



Slinfold Parish Council

Cherrytree Farm, Hayes Lane, RH13 0SQ

Telephone 07894 858048 email: clerk@slinfold-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the Slinfold Parish Council Meeting 30th January 2025

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

In attendance: Councillors Casdagli, Pyle, Sherwin-Smith, Skeates, Slipper, Paula Smith, Nigel Smith (Vice Chair) and Walker

Apologies: Councillor Adrian Roberts (Chair) which Councillors **RESOLVED** to accept.

Also in attendance: Mike Simpson (Clerk), County Councillor Christian Mitchell and three members of the public.

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

There were none.

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 said he believed the traffic and speeding on Lyons Road was very bad and asked that the Council invite the head of WSCC Highways and the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee to a meeting. His car had recently been written off by a truck whilst stationary on Lyons Road. The Chair advised the best course of action was to write to WSCC Councillor Christian Mitchell and copy in the Clerk.

Another member of the public spoke about item 9(a) and questioned why the Council had approached only AJW about the draft DMMO and not Whitebreads Farm as it affected their land. He asked when the Council decided to take on the application, whether it was the author of the DMMO and whether the Council would pay for the costs associated with designating a footpath. The Chair of the meeting said the questions would be answered under the agenda item.

4. Minutes from the previous meeting held on 19th December 2024

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record.

5. Chairman's Report

There was no report.

6. Councillor Reports

(a) District Councillors

District Councillor Tricia Youtan sent her apologies as she could not make the meeting due to hip injuries. Councillor Kasia Greenwood sent her apologies but provided a written report (see appendices).

(b) County Councillors

Councillor Mitchell provided an update via a written report (see appendices).

7. Planning Applications

(a) To consider the following applications

DC/24/2002 Oak House 7 Mitchell Gardens Slinfold West Sussex Surgery to 2x Oak

The Council **RESOLVED** to object to this application as it was apparent from the scars to the lower trunk of these relatively young trees that both had been the subject of previous works with a number of lower limbs being removed to effectively raise the crown. Further examination showed workings to the tops of the trees to lower the crown. Therefore, the Council requested that, as the existing crown reduction

appeared to be relatively recent, that these preserved trees should be allowed a reprieve for a time to allow a more traditional oak shape to emerge. These were trees, not hedgerow plants, and needed to be respected as such. The Council also believed that any works of this nature considered for the future should be carried out before Christmas.

DC/24/2004 The Business Park Maydwell Avenue Slinfold West Sussex Erection of a storage building (Use Classes B8) with associated parking and revised circulation arrangements

The Council agreed with the Horsham District Council tree consultation comments and would like further information on what landscape change was required in terms of altering the existing landscaped buffer to the ancient woodland for hard landscaping before making a decision.

CA/25/0008 Slinfold Church of England School The Street Slinfold Horsham Fell 2x Lime (Works to Trees in a Conservation Area)

Councillors **RESOLVED** to have no objection.

(b) To consider any planning applications received since the publication of the agenda.

DC/24/1838 Collyers The Street Slinfold West Sussex Variation of condition 3 of previously approved application reference DC/22/0902 (Demolition of existing garage and erection of a detached single storey annexe building (Demolition of existing garage and erection of a detached single storey annexe building with home office, dog wash area and log store) in relation to water neutrality mitigations.

Councillors **RESOLVED** to have no objection.

DC/25/0048 Green Leaves Five Oaks Road Slinfold West Sussex Replacement of conservatory roof with new roof and the addition of 3no. rooflights.

Councillors **RESOLVED** to have no objection.

(c) To receive an update from the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

Horsham District Council had responded to Councillor Skeate's questions regarding the Neighbourhood Plan (see appendices). Due to the pause in the Local Plan examination, HDC had advised caution in progressing with the revision of the Neighbourhood Plan as it would have to adhere to the general conformity of the Local Plan, which was uncertain. Councillors were unsure of what the next steps should be and that an extraordinary meeting may be required to discuss it.

(d) To discuss a draft Neighbourhood Plan Design Statement

The draft was not ready to consider.

8. Finance & Administration

(a) To review the schedule of payments since the last meeting (19th December 2024) and the December 2024 bank reconciliation.

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule and bank reconciliation (see appendices).

(b) To review the variance report for budget vs actual expenditure.

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the variance report.

(c) To consider transferring funds between the Council's accounts

Due to the balance of the COOP current account, Councillors **RESOLVED** to transfer £20,000 from Unity Trust to COOP. Councillors also **RESOLVED** to transfer £8,000 from Unity Trust to the Charity Bank as it provided a higher interest rate.

(d) To discuss the Council's CIL reserves

A discussion on CIL and potential projects was deferred until the next meeting.

(e) To consider a grant request from 4Sight Vision

Councillors considered the grant request (see appendices) and **RESOLVED** to approve a grant payment of £195.

(f) To receive an update on the Cosy Café

AJW had provided food for the past couple of weeks and the sponsorship funding of £2,500 had been received.

(g) To discuss the Council's streetlight electricity contract

The Clerk presented a contract (see appendices) for 6 months from 1st February which Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve.

9. Highways and Byways

(a) To receive an update on the footpath on AJW land and applying for a definitive map modification order.

The Clerk provided a history of the agenda item and confirmed the draft DMMO application (see appendices) was written by a resident. He had completed the wrong forms and asked the Council to take it on as he was moving away from the area. The application was in response to Whitebreads Farm closing part of the land which had been used as a footpath due to ash dieback. The Council had made no decision to adopt or submit it but said it would speak to AJW to see if they were amenable to dedicating a PROW as, without it, the application could be too difficult to progress. Therefore, at a meeting with AJW about other issues, it was raised and AJW said it would investigate the matter. In December 2024, AJW said it had been in contact with WSCC and would be willing to designate the footpaths as permissive pathways. In January 2025, WSCC clarified that they would rather AJW dedicate the footpaths (or at the very least a single route through as a public right of way) and were going to discuss the possibility. If AJW was amenable to dedicating at least one path, the resident's draft DMMO application could proceed with the route starting on FP 1457 and travelling up behind Russetts to the corner where Whitebreads Farm had installed a gate and access was no longer possible. If they were not amenable, then WSCC advised that the DMMO application would have to be amended to include the whole route from FP 1457 at the south end to BW 3569 in the north. Getting to this position had taken a long time and the Council was still unsure about AJW's position on dedicating a footpath. However, it was clarified, that the Council had intended to consult other landowners, including Whitebreads Farm, once the AJW position was clear. Therefore, Councillors **RESOLVED** to consult further with other landowners before considering any action on the resident's DMMO.

(b) To receive an update on village gates for the A29

The Clerk advised he had researched similar gates to the ones on Hayes Lane and Park Street but was waiting for WSCC to confirm the dimensions of the village gates before presenting them to the Council.

10. Grounds and Buildings Maintenance

(a) To discuss the maintenance of Slinfold Stores.

The Clerk and Councillors Slipper and Nigel Smith were meeting the manager soon to discuss the shop and maintenance.

(b) To receive an update on the Scout Hut.

Councillor Nigel Smith had spoken to the Scouts but no further action had been taken on a new hut.

11. Recreation, Youth and Environment

(a) To receive an update on the freehold of some land at Slinfold Golf Course.

There was no further update except for clarifying whether a valuation of the land was necessary to determine which Land Registry fee was payable.

(b) To receive an update on youth services

30 children had attended the last session so it was still going very well.

12. Events

(a) To receive an update on Christmas events

All the events were very successful. The Christmas tea party attracted 55 guests and 44 children had joined in the Christmas Trail.

(b) To discuss Village Day 2025

Councillors **RESOLVED** to host another Village Day on 11th May 2025 and with a military theme to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day. The school had approached Councillor Slipper to see if the Council would be happy for the school fete to be hosted on the same day but Councillors were unsure how this would work with insurance and any proceeds.

13. Committees and those on Outside Bodies

The Village Hall kitchen had been fitted and was now open and fully working.

14. Communications

(a) To discuss any articles for the parish magazine

Articles should include a save the date for Village Day 2025 and the Cosy Café.

(b) To discuss the summer newsletter

The volunteer who helped create the newsletter had left so it was agreed that the Deputy Clerk would help produce the next edition in the summer.

15. Items for the next agenda

Storage container by the football pitch.

16. Next meeting dates

Council Meeting- 27th February 2025.

SLINFOLD PARISH COUNCIL

Application for Grant for Voluntary Organisations

Please note that this application will not be considered unless it is accompanied by a copy of the latest set of annual accounts showing the organisations income, expenditure and level of balances. If the organisation does not prepare annual accounts, copies of the bank statements covering the previous six months must be enclosed.

1.	Name of Organisation	4Sight Vision Support
2.	Name, Address and Status of Contact	[REDACTED]
3.	Telephone Number of Contact	[REDACTED]
4.	Is the Organisation a Registered Charity?	Yes Charity Number 1075447
5.	Amount of grant requested	On average it costs £65 to support one client for 12 months. We are asking for £195 to support 3 of the 4 clients living in the parish of Slinfold for a year.
6.	For what purpose or project is the grant requested?	We are seeking funding so that we can continue supporting people in your Parish who are blind or partially sighted. Our team provides individual, specialist support, offering everything from advice on eye health, emotional support, guidance on daily living aids, assistance with accessible technology, to help with applying for benefits and concessions. It is our vision that every person in West Sussex is aware of, can access and benefit from our services, enabling them to live life without limits. Please see attached letter for more details about the services that we provide.
7.	What will be the total cost of the above project?	£260 to fund the support of the 4 clients living in your Parish of Slinfold (£65 per person) for 12 months.
8.	If the total cost of the project is more than the grant, how will the residue be financed?	We have an active fundraising team that organises community events throughout the year, such as sponsored walks, store collections and raffles. We also receive individual donations and income from recycling and Christmas card sales.
9.	Have you applied for grant for the same project to another organisation? If so, which organisation and how much?	Our fundraising team applies to Parish and Town Councils across the County, asking for funding to support their residents. However, we have not received any other grants for our clients living in your specific geographical area.
10.	Who will benefit from the project?	We support anyone in West Sussex who is blind or partially sighted and needs our help, as well as

		their family and carers. We don't charge our clients for our services, as we don't want there to be a financial barrier to anyone receiving the support that they need.
11.	Approximately how many of those who will benefit are parishioners?	There are currently 4 clients living in your Parish of Slinfold who will benefit directly from any funding that we receive. With your help we can be there for anyone in your Parish of Slinfold who is blind or partially sighted and needs our support, enabling them to maintain their independence, feel less isolated and remain active members of the community.

Please use a separate sheet of paper to submit any other information which you feel will support this application and return to the Clerk at clerk@slinfold-pc.gov.uk

Signed.....

.....Date.....14th January 2025.....

**Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 31/12/2024
for Cashbook 1 - CO-OP**

<u>Bank Statement Account Name (s)</u>	<u>Statement Date</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Balances</u>
CO-OP	31/12/2024		12,976.48
			<u>12,976.48</u>
<u>Unpresented Payments (Minus)</u>		<u>Amount</u>	
		0.00	
			<u>0.00</u>
			12,976.48
<u>Unpresented Receipts (Plus)</u>			
		0.00	
			<u>0.00</u>
			12,976.48
		Balance per Cash Book is :-	12,976.48
		Difference is :-	0.00

Signatory 1:

Name Signed Date

Signatory 2:

Name Signed Date

Detailed Receipts & Payments by Budget Heading 31/12/2024

Cost Centre Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<u>100 Income</u>							
1076 Precept	66,220	66,220	0			100.0%	
1080 Bank Interest	3,312	2,000	(1,312)			165.6%	
1100 Grants Received	875	0	(875)			0.0%	
1120 Environment Cleansing	3,652	3,492	(160)			104.6%	1,826
1999 Miscellaneous Income	1,264	0	(1,264)			0.0%	
Income :- Receipts	75,323	71,712	(3,611)			105.0%	1,826
Net Receipts	75,323	71,712	(3,611)				
6001 less Transfer to EMR	1,826						
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	73,497						
<u>200 Administration</u>							
4000 Clerk & Environment Officers	37,359	39,000	1,641		1,641	95.8%	
4025 EO Expenses	965	0	(965)		(965)	0.0%	
4055 Training	56	0	(56)		(56)	0.0%	
4060 Audit	809	650	(159)		(159)	124.4%	
4065 Miscellaneous Expenditure	457	0	(457)		(457)	0.0%	
4080 Subscriptions	724	689	(35)		(35)	105.0%	
4091 Chair's Allowance	400	0	(400)		(400)	0.0%	
4100 Insurance	2,252	1,691	(561)		(561)	133.2%	
4110 Recruitment & Training	0	200	200		200	0.0%	
4120 Home Office	75	60	(15)		(15)	125.0%	
4130 Hall Hire	554	200	(354)		(354)	277.0%	
4140 Website and email	560	900	340		340	62.2%	
4150 Software	192	0	(192)		(192)	0.0%	
Administration :- Indirect Payments	44,403	43,390	(1,013)	0	(1,013)	102.3%	0
Net Payments	(44,403)	(43,390)	1,013				
<u>250 Football Club</u>							
1200 Rental Income	0	1,000	1,000			0.0%	
1205 Insurance Reclaimed	0	305	305			0.0%	
1210 Grounds Maintenance Reclaim	0	700	700			0.0%	
Football Club :- Receipts	0	2,005	2,005			0.0%	0
4200 Repairs & Improvements	334	0	(334)		(334)	0.0%	
Football Club :- Indirect Payments	334	0	(334)	0	(334)		0
Net Receipts over Payments	(334)	2,005	2,339				

Detailed Receipts & Payments by Budget Heading 31/12/2024

Cost Centre Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<u>255 Tennis Club</u>							
1200 Rental Income	150	150	0			100.0%	
1205 Insurance Reclaimed	359	332	(27)			108.3%	
1210 Grounds Maintenance Reclaim	0	520	520			0.0%	
Tennis Club :- Receipts	509	1,002	493			50.8%	0
4200 Repairs & Improvements	900	0	(900)		(900)	0.0%	
Tennis Club :- Indirect Payments	900	0	(900)	0	(900)		0
Net Receipts over Payments	(391)	1,002	1,393				
<u>260 Community Shed</u>							
1205 Insurance Reclaimed	92	110	18			83.3%	
Community Shed :- Receipts	92	110	18			83.3%	0
Net Receipts	92	110	18				
<u>270 Slinfold Stores</u>							
1200 Rental Income	750	1,000	250			75.0%	
1205 Insurance Reclaimed	0	327	327			0.0%	
Slinfold Stores :- Receipts	750	1,327	577			56.5%	0
4200 Repairs & Improvements	5,030	0	(5,030)		(5,030)	0.0%	3,530
Slinfold Stores :- Indirect Payments	5,030	0	(5,030)	0	(5,030)		3,530
Net Receipts over Payments	(4,280)	1,327	5,607				
6000 plus Transfer from EMR	3,530						
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(750)						
<u>300 Community Services</u>							
4310 Community Events	3,417	3,000	(417)		(417)	113.9%	
4320 Youth Services	4,956	7,500	2,544		2,544	66.1%	
4370 Newsletters/Promotions	2,907	2,600	(307)		(307)	111.8%	
4380 Community Improvement Projects	0	1,500	1,500		1,500	0.0%	
4390 Grants Made	3,000	1,500	(1,500)		(1,500)	200.0%	
4395 Cosy Café	2,260	1,500	(760)		(760)	150.7%	
Community Services :- Indirect Payments	16,540	17,600	1,060	0	1,060	94.0%	0
Net Payments	(16,540)	(17,600)	(1,060)				

Detailed Receipts & Payments by Budget Heading 31/12/2024

Cost Centre Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<u>350 Recreation</u>							
4200 Repairs & Improvements	486	0	(486)		(486)	0.0%	
4400 Bin collection	272	370	98		98	73.4%	
4405 Dog bins	860	1,150	290		290	74.8%	
4410 Grounds Maintenance	5,259	6,700	1,441		1,441	78.5%	
4412 Grounds Maintenance Extra Cuts	160	0	(160)		(160)	0.0%	
4415 Equipment	0	180	180		180	0.0%	
4420 King George V	734	500	(234)		(234)	146.8%	
4425 Six Acres	5,982	0	(5,982)		(5,982)	0.0%	5,982
4430 Playground Inspections	204	0	(204)		(204)	0.0%	
4435 Grounds Maintenance Cherrytree	3,509	0	(3,509)		(3,509)	0.0%	
Recreation :- Indirect Payments	17,466	8,900	(8,566)	0	(8,566)	196.2%	5,982
Net Payments	(17,466)	(8,900)	8,566				
6000 plus Transfer from EMR	5,982						
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(11,484)						
<u>400 Highways & Byways</u>							
4200 Repairs & Improvements	0	2,000	2,000		2,000	0.0%	
4500 Hayes Lane Drainage	4,050	0	(4,050)		(4,050)	0.0%	4,050
4510 Streetlights & Maintenance	5,169	7,000	1,831		1,831	73.8%	
Highways & Byways :- Indirect Payments	9,219	9,000	(219)	0	(219)	102.4%	4,050
Net Payments	(9,219)	(9,000)	219				
6000 plus Transfer from EMR	4,050						
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(5,169)						
<u>999 VAT Data</u>							
115 VAT on Receipts	11,762	0	(11,762)			0.0%	
VAT Data :- Receipts	11,762	0	(11,762)				0
515 VAT on Payments	5,684	0	(5,684)		(5,684)	0.0%	
VAT Data :- Indirect Payments	5,684	0	(5,684)	0	(5,684)		0
Net Receipts over Payments	6,078	0	(6,078)				
Grand Totals:- Receipts	88,436	76,156	(12,280)			116.1%	
Payments	99,576	78,890	(20,686)	0	(20,686)	126.2%	
Net Receipts over Payments	(11,140)	(2,734)	8,406				
plus Transfer from EMR	13,562						
less Transfer to EMR	1,826						
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	596						

Earmarked Reserves

Account		Opening Balance	Net Transfers	Closing Balance
320	EMR - Six Acres	113,565.92	-6,082.00	107,483.92
321	EMR Environment Cleansing	6,672.12	-2,223.90	4,448.22
322	EMR Scout Hut	50,000.00	-10,000.00	40,000.00
370	EMR- Hayes Lane Drainage	20,000.00	-20,000.00	0.00
380	EMR - CIL	6,845.57	37,403.88	44,249.45
390	EMR Village Gates	15,000.00		15,000.00
		<u>212,083.61</u>	<u>-902.02</u>	<u>211,181.59</u>

List of Payments made between 21/12/2024 and 31/01/2025

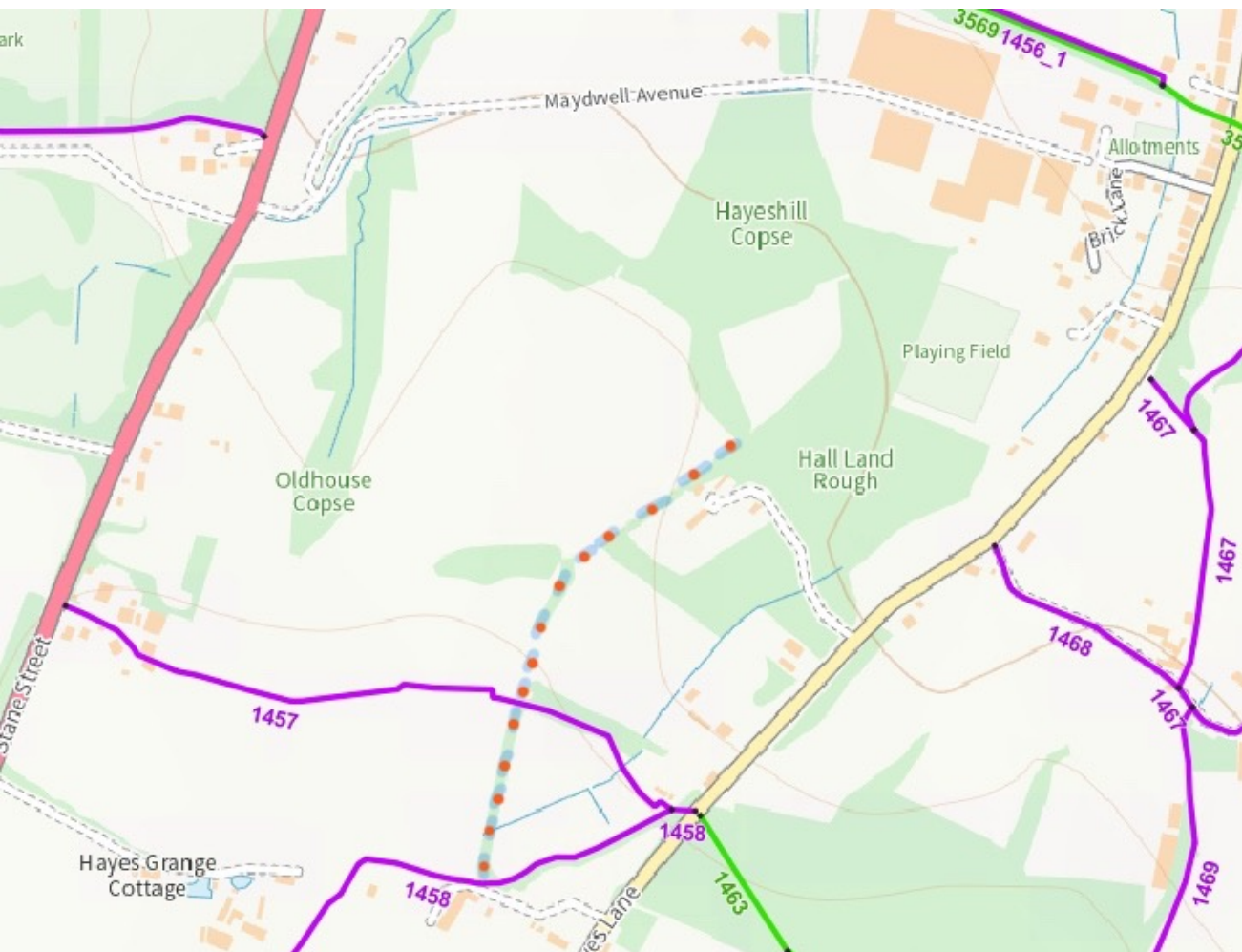
<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Authorized Ref</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
30/01/2025	Carl Osborne	BACS	180.00		Invoice 421
30/01/2025	4 The Youth	BACS	2,093.00		1849 Jan25-Mar25
30/01/2025	Slinfold Village Hall	BACS	271.41		2048/2052/2059
30/01/2025	Slinfold Village Hall	BACS	190.00		1966/2035
30/01/2025	Adobe Systems Software Island	BACS	119.37		Half annual licence
31/01/2025	Samantha Bell	BACS	245.94		Salary January
31/01/2025	Tony Burroughs	BACS	239.20		Salary January
31/01/2025	John Pilkington	BACS	245.40		Salary January
31/01/2025	Mike Simpson	BACS	2,154.40		January
31/01/2025	LGPS	BACS	689.84		January
Total Payments			<u>6,428.56</u>		

Commercial Agreement ID: AGR2432232

Electricity Non Half-Hourly Pricing and Site Schedule

These are the sites included in this offer and the details that make up the forecasted consumptions and costs. The prices shown in this Schedule include our forecasts of all known costs at the time of providing this offer and do not include VAT or Climate Change Levy. The unit rates shown in this table include any third party commission or Direct Debit discount where applicable.

Site Address	PC	MPAN	Start Date	End Date	Tariff	Standing Charge	Primary Tariff Rate	DD Discount	Term Volume	Forecast Total cost
						p/Day	p/kWh	p/kWh	kWh	£
CORSELETTS AVENUE UM5	01	1900001300885	01/02/2025	31/07/2025	PLUMS_B	36.347782	27.05185	-0.5	104	93.40
UM5	01	2000027523502	01/02/2025	31/07/2025	PLUMS_B	36.347782	28.783787	-0.5	1182	400.10
UM5	08	2000050335139	01/02/2025	31/07/2025	PLUMS_A	36.347782	27.899429	-0.5	21	71.54
VARIOUS LOCATIONS UM5	01	2000057289064	01/02/2025	31/07/2025	PLUMS_C	36.347782	30.322057	-0.5	443	197.90
Contract cost including Direct Debit discount (excl. VAT & CCL)										762.94



APPLICATION FOR DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER

Slinfold, Horsham, West Sussex

OS Grid Ref: TQ 11017 30094



TQ 11274 30513

///forced.conveying.layered



///twit.pavilions.quarrel

(/// = What3Words grid ref)

BACKGROUND

- The proposed modification concerns a historic, 0.5KM rural track with over a century of demonstrable public use - without obstruction or permission from the landowner (Whitbreads Farm, Stane Street, Slinfold, Horsham, RH13 0RE) - as a perceived right of way.
- The track 'begins' from the south at a junction from public footpath #1457. It follows a broad, tree-flanked margin on the farm boundary for 350 metres, and then 150 metres along the border of a field used for arable and occasional sheep farming.
- At a long-established entry point, the track joins a permissive pathway through private woodland (Hayes Hill Copse managed by AJW Ltd). Ultimately, this 0.5KM path joins The Downs Link at the top of Spring Lane ([///trifle.yummy.shears](http://trifle.yummy.shears)).
- In late 2023, two years after Whitbreads Farm was acquired by new owners in Nov 2021, 'No Entry' signs appeared along the course of the track, and the entrance to the permissive pathway fenced off with barbed wire (without the knowledge of AJW Ltd). Community dialogue with a commercial land manager representing the farm landowner proved unproductive.

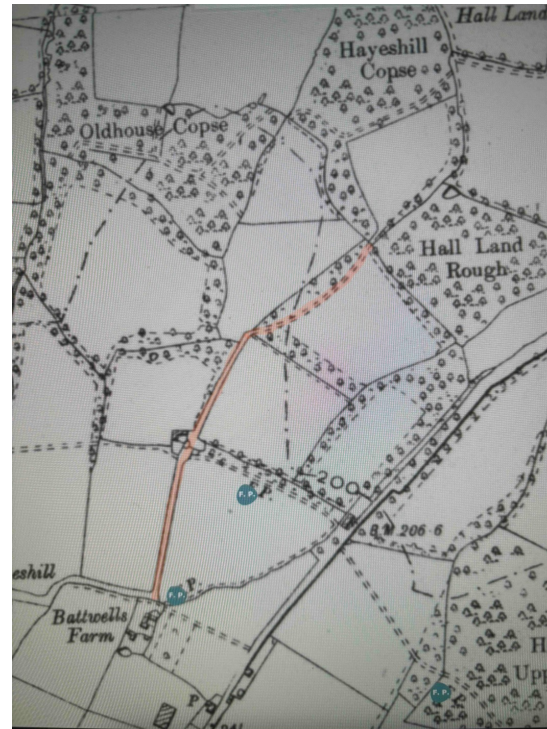
HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- The proposed pathway utilises what is believed to be an ancient drover's track (the tree borders enabling efficient herding). The remains of an old brickworks can be found midway along the track, providing further evidence of purposeful use.
- The track extends the entire length of the proposed pathway. At some point prior to this century – based on OS Map 1888-1913 below – the final 150 metre section became part of Russets (Hayes Lane RH13 0SN). As a result, public usage diverted out of the drover's track to run along the border of the Whitbreads Farm field to the copse entrance.
- From 1865-1965, the track/copse path became a popular means of access for residents in the south of Slinfold Village (primarily Hayes Lane) to reach Slinfold Station.
- The track/copse path has since remained in popular use as a means of accessing The Downs Link.

MAPS

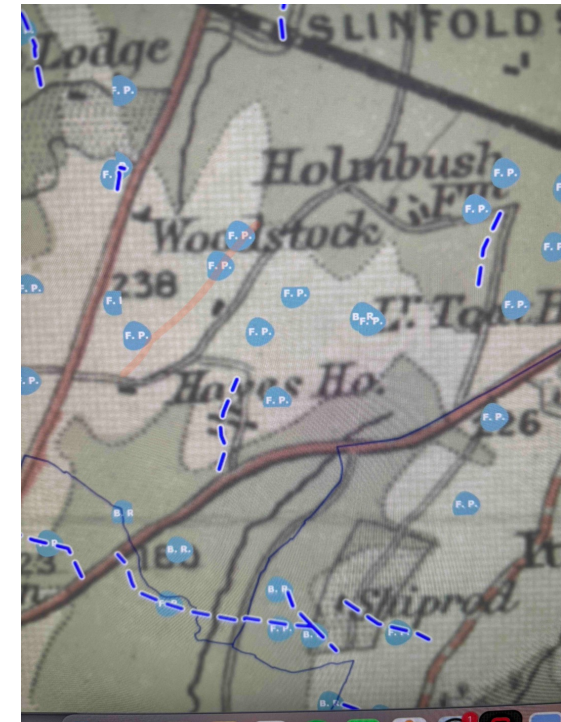


OS Map - current



OS Six Inch 1888-1913

Note the track originally followed the tree tunnel section now owned by Russets.



Bartholomew Half Inch
1897-1907

Note the existence of old footpaths along the proposed route.

CONTEMPORARY USE

- The majority of residents to the south of Slinfold live on Hayes Lane. This is a busy, unlit 40mph country road in/out of the village with a significant blind corner at the foot of a hill and no pavements. As a result, many people opt to travel to and from the village on foot via the perceived pathway.
- Accessed via pathways #1457 and/or #1458, the perceived pathway is the only pedestrian access into the village to the west of Hayes Lane.
- A public bridleway to the east (#1463) leads to a circuitous 1.5KM route with significant accessibility issues. The bridleway is also prone to flooding and largely impassable during winter, spring and autumn due to heavy usage by horses from nearby stables.
- For well over 20 years, the perceived pathway has been a popular route for local residents, responsible ramblers and dog walkers both from and into the village. It provides safe access to the copse, The Downs Link, The Tennis Club and, ultimately, the village.
- AJW actively welcome community use of the permissive pathway through the copse (leading to the Downs Link), as did their predecessor, BASF, dating back to the previous century. The company also support this claim, as do the parish council.

LANDOWNER POSITION

- The landowner's central claim, voiced by a commercial manager, is that 'ash dieback is on the farm'.
- The commercial manager claims footpath #1457 - running east to west across Whitbreads Farm to Stane Street - provides adequate access to the village.

COMMUNITY POSITION

- Prohibiting access to the path has effectively partitioned the village.
- It's estimated that the ash population along the path falls well under 21% of total broadleaved trees (WSCC average estimate for the county). Oak, maple and hazel are most prevalent.
- Footpath #1457 exits to the west onto an A road (Stane Street) with no pavements and speeding traffic. The nearest footpath on the other side (#1367) is 250 metres northeast along the roadside, but heads away from the village to the west.
- The stretch in question is an accident hotspot, wholly unsuitable for pedestrian use, and sadly in 2023 the site of a motorcyclist fatality.
- It may once have been a connecting route, but today Footpath #1457 is effectively an out/back.
- The proposed path is a recognised 'safe' route on foot into the village and has been used responsibly without obstruction or permission for well over a century. The community perception has always been that presumed dedication exists for public use.

WALKTHROUGH #1/2



///forced.conveying.layered
Track entrance from path #1458



///trifle.yummy.shears
Track crosses path #1457



///gift.flushes.lushly
Track heading north

walking south to north (towards the village)

WALKTHROUGH #2/2



///adopt.tribune.purse
On reaching Russets
fence, the track diverts
out of the tree tunnel and
onto the field perimeter.



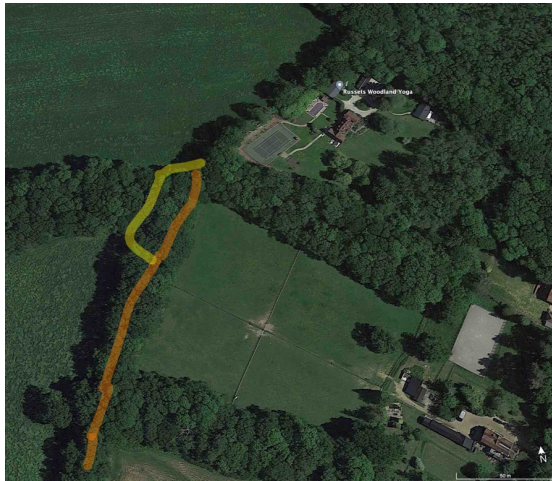
///allows.website.emulated
Field perimeter track



///shortage.scatters.enhance
Track exit into copse (picture
taken from the copse facing
south)

WALKTHROUGH ADDENDUM 1/2

- The hedgerow where the track joins the field perimeter often becomes overgrown. Over the decades, an alternative path (in yellow) has emerged that diverts from the tree tunnel about 15 metres earlier and follows an open passage between two Whitbread's Farm fields.
- This has been in public use for over 20 years. It has become the established track. In a bid to work with the landowner, however, we suggest placing the original route on a recognised footing.

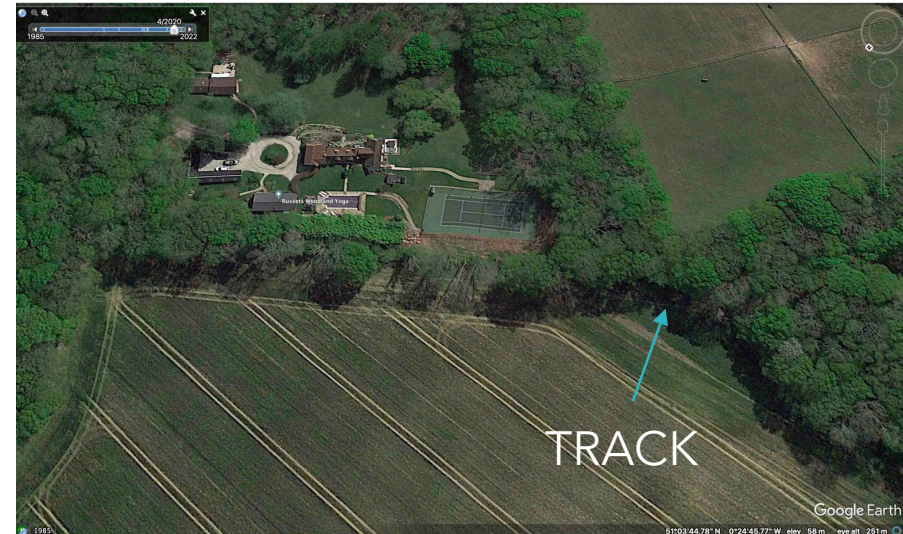


WALKTHROUGH ADDENDUM 2/2

Google Earth shows partial evidence of an established track, but only at the south east point of the field in certain conditions. This is because the pathway along the field border is tucked underneath the tree canopy or obscured by tree shadow. A site visit would swiftly confirm the existence of a long-established track. Below, screenshots with path section visible before the tree canopy.



JUNE 2013



APRIL 2020

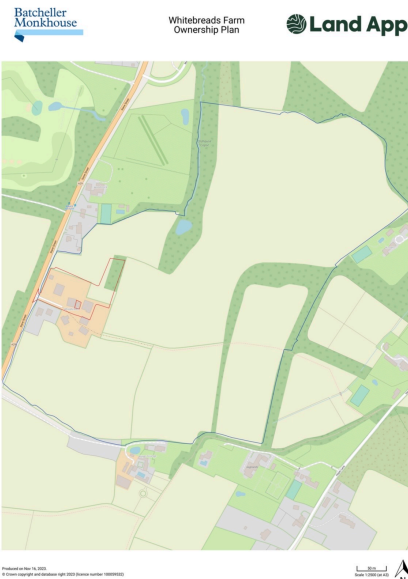
AJW COPSE & ONWARDS ACCESS



- The paths managed by AJW Ltd - and open to community use - provides vital pedestrian access for the community to the Downs Link and the football pitch/tennis court.
- In recognition of popular community use, there is a pedestrian crossing across Maydwell Avenue at the entrance to the estate.
- Prohibiting access to the copse from across the field has severely restricted community access.

FINAL POINTS

- A Land Ownership Plan submitted by Whitbread's to Horsham District Council - see map below - shows 200 metres of the track to the south to be outside of Whitbread's Farm ownership. The subsequent 200 metres heading northwards appears to show only partial ownership. In talking to neighbouring landowners, it is in fact unclear who owns the entire tree margin in question.
- Prohibiting public use of the perceived path has provoked widespread community dismay., In this view, further statements can be provided on request.



- Application number DC/22/1896 received by HDC 06/10/2022.

Parish Council Report – January

Local Plan Update

Following the decision of the Government's Planning Inspector to cancel Horsham District Council's Local Plan examination hearings because they needed further information, the Council has submitted this information and is now ready to proceed with the remaining examination sessions.

The Council believes that it will be able to carry out any necessary Local Plan updates within the Government's preferred six-month timescale. This means that there is a pathway open to the Inspector to resume the hearings and progress the current Plan.

The Council has yet to hear back from the Inspector regarding when we expect to hear more detail from him.

Outdoor Community Spaces Fund

Asda Foundation is providing grant funding between £500 and £3000 to help grassroots charities and not-for-profit organisations improve or transform their local outdoor community spaces.



Whether it's cleaning up a green space, delivering collaborative growing projects or transforming an unused area for local people to use, the Outdoor Community Spaces Fund can be used to create or enhance an outdoor space near you.

The application deadline is Tuesday 11 February 2025, however this may close early if the total budget is reached.

[Apply here](#)

Community Climate Fund

A new round of Community Climate Fund is open now. Apply for up to £5,000 to fund your voluntary group's climate-friendly project.

Take a look at our recent success stories for inspiration and **apply online before 31 January**

[Find out more](#)



Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund

West Sussex County Council, in partnership with Biffa, is launching a Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund. This grant fund is designed to empower local community groups, schools, charities, and social enterprises to take innovative steps in reducing their waste and encourage reuse and repair.



Grants of up to a maximum of £5,000 are available for projects delivered across West Sussex in 2025 to 2026. Funding can be used for materials, equipment, or operational costs necessary to deliver waste prevention outcomes

This is an opportunity for communities to make a real difference in waste prevention and sustainability.

Applications close on Sunday 2 March 2025.

[Apply here](#)

Social Media Training

Social Media is one of the most effective ways to reach a wide audience and connect to supporters, donors and potential new volunteers. Ensuring you are creating the right content for your organisation is key to your online presence. This session will be run by ByJove Media, who are experts in using social media to meaningfully engage with your audience.

Date: Tuesday 4 March

Time: 10am - 12.30pm

Where: Pulborough Village Hall, RH20 2BF

[Read More](#)



Emotional Wellbeing Session for Volunteers

Volunteering can be rewarding, but it can also be challenging. Take a moment for yourself and discover tools to manage stress, boost your resilience, and nurture your health and wellbeing.

The Conversation Starter Project will be running an online volunteer wellbeing session for anyone who volunteers for a charity, community group, or social enterprise that works within Horsham District.

Date: Wednesday 26 February

Time: 7pm - 8pm

Where: Online

[Read More](#)



Coming soon...

Volunteer Awards 2025

As part of Volunteers' Week in 2025, we once again want to celebrate the amazing volunteers that offer their valuable time in and around Horsham District and are a fundamental part of what makes it such a fantastic place to live, work, and visit.

We have seven awards that you can make a nomination for. **Nominations will open soon so keep an eye out on the [webpage](#) and our social media platforms!**



All nominations for consideration should be received by 5pm on Friday 11 April 2025.

How do you find the right funders for you? - 14 May

How can you do great research about Trusts, Foundations and Grants before you make an application? Where do you look for information? This session, run by No Stone Unturned Fundraising, will explore a range of free and paid resources and how to make the most of them.

Date: Wednesday 14 May

Time: 10am - 11.30am

Where: Online

Cost: Free

Booking details coming soon!



Report to Slinfold Parish Council

Cnty Cllr Christian Mitchell

Thursday, 30 January 2025, 7:00pm

Proposed County Council budget to go to Full Council for final decision

West Sussex County Council's Cabinet met on Wednesday, 29 January 2025 and endorsed proposals to deliver a balanced budget for the year ahead and provide support for the most vulnerable in line with its Council Plan priorities. The decision means the proposed budget for 2025/26 and Council Plan will now go before full Council on Friday, 14 February 2025 for a final decision.

The council's priorities, which are underpinned by a cross-cutting theme of 'protecting the environment' are:

1. Keeping people safe in vulnerable situations
2. A sustainable and prosperous economy
3. Helping people and communities fulfil their potential
4. Making best use of resources

To meet increasing demand pressures and cost of services, particularly in social care, special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and home to school transport, the County Council is proposing to spend more than £2.2 billion in 2025/26 on vital services such as:

- Caring for adults and keeping people healthy - £553m
- Managing schools and education, children's social care and support - £1,283m
- Fire and Rescue services and supporting communities - £65m
- Protecting the environment, recycling and waste disposal - £98m
- Maintaining our roads and providing transport - £87m

An additional £47.4m is allocated in the proposed budget this year for service demand pressures and continued additional investment in the county's roads. The pressures facing the County Council outweigh the funding received from Government and a balanced budget is proposed by increasing council tax by 4.99% (2% for adults' social care and 2.99% for general fund services) and spending reductions of £12.3m.

The pressures facing local government finances have been on-going for several years and show no signs of abating and it is understood why our residents are not keen to see council tax increase. However, Government funding continues to be insufficient to meet the growing needs of our residents, which means the only alternative would be to cut front-line services. WSCC continue to lobby government for adequate long-term funding to provide the financial resources we need to deliver on the priorities set out in our Council Plan

Devolution

The Cabinets of the three Sussex upper tier Councils have today agreed to submit an expression of interest to be considered for the Government's Devolution Priority Programme indicating support for a Sussex Mayoral Strategic Authority which could unlock new powers for the region.

The Government's white paper on English Devolution states that Mayoral Strategic Authorities will bring funding and local decision-making powers down from central government to deliver on economic growth, jobs and skills, housing and transport.

Whether or not WSCC, ESCC and Brighton & Hove Council are on the Devolution priority programme, the Government will be writing to all councils in two tier areas later this month – Counties, Districts and Boroughs – as well as smaller unitaries such as Brighton & Hove, to invite proposals on local government reorganisation.

Whatever timetable WSCC are on, it is understood that Government will expect all local authorities to work with neighbouring authorities to build consensus around new unitary authority boundaries. It is anticipated that Ministers will make decisions regarding which places are part of the Devolution Priority Programme by the end of January 2025.

The expected timeline following the submission of the proposal is:

- A devolution consultation would be held before the end of March 2025.
- The results of the devolution consultation will be assessed in the Spring 2025 following which a Ministerial decision will be taken as to whether to proceed with a Mayoral Strategic Authority (prior to unitary re-organisation). The Spending Review will then confirm future mayoral investment funds for new mayoral areas.
- Relevant legislation will be laid before Parliament in relation to the creation of Strategic Authorities.
- In March 2026 notice of mayoral elections will be given for a Mayoral election in May 2026. A decision whether to move to a Mayoral Strategic Authority under the reorganised arrangements would follow.

There will follow a separate process of local government re-organisation

- A formal invitation to submit reorganisation proposals will be issued to all authorities in January 2025.
- At the end of 2025 and in early 2026 Ministers will consider unitary proposals and delivery phasing with statutory consultations being undertaken on the first tranche of proposals.

Business of the County Council

Full Council last met on Friday, 13 December 2024 [here](#).

The next meeting of full Council, to set the budget, is on sFriday, 14 February 2025 at 10:30am [here](#).

ENDS