West Horsley Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 20 October 2026

Present
Cllrs E Best (Chairman), C Clinton, P Dodgson, F King, C Mattock, A Mitchell, T Rogers, S Skinner; J McClung (Clerk/RFO), K Young, (Deputy Clerk); SCC Cllr D Booth; WSC Cllr D Evans; two Youth Councillors; two Horsley Football Club representatives; three residents

26/186 **Chairman's Opening Remarks**
The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, reminding them that Parish Council meetings are meetings in public, not public meetings. She thanked the organisers and volunteers for a successful litter pick. The Chairman, Vice Chair and Clerk met with Zoe Franklin MP on 30 September to discuss local issues. The Chairman and Vice Chair attended the Eight Parishes Forum on 7 October. The Council was well-represented at the Rural Roar meeting on 9 October. Members will attend the Surrey ALC AGM and Conference on 5 November. The Chairman will represent the Parish Council at the St Mary's Remembrance Sunday Service. She will be accompanied by the new Chairman of West Horsley Youth Council.

26/187 **Apologies for Absence**
WHPC Cllrs L Moodie, G Murray, C Walker; GBC Cllrs D Bennett, C Young

26/188 **Declarations of Interests and Gifts**
a) Declarations of interest in respect of any items on the agenda:
   - Cllr F King in respect of agenda items 26.195(f) and 26.198

b) Amendments to Members' Register of Interests Received:
   - Cllr Clinton is now a Governor of the Raleigh School

c) Requests for DPI dispensations: None
d) Declarations of gifts or hospitality received by Members with a value of a least £50: None

26/189 **Minutes of the Previous Meetings of the Council** *Appendices 1-2*
The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 15 September 2026, and the Extraordinary Full Council meeting held on 12 October 2026, were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

Public Forum *(Meeting adjourned to allow visitors to express views or ask questions on any items on the agenda)*
- Can anything be done about cars parking on the pavement at the King William IV Pub? The owners are doing what they can to encourage considerate parking and car sharing. The Clerk and Chairman will call in to speak to the new Managers to see what more can be done.

26/190 **Youth Council** *Appendix 3*
Members received an update on meetings and events held since the previous Full Council meeting. All Youth Council officers have now been elected. WHPC has confirmed three main events for the academic year 2026-27: a Christmas Movie Night, a Spring Fair and the Horsley Hustle Family Fun Run.

26/191 **Horsley Football Club (HFC)**
Members welcomed Paddy Dalton (Chairman) and Peter Drew (Committee) to the meeting. Member received an update from HFC. The Club has experienced huge growth over the last few years. Facilities are stretched and improvements are required.

The grass pitches are often water-logged in the winter resulting in frequent training and match cancellations. To ease the challenge the Club is hoping to install a full-sized astroturf football pitch along with an additional 50 car parking spaces. The project is likely to cost £1 million. The Club is working with the Football Foundation and the National Lottery and hopes to be awarded two thirds of the project cost in grants. It will need to raise the balance. The target for project completion is Summer 2028. An application for a WHPC Community Grant towards the planning phase has been received and a decision will be made by the Council on 17 November.

26/192 **Reports from Other Authorities on Matters Affecting West Horsley**

a) Surrey County Council:
   - All SCC officers have now been given their new roles.
   - Cllr Booth has raised the matter of road safety on the A246 following multiple crashes and fatalities and is calling on SCC to install average speed cameras.

b) Guildford Borough Council: No report

c) West Surrey (Shadow) Council (Cllr Evans):
   - It is confirmed that the Council will be called West Surrey Council.
   - IT and SEND services have been given red ratings, which is concerning.
   - There is a gap between what the incumbents know and what the new councillors know.
   - There will be a Finance briefing on 4 November. Cllr Evans will report back.

26/193 **Clerk's Report**

- Nothing to report that isn't covered by the agenda.

26/194 **Significant Correspondence Received Since the Last Council Meeting**

- Inconsiderate parking at the Raleigh School is ongoing. The PCSOs will not attend and say it is the responsibility of the school. They have suggested contacting Guildford Street Parking Services for assistance. A Nightingale Crescent resident has reported receiving verbal abuse from a parent who had parked across her driveway. She has been advised to report further incidents to Surrey Police.
- A resident has asked if a sign could be erected at Old St Mary's to mark the site of the old village school. The Council will liaise with the Horsley Heritage Group.
- Manorwood residents are having issues with the developers in relation to trees that have not been maintained and have died, and others that were promised but have not been planted. The Deputy Clerk is assisting.

26/195 **Financial Matters** *Appendices 4-7*

a) Members received and approved a list of payments to be made in October 2026. Payments authorised by Full Council in September 2026 were noted.
b) Members received and approved the bank reconciliation to 30 September 2026.
c) Members received and approved a detailed report on expenditure against budget to 30 September 2026.
d) Members received and approved a summary of reserves to 30 September 2026.
e) It was noted that a VAT claim of £1,690.36, for the period 1 April to 30 September 2026, has been made with payment received on 5 October 2026.
f) Members approved a payment to West Horsley Village Hall for £9,000 as per the 2026/27 budget.
g) Members approved the following donations to charities, as per the 2026/27 budget:
   i. Royal British Legion (£50) noting £40 was paid to the RBL Shop for large poppies, the remaining £10 to be paid by online donation
   ii. St Mary's Church for grounds maintenance (£500)
   iii. Cobham Food Bank (£750)
   iv. Surrey Young Carers (£200)
   v. Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex (£500)

26/196 **Internal Audit 2026/27** *Appendices 8-9*

a) Members received and noted the Internal Audit Guidance for 2026/27.
b) Members noted the Mulberry and Co engagement letter as internal auditor for 2026/27 to 2028/29 inclusive, as agreed by Full Council on 11 March 2026 (Agenda Item 26/055(d)).
c) Members considered and confirmed the independence of the Internal Auditor with regard to personal independence, financial independence, and professional independence.
d) Members noted the date of the Interim Audit as 4 November 2026.

26/197 **Strategic Documents and Policies for Approval** *Appendices 10-13*

Members received and approved the following new policies:

a) Standing Orders (with one amendment)
b) IT and Email Policy (with an additional clause on the use of AI)
c) Biodiversity Policy (unchanged)
d) Planning Committee Terms of Reference (with one amendment)

26/198 **Replacement of Village Hall Windows** *Appendix 14*

Members received and approved a briefing note on the Village Hall windows project, including the appointment of, and budget for, a project manager, and the steps, responsibilities and suggested timeline for project completion. A draft specification and shortlist of potential contractors will be presented to Council in November.

26/199 **Suspension of Grey Belt Assessment for Land Around Villages** *Appendix 15*

Members received and discussed a draft resolution calling for the immediate suspension of grey belt assessment for land around villages, pending completion of a full spatial strategy as part of a considered evidence-based Local Plan. This is in response to the national Rural Roar campaign initiated by Paul Moss, Vice Chair at Effingham Parish Council. Members agreed to the resolution which was signed by the Chairman at the meeting.

26/200 **Planning Committee** *Appendix 16*

a) Members agreed to appoint Cllr Anna Mitchell as a member of the Planning Committee.
b) Members received a report on two Planning meetings held since the previous Full Council meeting.
c) Any Other Matters Arising: Nothing further to report.

26/201 **Other Committee Updates**

a) Finance Committee: Work has commenced on the 2027-28 budget. The first draft will be presented to Full Council in November.
b) Personnel Committee: Nothing to report.

26/202 **Task Group Updates**

a) Asset Management, Biodiversity & Village Appearance: Site visits by two Tweener contractors have taken place and quotes are anticipated shortly. Technical drawings required for planning applications are complete. A local electrician is advising on sourcing power from the Horsley Football Club. A separate meter would be installed to ensure fair compensation. The mechanism for players to turn the lights on/off is still being considered. The arrangement with HFC will need to be formalised.
b) Communications: Work is about to begin on the Winter ’26 newsletter.
c) Community Events & Wellbeing:
    - Autumn Litter Pick: Was well attended and refreshments enjoyed by all. Stretches of fast road such as Ripley Lane and the A246 are no longer covered by the litter picks for safety reasons. Litter on these roads can be reported to SCC via Fix My Street.
    - Restart A Heart Workshops (14 November): Tickets selling well. Youth Council to help promote the ‘teenagers’ workshop.

- Christmas Lantern Parade (29 November): The event has sold out.
- Helping Hands Hub: To be held in March 2027 at the Goodhart Rendel Community Hall. (Date subsequently confirmed as Thursday 18 March, 10am-12pm)
- Community Quiz Night: Date confirmed as Friday 5 February

d) Road Safety & Maintenance: The Council is asking residents for their views on how the planned Ockham Road North speed reduction (40mph to 30mph between Green Lane and The Drift) should be implemented. This will be discussed at the Full Council meeting on 17 November 2026. It was agreed that it is important for residents to be able to comment on the scheme, whilst noting Surrey County Council is the statutory authority responsible for road safety, and it will make the final decision on how the scheme is implemented.

26/203 **Community Projects Updates**

a) Community Speed Watch: Nothing to report.
b) Friends of Horsley Station/Railway Task Group: Planning to install planters using reclaimed railway sleepers next year. SWR has launched an apprenticeship scheme for school leavers. Details on SWR's website. Parking has increased significantly at Effingham Station as there is now only one Epsom train per hour and commuters are driving to Effingham to catch the via Cobham trains. S106 funding for improvements to station accessibility is starting to come through. This will be monitored. Local schools are being offered a free 'Railway Safety' talk.
c) Grace and Flavour Community Garden: A WHPC Community Grant application for irrigation equipment has been submitted. A decision will be made by the Council on 17 November.
d) Horsley Heritage Group (HHG): The HHG will meet to decide if it becomes an independent group, rather than relying on approval and funding from both West and East Horsley Parish Councils for its running costs and initiatives. It is hoped that some initial funding may be available from the now defunct Horsley Countryside Preservation Society.
e) The Horsleys' CAN (HCAN): Nothing to report.
f) Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC): Have a few new regular hirers.

26/204 **Any Other Village Matters to Note**

- 'Ghosts the Possession of Button House' is in cinemas from Friday 23 October and features many Horsley landmarks, not least West Horsley Place (Button House).
- Cllr Moss (Effingham PC) has been interviewed by the BBC about a call for the suspension of Grey Belt around villages.
- Recent planning decisions to note:
  - Padel courts at the Cricket Club – application withdrawn
  - 208 The Street (site of West Horsley Motors) – application approved
  - Green Lane - appeal allowed, planning approved

26/205 **Date of the Next Meeting**

Tuesday 17 November at 7.30pm in the Cedar Room, West Horsley Village Hall.

The meeting concluded at 9.02pm.

Signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record: Date:

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Chairman's Initials: _____