

Signed

Chairman

Horam Parish Council
The Horam Centre
3 Bank Buildings
Horam
TN21 0EH

01435 812151

JACKIE COTTRELL

Jackie Cottrell –Clerk

Email: clerk@horamparishcouncil.gov.uk

**Minutes of Horam Parish Council's Planning and Highways Committee
held in the Horam Centre on TUESDAY 26TH MAY 2026 at 7.31 pm until 8.18 pm**

In Attendance: Councillors Graham Knight, Dan Johnston, Virginia Roberts, Ann Sadler and Sue Lane

Also in Attendance: Administrative Assistant
1 member of the public

PUBLIC SESSION

A member of the public addressed the committee and spoke on the importance of the consultations for the government re-organisation and had hoped it would have been discussed at a Full Council meeting.

624/05/26 ELECTION OF NON-VOTING MEMBER TO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE
Mr Marlow was unanimously elected as a non-voting member of the Planning committee.

625/05/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Cllr Billings – personal reasons
Mr Marlow – personal reasons

626/05/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None.

627/05/26 MINUTES

RESOLVED the minutes of the meeting of 13 May 2026.

**628/05/26 PLANNING APPLICATION
WD/2026/7034/AD**

AYSGARTH FARM, BALLSOCKS LANE, VINES CROSS, HORAM TN21 9ET. STEEL FRAM AGRICULTURAL BARN WITH YORKSHIRE BOARDING AND CAST CONCRETE PANELS

The application was unanimously recommended for **REFUSAL**.

The Council's observations in respect of this application are as follows: -

Aysgarth farm is very small, stated as amounting to only 5.7 Hectares, but also involves managing an additional run 14.1 hectares of multiple neighbours' fields. It has 20 cattle and 20 ewes and a few sows. It states that the livestock buildings are now fully stocked with cattle and straw in the winter, hence needing a hay and machinery storage building on the agricultural unit.

It seems odd that, in paragraph 2.8 of the Design and Access Statement, it says that

"The position of the building has been carefully considered and is most suitable for practical and agricultural reasons. The fields being on Wealden clay are susceptible to being poached and quickly saturated so the cattle come in very early to avoid this. The sheep as far smaller do less damage. The proposed site of the barn is on the driest field on the holding due to better drainage and work done to clear the surface water to the streams either side of it."

This implies that the building is to house animals, specifically cattle, or at least, if for hay for cattle, would be well removed from the livestock barn.

It is noted that Horam Parish Council made comment on the earlier application for determination that Prior Approval was not necessary (see reference WD/2026/7018/AD) In essence, WDC agreed with its comments, concluding that:

"The application as submitted, has failed to demonstrate the proposed works are reasonably necessary in relation to an existing agricultural trade or business, given that there are other buildings located within the existing holding capable of performing a similar function.

Furthermore, the siting of the proposed building would not be appropriately sited for the reasons outlined in the report."

Further information has now been submitted, notably showing other land managed by the holding. However, it is not clear to what extent these contribute to the economic sustainability of the holding. A member of the HPC Planning Committee who walks past Hook Farm regularly, cannot recall sheep being held in the fields close to the farm itself in recent times.

Without the additional land, the 5.7ha holding only just meets the permitted development threshold, and is very modest, as well as being disparate, even with the additional land.

The Committee believe that the need for the new building is still not clearly demonstrated, while its position, being exposed and visually isolated from other buildings, is inappropriate. The applicants' additional 2 plots of land are some distance and impractical with the small home site where shelter and feed is kept. Does the applicant have long term lease on the 2 plots? Otherwise, it should not be included. It would not be possible to have the amount of stock quoted on the home site. It was noted that if another building is justified, it would appear far preferable in terms of local amenities, as well as operationally, to be adjacent to existing buildings close to Ballsocks Lane.

629/05/26 PLANNING APPEALS – NONE

630/05/26 PLANNING APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED BY THE WDC MAJORS PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR NOTING – NONE

631/05/26 GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON A MODIFIED PROPOSAL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION IN EAST SUSSEX

The Consultation was discussed by the Committee and it was **AGREED** that the item would be added to the Full Council agenda.

632/05/26 ESALC CONSULTATION ON A MODIFIED PROPOSAL FOR GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION IN EAST SUSSEX

The Committee discussed the consultation and submitted the survey.

633/05/26 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY/DEFRA FLOODING SURVEY

The survey was discussed and completed by the Committee and submitted online.

634/05/26 TPO APPLICATIONS - None

635/05/26 PLANNING & ENFORCEMENT UPDATES - NONE

636/05/26 NOTICE OF WORKS UPDATES - NONE

637/05/26 PLANNING APPLICATIONS APPROVED BY WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL - NONE

638/05/26 PLANNING APPLICATIONS REFUSED OR WITHDRAWN BY WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL – NONE

Signed

Chairman

639/05/26 ITEMS FOR SLR MEETING WITH ESCC ON WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE AT THE HORAM CENTRE AT 10.00AM. ITEMS REQUIRED BY ESCC BY 3 JUNE

A member of the Committee reported that the repair work carried out on potholes was of such a poor standard that they needed further repairs in a very short timeframe. It was requested that any further SLR Agenda items should be sent to the Admin Assistant.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Planning & Highways – Wednesday 10th June at 6.45 pm

Full Council – Wednesday 10th June at 7.30 pm

TO: MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE: Councillors Billings, Knight, Roberts, Sadler, Lane, Johnston and David Marlow (non-voting member)

REMAINING MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL (for information): Councillors Brockhurst, Howells, Webb, Poole and Trott

DISTRICT WARD MEMBERS: COLLINS & GOULD