



East Horsley

Parish Council

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer: Hilary Gullen

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 27 July 2026

Present: Cllr Aileen Aitcheson (Chair), Cllr Robert Taylor, Cllr Steve Harvey, Cllr Holly Hayling, Cllr Chris Jany, Cllr David Holliday, Cllr Andrew Franklin, Cllr Catherine Young (GBC and West Surrey Council), Cllr Dennis Booth (SCC), Cllr David Evans (West Surrey Council), Hilary Gullen, Clerk, Kevin Jenkins, Assistant Clerk.

13 members of the public were also in attendance.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Sylvia Igglesden, Cllr Anna Mitchell, Cllr Colin Carmichael, Cllr Juliet Robinson, Cllr Chris Hampson, Cllr Dawn Bennett, Cllr Ruth Brothwell.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests

There were no Declarations of Pecuniary Interests.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held 15th June were agreed and the Chair authorised to sign them.

4. Chair's Comments

Aileen Aitcheson noted that she had visited the businesses in the village to introduce herself and to make businesses aware they can contact the Parish Council if they have any issues they would like raised.

The defibrillators had been checked and a full list would be provided to West Horsley Parish Council.

Councillors were encouraged to visit the St Martin's Coffee Morning on Thursdays at 10am – 12.00.

5. Surrey County Council and Guildford Borough Council Updates

Cllr Young noted that Guildford Borough Council had issued a press release on the Green Belt/Grey Belt and that she would be available to answer any questions on this.

Concerns had been raised over anti-social behaviour in many areas around the village and the Borough Commander and Zoe Franklin were aware of the issues.

The Taylor Wimpey marketing suite at the Wisley Airfield development was now open.

West Surrey Shadow Council had been having meetings and briefings and Cllr Young requested a regular item in future newsletters on how things progressed to keep residents updated.

Cllr Dennis Booth noted that staff at SCC and GBC were awaiting information on their employment situation.

6. Public Participation

It was noted that Horsley Towers had had a firework display to the alarm of local residents who were concerned about the possibility of fire in the current, dry conditions. Horsley Towers had responded that they had complied with all regulations. The Clerk was asked to contact Horsley Towers and

The Drift to suggest that more precautions were taken in the dry conditions and that a banner headline could be added to the website as well.

Residents expressed concern that yet again, roadworks had taken place in the village without sufficient notification and with signs not giving proper detail and being placed in the road causing a hazard. Businesses open as usual signs required. Cllr Andrew Franklin would look into this.

In response to questions on the Padel Court Project, Cllr David Holliday noted that the cost of the project was expected to be around £360,000 with £100,000 raised from Crowd Funding with the outstanding amount to come from the Lawn Tennis Association and the Public Works Loan Board. However, new quotes would be sourced if and when planning permission was granted, as the originals are now possibly out of date. Extensive pre-application work had been carried out with ecological, parking and noise surveys. The experts consulted had no specific concerns. Noise to the village hall would be mitigated by changing the fabric of the gable end nearest the village hall, and the caretaker's flat could be insulated against noise and air conditioning provided. The light pollution would be negligible, and it was felt that anti-social behaviour would reduce due to the increase in use of the area (and the courts would be surrounded by a security fence). All the relevant documents were available on the planning portal. The courts planned for Kingston Meadow would be enclosed, which offered more options for playing than other courts in the area. It was suggested that a Q&A section could be put in the newsletter to address some of the concerns raised.

Parking issues around the St Martin's Close area of the village were raised again, and Cllr Catherine Young was continuing to work on these.

Flytipping was raised as a problem, and also that 'Fixmystreet' was not always accepting notification of these.

7. Planning and Environment Matters

Cllr Robert Taylor noted that the application for Hillside, Crocknorth Road had had objections raised and that GBC had refused this application.

8. Financial Matters

The payments listed in appendix 3 were approved.

9. Quarter 1 Financial Report

The Quarter 1 report was noted.

10. Internal Auditors

The Parish Council considered the independence of Mulberry & Co and agreed to reappoint them as auditors for the next three years.

11. Air Ambulance Service

The Parish Council agreed to a £500 grant for the Air Ambulance Service, and noted that it would be interesting to have more information on their work.

12. Hart Path

The three tenders for work on the HART Path were considered and it was agreed to appoint Bill Kear to carry out the work being the lowest quote and that his company are tried and tested in the Parish.

13. Wellington Meadow Maintenance/Mow

It was noted that one tender had come in for the Wellington Meadow mow, and another was expected in due course. works to be carried out between the end of October to early February.

14. 8 Parishes Letter

The Parish Council approved the draft 8 Parishes letter regarding strategic transport sustainability and infrastructure.

15. Village Picnic

Cllr Steve Harvey noted that the picnic had gone well, and had been supported by sponsorship from Curchods. The event was run in conjunction with the sponsored walk for Woking and Sam Beare Hospice. Around 500 people attended and the event had more or less broken-even with the sponsorship.

Thanks were noted for Horsley Towers, and also for their support of the Repair Café and St Martin's Church parking.

Steve Harvey also noted the date for Horsley Big Day Out 2027 as June 27th.

16. Chown Poster

Steve Harvey requested £400 to match the money already provided by Southern Railways to install a large poster at the station. Concerns were expressed about the size of the poster. The Parish Council agreed to the request for £400.

17. Data Table

Councillors considered and noted the Data Table.

18. Dignity at Work and Equality Policies

The Parish Council agreed to adopt the policies as circulated.

19. Task Group Progress Reports

Communications and Events: Cllr Steve Harvey noted that work on the Autumn Newsletter was underway. Arrangements were beginning for the Volunteers' Party in December.

Climate Change: Cllr Catherine Young noted that Great Big Green Week had been very successful and that future events were being planned, including the showing of The People's Emergency Briefing, which was recently shown at St Mary's Church, West Horsley, to be shown at a HCAN event in the autumn. It was suggested dates for events should be put in the newsletter.

Road Safety: Cllr Andrew Franklin noted that work on the bridge at Effingham Junction would be carried out in the next few weeks. Work was expected to take place at the pinch point at the top of The Drift which will require traffic management.

Village Appearance: nothing to report this time.

Railway Group: Cllr Chris Jany noted that the meeting scheduled for this week has been postponed until the end of August. Vegetation management would be taking place between Clandon and Effingham Junction from 6am to 6pm on 9th, 15th, 16th and 30th August. It was also noted that the planters were looking particularly spectacular thanks to the dedicated care and attention in particular of Penny Panman,

Sue Mills and Sue Stannard, whose efforts have made a real difference. Car park capacity was a concern at Effingham Junction Station and it had been overflowing during Wimbledon tennis.

Horsley Heritage Group: Cllr Robert Taylor noted that there would be guided walks taking place in the week of 14th September.

Project Task Group: The first meeting of the Project Task Group would be taking place on 20th August.

Countryside: Chris Hampson had provided information in his absence:

1. **The Forest (i)**. SWT had received three quotes and identified a preferred partner. Conservation and Access. Total (inc. VAT) £11,520. Once the date of works is confirmed (pencilled in for end of September / early October) then he would ask the clerk to transfer the £10k of approved funding to SWT. Warden (Sally) fully informed (thank you Sally). Works will cover, in effect, the worst-affected (muddiest) areas (phase 1). It is likely there will be a future request for funding to 'resurface' further areas.
2. **The Forest (ii)**. The warden had had reports that Oak Processionary Moths (larvae) had been sighted in the woods. SWT informed.
3. **Wellington Meadows (i)**. Sign footings had rotted away. Clerks working to obtain quotes to replace / repair.
4. **Wellington Meadows (ii)**. Laurels blocking light from a private garden. No action underway.
5. **Effingham Common / anti-social behaviour**. Advised Effingham council (their clerk) of the conversations with Guildford and Surrey Councils. I have also been informed by a Guildford councillor that this is not a Countryside issue, but a Safety Committee issue. Cllr Young is informed and engaged.
6. **Great Ridings**. The management plan had been created and was open for public consultation / review. Feedback to be provided by 20th August.

20. External Meetings

Cllr Chris Jany and Cllr Aileen Aitcheson had attended a SALC event and encouraged councillors to look at the training on offer.

Cllr Aileen Aitcheson and Cllr Andrew Franklin had attended a meeting at Brick Kiln Farm where it had been noted that the owner needed to plant a significant number of trees before the start of December.

21. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting of the Council is 7th September 2026 at 7.30pm.

The meeting ended at 8.45pm.

Post meeting note: Andrew Franklin went to the ORS/A246 junction and the 'Road Closed' sign was no longer there so he didn't visit the works site down near the A3.