



Slinfold Parish Council

Cherrytree Farm, Hayes Lane, RH13 0SQ

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Minutes of the Slinfold Parish Council Meeting 24th April 2025

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

As the Chair and Vice Chair were absent it was **RESOLVED** to elect Councillor Pyle as Chair for the meeting.

In attendance: Councillors Pyle, Sherwin-Smith, Slipper, Paula Smith and Walker.

Apologies from: Councillors Casdagli, Roberts (Chair), Skeates and Nigel Smith (Vice Chair) which Councillors **RESOLVED** to accept.

Also in attendance: Mike Simpson (Clerk), District Councillor Kasia Greenwood and County Councillor Christian Mitchell.

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)

There were no members of the public present.

4. Minutes from the previous meeting held on 27th March 2025

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as a true and accurate record.

5. Chairman's Report

There was no report.

6. Councillor Reports

(a) District Councillors

Councillor Youtan sent her apologies. Councillor Greenwood circulated a written report before the meeting which included an update on the Local Plan (see appendices).

(b) County Councillors

Councillor Mitchell spoke about Government plans for devolution and said that, as West Sussex had joined the Devolution Priority Programme, it may get some funding to help towards the transition, but it was going to happen anyway. He believed planning and housing would become more difficult and West Sussex would be under more pressure to find housing as East Sussex and Brighton and Hove were also struggling to find areas for new housing.

7. Planning Applications

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

CA/25/0041 Barn Cottage The Street Slinfold Horsham Surgery to 1x Pear, 2x Hawthorn, 1x Beech, 1x Silver Birch, and 1x Hazel (Works to Trees in a Conservation Area)

Councillors **RESOLVED** to accept the tree wardens' recommendations and submit them to Horsham District Council:

'We suggested that as these are all deciduous trees and we are now well into Spring, with sap rising etc., any work should be left until leaf drop in Autumn, November onwards.'

Our recommendations for the six trees are as follows:

A. Silver Pear.. this has been worked before and we see no reason not to carry out the proposal.

B. Hawthorn (possibly *Crataegus prunifolia*).. likewise, as above.

C. Beech.. in hedge. No real need but as it is a small tree and proposal is to lightly prune can't really object. Perhaps just remove two lower branches would be better.

D. Silver Birch.. this is a more substantial tree but quite young and healthy. The applicant was a little concerned it might fall towards the house. We reassured her that it was leaning to avoid the shade of the group of trees beyond and looked entirely stable. It has now reached a height where it is able to attain some light above the adjacent trees and starting to grow away from the house. We suggested that birches do not respond well to pruning in any case and it would be much better left untouched.

E. Hawthorn.. this is a much more substantial specimen than the first and in robust health, full of flower. We could see no real reason to prune and that was agreed by the Applicant.

F. Hazel.. this is a very old specimen that has been routinely pollarded over the years, no objection to the proposal.

In summary: A, B, C, F NO OBJECTION
D, E OBJECT'

DC/25/0593 Arun Valley Vineyard Haven Road Billingshurst RH14 9BE Prior notification for the erection of a steel portal framed agricultural building for the storage of vineyard equipment
Councillors **RESOLVED** to have no objection to this application.

DC/25/0640 Surgery to 2x Oak Communal Land To The Rear of 23-32 The Grattons Slinfold West Sussex
Councillors **RESOLVED** to defer a decision until the tree wardens had taken a look.

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

There was no update.

8. Finance & Administration

(a) To review the schedule of payments since the last meeting (27th March 2025) and the 31st March 2025 bank reconciliation.

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the payment schedule and the COOP bank reconciliation for 31st March 2025 (see appendices).

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

Councillors reviewed and noted the report.

(c) To review the Council's Standing Orders.

Councillors deferred a decision until the next meeting as the new model had only just been released so more time was needed to review it.

9. Grounds and Buildings Maintenance

(a) To discuss the building survey for Slinfold Stores.

The survey had only just been received so it was agreed to defer any conversation until Councillors had the chance to review it properly.

(b) To receive an update on the draft easement for access to the air conditioning units at Slinfold Stores.

The Council had sent a response to the executors of Windalls outlining concerns it had with the draft easement, mainly because it would prevent the Council accessing its own building for repairs. The Council had suggested redrafting the easement but the Clerk had received a response from the executors' solicitor stating they would not change anything except for the onus of submitting the documents to the Land Registry. Councillors therefore **RESOLVED** to research other options including a statutory declaration as they could not agree to the current draft easement.

10. Recreation, Youth and Environment

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

There was no further update.

(b) To discuss Cherrytree ditch maintenance and balancing pond.

The clerk advised that Carl Osborne would dredge the ditch and extend the balancing pond fence over the ditch in May.

11. Events

To receive an update on Village Day 2025.

Plans were progressing but volunteers were needed for the day.

12. Committees and those on Outside Bodies

To receive any updates.

One candidate for Slinfold and Itchingfield Rector had been selected for interview with a start date of September 2025. The rector would reside in the Rectory and split their time evenly between Slinfold and Itchingfield.

Parish Cottages trustees would be meeting soon and discussing plans to apply for a new house again.

13. Communications

(a) To discuss any articles for the parish magazine.

The Deputy Clerk would circulate an email.

(b) To discuss the summer newsletter.

Articles had been submitted so it was ready for printing. Councillors **RESOLVED** to spend £100 on delivery.

14. Items for the next agenda

Standing Orders and Slinfold Stores survey.

15. Next meeting dates

Council Meeting- 21st May 2025

Annual Parish Meeting- 21st May 2025

Parish Council Report – April

New Constitution

The Council recently voted in favour of adopting a new constitution. This involves a variety of changes as to how things work and what committees there are. What I think is probably most significant to you is how the planning committee will work.

Previously there were two planning committees - North and South. I sat on Planning North, and the assumption from residents is that when on that committee I represent their views.

However, this is not how it worked. Councillors sitting on planning committee had to work purely in the capacity of making planning decisions, considering planning rules and the planning framework, and not necessarily local feeling if it was not a material planning concern. This meant that when residents came to me expressing their concern about a planning application I couldn't fully engage with them because I was required to remain neutral and to come to committee without any predetermined views.

I was not allowed to make pre-written speeches at committee, speak against an application based on what residents views were, or make decisions based on local feeling. I am obliged to work on a purely planning basis, meaning that I often had to vote in favour of things I didn't necessarily agree with because there were no valid material planning reasons not to.

Under the new system there will be one committee and not all Councillors will sit on it. It will be made up of a smaller group of highly-trained Councillors who will be able to make more expert decisions on planning grounds. I will then be able to attend committee if there is an application in my ward and speak for or against, giving my honest opinion without being restricted by concerns of appearing biased or predetermined. This means I will be better able to represent residents.

The Local Plan

As you may have heard, the Council has been informed by the government-appointed planning Inspector, Mr Luke Fleming, that he won't allow Horsham's Local Plan to proceed and recommends withdrawal of the plan.

This announcement from the Inspector comes after a considerable delay as Mr Fleming paused the hearings back in mid-December last year.

The Inspector's view that Horsham should be seeking to provide significantly more houses, is in contrast to the views of many who objected to the plan, arguing that its housing numbers were too high.

Horsham District is an area of acute water stress and since 2021 delivery of new housing has been severely restricted by the legal requirement for all new developments to be 'water neutral' to prevent further damage to the internationally important Pulborough Brooks wildlife sites.

To help deliver water neutral development, Horsham has led on developing the innovative Sussex North Offsetting Water Strategy, known as the SNOWS scheme. This manages the water available for new plan-led developments through improved water efficiency and offsetting. This approach to

Water Neutrality, has already been accepted by the Planning Inspectors for Chichester and Crawley's Local Plans.

Despite this, Mr Fleming has written to the Council saying that he does not accept the Council's strategy and considers we should have done even more to find water solutions that would significantly increase the number of homes delivered in the District. Mr Fleming feels the Council should have done more to provide housing for Crawley's unmet housing need under our legal 'Duty to Cooperate' obligation.

The Council strongly disagrees with the Inspector's conclusions, as it has worked consistently and effectively with all organisations, including adjoining authorities, during preparation of its plan and particularly on the issue of water neutrality.

The Council is astonished that the Inspector could reach such a conclusion without allowing neighbouring authorities to speak at the examination hearings and questioning them directly as the Inspectors examining our neighbours' plans have done. Instead, the Inspector focused his attention on the views of the development industry representatives that were present at the Hearing sessions.

In addition, the Council was advised by expert bodies that delivery of the kind of large-scale private water schemes that the Inspector referred to is extremely challenging and highly uncertain and so provides no guarantee to deliver the homes being promoted by the development industry, which is the key requirement of any local plan. Again, the Inspector did not invite the key organisations to his Hearing sessions to better understand these issues.

The Council has written a letter of complaint to the Planning Inspectorate.

Cllr Ruth Fletcher, Cabinet Member for Planning & Infrastructure, commented:

"This is a hugely disappointing decision.

"The Local Plan has been the top priority for the Council because after the repeated delays under the previous administration, Horsham's existing Local Plan had fallen out of date and we are now seeing the result with increasing numbers of unwelcome, speculative developments. A Local Plan is the best way to deliver the housing we need in the most sustainable locations along with higher eco-build standards, supporting infrastructure and community facilities.

"The plan has been prepared based on good evidence; the Council has taken expert advice including from the Planning Inspectorate, on its actions throughout the plan preparation process and no substantive concerns were raised at any point. We firmly believe we have acted in the best interests of the District and in the most professional way in trying to meet the Government's housing targets.

"It's clear from the hearings and subsequent questions that the Inspector has struggled to understand the unique challenges posed by Water Neutrality. These were issues he should have clarified before the hearings commenced.

"The Government has made it clear that they want to see every local authority with a local plan in place, but the Inspector's decision that the Duty to Cooperate has not been met and his recommendation to withdraw the Local Plan will leave us fighting against uncontrolled speculative developments with one hand tied behind our backs."

The Council is communicating urgently with Matthew Pennycook, Minister of State for Housing Communities and Local Government, for assistance in finding a way forward

Combating Litter

Horsham District Council is asking local motorists and residents to help it reduce levels of littering on the District's roadsides, particularly in key problem areas.

The Council currently faces an ongoing battle with litter being strewn on the roadside across the Horsham District with a key problem area being the A264 between Southwater and Horsham.

The appearance of litter on roadsides is a blight on our environment and its clearance comes at a considerable cost to local taxpayers. It also puts our waste collection crews at risk every time they have to clear the litter on these high-speed roads.

The Council is asking that if road users or members of the public spot offenders dropping litter, they should report incidents to them by going to their website at:

<https://www.horsham.gov.uk/waste-recycling-and-bins/litter-and-street-cleaning/litter>

where they will also be able to supply the Council with Dash Cam footage where possible.

Additionally, people can help to keep local streets and green spaces litter free by signing up for our Adopt a Street scheme which already has hundreds of volunteers across the Horsham District who are passionate about protecting the environment on their doorstep. Volunteers choose the area they want to adopt, and we will provide all the equipment they need to help with litter picking.

For more information or to join up please go to:

<https://www.horsham.gov.uk/waste-recycling-and-bins/litter-and-street-cleaning/adopt-a-street>

Equipment will be provided to use in areas which are assessed as being safe for pedestrians. Volunteers are asked not to litter pick on any unsafe, high-speed roads.

Warning: summer food safety

Council issues warning about ice cream vans operating without permission

Following reports of ice cream vans trading in Horsham Park, residents are being warned about the risks of traders operating without permission.

Unregulated vans may not have had food hygiene and other health safety inspections, as well possibly using vehicles lacking insurance and MOTs. This means they could pose a risk to those who purchase food and drinks from them.

Food businesses are required by law to be inspected as part of the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme. As such, legitimate sellers should display food hygiene sticker on their van. Consumers can search for a food hygiene rating online at: <https://ratings.food.gov.uk/>.



In addition, sellers wishing to operate an ice cream van, sell hot drinks, or similar from any council-owned carpark, park or open space across the District must apply for permission from the Council.

If a member of the public has spotted a trader they believe to be operating without permission, they are advised to report them to ehl@horsham.gov.uk including details of the vehicle registration and operating location.

New vision for Horsham town centre

We are inviting residents, businesses and visitors to share their feedback on suggested exciting new improvements to the Bishopric, Worthing Road and Carfax areas of Horsham town centre.

The survey is live until 30 April.

[Have your say](#)



Community Climate Fund now open

Applications are now open for the Community Climate Fund grant for community groups to deliver project that will reduce their carbon emissions and create community value locally.

[Find out more](#)



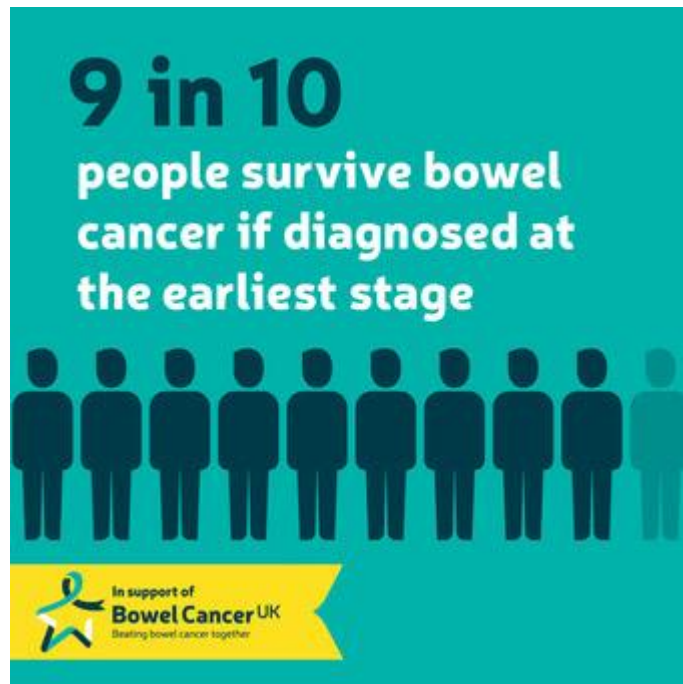
Teenager behaviour course for parents returns

A teenager behaviour course, '**Growing Your Teenager**', is set to make a return due to popular demand.

Horsham District Council, in partnership with West Sussex County Council and Sussex Police, developed the course with the aim of increasing parents' knowledge about the types of issues their young people may face as they transition from primary to secondary school.

[Read more](#)

Bowel Cancer Awareness Month



9 in 10
people survive bowel
cancer if diagnosed at
the earliest stage

In support of
Bowel Cancer UK
Beating bowel cancer together

In Horsham, there are over 2,100 people currently outstanding a bowel cancer screen. If you need a new FIT kit, or you're 75 or over, you can ask for a kit every 2 years by phoning the free bowel cancer screening helpline on **0800 70 76 060**. If you are 60-74 years old, you will be offered a FIT test every 2 years.

If you're worried about a family history of bowel cancer or have any symptoms, speak to a GP for advice.

[More information](#)

Detailed Receipts & Payments by Budget Heading 01/04/2025

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>							
118 Horsham Lottery	13	0	(13)			0.0%	13
1076 Precept	0	75,317	75,317			0.0%	
1080 Bank Interest	0	8,180	8,180			0.0%	
1100 Grants Received	0	2,500	2,500			0.0%	
1120 Environment Cleansing	0	3,700	3,700			0.0%	
Income :- Receipts	13	89,697	89,685			0.0%	13
Net Receipts	13	89,697	89,685				
6001 less Transfer to EMR	13						
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	0						
<u>200 Administration</u>							
4000 Clerk & Environment Officers	0	54,000	54,000		54,000	0.0%	
4025 EO Expenses	0	500	500		500	0.0%	
4055 Training	0	150	150		150	0.0%	
4060 Audit	0	650	650		650	0.0%	
4070 Legal & Consultancy	25	30	5		5	83.3%	
4075 Bank Fees	0	30	30		30	0.0%	
4080 Subscriptions	731	720	(11)		(11)	101.5%	
4091 Chair's Allowance	0	400	400		400	0.0%	
4100 Insurance	0	2,000	2,000		2,000	0.0%	
4110 Recruitment & Training	0	100	100		100	0.0%	
4120 Home Office	0	180	180		180	0.0%	
4130 Hall Hire	65	600	535		535	10.8%	
4135 FC Office Hire	0	300	300		300	0.0%	
4140 Website and email	440	570	130		130	77.2%	
4150 Software	203	350	147		147	58.0%	
4160 Stationery/printing	0	100	100		100	0.0%	
Administration :- Indirect Payments	1,464	60,680	59,216	0	59,216	2.4%	0
Net Payments	(1,464)	(60,680)	(59,216)				
<u>250 Football Club</u>							
1200 Rental Income	0	150	150			0.0%	
1205 Insurance Reclaimed	0	330	330			0.0%	
1210 Grounds Maintenance Reclaim	0	650	650			0.0%	
Football Club :- Receipts	0	1,130	1,130			0.0%	0
Net Receipts	0	1,130	1,130				

Detailed Receipts & Payments by Budget Heading 01/04/2025

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	0	150	150			0.0%	
1205 Insurance Reclaimed	0	359	359			0.0%	
1210 Grounds Maintenance Reclaim	0	520	520			0.0%	
Tennis Club :- Receipts	0	1,029	1,029			0.0%	0
Net Receipts	0	1,029	1,029				
<u>260 Community Shed</u>							
1205 Insurance Reclaimed	0	92	92			0.0%	
Community Shed :- Receipts	0	92	92			0.0%	0
Net Receipts	0	92	92				
<u>270 Slinfold Stores</u>							
1200 Rental Income	0	1,000	1,000			0.0%	
1205 Insurance Reclaimed	0	354	354			0.0%	
Slinfold Stores :- Receipts	0	1,354	1,354			0.0%	0
4200 Repairs & Improvements	750	0	(750)		(750)	0.0%	750
Slinfold Stores :- Indirect Payments	750	0	(750)	0	(750)		750
Net Receipts over Payments	(750)	1,354	2,104				
6000 plus Transfer from EMR	750						
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	0						
<u>300 Community Services</u>							
4310 Community Events	187	3,200	3,013		3,013	5.8%	
4320 Youth Services	2,338	8,600	6,262		6,262	27.2%	
4370 Newsletters/Promotions	0	2,700	2,700		2,700	0.0%	
4390 Grants Made	0	1,000	1,000		1,000	0.0%	
4395 Cosy Café	284	2,500	2,216		2,216	11.4%	284
Community Services :- Indirect Payments	2,809	18,000	15,191	0	15,191	15.6%	284
Net Payments	(2,809)	(18,000)	(15,191)				
6000 plus Transfer from EMR	284						
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(2,525)						

Detailed Receipts & Payments by Budget Heading 01/04/2025

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>							
4400 Bin collection	156	385	229		229	40.4%	
4405 Dog bins	169	1,180	1,011		1,011	14.3%	
4410 Grounds Maintenance	0	1,172	1,172		1,172	0.0%	
4412 Grounds Maintenance Extra Cuts	130	0	(130)		(130)	0.0%	
4420 King George V	190	470	280		280	40.4%	
4425 Six Acres	493	1,800	1,307		1,307	27.4%	493
4430 Playground Inspections	0	215	215		215	0.0%	
4435 Grounds Maintenance Cherrytree	250	2,300	2,050		2,050	10.9%	
Recreation :- Indirect Payments	1,387	7,522	6,135	0	6,135	18.4%	493
Net Payments	(1,387)	(7,522)	(6,135)				
6000 plus Transfer from EMR	493						
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(895)						
<u>400 Highways & Byways</u>							
4510 Streetlights & Maintenance	0	7,100	7,100		7,100	0.0%	
Highways & Byways :- Indirect Payments	0	7,100	7,100	0	7,100	0.0%	0
Net Payments	0	(7,100)	(7,100)				
<u>999 VAT Data</u>							
115 VAT on Receipts	318	0	(318)			0.0%	
VAT Data :- Receipts	318	0	(318)				0
515 VAT on Payments	285	0	(285)		(285)	0.0%	
VAT Data :- Indirect Payments	285	0	(285)	0	(285)		0
Net Receipts over Payments	33	0	(33)				
Grand Totals:- Receipts	330	93,302	92,972			0.4%	
Payments	6,694	93,302	86,608	0	86,608	7.2%	
Net Receipts over Payments	(6,364)	0	6,364				
plus Transfer from EMR	1,527						
less Transfer to EMR	12						
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(4,850)						

List of Payments made between 01/04/2025 and 24/04/2025

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Authorized Ref</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
01/04/2025	Horsham District Council	BACS	295.75		Litter and dog bins 3 months
01/04/2025	Jane Slipper	BACS	123.99		Cosy Cafe Expenses
07/04/2025	Mike Simpson	BACS	11.00		Slinfold Stores Lease LR Fee
07/04/2025	Tony Burroughs	BACS	41.37		SA Fence Repairs &VD envelopes
07/04/2025	Carl Osborne	BACS	880.00		March 2025 Maintenance (439)
16/04/2025	Horsham District Council	DD	28.80		Waste collection CT
24/04/2025	4 The Youth	BACS	2,197.69		April-July 2025 services(1917)
24/04/2025	WSALC	BACS	730.53		2025-26 Subs
24/04/2025	Slinfold Village Hall	BACS	160.00		Invoice 2102 Cosy Cafe
24/04/2025	Slinfold Village Hall	BACS	65.00		Invoice 2107 Meetings
24/04/2025	Slinfold Village Hall	BACS	140.00		2115 (youth)
24/04/2025	Rialtas Business Solutions	BACS	243.60		Licence 25-26
24/04/2025	Netwise	BACS	528.00		Hosting 25-26 4143
24/04/2025	Brian Gale Surveyors	BACS	900.00		PM/5422 Shop survey
24/04/2025	Crickmay Chartered Surveyors	BACS	14.00		Land Registry Forms
24/04/2025	Horsham District Council	BACS	40.00		Lottery Licence Village Day
24/04/2025	Stubbs Tickets	BACS	36.60		Raffle tickets 38967
24/04/2025	Adrian Roberts	BACS	157.94		Six Acres Plants
24/04/2025	Horsham District Council	BACS	100.00		Road Closure Village Day
Total Payments			<u>6,694.27</u>		

<u>Bank Statement Account Name (s)</u>	<u>Statement Date</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Balances</u>
CO-OP	31/03/2025		15,037.92
			<u>15,037.92</u>
<u>Unpresented Payments (Minus)</u>		<u>Amount</u>	
		0.00	
			<u>0.00</u>
			15,037.92
<u>Unpresented Receipts (Plus)</u>			
		0.00	
			<u>0.00</u>
			15,037.92
		Balance per Cash Book is :-	15,037.92
		Difference is :-	0.00

Signatory 1:

Name Signed Date

Signatory 2:

Name Signed Date