



# Slinfold Parish Council

Slinfold Football Club, Hayes Lane, RH13 0SQ  
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## Minutes of the Slinfold Parish Council Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Due to the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair it was **RESOLVED** to elect Councillor Skeates as Chair for the meeting.

### 1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

**In attendance:** Councillors Casdagli, Sherwin-Smith, Skeates, Paula Smith, Snow and Walker.

**Apologies for absence:** Councillors Roberts (Vice Chair), Slipper, Nigel Smith (Chair) and Waples which Councillors **RESOLVED** to accept.

**Also in attendance:** Mike Simpson (Clerk), District Councillor Kasia Greenwood, 2 Taylor Wimpey consultants and 30 members of the public.

### 2. Declarations of Interest, Notification of Changes to Members' Interests and to consider any dispensations To receive any declarations of interests from Members in respect to items on the agenda.

There were none.

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

To note any comments.

Consultant for Taylor Wimpey, Stuart Oldroyd, gave a presentation on planning application DC/25/2006 and described what the plans entailed using the documents provided on the planning portal. He said there would be 38 houses in total, 13 of which would be affordable, and houses would only be to the west of the plot with a 'buffer zone' to the east on which an attenuation pond would be installed. The trees on the Eastern boundary would be retained and the houses would reflect the design of the houses on Hayes Lane to which they would be facing. He said Taylor Wimpey had consulted with Horsham District Council (HDC) in a pre-application discussion in 2022 about the proposed number of houses who had said the number was too low for the plot and had recommended developing more of the plot. Furthermore, he said Slinfold could only show a 1-year housing supply, not 5, and had an outdated plan which tilted the balance in favour of development.

Resident comments included: questions about surrounding infrastructure being able to cope with further development; challenging that Slinfold had excellent local facilities when in reality it only had one bus and the shop, pub and post office were struggling; concern that the 13 affordable houses would not be taken on by a provider and end as part of a commuted sum instead of for residents of Slinfold; changing the number of houses from 15 when this had always been the allocation and Slinfold Parish Council's Management Statement reflected this; climate change would only make the threat of flooding worse and any new development would exacerbate it even more. Any surface water drainage system needed to ensure this threat was mitigated; the stream from Hayes Hill was already overloaded and the proposed attenuation pond would only make it worse as the outfall would become submerged meaning the hydrobrake could not operate properly and regulate flow. This would result in further flooding downstream- especially by the outlet on Lyons Road; extra cars parking on Hayes Lane was also raised, making it a single track for longer, as well as large HGVs making an already dilapidated road worse when carrying out works; the access was not in an ideal location and would make it difficult for HGVs to enter the site - was a second entrance further south considered which would allow motorists to avoid more of the parked cars; this development would be the third in the area within 10 years and there were already struggles with traffic from the amount of parked cars and the road was in a bad state; the double yellow line outside the access could cause parking issues as they would probably not be enforced; no scout hut had been offered which was a key asset for the parish; moving the footpath to the east and installing a pond as well creating access in the north was not respecting the 'buffer zone'; concerns over what the Downslink would look like.

The Consultant did respond to a number of the queries:

**Affordable housing-** they had applied HDC policy but there were other options to provide affordable housing such as offering some for rent, some for keyworkers and discounted rent; these issues could be dealt with at reserved matters stage.

**Housing allocation:** The numbers had been produced at the suggestion of HDC as they believed the site was underdeveloped at 15 and it would require other land to be found to make up the difference.

**Parking:** Spaces had been allocated on site with an additional 5 spaces so he believed there should not be any additional cars parking on Hayes Lane. A Construction Management Plan would also be in place to ensure HGVs used the best route and that they were parked on site. Double yellows outside of the access would be checked but this was a WSCC Highways issue.

**Flooding:** An attenuation pond was the main part of the SuDS and suggested the conduit under the Downslink was blocked and this caused flooding. He was advised this was not the case and it was the poor drainage system from Hayes Hill into broken pipes under Hayes Lane. He said developers would be happy to look at how they could help further to mitigate flooding issues in the area.

**Downslink:** Visualization of the Downslink would be available at reserved matters stage.

**Scout Hut:** The first application (before the site was allocated) for this site included a scout hut but the developers believed one had been provided since. They were happy to investigate this again.

**Access:** Unusual for a site this size to have two entrances and some TPO trees would need to be felled to facilitate, but it would be investigated.

#### 4. Minutes from the previous meeting on 18th December 2025

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

#### 5. Councillor Reports

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

Councillor Mitchell sent his apologies and provided a written report. Councillor Greenwood had circulated a written report before the meeting (see appendices).

#### 6. Planning Applications

##### (a) To consider the following applications:

**DC/25/2130 Holmbush Bungalow Hayes Lane Slinfold West Sussex** Erection of a two storey rear extension. Conversion of loft into habitable living space. Installation of 2no. rooflights. Alterations to ground floor fenestration.

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

**DC/25/2006 Land East of 1 To 25 Hayes Lane Slinfold West Sussex:** Outline application with all matters to be reserved except for access and layout, for the erection of 38no. dwellings, (including 13no. on-site affordable housing units), together with access from Hayes Lane, vehicle and cycle parking, landscaping, open space and play provision, sustainable drainage, and re-alignment of Public Right of Way No.3782

Councillors **RESOLVED** to object to this application on the following grounds:

##### 1 Housing numbers and the development site PDS8

As HDC was aware, this site was originally allocated for 15 homes to match the scale of the Victorian linear development on the west side of Hayes Lane. All reference to housing numbers in the Slinfold neighbourhood plan 2018 was removed on HDC's request but we have since had discussions with HDC that in hindsight this probably wasn't appropriate and in any new plan, numbers would be specified. When the applicant approached the Parish Council last year with their plan of 38 homes we wrote to them and said our wish was to see 15 on this site and our Management Statement justified the rationale for this (we still await HDC's response to our Management Statement).

The applicant argued on the evening that the development site identified in yellow in the neighbourhood plan PDS8 was larger than a linear strip. However, the Parish Council argued that ALL development including roads, balancing ponds and any community infrastructure e.g. scout hut would need to be within the allocated PDS8 boundary area. The application included the significant SuDS provision outside of the development site which significantly reduced the buffer zone and a scout hut was currently omitted entirely.

HDC's Landscape Capacity Assessment concluded Area SF5 "that there is limited capacity for small scale housing development" Hayes Lane LVIA page 9 para 3.22.

## **2 Quiet Lanes**

Whilst the site was large enough to spatially house up to 50 homes, as the application which was refused in 2015 demonstrated, the surrounding infrastructure capacity, notably Hayes Lane itself (a designated "Quiet lane") did not have the capacity to sustain this quantum of further housing.

No mention of Aim 5 was made in the Applicants Transport Assessment. Aim 5 of the Neighbourhood Plan 2018 specifically allocated Hayes Lane between the Downslink and A29 as a "Quiet Lane". These "Quiet lanes can also contribute to improving the safety and the quality of life for residents in rural areas" para7.7 SNP 2018. As a narrow "Quiet lane" Hayes Lane already struggled with the current level of road traffic.

The new site access was less than 30m from the Downslink crossing which was an important pedestrian, cycle and horse rider crossing. With the new access to Welwyn, this part of Hayes Lane had already become far busier and more urbanised. A new site access this close to the crossing point would add further safety issues which could only be accommodated with further urbanising crossing infrastructure which was unwelcome. Subject to maintaining the TPO trees and established hedgerow which had important wildlife, consideration should be given to a secondary access to the south of the site to disperse entry and exit movements.

## **3 Parking**

Many of the Victorian houses on the lane did not have driveways and therefore relied on parking on the highway, effectively making significant lengths of the road single track. It was not believed the yellow lines on either side of the new entrance would be enforceable and consequently the lane would become frequently blocked and access to the site by large vehicles impossible. As a minimum, any lost space on the road would need to be allocated to specific Hayes Lane residents to prevent this. Further unallocated parking would be required in addition to alleviate some of the existing pressure.

## **4 Roads within development site**

The road to the north of the development tracked out towards and parallel to the Downslink and ignored the buffer zone along the Downslink. This was unnecessary urbanisation of the Downslink and should be avoided. All roads and development needed to be contained within the PDS8 site boundary. Similarly, the road to the west of the site which tracked across the new footpath was unacceptable and unnecessary if the development was reduced in size to a linear scheme and contained within the PDS8 boundary.

## **5 Flooding**

Hayes Lane had a well documented history of flooding in various locations from the top to the bottom of the hill. A combination of blocked ditches and serious damage to the drainage system from other utilities and tree roots had left the existing drainage capacity of Hayes Lane significantly reduced for the current houses on the lane let alone adding further numbers. Any further development must be justified by a comprehensive assessment of the Hayes Lane drainage infrastructure. Councillors asked the developer for a financial contribution to cover an independent engineer to advise the parish council and they agreed although details are yet to be arranged.

Please note Southern Water had addressed the wrong development for this site. Given the seriousness of flooding at Hayes Lane Councillors urged HDC to encourage Southern Water to take a very detailed look at the proposals and the existing system capacity and effectiveness.

## **6 Scout Hut**

The Applicant was now aware that the greatest need for Slinfold in terms of community infrastructure was a fully fitted Scout Hut. This needed to be incorporated and within the PDS8 boundary.

## **7 Affordable Housing**

Councillors noted the comments of the HDC Housing Officer regarding the small scale of the affordable

provision may make this site unattractive to registered providers although we do not agree. Other smaller affordable provisions (Welwyn adjacent) had been taken up and the Parish Council would like to make sure all efforts are made to ensure affordable housing was provided on site for the benefit of parishioners and not translated to a commuted sum. The need for affordable housing in rural communities was well documented and Slinfold was a classic example where many residents were priced out and had to move far away from their places of work and families.

## 7 Design

Councillors appreciated the application was at this stage outline. When details come forward the Council expected them to follow closely to its Design Statement. This was an important location in the village with close proximity to the Downlink and the historic railway heritage so Councillors expected high quality architect designed and location sensitive design.

Councillors respectfully requested that HDC refused the application. As part of our Neighbourhood Plan work last year, the Applicant was invited on the 2nd May 2025 to come in and discuss this site with the Parish Council before application. The above points would have been raised and could have been addressed prior to application and prevented abortive work. Nevertheless, the Parish Council remained committed to work with HDC and the Applicant to see sustainable and suitable development come forward on this site.

**DC/25/2089 Land Known As Pinkhurst Stud Pinkhurst Lane Slinfold West Sussex** Siting of a static caravan as a temporary rural workers dwelling (Retrospective).

Councillors **RESOLVED** to object based on policy 20 of the Horsham District Local Plan and NPPF which stated that temporary rural dwellings will be permitted if:

1. There is a functional need for the dwelling and the occupation of the dwelling is to support the established business use
2. Evidence is submitted to demonstrate the viability of the rural business for which the housing is required

No evidence had been provided showing the viability of the business and that it was profitable and capable of remaining so. Also, no evidence had been provided that a search for suitable alternative existing accommodation nearby which could be capable of meeting the welfare needs of the livestock had been carried out. Many generic facts had been provided about the equine industry but nothing specific to the longevity of the business.

Furthermore, the applicant only provided statistics on the equine industry in support of the application which led the reader to believe the viability of the business was only based on 6 horses which, at section 6.3 of the Agricultural Justification Statement states would only be there during "*peak periods*". Therefore, the Parish Council cannot see how the business would be viable and that there was need to have workers overnight to care for such a low number of horses, which was a principle that was generally accepted in the equine industry.

Lastly, the applicants stated under section 5 of their Agricultural Justification Statement that the site comprises previously developed land but the definition given in the Glossary of the NPPF specifically excluded "*land that is or was last occupied by agricultural or forestry buildings*" and made the argument that the land comprised grey belt land but, once again, the definition in the NPPF stated "*grey belt' is defined as land in the Green Belt comprising .....*". The site does not lie within the Green Belt so neither of these arguments were relevant.

In conclusion, the points raised above did not provide enough evidence to support the building of a temporary rural worker dwelling in this rural location and the Parish Council urged Horsham District Council to refuse the application.

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

There were none.

## 7. Gatwick

**(a) To receive an update on the public meeting and survey regarding a second runway**

The Clerk presented the draft survey which Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve (see Council's website).

**(b) To discuss a response to the Government's consultation on air navigation, directions and guidance.**

Councillors discussed a draft response to the Government's consultation and **RESOLVED** to approve it. (see the Council's website).

## 8. Finances and Administration

### (a) To review the schedule of payments and bank reconciliation since 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of payments and bank reconciliation since the last meeting (see appendices).

### (b) To review the latest variance report.

Councillors reviewed and noted there were no exceptional variances since the last meeting (see appendices).

### (c) To review a WSCC licence to install a nature trail post on the Downslink.

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the draft licence from WSCC for siting a nature trail post on the Downslink next to the noticeboard.

## 9. Highways and Byways

### (a) To consider a quote to repair the broken handrail on The Street

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve a quote from Carl Osborne of £495 to replace five oak posts on the broken handrail leading from the village hall to the shop.

### (b) To consider a request to support a Community Highways Scheme to reduce the speed limit on the A264 and install school signage and road markings near Apple Orchard School

The Clerk had received an email from SEN school, Apple Orchard, on Five Oaks Road:

*'The A264 that runs outside the school is a fast road with no notifications of there being a school present. A member of our staff team recently experienced a collision whilst entering the school, fortunately they were not significantly injured. We are of course concerned over the safety of the Children and would like to make the area as safe as reasonably possible for children, staff, visitors, and other motorists who use the road.*

*I have reached out to the local highways who have advised that we should apply for a community scheme for a change of speed limit and school signage.*

*Highways have advised that before doing so it is a requirement that our local councillor support the proposal. I have received an email from Mr Christian Mitchell stating his support, subject to review of the proposals, and suggesting discussing the matter with yourselves also.*

*I am asking if you would support improving the safety of the school's entrance by the reduction of the immediate speed limit and installation of school signage and road markings.*

After discussion, Councillors **RESOLVED** to support the application as it would help to improve road safety and mitigate the danger of further collisions.

### (c) To discuss clearing the gullies on Hayes Lane

The Clerk had requested the gullies be cleaned on Hayes Lane, but WSCC responded stating they would not do so without evidence of flooding. He had requested a quote for cleaning the gullies from Conway, which would include Lyons Road. A WSCC steward had visited Lyons Road, near the junction with Pinkhurst Lane, where there had been recent flooding due to heavy rainfall, and advised no action was needed until the next scheduled clean. The Clerk would enquire when the gullies were next on the schedule before deciding to request Conway to clean them.

### (d) To discuss any other issues

There were none.

## 10. Grounds and Buildings Maintenance

### To receive an update on Slinfold Stores.

The conservation officer at HDC had said the strengthening of the historic roof and the repairs to cracked brickwork could be considered alterations that affect the special interest of the building and which would therefore require Listed Building Consent. Councillor **RESOLVED** to apply for Listed Building Consent in Spring when the works would commence as there would be better weather.

## 11. Recreation, Youth and Environment

### (a) To discuss a grant for the youth club in Slinfold

Six beanbags had been purchased for the youth club from the Alf Shrubbs Memorial race grant but there was still £250 left so the Clerk would contact the youth club to see what else they needed.

**(b) To receive an update on the tree survey**

The Clerk had circulated the survey which showed no urgent repairs works were necessary.

**12. Committees and those on Outside Bodies**

**To receive any updates**

There were none.

**13. Communications and events**

**To discuss any articles for the parish magazine.**

There were no suggestions.

**14. Items for the next agenda**

**To discuss**

There were none.

**15. Next meeting dates**

Recreation, Youth, Environment, Highways and Byways: 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

Council meeting: 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

**Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 31/12/2025  
for Cashbook 1 - CO-OP**

<u>Bank Statement Account Name (s)</u>	<u>Statement Date</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Balances</u>
CO-OP	31/12/2025		51,747.79
			<u>51,747.79</u>
<u>Unpresented Payments (Minus)</u>		<u>Amount</u>	
		0.00	
			<u>0.00</u>
			51,747.79
<u>Unpresented Receipts (Plus)</u>			
		0.00	
			<u>0.00</u>
			51,747.79
		<b>Balance per Cash Book is :-</b>	<b>51,747.79</b>
		<b>Difference is :-</b>	<b>0.00</b>

**Signatory 1:**

Name ..... Signed ..... Date .....

**Signatory 2:**

Name ..... Signed ..... Date .....

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BRANCH : BUSINESS DIRECTPLUS      0892996534736800      PAGE 217  
 BIC : CPBKGB22      IBAN : GB32CPBK08929965347368  
 TYPE : CHARITY COMM SLINFOLD PARISH COUNCIL      31 DEC 25

Date	Description	Withdrawals	Deposits	Balance
01 DEC 25	BROUGHT FORWARD			57,088.01
09 DEC 25	CLIENTS DEPOSIT HorshamLottery		12.50	57,100.51
12 DEC 25	Tony Burroughs	39.15		57,061.36
15 DEC 25	ALF SHRUBB MEMORIA ALF SHRUBB RACE		300.00	
15 DEC 25	ALF SHRUBB MEMORIA SHRUBB YOUTH CLUB		500.00	57,861.36
17 DEC 25	DD HORSHAM DISTRICT C 010000100352000001	29.70		57,831.66
19 DEC 25	AH & NP Higgs	58.75		
19 DEC 25	Thomas Savage 004	100.00		
19 DEC 25	Tony Burroughs	179.40		
19 DEC 25	Oakland Security 10496	180.00		
19 DEC 25	John Pilkington Slinfold PC	248.80		
19 DEC 25	Slinfold Village H 2245/2250/2257	394.00		
19 DEC 25	Treetop Printing a 33567&20080	444.80		
19 DEC 25	WSCC Pension Fund NS97 Slinfold PC	712.31		
19 DEC 25	OSBORNE CD 539	720.00		
19 DEC 25	Laura Brown 20080	750.00		
19 DEC 25	Michael Simpson	2,010.31		
19 DEC 25	Moore 331862	535.50		51,497.79
24 DEC 25	GRAYCON CONSULTING RENT		250.00	51,747.79

Time: 10:36

CO-OP

## List of Payments made between 19/12/2025 and 30/01/2026

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Authorized Ref</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
02/01/2026	Horsham District Council	BACS	338.00		Litter and dog bins
09/01/2026	Jane Slipper	BACS	460.72		Christmas events and Cosy Cafe
13/01/2026	Clare Trott	BACS	42.90		Cosy Cafe
13/01/2026	King Fisher Direct Ltd	BACS	874.80		Litter bin Slinfold Stores
14/01/2026	SSE	BACS	779.50		SSE
20/01/2026	Horsham District Council	DD	29.70		Bins
20/01/2026	Clare Trott	BACS	30.19		Cosy Cafe
20/01/2026	Home Gardens and Products Ltd	BACS	288.31		Beanbag chairs youth club
23/01/2026	HMRC	DD	3,698.08		PAYE 3rd Quarter
29/01/2026	Slinfold Village Hall	BACS	272.25		2275/2269/2264
29/01/2026	Carl Osborne	BACS	730.00		542- Six Acres gate repair
29/01/2026	George Potbury Forestry Ltd	BACS	480.00		Fence posts nature trail
29/01/2026	Oakland Security	BACS	870.00		10552- Barrier repair
29/01/2026	WSALC	BACS	30.00		2042- rights of way training
29/01/2026	Arbor Help	BACS	931.44		Parish Tree Survey
30/01/2026	Mike Simpson	BACS	2,010.31		January
30/01/2026	Tony Burroughs	BACS	179.40		January 2026
30/01/2026	John Pilkington	BACS	248.80		January 2026
30/01/2026	LGPS	BACS	712.31		January 2026
Total Payments			13,006.71		

## Detailed Receipts &amp; Payments by Budget Heading 30/01/2026

## 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	125	0	(125)			0.0%	125
1010 Section 104	30,000	0	(30,000)			0.0%	
1076 Precept	75,317	75,317	0			100.0%	
1080 Bank Interest	124	8,180	8,056			1.5%	
1090 CIL Income	17,654	0	(17,654)			0.0%	17,654
1100 Grants Received	1,300	2,500	1,200			52.0%	1,300
1120 Environment Cleansing	3,795	3,700	(95)			102.6%	3,795
1999 Miscellaneous Income	1	0	(1)			0.0%	
	<u>128,315</u>	<u>89,697</u>	<u>(38,618)</u>			<u>143.1%</u>	<u>22,873</u>
Income :- Receipts							
	<u>128,315</u>	<u>89,697</u>	<u>(38,618)</u>				
Net Receipts							
6001 less Transfer to EMR	22,873						
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>105,442</u>						
<u>200 Administration</u>							
1210 Grounds Maintenance Reclaim	(30)	0	30			0.0%	
Administration :- Receipts	<u>(30)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>30</u>				<u>0</u>
4000 Clerk & Environment Officers	47,459	54,000	6,541		6,541	87.9%	
4025 EO Expenses	134	500	366		366	26.8%	
4055 Training	25	150	125		125	16.7%	
4060 Audit	639	650	11		11	98.3%	
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%	
4085 ICO Fee	47	0	(47)		(47)	0.0%	
4091 Chair's Allowance	0	400	400		400	0.0%	
4100 Insurance	2,298	2,000	(298)		(298)	114.9%	
4110 Recruitment & Training	0	100	100		100	0.0%	
4120 Home Office	0	180	180		180	0.0%	
4130 Hall Hire	510	600	90		90	85.0%	
4135 FC Office Hire	0	300	300		300	0.0%	
4140 Website and email	574	570	(4)		(4)	100.6%	
4150 Software	203	350	147		147	58.0%	
4160 Stationery/printing	0	100	100		100	0.0%	
Administration :- Indirect Payments	<u>52,644</u>	<u>60,680</u>	<u>8,036</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8,036</u>	<u>86.8%</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Receipts over Payments	<u>(52,674)</u>	<u>(60,680)</u>	<u>(8,006)</u>				

## Detailed Receipts &amp; Payments by Budget Heading 30/01/2026

## Cost Centre Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<u>250 Football Club</u>							
1200 Rental Income	150	150	0			100.0%	
1205 Insurance Reclaimed	404	330	(74)			122.5%	
1210 Grounds Maintenance Reclaim	0	650	650			0.0%	
Football Club :- Receipts	554	1,130	576			49.0%	0
4200 Repairs & Improvements	165	0	(165)		(165)	0.0%	
Football Club :- Indirect Payments	165	0	(165)	0	(165)		0
Net Receipts over Payments	389	1,130	741				
<u>255 Tennis Club</u>							
1200 Rental Income	150	150	0			100.0%	
1205 Insurance Reclaimed	354	359	5			98.5%	
1210 Grounds Maintenance Reclaim	0	520	520			0.0%	
Tennis Club :- Receipts	504	1,029	525			49.0%	0
Net Receipts	504	1,029	525				
<u>260 Community Shed</u>							
1205 Insurance Reclaimed	92	92	0			99.8%	
Community Shed :- Receipts	92	92	0			99.8%	0
Net Receipts	92	92	0				
<u>270 Slinfold Stores</u>							
1200 Rental Income	750	1,000	250			75.0%	
1205 Insurance Reclaimed	0	354	354			0.0%	
Slinfold Stores :- Receipts	750	1,354	604			55.4%	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	0	1,354	1,354				
6000 plus Transfer from EMR	750						
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	750						
<u>275 Cherrytree</u>							
4200 Repairs & Improvements	606	0	(606)		(606)	0.0%	
Cherrytree :- Indirect Payments	606	0	(606)	0	(606)		0
Net Payments	(606)	0	606				

## Detailed Receipts &amp; Payments by Budget Heading 30/01/2026

## Cost Centre Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<u>300 Community Services</u>							
4200 Repairs & Improvements	326	0	(326)		(326)	0.0%	
4310 Community Events	3,254	3,200	(54)		(54)	101.7%	510
4320 Youth Services	5,405	8,600	3,195		3,195	62.9%	
4321 Youth Services Other	240	0	(240)		(240)	0.0%	240
4370 Newsletters/Promotions	3,011	2,700	(311)		(311)	111.5%	
4380 Community Improvement Projects	400	0	(400)		(400)	0.0%	
4390 Grants Made	2,100	2,500	400		400	84.0%	
4395 Cosy Café	2,554	2,500	(54)		(54)	102.1%	2,554
Community Services :- Indirect Payments	<u>17,290</u>	<u>19,500</u>	<u>2,210</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,210</u>	<u>88.7%</u>	<u>3,304</u>
Net Payments	<u>(17,290)</u>	<u>(19,500)</u>	<u>(2,210)</u>				
6000 plus Transfer from EMR	3,304						
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(13,985)</u>						
<u>350 Recreation</u>							
4200 Repairs & Improvements	2,066	0	(2,066)		(2,066)	0.0%	1,333
4400 Bin collection	664	722	58		58	91.9%	
4405 Dog bins	1,014	1,180	166		166	85.9%	
4412 Grounds Maintenance Extra Cuts	1,314	0	(1,314)		(1,314)	0.0%	
4420 King George V	1,865	1,570	(295)		(295)	118.8%	
4425 Six Acres	4,383	1,800	(2,583)		(2,583)	243.5%	4,073
4430 Playground Inspections	0	215	215		215	0.0%	
4435 Grounds Maintenance Cherrytree	5,820	4,472	(1,348)		(1,348)	130.1%	
Recreation :- Indirect Payments	<u>17,126</u>	<u>9,959</u>	<u>(7,167)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(7,167)</u>	<u>172.0%</u>	<u>5,406</u>
Net Payments	<u>(17,126)</u>	<u>(9,959)</u>	<u>7,167</u>				
6000 plus Transfer from EMR	5,406						
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(11,720)</u>						
<u>400 Highways &amp; Byways</u>							
4510 Streetlights & Maintenance	2,217	3,163	946		946	70.1%	
Highways & Byways :- Indirect Payments	<u>2,217</u>	<u>3,163</u>	<u>946</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>946</u>	<u>70.1%</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Payments	<u>(2,217)</u>	<u>(3,163)</u>	<u>(946)</u>				
<u>999 VAT Data</u>							
115 VAT on Receipts	1,141	0	(1,141)			0.0%	
VAT Data :- Receipts	<u>1,141</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(1,141)</u>				<u>0</u>

## Detailed Receipts &amp; Payments by Budget Heading 30/01/2026

## Cost Centre Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
515 VAT on Payments	1,555	0	(1,555)		(1,555)	0.0%	
VAT Data :- Indirect Payments	1,555	0	(1,555)	0	(1,555)		0
Net Receipts over Payments	<u>(414)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>414</u>				
Grand Totals:- Receipts	131,326	93,302	(38,024)			140.8%	
Payments	92,352	93,302	950	0	950	99.0%	
Net Receipts over Payments	<u>38,974</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(38,974)</u>				
plus Transfer from EMR	9,461						
less Transfer to EMR	22,873						
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>25,561</u>						

# **Parish Council Report – January 2026**

## Local Government Reorganisation

**All council leaders across West Sussex have issued a joint statement, following the government’s consultation on local government in West Sussex.**

“As council leaders across West Sussex, we reaffirm the strength of our joint working as we move towards the next stage of local government reorganisation. Over recent months, all councils in West Sussex have continued to collaborate closely, building on a solid foundation of shared ambition, evidence, and commitment to the people and communities we serve.

We are grateful to everyone who contributed their views to the government’s consultation on local government reorganisation in West Sussex which closed on 11 January 2026.

Ministers will now assess all business cases and responses to the consultation. They have confirmed that decisions will be made using the published criteria and informed by the consultation feedback. The government is expected to announce its decision for West Sussex by the end of March 2026. Elections for a new shadow authority or authorities are anticipated in May 2027, with the new arrangements formally taking effect when the new unitary councils assume governance from 1 April 2028.

There will be no immediate changes to how residents and businesses access services. The councils remain fully committed to delivering high-quality, efficient local services across all our communities, with services continuing to operate as normal.

Our shared priority is clear: to ensure that any reorganisation delivers a structure that supports local identity, economic prosperity, and long-term resilience with simpler access to services, fair outcomes for all areas of the county, and strong value for taxpayers. The strong partnership between our councils provides a robust platform for preparing for a smooth transition and ensuring continuity of essential services.

We will continue to work together and keep you updated as this important process develops. Thank you for your ongoing partnership and support.”

## Community Climate Fund

**Up to £5,000 available via Horsham District’s Community Climate Fund.**

### **What is the Community Climate Fund?**

The grant is a launchpad for community organisations to start new projects that reduce carbon emissions, whilst taking steps to saving money and create lasting positive change in the community. Together, we can create a brighter, greener future for the Horsham District.

### **Who is eligible?**

Local voluntary, community or not-for-profit organisations that are based in Horsham District. Must be properly formed and operate services that are open to all.

### What projects are funded?

New projects that reduce carbon emissions through one or more of the following areas:

- **Energy** (solar panels, smart heating controls, LED lighting)
- **Water** (rainwater harvesting, low flow and sensor taps)
- **Waste** (set up a repair café or 'hard to recycle' collection, composting)
- **Biodiversity** (develop your nature garden, plant trees and pollinators)
- **Transport** (bicycle parking, running a bicycle repair workshop or active travel event)

The broader community benefits of **health and wellbeing**, **education** and **social inclusion** are considerations too.

We **can** fund the purchase of materials and hired contractors needed to deliver your works. This includes resources to run events or behaviour change campaigns. We cannot fund core cost or retrospective funding of projects that have already started/finished.

### How can you apply?

Application rounds are open in January, April, June and September. Further information and the application form can be found on our webpage via the link below.

For project advice and application support please contact our team at **01403 215156** or via [email](#). We can also provide a draft application, so that you are fully prepared before submitting the online form.

[Find out more and apply now](#)

## Food Waste Collection

This week, all Horsham District households will receive letters explaining how the new service will be delivered.

The food waste collection service will be rolled out in phases, with a starter pack delivered to every household from February to April. The exact collection start dates will depend on where residents live.

Each household will receive a lockable outside food waste bin and a 5-litre caddy for use in the kitchen. A starter roll of compostable liners and a leaflet which lists what can and cannot go in the food waste bin will be included. Flats will receive a kitchen caddy and communal external food waste bin.

The new recycling service comes as part of the UK Government's Simpler Recycling reforms, designed to make recycling easier and more consistent across England.

Refuse and recycling collections will continue as usual every other week: these new food waste collections are an additional service on top of these. Collection days will not change – the food waste recycling bin will be collected weekly on the same day as either your recycling or general waste bin, depending on where you live.

More details on our food waste collection service including what you can and can't put in your food waste bin can be found here: [www.horsham.gov.uk/foodwaste](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/foodwaste)

You are also encouraged to download the free Council app to receive alerts for your collection dates: <https://www.horsham.gov.uk/mobileapp>

You can also visit the Council's Bin Calendar webpage and use the postcode search to view the collection dates for your property:

<https://www.horsham.gov.uk/waste-recycling-and-bins/household-bin-collections/check-your-bin-collection-day>

Please check your online bin calendar from 20 January to see when your feed waste collection will start.

## Local Plan Update

In November 2025, the Horsham District Local Plan Inspector agreed to hold an exploratory / procedural meeting to consider the next steps for the Council's emerging local plan. A meeting has now been arranged to be held on 26 February 2026.

In his November letter to the Council, the Inspector outlined that he would write again to the Council setting out further details and information that he requires from HDC to inform discussions at the exploratory meeting.

We have now received the further letter from the Inspector. It will also be made available on the Council's examination webpages.

Whilst it is clear from the letter that the Inspector is of the view that there is a significant amount of work for the Council to undertake to progress the plan, the issues that he has raised have been foreseen by officers and are matters which are already in the process of being addressed. This information will be provided in a response to the Inspector by 12 February 2026 as he has requested.

## Annual Plan

Horsham District Council recently ran a consultation on our draft Annual Plan for 2026-2027.

We acknowledge that this was open for a shorter period than we would have liked and will look to consult earlier and for longer on the next Annual Plan. However, we are analysing all the feedback that was received from external stakeholders and the general public, as well as the Council's two Policy & Scrutiny committees, and are already working on refinements.

The final Plan will go to Cabinet for final approval in January, along with the Draft Budget - which will then go to Full Council for approval in February.

HDC are looking to set up 4 area meetings with grouped Parish Councils in February. In these area meetings we intend to discuss the Annual Plan, along with other topics. Each meeting will have one member of the Cabinet and one member of the Senior Leadership Team present.

## Survey Results

**Results are in for Council's leisure and wellbeing services survey - check them out!**

Horsham District Council has completed a major public engagement initiative to inform the future of Horsham District's leisure and wellbeing facilities.

As part of preparations to renew its Leisure Services contract in 2027- a significant decision made only once every 15 years - the Council launched a district-wide survey and a series of focus groups to gather views from residents, schools, youth forums, community partners, and key stakeholders.

**[Read more](#)**

## Council Tax

### **Council set to recommend balanced budget with lowest Council Tax in Sussex**

Senior councillors at Horsham District Council's Cabinet meeting on 21 January 2026 are expected to support proposals for a balanced financial and capital budget for the year ahead which will also deliver the lowest Council Tax charge in Sussex.

The proposed budget not only improves financial stability but also prioritises support for the most vulnerable residents, whilst investing in key capital projects.

Despite ongoing pressures as a result of inflation, the Council is on track to deliver a balanced budget for 2026/27, with a projected £1.6 million surplus which will be invested in an enlarged capital programme.

Thanks to ongoing prudent financial management and healthy reserves, the Council remains well-positioned to protect essential services, support those in need, and invest in projects that enhance the quality of life of residents across the Horsham District.

**[Read More Online](#)**

## Council Issues Public Health Warning

Horsham District Council has been made aware of confectionary products on sale nationwide containing mineral oil aromatic hydrocarbons, which is a prohibited ingredient in the UK as it can increase the risk of cancer if consumed in high quantities over a prolonged period.

The affected products are branded as Jolly Rancher and cover all flavours and batches of their Hand Candy, 'Misfit' Gummies, Hand Candy Fruity 2 in 1, Berry Gummies, Filled Pops and Freeze-Dried Candy product lines.

Officers from the Environmental Health team have undertaken visits across the Horsham District and where affected products have been found, taken steps to remove them from the market. If any businesses still have of the confectionary, then it must not be sold and must be taken off shelves.

Although the risk of illness resulting from consumption of the products is low, members of the public are advised to not consume any of them and simply dispose of the sweets.

For further information please contact the Council's Environmental Health & Licensing team by emailing [ehl@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:ehl@horsham.gov.uk)

## Provisional Settlement

The Provisional Settlement was announced on 17 December and as expected, the Council is one of 50 to 60 authorities facing cuts of up to 5%.

Further details can be found [here](#)

MHCLG has previously informed this cohort that we have benefited from business rate growth, have high levels of reserves and have had extra time to prepare from cuts that were signalled years ago.

The Core Spending Power for Horsham is reduced by **4.3%** in 2026/27 compared to 2025/26 which equates to £1m.

Furthermore, Government's core spending power calculation includes £0.5m more locally raised Council tax and consequently therefore £0.5m less Government funding than the prior year.

However, the funding contained within the three year Provisional Settlement should be sufficient to help the Council balance the budgets through to 2028/29. The full budget and updated Medium term Financial Strategy will be taken to the following meetings in January and February:

- Finance and Performance Policy and Scrutiny Committee on 19 January
- Cabinet on 21 January 2026
- Council on 23 February 2026.

**Report to Slinfold Parish Council**  
Cnty Cllr Christian Mitchell  
Thursday, 29 January 2026 at 8:15pm

**Five Oaks Road, Horsham, RH13 0RQ**

An interested party raised with me earlier this month the speed on Five Oaks Road, RH13 0RQ and I suggested they seek the Parish Council's support for a Community Highways Scheme ("CHS") for reduction of a change of speed limit before the party makes any such CHS application.

**Pothole, Lyons Road, Slinfold (Ref. 629276)**

I raised this pothole failure on Tuesday, 27 January 2026 and I was updated on Wednesday, 28 January 2026 that it has been referred to a Senior Steward for response.

**HM Government's consultation on local government reorganisation**

For the next stage of local government reorganisation, the Government consulted on all submissions that seek to meet the terms of the 5 February 2025 statutory invitation.

On 19 November 2025, the Minister of State for Local Government and Homelessness, Alison McGovern announced the launch of the West Sussex local government reorganisation consultation. The consultation on the two proposals received from the area closed on 11 January 2026. The position of the Government is awaited.

**Devolution**

HM Government announced on 4 December 2025 that the inaugural elections for newly-created mayors will be delayed in four more areas of England, namely, Greater Essex, Norfolk & Suffolk, Hampshire and the Solent, and Sussex & Brighton which were planned for May 2026 and will be held in May 2028 to allow time for local government reorganisation first in in these areas.

**Business of the County Council**

Full Council last met on Friday, 12 December 2025 at 10:30am [here](#).

The next meeting of full Council to consider the budget is on Friday, 20 February 2026 at 10:30am [here](#).

ENDS