

Horton Annual Parish Meeting 22nd April 2025

Minutes



THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF HORTON

Held on Tuesday 22nd April 2025 at 7:30pm.

The meeting was held at Champney Hall, Horton

1.	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for absence: Present: Cllr Coogan, Cllr Hickley, Cllr Larcombe, Mrs Gina Beck, Clerk, Cllr Buckley. Apologies: Cllr Grove
2.	To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Horton held on the 30th April 2024. The minutes were approved without amendment.
3.	<p>Horton Parish Council Report including draft accounts:</p> <p>Membership of the Parish Council</p> <p>The Parish Council membership remains stable with 7 out of 9 posts filled. Please email the clerk to express an interest in the 2 vacant positions – clerk@hortonparishcouncil.gov.uk</p> <p>If you want to know more, or get involved, please attend one of our meetings and see for yourself. The Parish Council continue to meet on the 3rd Tuesday in every month and welcome members of the public to the meeting where we allow time for questions and comment.</p> <p>The meetings for the rest of 2025 will be at 7:30pm in Champney Hall on:</p> <p>Tuesday 20th May – Annual Meeting of the Parish Council where the Chair for the next 12 months is elected</p> <p>Tuesday 17th June</p> <p>Tuesday 15th July</p> <p>Tuesday 19th August</p> <p>Tuesday 16th September</p> <p>Tuesday 21st October</p> <p>Tuesday 18th November</p> <p>Tuesday 16th December</p> <p>The Parish Council continues to support the Horton Coffee Morning with the parish clerk available every Monday morning 11am until 1pm, for times outside of this contact the clerk in advance to arrange.</p>

Planning

The Parish Council continue to look at planning and development across Horton. Planning applications are scrutinised and commented on at meetings whilst residents are supported to report any development that requires but takes place without planning permission.

Emergency Planning

Horton Parish Council is taking steps to develop an emergency response plan. Cllr Hickley represents Horton at the Wraysbury and Horton Resilience Group Meetings and Horton is included in the planning. The purpose of the emergency plan is to support the community to become more resilient to emergency situations such as floods, power outages, fires and pandemics. One of the things that the Resilience group is doing is building a list of vulnerable people who would potentially need assistance during an emergency. If you know anyone who needs to be added to the list please get in touch with Horton and Wraysbury Resilience.

Defibrillator

The Council have been looking to install a defibrillator on Coppermill Road and contacted the Post Office about the phone box there. The Box needs to be maintained as a phone box due to the level of mobile coverage in the area so we are still working on a solution for where to put the defibrillator. The cabinet needs an electricity supply and we need the location to be publicly accessible. We are currently investigating whether we can work with Thames Water.

Flood Relief Measures

Horton Parish Council has been engaging with the Environment Agency as part of stakeholder groups for the River Thames Scheme channel for the Surrey stretch and the

Liaison Group for the Datchet to Hythe End Flood Improvement Measures. Cllr Larcombe is our representative on these groups. The flood warden for Horton is Duncan Parker who has a wealth of knowledge on the local waterways and continues to work with the Environment Agency to ensure that they know what needs doing locally in Horton. You can contact him initially via emails to the Clerks email address.

Infrastructure**Playpark Inspections and Improvements**

The play park has had its annual inspection and the clerk will work on the works required. Sovereign playgrounds have also been engaged for a twice-yearly operational inspection.

Pickins Piece

The project team for affordable housing on Pickins Piece focused its efforts on community engagement over the Autumn door knocking around the centre of the village, online surveys and in person events in Horton. Back in September the newly elected MP Jack Rankin visited and pledged his support for the project. The project

has not moved forwards since but we hope to have news one way or the other over summer 2025.

War memorial

The Turkey Oak Tree around the War memorial was trimmed during the Autumn and Cllr Cole is still working on a grant application to clean up the war memorial and restore lettering.

Colne Valley Trust

The Parish Council continues to be a member of the Trust and over the last couple of months there has been work in the Arthur Jacobs Nature Reserve and Poyle Poplars to improve the area. Volunteers carried out coppicing and tidying up which included clearing huge amounts of litter and fly tipping. This has continued into the spring. There has continued to be large amounts of fly tipping at the car park.

Tree works

RBWM have now put tree maintenance back into the budget. We have seen some RBWM tree works carried out around the village this spring. It has resulted in some dead trees being removed. RBWM do publish a list of planned tree works on the website so if you have any concerns you can look up what is being carried out where and why.

Events

Remembrance Sunday

The event was well attended and supported by members of the community. We again welcomed support from the Scouting Groups and their families.

Christmas Tree Blessing

This took place on Sunday 8th December at 16:00 which was a very wet day but the Christmas Tree was lit and then carols, refreshments and a visit from Santa took place in Champney Hall supported by Wraysbury and Horton Voluntary Care and Frosts Estate Agents.

2025 Dates for your diary:

Sunday November 9th at 10am - Remembrance Sunday Parade

Sunday December 7th at 4pm – Christmas Tree Blessing

Responsible Finance Officer Report

Budget

The Parish Council Budget was approved which saw an increase in the precept of 9%. This was necessary due to increases in costs generally and changes to National Insurance thresholds made in the Governments Autumn Statement.

RBWM

RBWM have managed to issue a balanced budget with the help of a council tax rate rise and borrowing from the Government. This will help in the short term, but the loans will have to be paid back. The funds available for services will be tight but the

Parish Council will continue to chase reported cases on behalf of residents to ensure that RBWM meets their obligations to residents of Horton. If you are aware of anything in the village that needs attention; potholes, dangerous trees, fly tipping, mud on the road, unacceptable noise or lights etc please report it via the RBWM website or app on the "report it" page. You will receive a reply by email with a reference number and a date for completion or update. If you are not satisfied by the reply or the works are not complete when that time comes, please forward the email and any photos to Clerk@hortonparishcouncil.gov.uk so we can chase it for you. In our experience reports with photos get a quicker response than those without.

Currently there is a white paper on English Devolution working its way through parliament which will see changes to local council areas. The aim is to split England into larger areas under Mayoral control which would see RBWM having to join forces with other local authorities to form a larger area of about 500,000 residents up from the 153,500 from the last census in 2021.

Horton Parish Council Audit

The 2023-2024 council accounts were accepted by the auditor and are available on the website. The 2024-25 accounts have been closed and await examination by the internal auditor. The accounts approved by the council for the 4th quarter are shown below. These are subject to change if anything emerges during the audit process.

	Budget	Actual	%	
	2024-2025	2024-2025	Spent	Variance
Precept	£45,560	£45,560	100%	£0
SLA Grant for Greens	£2,364	£2,364	100%	£0
PCC Recharge	£1,323	£1,323	100%	£0
VAT reclaim – offset by VAT costs below in other	£0	£3,894		£-3,894
Other	£272	£91		£181
Total Income	£49,518	£53,231	107%	£-3,713
Cost				
Total Personnel Costs	£19,500	£19,983	102%	£-483
Total Admin Costs	£5,798	£5,175	89%	£623
Total Greens	£14,853	£13,846	93%	£1,007
Total Maintenance	£1,500	£3,100	207%	£-1,600
Total Insurance and subscription related costs	£1,750	£1,871	107%	£-121
Other	£8,553	£13,568	159%	£-5,015
Total Expenditure	£51,954	£57,543	111%	£-5,589
Total Change in Reserves	£-2,436	£-4,312	111%	£-1,874

	<p>The total reduction in reserves was £4.3k with £2,4k budgeted. The increase was £1k more than was budgeted for due to grant spending being £1k over budget, £1.6k of unbudgeted playpark maintenance and £0.5k unbudgeted personnel costs offset by a £1.1k underspend in training costs.</p> <p>The year ahead has a spend of £58.6k which is funded by £53.8k of income and a reduction in reserves of £4.6k. This will leave the council with approximately 4 months of reserves, £23.8k, which is within the audit recommended limit and a CIL reserve of £5.8k. The CIL reserve must be spent during this financial year and will be used for the defibrillator plus further infrastructure improvements.</p>
4.	<p>Ward Councillors Report:</p> <p>Cllr Buckley: RBWM have borrowed £130m this year with £30m for the next two years. By end of this council term RBWM could be £400m in debt which cannot be paid back. The result will be financially crippling for generations to come. Independent Councillors are pushing hard for change but are being suppressed.</p> <p>Cllr Larcombe: English Devolution - Surrey County Council and 13 boroughs owe £5.5bn between them, £2.5bn from Woking. The devolution will split Surrey into two Mayoral areas. Cllr Larcombe is forecasting that Berkshire will end up with an area for Royal East Berkshire and may take back part of surrounding Buckinghamshire. Cllr Buckley explained that this is not a choice. The white paper insists it will happen. The overall aim is to create growth in the economy.</p>
5.	<p>Champney Hall Management Committee Report including accounts: COMUNUNITY COFFEE MORNING IN CONJUNCTION WITH HORTON PARISH COUNCIL Horton Community Coffee Morning opens every Monday (except bank holidays) from 10am to 1pm in Champney Hall, Horton In colder weather we can also offer a "Warm Space" including soup and a roll for lunch. As well as coffee, we offer tea, chat and biscuits (and sometimes cake). RBWM library services open in the hall at the same time and we have jigsaw puzzles to borrow or swap and have a laptop so we can offer IT support. A group of local knitters often meet at the coffee morning and can help if you have any knitting or crochet questions. We work with W&H Repair Café helping to keep broken items out of landfill. We offer "make and take" craft sessions and have children's activities for the school holidays (no charge, everything provided by St Michael's), and RBWM Library services bring Lego bricks on school holiday Mondays. We are a collecting point for donations to Windsor FoodShare, and we work with Wraybury and Horton Resilience and with Wraybury Matters as well as other groups The Coffee Morning is run by volunteers from St Michael's Church, Horton Parish Council, Champney Hall Management Committee and Wraybury and Horton Voluntary Care</p>

We can provide assistance through our other partners who often attend the Coffee Morning:

- Thames Valley Police
- RBWM Community Wardens

If you have any questions contact us at ChampneyHall@gmail.com

CRAFTY CHURCH

Crafty Church was set up in St Michael's Church, but after COVID we moved to Champney Hall.

It is a monthly group for crafters who want help, support, encouragement, who want to share their skills and knowledge, or just get on with their craft with people who "get it"!

There are usually 10 to 15 attendees working on different projects and crafts (knitting, crochet, beading, sewing, painting etc)

Come and join us - bring your own crafts or come and see what others are doing! We often have donated fabric and wool available and are happy to share skills and resources and can bring other craft resources if there is something specific you want to try. We love to see what people have been making and are very happy to assist if a project has stalled or you need some help.

Contact us on craftychurch@stmichaels-horton.org

STITCH

We meet on the last Saturday of the month, from 1pm to 3pm. There is no charge, and the kettle is usually on!

We meet at Champney Hall in Horton, SL3 9PA (what3words worms.lions.poppy).

- **Igniting passion and compassion for women and with women in Horton and Wraysbury and throughout the world.**
- **Creative opportunities to make items which might meet community needs both here and in the world.**
- **An environment for women that's Welcoming, Friendly, Accepting, Loving, & Caring!**

	<p>We are a church-based volunteer group working with local and international charities. We work with a US charity daysforgirls.org making washable menstruation kits for girls around the world who otherwise would miss 4 or 5 days of school every month, and with a local Community Kitchen sewing reusable shopping bags</p> <p>Everyone is welcome to join us, you don't have to be experienced at sewing - there is ironing and cutting to be done and tea and coffee to be made!</p> <p>We can offer volunteering opportunities, and a number of our volunteers have learned to sew or to use new-to-them sewing equipment and learned new skills</p> <p>You can read about the work of the charity, how we contribute to it and other ways you can help, at www.wraysburystitch.blogspot.com</p> <p>We generally meet on the last Saturday of the month at Champney Hall in Horton (SL3 9PA) between 10am and 12 noon. We are very happy to mentor any teens who are looking for volunteering experience for Duke of Edinburgh awards - please contact us for more information.</p>
6.	<p>St Michaels Church Report:</p> <p>No formal report from the Church as we have a new Vicar.</p> <p>A Church wall repair is needed which will cost £110,000. Donations are very welcome.</p>
7.	<p>Windsor, Ascot and Maidenhead Community Land Trust Project Update.</p> <p>RBWM property company services have now been taken in house so there are delays in getting answers from RBWM.</p> <p>The Community Land Trust is looking into options for the land known as Pickens Piece but need to wait for engagement from RBWM.</p>
8.	<p>Emergency Planning</p> <p>Horton Parish Council are working with Horton and Wraysbury resilience.</p>
9.	<p>Questions from Residents of the Parish</p> <p>Land grabbing by residents bordering Pickins Piece was raised.</p> <p>Cllr Larcombe thanked Cllr Hickley for keeping everyone going the last 12 months.</p>

Meeting closed 20:00

Contact details for Horton Parish Council:

Clerk@hortonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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