

HORAM PARISH COUNCIL

The Horam Centre
3 Bank Buildings
High Street, Horam
TN21 0EH
Tel: 01435 812151

email: clerk@horamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on WEDNESDAY 15th APRIL at 7.30pm to 9.34 pm in the Horam Centre

In Attendance: Councillors Andy Billings, Graham Knight, Ann Sadler, Virginia Roberts, Jonathan Webb, Jane Trott, George Poole and Jenny Howells

Also in Attendance: ESCC Cllr Bob Bowdler
1 member of the public on zoom
The Clerk
Administrative Assistant

PUBLIC SESSION – NONE

838/04/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Daniel Johnson, Cllr Sue Lane and Cllr Gary Brockhurst – personal reasons

RESOLVED Cllr, Johnson, Cllr Lane and Cllr Brockhurst apologies.

839/04/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Poole - Personal Interest - Agenda item 17 and 20
Cllr Roberts - Personal Interest - Agenda item 20

840/04/26 MINUTES

RESOLVED the minutes of the council meeting held on the 11th March 2026.

841/04/26 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR GREG COLLINS & DIANE GOULD

It was noted that no reports had been received from District Councillor Collins and Gould. Cllr Collins had sent his apologies.

842/04/26**UPDATE ON THE WDC HORAM STATION KIOSK**

District Councillor Collins had reported that the Kiosk should be open at the end of May and the Clerk reported that Cadence had confirmed the same.

843/04/26**REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOB BOWDLER**

Cllr Bowdler reported working with Cllr Sadler regarding the condition of Chiddingly Road but no action could be taken during purdah. He reported that there was a lack of central government funding which would not be increasing in the immediate future. The government had still not made a decision regarding the new areas in the devolution process. Cllr Bowdler was expecting Highways would stay with the 3 authorities. A Councillor raised a question regarding the Flexibus's reduced hours and mileage, residents of Horam were now unable to travel to Eastbourne. Cllr Bowdler agreed to investigate this matter further.

844/04/26**REPORT FROM PCSO**

The PCSO had emailed her apologies for the meeting but confirmed there had been reports of smashed glass near the Cuckoo trail. Units had attended no one had been apprehended.

845/04/26**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

Ecology Report for the Land at Discovery Way
 Presentations from the Clerks Networking Day on the 24.3.2026
 Frant Parish Council's response to the WDC Draft Local Plan Consultation
 South East Water's response to the WDC Draft Local Plan Consultation
 Information on the High Weald Nature Community and Fund 2026
 WDALC Agenda 8.4.2026 and meeting notes 24.1.2026
 Barclay Business Account interest rate information
 Nationwide Business Instant Saver interest rate information
 Wealden Crematorium Community Orchard Event
 Horam Village Hall agenda 18.3.2026 and draft minutes 8.1.2026
 Parish Cluster presentation March 2026
 Information on the changes to statutory sick pay
 Stagecoach Newsletter

The Chairman requested Members note the SE Water response to the Draft Local Plan which had stated that they had enough water for 12,000 houses but not enough for the revised numbers. Kent County Council had also been advised of this.

The Clerk advised that parishes interested in acquiring assets from ESSC or WDC should consult with the community before proceeding as obtaining extra assets could lead to increases in the precept.

846/04/26**FROM PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman thanked Cllr Lane, the Clerk and Mr Marlow for all their help with the Draft Local Plan response. He advised Members that the Clerk had spent 11 hours trying to upload the Local Plan documents to the portal. WDC then advised the documents should be sent by email. The Chairman said a bill should be submitted to Wealden for the Clerk's wasted time. The Parish Council had managed to get an extension to the Draft Local Plan of 10 days not the 4 weeks they had requested. The Sussex Express had reported on the problems with the WDC consultation. The Chairman thanked everybody who attended the open morning on 14th March. There had been a constant stream of people. 45 resident responses to the WDC consultation had been hand delivered to WDC by the Chairman and Cllr Lane.

The Chairman had attended a WDALC meeting which had been useful although attendance by other parishes had been low. Future meetings clashed with Full Council. However, he suggested the council may still wish to send a representative to keep in touch with the devolution process. Concerns had been raised as to the future of WDC car parks. The Chairman had attended the orchard event at the Crematorium. There had also been a useful walk on site to discuss the councils new proposed pathway. A feedback meeting would be arranged.

The Chairman had also prepared documents for the APA.

847/04/26 REPORT FROM PARISH CLERK

Noted.

848/04/26 REPORT FROM THE ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

Noted.

Cllr Poole personally thanked her for the additional information now included in the monthly report.

849/04/26 REPORT FROM CLLR WEBB - PC REP FOR HORAM VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Cllr Webb reported that Horam Village Hall meetings had been moved to Wednesday evenings without consultation. The meetings clashed with Full Council meetings.

Standing orders were suspended at 7.53 pm

The Chairman of the Village Hall addressed the meeting and stated there were 4 meetings a year and he would look into the future dates.

Suspended orders were reinstated at 7.56 pm

850/04/26 PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE

13.1. To note the Clerk update on Business Plan Objectives

It was **RESOLVED** that the Emergency Plan would be moved to a more prominent place on the Website. A new tab would be inserted on the home page entitled Emergency plan. The Clerk was instructed to obtain an electronic copy of the ESCC brochure 'Preparing for an Emergency' to also be added to the website.

Members noted the following:

- A confidential electronic copy of the Emergency Plan had been sent to all Councillors. 15 copies of these would be printed once the layout had been confirmed. The printed copies will be numbered and signed for.
- Cllr Knight and Admin Assistant would be arranging an asset register check. Dirty road signs in the parish would be recorded.
- The Admin Assistant had chased Agrifactors regarding the bench in the high street which was due to be repainted.
- The Clerk to re-contact Hellingly PC regarding upgrades to the bridle path at North Corner.
- The Clerk to contact Maynards Green Primary School regarding the idea of a walking bus. It was noted the Cuckoo Trail would provide a safer route than the existing pavement.
- The 20-mph speed limit to be introduced outside Maynards Green School would be added to the next Planning and Highways Agenda.

- Tree measuring - the Chairman would arrange a meeting with the pc's Tree Warden.
- Identifying heritage buildings in the Parish. The Clerk would re-contact the Head at Maynards Green Primary School regarding the school buildings history.
- Councillor Trott reported that WDC had arranged an inspection of the culvert sited 200m under the Cuckoo Trial.
- Cllr Sadler to investigate a possible Roman Villa site at Marle Green.
- The Emergency Plan would be added to the Business Plan's list of projects completed.

13.2. To note the Project Leaders updates on Business Plan Objectives

The Chairman requested Cllr Trott provide a list of questions regarding the installation of SIDs to the Clerk who would forward this to Ringmer pc who were actively in the process of their own SID project. Members noted that community engagement may be a requirement at some point in the process.

13.3. To consider a marketing strategy to include e.g. new logo; publicity person

Members noted that the council currently had some success with their existing marketing strategies. The minibus service to the youth service would continue to be publicised although current usage was low. Wealden Works had been approached regarding marketing help but no reply had been received to date.

The logo for the Parish Council was discussed. Members noted the current logo does not associate itself with Horam Parish Council directly.

The Clerk to produce several ideas for a new logo on PowerPoint.

13.4. To consider any items of interest on the WDC Asset Register

The Committee discussed the WDC asset register.

RESOLVED that Horam Parish Council would like the following assets transferred from WDC prior to devolution. The Clerk to submit the request prior to WDC's meeting in June.

- Land at Paynesbridge Way
- Land at Beauford Road and also The Rise
- The Path Project at the Crematorium

Cllr Bowdler left the meeting at 8.23pm.

13.5. To consider the Ramblers Association request for a Councillor to become a Local Footpath Warden for the Horam parish

RESOLVED Cllr Billings to be the Local Footpath Warden for the Horam parish.

13.6. Culvert Monitoring update

It was reported that the West Street Lane Culvert had not been inspected.

Cllr Trott would be arranging a working party to report fallen trees from the tunnel located in Maynards Green.

The Clerk to request an update from Cllr Brockhurst regarding the culverts assigned to him.

851/04/26

SKATE JAM UPDATE

Members noted the update report.

RESOLVED to purchase 3 new Skate Jam banners at a cost of £135.00.

Members noted that councillor volunteers would be needed for the day.

Cllr Sadler left the meeting at 8.37pm

852/04/26

Report from Councillor Graham Knight, Chairman of the Committee

Please note that the Minutes of meetings are published independently

Cllr Knight reported that the committee had considered 2 applications for the same property. One was approved and the other was recommended for Refusal.

15.1. To resolve the Planning & Highways Committee recommendation for a new street name for the development at Horeham Shaw, Chiddingly Road

RESOLVED to approve the street name Horeham Shaw.

**15.2. To resolve the Planning & Highways Committee recommendation for two new street names for the development at Land East of Rosemead, Horebeech Lane
Campion and primrose**

RESOLVED to approve the street names Campion and Primrose.

853/04/26

THE WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL DRAFT LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION UPDATE

16.1. To Note the parish council's response to the Draft Local Plan Consultation has been submitted

Members noted that HPC's response to the Draft Local Plan consultation had been of a very quality. 45 responses from residents had been hand delivered to WDC.

16.2. To consider any further action

RESOLVED to send WDC an invoice for the Clerk's time attempting to upload HPC's response to the planning portal which had encountered technical difficulties. This had amounted to 11 hours.

**854/04/26
(1)**

FINANCE

RECOMMENDED

- (a) To **Consider** the update on the ariel runway repair
Cllr Knight reported that Playdale had quoted £1388 including VAT for the Aerial runway replacement matting. Members noted that a letter of complaint had been sent to Playdale regarding the poor design of the platform. The Clerk confirmed that no other parishes had experienced similar problems. Cllr Knight also reported that there was a problem with the Rota Bounce suspension joint which had only been replaced in September 2023.
Members **AGREED** that Playdale should be made aware of this in a zoom meeting to be arranged with the Clerk.
- (b) To **Consider** the update regarding obtaining quotes for rubber mulch to replace well used grassy areas and pathways for the play areas
Cllr Knight had visited the site and advised that rubber mulch should not be used. Eco-grid was the suggested alternative as concrete slabs raised safety issues.

RESOLVED Cllr Knight to arrange for a quotation for the works at the end of the summer.

- (c) To **Consider** an alternative pension scheme for the parish council staff
The LGPS Pension Scheme was discussed. The item was deferred and further information would be provided for the May Full Council meeting.
- (d) To **Resolve** new bank signatories for the parish council's Nationwide account
Members noted that there were two signatories at present for the account Cllr Knight and Cllr Roberts.

RESOLVED to add Cllr Howells, Cllr Sadler and the Admin Assistant as new bank signatories for the Nationwide account.

- (e) To **Note** the council credit card application is ongoing
Noted.
- (f) To **Note** the parish council's insurance cover expires on the 31.5.2026
Three insurance quotes were being obtained and would be considered at the May Full Council meeting.
- (g) To **Note** the update for bank reconciliations and management account reports for February and March 2026
February bank reconciliations and management account reports were noted. The March accounts had not yet been completed.
- (h) To **Note** the budget observations
The Clerk gave a verbal update on the budget.
- (i) To **Note** the date for the internal audit – Thursday 30th April
Noted.

To Resolve the payments listed below

Payee Name	Account Debited	Invoice Number	Amount £
Staff & payroll costs	Current Account	April salaries & HMRC	4,220.03
Horam Club Rooms	Current Account	Inv 166 – rental for March	500.00
Cllr Poole	Current Account	GDPR training course	46.20
ESALC	Current Account	Clerk training – Internal Controls and Procurement	84.00
S&P Printing	Current Account	6 banner date labels	18.00
S&P Printing	Current Account	30 A4 posters	39.60
S&P Printing	Current Account	100 A5 flyers	30.00
Horam Village Hall	Current Account	Monthly Waste collection service dated 1.4.2026	35.91
Wilhar Publications	Current Account	8290 – 1 additional parish page, front cover advertising minibus	174.00

Signed

Chairman

Uniserve	Current Account	Inv 39543 monthly charges 9.4.2026-8.5.2026	83.04
Uniserve	Current Account	Inv39405 ESET Home Security 3 devices – 1 year	44.99
Nest	Current Account	Pension April	292.12
James Todd & Co	Current Account	Inv 91862 March payroll	36.60
2Oi	Current Account	Inv 9109315 16.3.2026 Micro server	11.99
2Oi	Current Account	Inv 9131744 22.3.2026 Storage upgrade	1.80
Clerk	Current Account	Cable ties	6.99
Clerk – Zoom payment	Current Account	Zoom 343185432 25.2.2026-24.03.2026	15.59
Clerk	Current Account	Donation to the Brain Tumour Charity	25.00
Rialtas	Current Account	Annual support and maintenance licence	252.00
The Finishing Touch	Current Account	March rubbish clearance	150.00
Malcolm Curtis	Current Account	Inv 68 – To cut grass verges	225.00
Malcolm Curtis	Current Account	Inv 70 - To cut grass playgrounds and weed control	70.00
Europlants	Current Account	April plant maintenance Inv 34635	96.00
Malcolm Curtis	Current Account	Inv 69 – Cut grass and tidy Memorial Garden	60.00

RESOLVED the above payments.

855/04/26

YOUTH CLUB TRANSPORT SERVICE

18.1. To Consider the update report

Members noted there had only been one passenger on the first trip to the Youth Hub on the 10th April. It was hoped that numbers would increase. The Clerk had been contacting parents who had initially expressed an interest.

18.2. To Note the parish council consent form

Noted.

18.3. To Resolve the Risk Assessment

Members noted the updated risk assessment which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED the updated risk assessment.

18.4. To consider the current publicity campaign

3 banners had been ordered and would be erected as soon as practically possible. Members discussed the quotation for 1,200 A5 flyers (£124.00) to be delivered separately with the next edition of the Village Diary. The flyers would also gauge the interest of a service on a Wednesday night in case a change of day may increase passenger numbers. Members noted that the service may need to be suspended if the number of passengers failed to increase. The Clerk and Cllr Knight would be arranging an update meeting with Wealden Minibuses to discuss the current pricing structure.

RESOLVED the flyers quotation.

856/04/26

ASSERTION 10

19.1. To note the Assertion 10 Update Report

Noted.

19.2. To adopt a Privacy Notice

RESOLVED the Privacy Notice.

19.3. Data Protection training update

It was noted that Cllr Knight did not wish to undertake the GDPR training. The Chairman had been registered for the training.

857/04/26

THE HORAM CLUB ROOMS CHARITY UPDATE

20.1. To Note the Charities response to the parish council letter

Noted.

20.2. To Note an update regarding a user agreement

The Parish Council were awaiting a new user agreement once it had been prepared by the Charity.

858/04/26

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY REVIEW

Members noted the public attendance at the APA had been very disappointing despite the council providing good quality speakers.

Consideration would be given to producing flyers for the APA in 2027 to encourage attendance. It was **AGREED** that all councillors should be introduced individually next year. It was noted that there had been a number of public meetings before the APA and that may have affected numbers.

859/04/26

MEMORIAL PLAQUE UPDATE

Noted. The council's new supplier was in the process of producing a new plaque to replace the original which had tarnished in a very short time.

860/04/26

TO DISCUSS ITEMS THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL COULD PUBLICISE

Wealden Works new laptops paid for by the council, Cllr Knight with the minibus, the Community Orchard event, Skate Jam and the PCSO drop in.

861/04/26

INFORMATION FOR/FROM COUNCILLORS (for noting or inclusion on future agendas).

Skate jam, Insurance quotes, Staff pensions, Clubrooms, Assertion 10 and Playdale.

Signed

Chairman

862/04/26

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

PLANNING & HIGHWAYS on Monday 27th April 2026 at 6.30pm

ANNUAL FULL COUNCIL MEETING on Wednesday 13th May 2026 at 6.30pm

PLANNING & HIGHWAYS on Wednesday 13th May 2026 at 8.15 pm

FINANCE on Wednesday 27th May at 9.30am

To: All Members of the Parish Council: Councillors: Andy Billings, Jennifer Howells, Graham Knight, Sue Lane, Virginia Roberts, Ann Sadler, Jane Trott, Jonathan Webb, Gary Brockhurst, Dan Johnston and George Poole

Copy to: Councillors Greg Collins & Diane Gould District Council Ward Members for Horam and Punnetts Town and Councillor Bob Bowdler, East Sussex County Councillor & Police Community Support