph past Five Oaks roundabout to just past Random Hall hotel.

### **(c) To review the survey on the Hayes Lane drainage pipe**

The survey was still being written.

## **12. Recreation and Environment**

### **(a) To consider taking on the freehold of some land at Slinfold Golf Course**

There were still some issues to discuss regarding insurance and liability so Councillors would continue to communicate with the Maydwell Trust and report back.

### **(b) To discuss maintenance of Six Acres and Cherrytree balancing ponds**

The Clerk was looking into what maintenance work was necessary and obtaining quotes.

### **(c) To discuss repairs to the fence at KGV**

One of the boundary fences needed repairing as the metal had come away in certain areas and some of the concrete bollards needed replacing. The Clerk and Environment Officers were looking into quotes.

## **13. Communications**

### **To discuss any contributions for the parish magazine**

The Deputy Clerk would email about contributions.

## **14. Committees and those on Outside Bodies**

### **To receive any reports**

There were none.

## **15. Gatwick FASI-S**

There was no update.

## **16. Items for the next agenda**

Neighbourhood Plan, Footpath by AJW.

## **17. Next meeting date**

30<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Payment Schedule 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024

	Payee	Details	Amount	VAT
02.04.24	Charity Bank	Transfer	£25,000.00	
04.04.24	Charity Bank	Transfer	£30,000.00	
08.04.24	Charity Bank	Transfer	£20,000.00	
10.04.24	Platinum Roofing	Slinfold stores (Ramp)	£500.00	
10.04.24	SSE	Streetlights	£351.92	
17.04.24	HDC	Bin collection	£26.90	
18.04.24	Platinum Roofing	Slinfold stores (repointing)	£1,000.00	
18.04.24	B&L Leisure Group Limited -	Awning Slinfold Stores	£2,497.50	£499.50
25.04.24	Rialtas Business Solutions	Accounting software	£192.00	£38.40
25.04.24	Netwise	Website hosting	£440.00	£88.00
25.04.24	Slinfold Village Hall	Youth Club Hire (1915)	£140.00	
25.04.24	Slinfold Village Hall	Cosy Café Hire (1904)	£160.00	
25.04.24	Slinfold Village Hall	Council meeting hire (1912)	£28.00	
25.04.24	Jane Slipper	Cosy Café Expenses	£102.04	
25.04.24	Tony Burroughs	EO expenses	£97.40	
25.04.24	Proline Drainage	Hayes Lane Drain Survey	£4,050.00	£810.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>£84,585.76</b>	<b>£1,435.90</b>

## Report from County Cllr Christian Mitchell

### WSCC Highways

After one of the wettest February's on record, March 2024 did not improve and in some areas, we saw three times the rain we normally expect (see rainfall figures for the months below). This has meant that WSCC Highways continue to see formation and worsening of potholes and enquiry volumes are exceptionally high. WSCC Highway's focus must therefore remain on safety issues only for the time being.

WSCC Highways are pleased to report that the Jet Patchers have now started again and this is helping us tackle the backlog of work in the system. WSCC Highways continue to seek additional gangs to provide more resource. As will be appreciated with all local authorities experiencing the same issues, securing additional resources is very difficult.

WSCC Highways continue to focus on quality 'sawn' repairs. Although these repairs take longer, they should last longer. Inevitably, with the amount of water there is on the road network some repairs may fail. WSCC Highways do have a patching programme which will pick up on some of these problem areas and also the Highways, Transport and Planning Delivery Programme will be published on the website next week so details of large planned surfacing schemes will be available.

#### *Rainfall Data March 2024*

Long term average rainfall for West Sussex during March 2024 is 54.7mm.

Location	Rainfall total (mm)
Chichester (Fishbourne)	123.4
Bognor Regis	100.4
Worthing	113.2
Crawley (Balcombe Forest)	105.4
<b>Horsham (Itchingfield)</b>	<b>98.2</b>
Chilgrove	168.9

### Business of the County Council

Full Council last met at the Annual Meeting of Council on Friday, 22 March 2024:

<https://westsussex.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MId=3645&Ver=4>

The next meeting of full Council is Friday, 7 June 2024 at 10:30am:

<https://westsussex.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MId=3646&Ver=4>

### Report from District Councillor Youtan

Dear all,

I have a training meeting this evening at HDC office and will therefore not attend the PC meeting this evening.

Please accept my apologies and my brief report.

I am working closely with reference to the application for two Parish Cottages by the Scout Hut. At present it appears that Planning have decided that there is a need for a Net Biodiversity survey which I am disputing as I feel it unnecessary for what is basically a small area of scrubland full of nothing but brambles and debris.

The owner of Nowhurst Business Park is appealing HDC's decision to refuse longer hours of operation and the Nowhurst Lane neighbours have written a strong email giving both the history and the potential harm that could cause.

A full council meeting was held last night to celebrate the 50 year anniversary of Storrington area with Horsham District at the Leisure Centre in Storrington. A longish round trip and a suggestion was made to hold further full council meetings there!

The decision at appeal to allow Lower Broadbridge Farm development will be the start of endless discussion and as a Parish we need to be careful of every step that is taken from now on. There was no need to allow this but unfortunately it has been decided by an Inspector whose word is finite. There is a mechanism to dispute a decision by an Inspector but I have been told, when I asked, that it is was rare to do so, cost vast amounts of money and was virtually unachievable anyway.

in the meantime I was delighted to propose Jane as one who's tireless voluntary work for our community should be honoured and once I had done so Adrian sent round notification that he too had proposed her. Whilst well aware that Jane would prefer to not be lauded at all she simply cannot not be so!

### **Report from District Councillor Kasia Greenwood**

#### **Parish Council Report – April**

## **Get involved in the Sussex Nature Recovery Strategy**

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are a new initiative being rolled-out across England to help reverse the decline in UK species. At the heart of every LNRS will be environmental issues that are most important to local people.



### **How to get involved**

1. **Residents** are invited to complete a [Sussex Nature Recovery public survey](#). The views you share in this survey will be added to a list of priorities for nature's recovery.
2. **Organisations and businesses** who are actively involved in nature's recovery are also invited to [share their views](#) to help capture any existing priorities or places for nature these groups are concerned with.
3. Are you a **landowner** or business with land that could be better utilised for nature? [Take this short survey](#) to let the Strategy team know.

Working in partnership with local authorities, including Horsham District Council, the team will be working with landowners, land managers, community groups and organisations to identify the practical and achievable actions that can be taken to deliver them.

[Visit Sussex Nature Recovery for more information](#)

## Funding applications reopen for climate and environmental grants

The **Community Climate Fund** is a grant available to community groups and organisations that share our vision of becoming a carbon neutral District, empowering non-profit groups and organisations to reduce their carbon emissions and create community value locally.

Up to £5,000 is available per application, though applying for the full amount will require match funding.



[Read more](#)

## Horsham's spring events programme launches with an A-MAY-Zing weekend in May

We have an A-MAY-Zing weekend planned for you!

Our spring events programme is starting with a very special weekend event over the first May Bank Holiday (4-5 May).

Throughout the weekend crowds can enjoy a great variety of acts on stages across the town including Piries Place, The Carfax, Market Square, and West Street. Visitors can sample our fantastic food scene with a variety of market stalls and exciting street food. As well as enjoying music and activities in Horsham Museum and Art Gallery on Sunday.



[More details](#)

## There's still time to nominate your Community Heroes!

In honour of our 50th anniversary our Chairman will be hosting a special thank you tea party at Warnham Local Nature Reserve in June for **Community Heroes** who have been nominated by residents.

You can nominate your Community Hero to thank them for all the amazing things they do to make the Horsham District so special. They could be a friendly face at your local store, a postie who goes the extra mile, a neighbour who is there when you most need them, a carer who goes above and beyond, a super sports coach, a fantastic youth leader or a volunteer driver.

We are also calling on creative primary-aged children in the District to **design a thank you card** for our fantastic Community Heroes.

Nominate your local hero by **5pm on Monday 1 May 2024**.



[Nominate now](#)