



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 27th February 2025

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

In attendance: Councillors Casdagli, Pyle, Roberts (Chair), Skeates, Slipper, Paula Smith, Nigel Smith and Walker.

Apologies: Councillor Sherwin-Smith which Councillors **RESOLVED** to accept.

Also in attendance: Mike Simpson (Clerk), District Councillor Kasia Greenwood, WSCC Area Manager George Fort and 12 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 resident objected to application DC/25/0196 and believed the barn was of agricultural scale and was therefore too large for a domestic setting. She also believed that the woodland would not provide any screening and that neighbouring properties would hear machine traffic. She added that the site was 24 acres in size and questioned why the barn was closer to neighbouring properties than the main dwelling.

Another resident asked the Council to support the DMMO application (item 9(a)) drafted by a resident which would, if successful, dedicate a PROW on land owned by AJW and Whitebreads Farm. He said that the resident would amend the draft to include land owned by AJW and asked the Council to support it as it would provide a safe route for the public.

Another resident updated the Council on his meeting with George Fort and a Highways Engineer from WSCC about speeding on Lyons Road. WSCC would look at: improving the signage and street furniture for the 20mph buildouts to improve visibility; moving the advance give way signs from the posts in the hedge line to the posts on the buildouts; replacing the black bollards with Keep Right yellow bollards (seen from the give way side), preferably the reflective (non-lit) type; possibly lengthening the buildouts; chasing the post 20mph speed detection. Other possible actions included No Right Turns off the A264 and A29 and Vehicle Activated Signs.

4. Minutes from the previous meeting held on 30th January 2025

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

Councillor Greenwood provided a written report (see appendices).

(b) County Councillors

Councillor Mitchell sent his apologies but provided a written report (see appendices).

7. Planning Applications

(a) To consider the following applications

DC/25/0111 High Trees The Street Slinfold West Sussex Erection of a single storey rear extension.
Councillors **RESOLVED** to have no objection.

DC/25/0166 Warrenside Farm Elmhurst Lane Slinfold West Sussex RH13 0RJ Prior notification for the erection of a forestry building.
Councillors **RESOLVED** to have no objection.

DC/25/0012 Chewton The Street Slinfold West Sussex Demolition of existing single storey rear extension and erection of a single and two storey rear extension with internal alterations (listed building consent)
Councillors **RESOLVED** to have no objection.

DC/25/0196 Meadowhurst Lyons Road Slinfold West Sussex: Erection of a barn for the mixed use of stabling of private horses and the storage of hay plant and machinery
Councillors **RESOLVED** to object to the development on the grounds that the mass, bulk and size of this building was out of character and appearance with this rural setting. As a result, it would be contrary to Policies 25, 32 and 33 of the HDPF as it would not sympathetically relate to its rural location; neighbouring built surroundings and failed to protect, conserve and enhance the landscape character of the area. Moreover, Policy 26 of the HDPF stated that any development that takes place in the countryside must be of an essential nature but, the Council did not consider that this size of building was essential for the purposes of a quiet informal recreational use which, in this instance, was stated to be the stabling of horses. As such it was inappropriate development, which was harmful to the countryside and, therefore, contrary to Policy 26 of the HDPF.

DC/25/0160 Three Ways Park Street Slinfold West Sussex: Conversion of single garage into habitable living space, extension of double garage, alterations to external fenestration and materials.
Councillors **RESOLVED** to have no objection.

DC/24/2004 (amendment) The Business Park Maydwell Avenue Slinfold West Sussex: Erection of a storage building (Use Classes B8) with associated parking and revised circulation arrangements No objection
Councillors **RESOLVED** to have no objection.

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

There were none.

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

HDC was still conferring on whether the 133 homes from Lower Broadbridge Farm would be included in Slinfold's allocation even though it had already been allocated previously in Slinfold parish. The Working Group was ready to start work on drafting a new plan after consultation with residents.

8. Finance & Administration

(a) To review the schedule of payments since the last meeting (30th January 2025) and the February 2025 bank reconciliation.

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the payment schedule (see appendices) and the 20th February 2025 bank reconciliation.

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

The Council reviewed the report.

(c) To discuss the Council's CIL reserves.

This item was deferred to the Finance and Establishment Committee meeting on 12th March 2025.

(d) To discuss the sale of Council tools and equipment.

Councillors **RESOLVED** to sell the leaf blower it had recently purchased as it was not powerful enough.

9. Highways and Byways

(a) To receive an update on a draft definitive map modification order modification on land owned by AJW and Whitebreads Farm.

Following the last meeting, Councillor Pyle and the Clerk had met representatives of AJW and Whitebreads Farm to walk the route and discuss the DMMO (see appendices). Both AJW and Whitebreads were against the application, but AJW was happy for their land to be used as a permissive pathway. Whitebreads Farm highlighted the vandalism to their land since preventing access and that

there was already a PROW on their land. However, they would be happy for residents to use part of an old drovers' track, as a permissive pathway, which would link up to the AJW land in question. The track went through Russets land which was in between AJW and Whitebreads but had been blocked off with gateways and appeared as though a tennis court had been built over it. The Council agreed that this option should be investigated before deciding on the DMMO as it could provide an alternative solution.

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

George Fort explained that he had issued the licence for the gates, but the highways engineer went on holiday for a few weeks and did not include the installation of the gates as part of the TRO despite the request from the Parish Council. WSCC had already raised the works with the contractor and, therefore, it would be up to the Council to pay for installation. A discussion ensued resulting in George Fort saying he would include the installation as part of the TRO whereupon the Council **RESOLVED** to purchase 4 gates from Glasdon for £931.34 each which were the same as the gates into the village. The Clerk had tried to get other quotes for similar gates but was unsuccessful. Furthermore, the Council could save on installation costs of around £2,500 so proceeded under provision 5.12 of the Financial Regulations.

(c) To discuss any issues with a WSCC Highways Assistant Area Manager.

George advised that the data loops for the 20mph scheme would be installed soon and WSCC engineers were investigating changing the colour of the bollards on the buildouts. He said the speed data would determine whether the buildouts were working. He said that WSCC could enforce maintenance of watercourses if necessary. The Chair asked if the poles on the A29 near Random Hall could be removed as they had no signs and were not being used.

(d) To discuss maintenance of the Alfred Shrubb signs.

The Council **AGREED** to ask the Community Shed to look at the signs to see what maintenance was required and if they could do it.

10. Grounds and Buildings Maintenance

(a) To discuss the maintenance of Slinfold Stores.

The Clerk had sent the contact details of the electrician who carried out the EICR and the roofer who had recently done some repairs so the manager could speak about some issues and report back to the Council. He was also in the process of obtaining quotes for a building survey.

(b) To discuss a draft easement for access to the air conditioning units at Slinfold Stores.

This was deferred to the Finance and Establishment Committee on 12th March 2025.

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

There was no update.

(d) To consider a licence for a litter bin on Spring Lane.

Councillors **RESOLVED** to accept the licence and purchase a bin at a cost of £174.94 (exc. VAT). Horsham District Council would empty it for £1.95 per week.

(e) To consider quotes for works to Ash Dieback trees at Cherrytree Farm.

The Clerk had obtained a quote (see appendices) to remove some dead ash trees from behind the football goal at Cherrytree. He had met another arborist but did not receive a quote in time for the meeting. Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the quote from J Carter Tree Services for £2,250 under section 5.11 of the Financial Regulations as the trees were close to a footpath and posed a potential danger to the public.

(f) To receive an update on the football club toilet and container.

The football club had planted the whips purchased by the Council to screen the football container, but this was done months after they were bought so would probably not grow. The club had said they would paint the container green in the meantime. The Clerk had obtained a quote of £228.34 for replacing the floor in the toilet which Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve.

11. Recreation, Youth and Environment

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

The Clerk advised that two Councillors were required to act on behalf of the Council and sign the transfer of freehold whereupon it was **RESOLVED** to nominate Councillors Paula Smith and Ed Skeates.

12. Events

To discuss Village Day 2025.

Councillors **RESOLVED** to allocate £2,500 as a budget.

13. Committees and those on Outside Bodies

To receive any updates.

The new boiler at St Peter's Church had been fitted and was working.

14. Communications

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

The volunteer who edited the magazine had stepped down so there would be no editions until a replacement was found. It was suggested that the Deputy Clerk could take on the responsibility.

(b) To discuss the summer newsletter.

Councillor Slipper was meeting the Deputy Clerk and designer of the newsletter to discuss the summer edition. The volunteer who had recently stepped down was also attending to help with the transition.

15. Items for the next agenda

There were no specific items.

16. Next meeting dates

Council Meeting- 27th March 2025

Finance and Establishment- 12th March 2025

Councillors discussed the Annual Meeting of the Council and the Annual Parish Meeting and **AGREED** to host them both on 21st May 2025.

**Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 20/02/2025
for Cashbook 1 - CO-OP**

<u>Bank Statement Account Name (s)</u>	<u>Statement Date</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Balances</u>
CO-OP	20/02/2025		22,796.14
			<u>22,796.14</u>
<u>Unpresented Payments (Minus)</u>		<u>Amount</u>	
		0.00	
			<u>0.00</u>
			22,796.14
<u>Unpresented Receipts (Plus)</u>			
		0.00	
			<u>0.00</u>
			22,796.14
		Balance per Cash Book is :-	22,796.14
		Difference is :-	0.00

Signatory 1:

Name Signed Date

Signatory 2:

Name Signed Date

Detailed Receipts & Payments by Budget Heading 28/02/2025

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	174	0	(174)			0.0%	
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%	
	<u>75,497</u>	<u>71,712</u>	<u>(3,785)</u>			<u>105.3%</u>	<u>1,826</u>
Income :- Receipts							
	<u>75,497</u>	<u>71,712</u>	<u>(3,785)</u>				
Net Receipts							
6001 less Transfer to EMR	1,826						
	<u>73,671</u>						
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve							
<u>200 Administration</u>							
4000 Clerk & Environment Officers	47,294	39,000	(8,294)		(8,294)	121.3%	
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%	
4070 Legal & Consultancy	28	0	(28)		(28)	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	728	200	(528)		(528)	364.0%	
4135 FC Office Hire	300	0	(300)		(300)	0.0%	
4140 Website and email	560	900	340		340	62.2%	
4150 Software	291	0	(291)		(291)	0.0%	
	<u>54,940</u>	<u>43,390</u>	<u>(11,550)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(11,550)</u>	<u>126.6%</u>	<u>0</u>
Administration :- Indirect Payments							
	<u>(54,940)</u>	<u>(43,390)</u>	<u>11,550</u>				
Net Payments							
<u>250 Football Club</u>							
1200 Rental Income	150	1,000	850			15.0%	
1205 Insurance Reclaimed	330	305	(25)			108.3%	
1210 Grounds Maintenance Reclaim	0	700	700			0.0%	
	<u>480</u>	<u>2,005</u>	<u>1,525</u>			<u>24.0%</u>	<u>0</u>
Football Club :- Receipts							
4200 Repairs & Improvements	984	0	(984)		(984)	0.0%	
	<u>984</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(984)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(984)</u>		<u>0</u>
Football Club :- Indirect Payments							
	<u>(504)</u>	<u>2,005</u>	<u>2,509</u>				
Net Receipts over Payments							

Detailed Receipts & Payments by Budget Heading 28/02/2025

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	150	150	0			100.0%	
1205 Insurance Reclaimed	359	332	(27)			108.3%	
1210 Grounds Maintenance Reclaim	0	520	520			0.0%	
	<u>509</u>	<u>1,002</u>	<u>493</u>			<u>50.8%</u>	<u>0</u>
Tennis Club :- Receipts							
4200 Repairs & Improvements	900	0	(900)		(900)	0.0%	
	<u>900</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(900)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(900)</u>		<u>0</u>
Tennis Club :- Indirect Payments							
	<u>(391)</u>	<u>1,002</u>	<u>1,393</u>				
Net Receipts over Payments							
<u>260 Community Shed</u>							
1205 Insurance Reclaimed	92	110	18			83.3%	
	<u>92</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>18</u>			<u>83.3%</u>	<u>0</u>
Community Shed :- Receipts							
	<u>92</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>18</u>				
Net Receipts							
	<u>92</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>18</u>				
<u>270 Slinfold Stores</u>							
1200 Rental Income	750	1,000	250			75.0%	
1205 Insurance Reclaimed	0	327	327			0.0%	
	<u>750</u>	<u>1,327</u>	<u>577</u>			<u>56.5%</u>	<u>0</u>
Slinfold Stores :- Receipts							
4200 Repairs & Improvements	6,230	0	(6,230)		(6,230)	0.0%	4,730
	<u>6,230</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(6,230)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(6,230)</u>		<u>4,730</u>
Slinfold Stores :- Indirect Payments							
	<u>(5,480)</u>	<u>1,327</u>	<u>6,807</u>				
Net Receipts over Payments							
6000 plus Transfer from EMR	4,730						
	<u>(750)</u>						
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve							
	<u>(750)</u>						
<u>300 Community Services</u>							
4200 Repairs & Improvements	24	0	(24)		(24)	0.0%	
4310 Community Events	3,494	3,000	(494)		(494)	116.5%	
4320 Youth Services	7,364	7,500	136		136	98.2%	
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	3,195	1,500	(1,695)		(1,695)	213.0%	
4395 Cosy Café	2,581	1,500	(1,081)		(1,081)	172.0%	
	<u>19,564</u>	<u>17,600</u>	<u>(1,964)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(1,964)</u>	<u>111.2%</u>	<u>0</u>
Community Services :- Indirect Payments							
	<u>(19,564)</u>	<u>(17,600)</u>	<u>1,964</u>				
Net Payments							

Detailed Receipts & Payments by Budget Heading 28/02/2025

Cost Centre Report

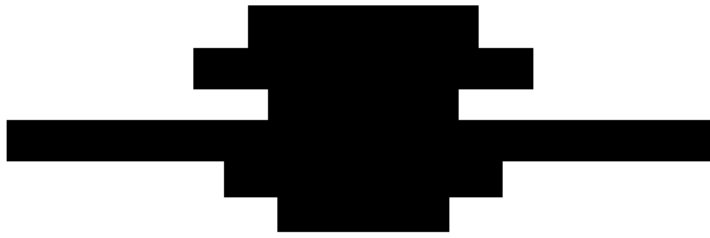
	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<u>350 Recreation</u>							
4200 Repairs & Improvements	486	0	(486)		(486)	0.0%	
4400 Bin collection	467	370	(97)		(97)	126.1%	
4405 Dog bins	1,024	1,150	126		126	89.0%	
4410 Grounds Maintenance	6,134	6,700	566		566	91.5%	
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	6,314	0	(6,314)		(6,314)	0.0%	6,314
4430 Playground Inspections	204	0	(204)		(204)	0.0%	
4435 Grounds Maintenance Cherrytree	3,589	0	(3,589)		(3,589)	0.0%	
Recreation :- Indirect Payments	<u>19,111</u>	<u>8,900</u>	<u>(10,211)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(10,211)</u>	<u>214.7%</u>	<u>6,314</u>
Net Payments	<u>(19,111)</u>	<u>(8,900)</u>	<u>10,211</u>				
6000 plus Transfer from EMR	6,314						
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(12,797)</u>						
<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	5,543	7,000	1,457		1,457	79.2%	
Highways & Byways :- Indirect Payments	<u>9,593</u>	<u>9,000</u>	<u>(593)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(593)</u>	<u>106.6%</u>	<u>4,050</u>
Net Payments	<u>(9,593)</u>	<u>(9,000)</u>	<u>593</u>				
6000 plus Transfer from EMR	4,050						
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(5,543)</u>						
<u>999 VAT Data</u>							
115 VAT on Receipts	14,097	0	(14,097)			0.0%	
VAT Data :- Receipts	<u>14,097</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(14,097)</u>				<u>0</u>
515 VAT on Payments	5,899	0	(5,899)		(5,899)	0.0%	
VAT Data :- Indirect Payments	<u>5,899</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(5,899)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(5,899)</u>		<u>0</u>
Net Receipts over Payments	<u>8,198</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(8,198)</u>				
Grand Totals:- Receipts	91,425	76,156	(15,269)			120.0%	
Payments	117,221	78,890	(38,331)	0	(38,331)	148.6%	
Net Receipts over Payments	<u>(25,796)</u>	<u>(2,734)</u>	<u>23,062</u>				
plus Transfer from EMR	15,094						
less Transfer to EMR	1,826						
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(12,528)</u>						

<u>Account</u>	<u>Opening Balance</u>	<u>Net Transfers</u>	<u>Closing Balance</u>
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 05/02/2025 and 28/02/2025

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Authorized Ref</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
05/02/2025	DPS Plumbing & Heating Service	BACS	780.00		Disabled loo FC
10/02/2025	Horsham District Council	DD	28.00		Bins
10/02/2025	Horsham District Council	BACS	-28.00		Bins
10/02/2025	Mike Simpson	BACS	28.00		Land Registry Fees
10/02/2025	Charity Bank	TRANSFER	8,000.00		Transfer to Charity Bank
18/02/2025	Horsham District Council	BACS	28.80		Bin collection
21/02/2025	Stowag	BACS	63.95		Post sockets
21/02/2025	CHF Solutions Ltd	BACS	214.16		Timber bollards Six Acres
27/02/2025	Slinfold Village Hall	BACS	300.00		2064/2068/2076
27/02/2025	Slinfold Football Club	BACS	300.00		FC Office Hire 23-24
27/02/2025	Horsham District Council	BACS	36.96		Bin bags
28/02/2025	NEST	DD	23.52		SBell Feb
28/02/2025	Samantha Bell	BACS	245.74		February
28/02/2025	Tony Burroughs	BACS	239.20		February 25
28/02/2025	John Pilkington	BACS	245.40		February 2025
28/02/2025	Mike Simpson	BACS	2,154.20		February 2025
28/02/2025	LGPS	BACS	689.84		MS February 25
Total Payments			<u>13,349.77</u>		

J Carter Tree Services



To: **Mr Mike Simpson**
Slinfold Parish Council

18.02.25

Quotation for:

Removal of dying and dangerous Ash trees suffering from Chalara Ash Dieback disease - alongside the permissive footpath on the boundary of the Slinfold football club ground.

To remove all marked Ash trees in the above area as in supplied photographs by Mr Simpson and confirmed by my and Tree Warden [redacted] site visit.

Brash wood to be left stacked on site to become insect habitat piles.

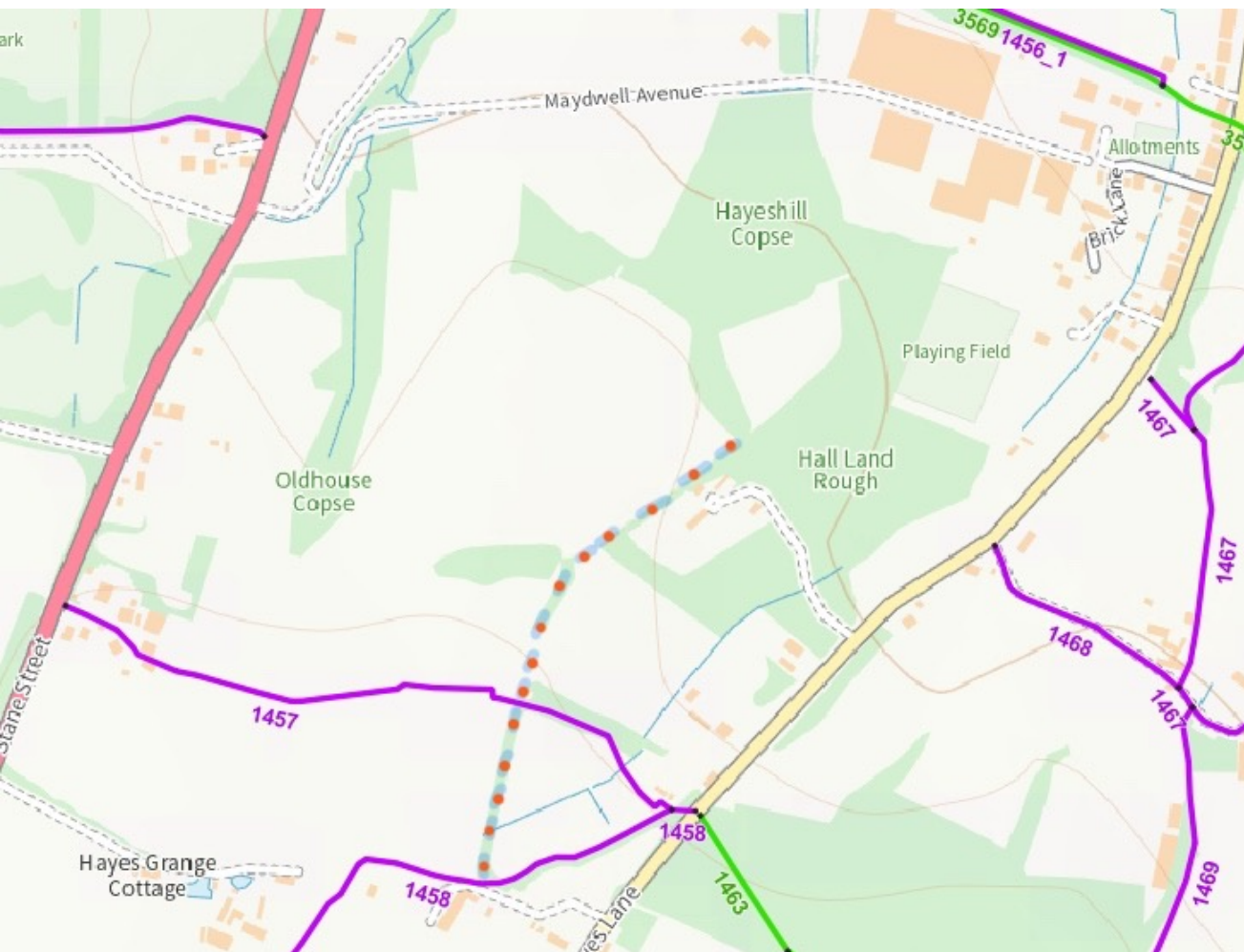
Price for the above work: **£2250.00 (No VAT)**

If you have any other questions please do not hesitate to ask.

Regards,

[redacted signature]





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 (<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.

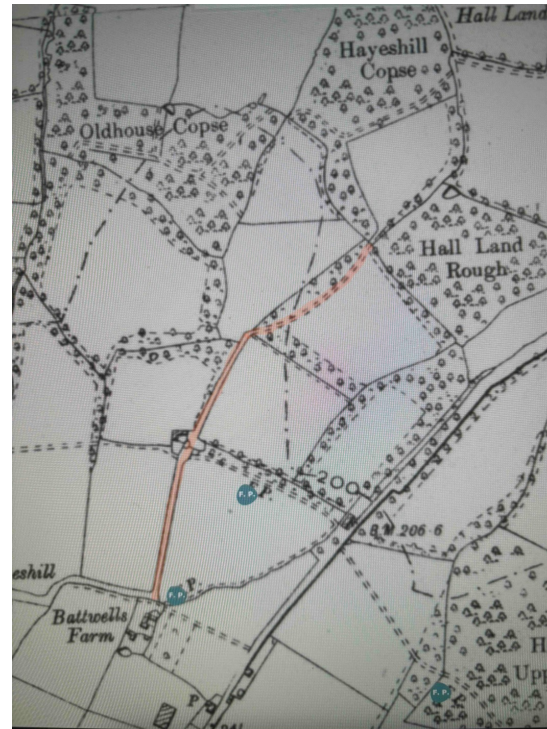
HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 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

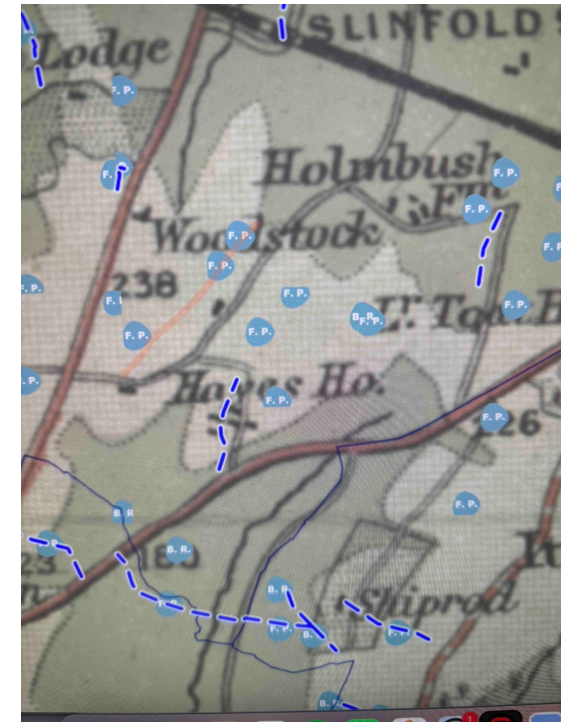


OS Map - current



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.



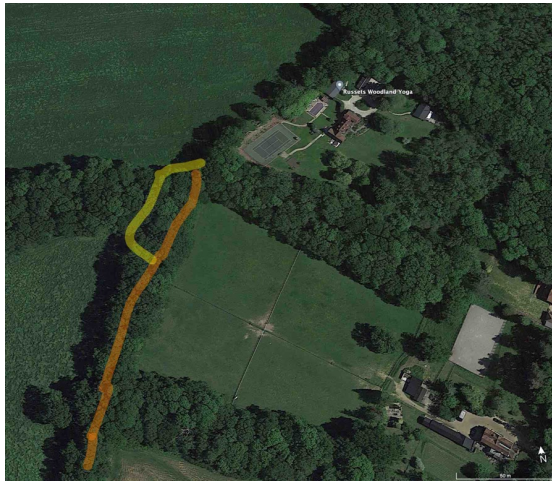
///allows.website.emulated
Field perimeter track



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

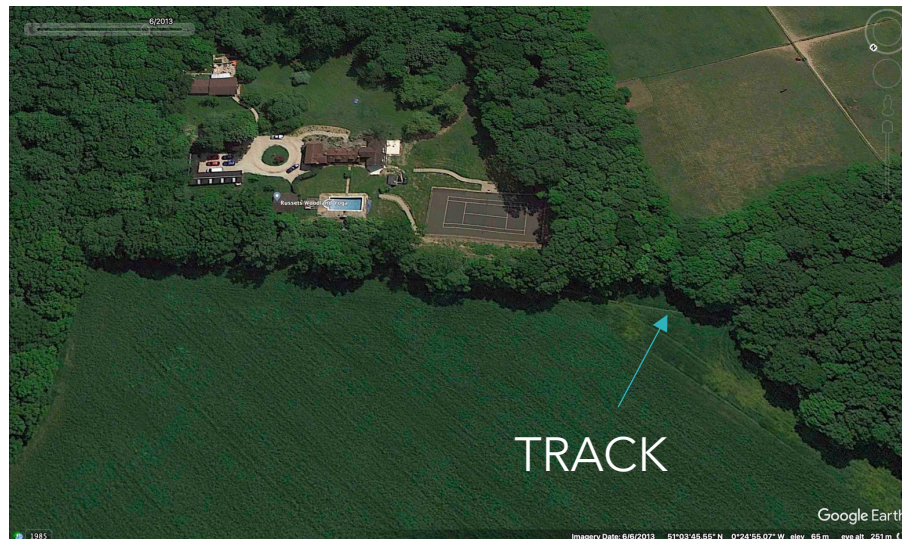
WALKTHROUGH ADDENDUM 1/2

- 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.

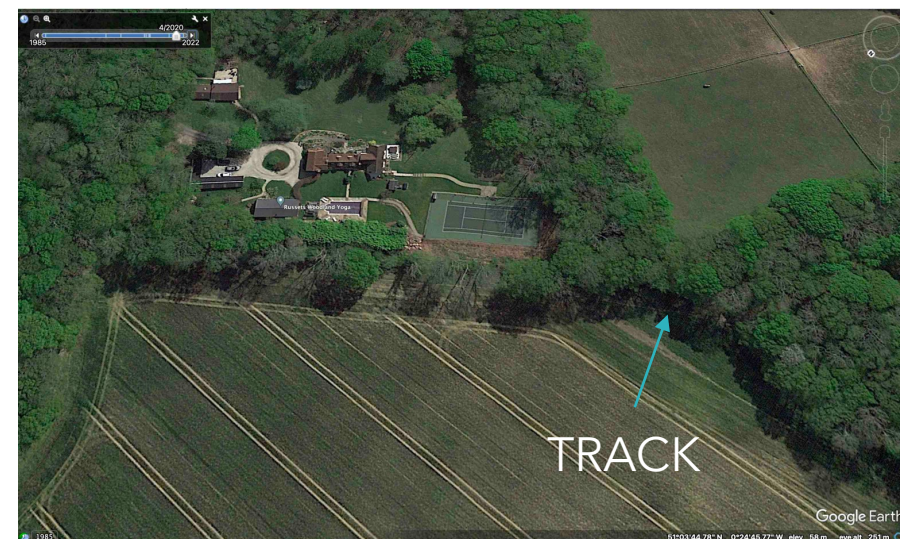


WALKTHROUGH ADDENDUM 2/2

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

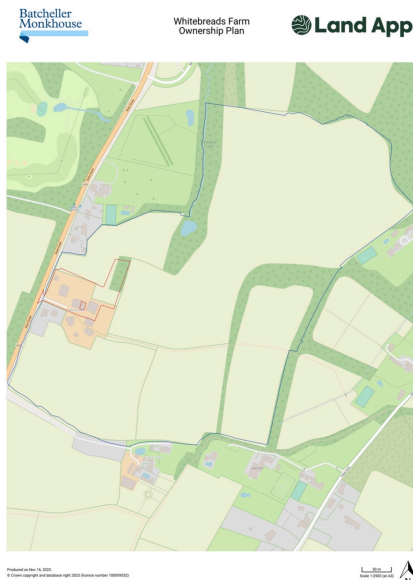
AJW COPSE & ONWARDS ACCESS



- 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 Madewell 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.