



Rear of Village Hall
The Green
Horsted Keynes
West Sussex
RH17 7AP
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DRAFT - Minutes of the Meeting of the Horsted Keynes Parish Council held at 7.30pm on 10th December 2024

Present: Cllr S Webster (Chairman), Cllr R Clarke, Cllr D Colville, Cllr K Coulson, Cllr H Dunstan, Cllr C Forman, Cllr P Miles, Cllr N Peel-Cross, Cllr S Slater and Cllr L Soper

In attendance: Ms. A Maxwell (Clerk)

Public Question Time:

A member of public asked Cllr Wall for an update regarding the impassable twitten. A further complaint raised; a survey is to be undertaken.

Another member of the public requested:

- Councillors review their Declarations of Interest as some appear incorrect on website.
- an alternative draft reserve policy and budget suggestions are considered as emailed to the Councillors this afternoon.
- the level of general reserve should be 6 months and raised concerns over how earmarked reserves are allocated and shown.
- results of the village hall consultation are published.
- Council writes to the Village Hall Management Committee confirming why there are no funds available from next year's budget for their project.
- an item from F & G Committee meeting April 23 regarding the Village Hall agreement with the Parish Council for use of the Office had not been actioned as in minutes.

Another member of the public raised the following concerns:

- Councillor training. This is happening in January.
- Council doesn't have an Equality and Diversity Policy.
- Accounts don't balance by £4779. To be considered later under finance section.

Another member of the public suggested a public statement should be made on the confidential issue that has seen drawing on the reserves this year.

FC117 To receive apologies for absence - Apologies received from Cllr Clarke which were noted.

FC118 To receive declarations of interest from Members in respect of any matter on the agenda. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest. If you become aware, during the meeting, of an interest that has not been disclosed under this item you must immediately disclose it.

Cllr Miles declared an interest as a member of the churchyard Committee.

FC119 The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 12th November 2024 were deferred to the January meeting as several corrections are required.



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FC120 The Full Council Action List. Noted

FC121 Reports

- a. To receive a report from the County Councillor
Cllr Wall reported;

Local issues are white lining, footpaths, and St. Stephens Field.

A meeting to be organised after Christmas with local parishes, seeking better communication with the police on rural crime and changing of policing roles.

Tragically a fatal RTA happened. Concerns raised over drainage/water on the road. Plans in place during bad weather include a single way traffic. Connecting with Lindfield Parish Council concerning rural speed camera and reducing of speed limit on the road are being suggested.

Population has grown. Devolution is coming at County level.

County Council budget balances, no plans for cuts this year, is a considerable achievement. Wider issues - achievements seen in public health, success of smoking cessation team, care quality commission and vaccinations take up, all help avoid pressures on NHS, GPs & A & E.

Two motions have been supported one for farmers and the other for a breast screening service.

- b. To receive a report from the District Councillors - None
- c. To receive and consider reports from Parish Councillors (including any training events attended) Ongoing concerns in one of the roads in the village was reported. The Clerk to write to the housing association regarding this. The Clerk to take advice on whether this is feasible.

FC122 Finance & Governance

- a. November's payments made and the bank reconciliation statements were signed off by the Chairman. It was agreed to refer October's reconciliation to our Internal Auditor as the interim audit is taking place in late January for advice following the concern raised by a member of the public earlier in the meeting. October's accounts will be brought back to Council for sign off and approval in February.
- b. To note the current budget position for 2024-25 to October as per budget document. It was agreed to move this item when discussing fc122 e.
- c. It was noted that Cllr Coville and Cllr Miles proposed amended versions of the Reserves Policy which had been circulated to Councillors but these were not considered because the number of amendments were such that they were deemed to constitute separate proposals



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rather than amendments to the original proposal and the documents had not been published on the website.

The council resolved to adopt the Minimum Reserves Policy as recommended by F & G Committee. The motion was carried seven in favour and three against.

- d. An update on the Village Hall consultation was received.
- e. A summary of the next year's budget was handed out to be read in conjunction with the budget position published.

It was resolved to add £12,700 to the budget for reserves as recommend by F & G Committee. The motion was carried nine in favour and one against

- f. It was resolved that the precept requirement for Horsted Keynes Parish Council for the year 2025/2026 is £82,300.00 as recommended by F & G Committee. The motion was carried nine in favour and one against.

It was noted, Cllr Miles thanked Cllr Forman for all her hard work on the budget preparation as this would normally be carried out by staff.

FC123 Planning

- a. To receive a verbal update on Planning Applications received and any MSDC Decisions.

DM/24/2806: Myrtle Villa Chapel Lane Horsted Keynes
Hawthorn Reduce Crown by up to 2 meters and reshape,
Holly remove. No objection.

DM/24/2715: Bowling Alley Cottage, The Green Horsted Keynes.
Replace existing balustrade in the old part of the property.
Listed Building Consent. No objection

Cllr Coville reported he had spoken with the Landlords at The Green man Inn regarding the brightness of illuminated sign. They advised the planning permission and specification was submitted by the brewery not themselves. This to be considered by the planning committee in January.

FC124 Youth Council

- a. A verbal update received. The Christmas Market was cancelled. It was suggested better communication between the Council and the Youth Council would be beneficial to both groups. Cllr Coville volunteered to attend their next meeting to help improve communication.



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FC125 General

- a. To consider the activities at St Stephens Field. The Chairman has been in constant contact with Mid Sussex Planning Department and the issues are being monitored.
- b. To receive an update regarding playground repairs.
Cllr Peel- Cross to look to repair damaged item so it's safe, with further repair if necessary when the weather is warmer. It was noted that Cllr Coulson and Cllr Peel-Cross were thanked for the repairing the roofs for the pavilion and the toilets.
- c. To consider Community Resilience. - A meeting to be arranged after Christmas
- d. To receive an update regarding Mobile Connectivity – Nothing further to report.
- e. To receive an update from the Environment Working Group - Next meeting is around 11th February in Haywards Heath.
- f. To receive an update regarding the CLT Feasibility Group - Successful local meeting had taken place. Links can be circulated.
- g. To consider items for inclusion on a future Agenda - none

FC126 Comments from Members of the Public relating to agenda items.

A member of the public raised the following points:

- Ani-social behaviour should be reported through the correct channels.
- With recent mast withdrawal working with West Hoathly, MPs and pushing as hard as possible is important to ensure progress.

Another member of the public queried the costs of the Parish Council adopting the defibrillator at the Village Hall when funds are limited.

Another member of the public raised the following:

- action list to be published with the agenda.
- Concern agreement hadn't been given for the defibrillator to be sited in the Village Hall from the Village Hall Committee.
- SLCC had given advice who are they? Society of Local Clerks Council, Clerk is a member, they give advice on matters for Parish Clerks.
- requested the budget for 25/26 is put on the January Agenda
- the confidential issue was known in January 24, but no adjustment made to last year's precept. The costs to resolve could not be foreseen at the outset.

Another member of the public suggested a monthly report from the Youth Council would be beneficial.



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FC127 To note items arising after the preparation of this Agenda which the Chairman agrees to take as urgent. Such matters will be for noting only or deferral to a future meeting only. - None

Future Meeting: Tuesday 14th January 2024 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed 9.15pm