



East Horsley Parish Council

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Tuesday 25th April 2023 at 7.30pm

AGENDA

PART 1 PARISH COUNCILLOR Q & A

Parish Councillors will talk about their recent activities and plans followed by an open Q&A session when the audience may ask questions or make suggestions. Questions submitted in writing prior to the meeting will be taken first.

EAST HORSLEY PARISH COUNCILLORS

Robert Taylor	Andrew Franklin	Colin Carmichael
Aileen Aitcheson	Steve Punshon	Steve Harvey
Stephen Skinner	Antony Etwell	Holly Haling

At the end of Part One complimentary wine or soft drinks will be served at the back of the hall

PART 2 DRINKS & CHAT

Residents can mingle with their drinks around the hall and talk further with Parish Councillors or any of the following Guest Participants to address their particular areas of responsibility:

GUEST PARTICIPANTS

CLlr Colin Cross	Surrey County Councillor for the Horsleys
CLlr Catherine Young	Guildford Borough Councillor; Chair of Horsley Climate Change Group
Lisa Clarke	Surrey Police
Stephen Groom	Chair of Railways Task Group
Martin Stringfellow	Head of East Horsley Speedwatch team.

All registered candidates for the Horsley & Clandon ward in the forthcoming Guildford borough local election have also been invited to attend our Annual Parish Meeting.

MEETING CLOSSES BY 9.30 pm

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REVIEW

Summarizing the activities of East Horsley Parish Council in the 12 months ending 31st March 2023

When our financial year began on 1st April 2022 there were yellow and blue flags of Ukraine hanging across our village centres. By June these were replaced with lines of union flags as the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations unfolded, local street parties flourished, a beacon was lit at West Horsley Place and on June 5th a splendid Platinum Jubilee Picnic was held at Horsley Towers, enjoyed by over two thousand residents, despite some slightly soggy weather.

In December we were back at Horsley Towers for our annual Volunteers' Party held in the Great Hall as a 'Thank You' to residents who volunteered for our various activities during the year. Around 130 guests saw me give the Chairman's Award to Chris Campbell for his relentless campaigning against environmental abuses at Brick Kiln Farm which have plagued the residents of Effingham Junction for far too many years.

Planning is the busiest of our Parish Council committees and 23 meetings were held in 2022 at which 100 East Horsley planning applications were reviewed. Other submissions this past year included:

- A 104-page objection to GBC against Taylor Wimpey's plans for 2000+ homes at Wisely airfield;
- A request for Historic England to list the Lovelace flint wall on the A246 – unfortunately refused.

Our various Task Groups have been as active as ever this year. The **Road Safety** team continues to seek improvements in highways safety - a 20mph speed limit was recently secured for Chalk Lane and a speed-activated VAS sign arranged for Forest Road. A new lease was also signed with GBC for the car park behind the Station Parade shops to ensure free public parking here. Our **Village Appearance** team organised a new planter for Kingston Avenue, a solar-powered light for Bluebell Lane and arranged renovation of wooden bins, notice-boards and benches around the village. The **Countryside** team instituted footpath improvements in The Forest, whilst the recently-formed **Horsley Climate Change** team put on four well-attended public presentations. Meanwhile the **Railway** task group continues to secure significant improvements at our two railway stations with more coming down the track.

Much of our work around the village is recurrent or ongoing in nature, including the following:

- Maintaining a public toilet facility at Kingston Meadow, now with an outside tap for water bottles
- Providing Christmas lights and other festive decorations at our village centres
- Arranging twice a year litter-picks at Station Parade, Bishopsmead and Effingham Junction
- Organising a bi-annual village fete, Annual Parish Meeting and 'Thank You' event for volunteers
- Maintaining ten floral planters around the village
- Regular maintenance of six public green spaces across the village
- Overseeing our two woodlands: The Forest and Great Ridings Wood
- Maintaining the wildflower reserve at Wellington Meadow
- Liaising with local community officers on youth issues
- Publishing & distributing quarterly newsletters to all residents
- Providing regular updates to residents via the Parish Council website & social media

None of our parish councillors retired this year, so we currently have nine overall, our maximum permitted. However, on 4th May the limit will increase up to 12 parish councillors as a result of our Community Governance Review two years ago. This Review also approved a parish boundary revision which means that 55 homes near to Effingham Common will formally transfer from Effingham to East Horsley parish on the same date.

Robert Taylor, Chairman

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2022-23

Key financial information for East Horsley Parish Council for the financial year ending 31st March 2023 is summarised below:

a) Income

Our total income for the last financial year was £178,968, an increase of 6.1% over the previous year. This income was derived from various sources as set out below:

Parish Council income for the financial years ending 31st March 2022 and 2023

	Year ending 31st March 2022			Year ending 31st March 2023		
	£		% total	£		% total
Income sources:						
Precept	143,000		85%	146,000		82%
Grants, etc	11,384		7%	14,168		8%
Bank interest	167		0%	2,071		1%
Income from events & newsletter	14,118		8%	16,729		9%
TOTAL INCOME	168,669		100%	178,968		100%

The precept, our share of the Council Tax, rose by 2.1% last year and accounted for 82% of our income over the last financial year. Additional income of £9,252 arose from sales and sponsorship at the Platinum Jubilee Picnic in Horsley Towers, which helped to partly offset some of our operating costs for this large event – the net cost to the Parish Council being £3,337.

No increase in the precept per household has been proposed by the Parish Council for the current financial year.

b) Expenditure

EHPC's total expenditure in the financial year ending 31st March 2023 came to £184,368, an increase of 22% over the previous year, as detailed in the table below:

Parish Council expenditure for the financial years ending 31st March 2022 and 2023

				Year ending 31st March 2022		Year ending 31st March 2023	
				£	% total	£	% total
Expenditure types:							
Parish Clerk & Assistant Clerk				43,876	29%	59,236	32%
PC Establishment				24,115	16%	24,379	13%
Village facilities/appearance				25,836	17%	32,868	18%
Communications				18,009	12%	23,998	13%
Village warden				13,467	9%	6,394	3%
Highways, pavements, footpaths				2,831	2%	3,599	2%
Events				19,488	13%	24,401	13%
Donations, grants, etc				3,981	3%	9,492	5%
TOTAL EXPENDITURE				151,603	100%	184,368	100%

The largest growth in expenditure was an increase in the costs of the Parish Clerk and Assistant Clerk which rose 35% overall due to national pay-scale increments, backpay adjustments and one-off pension contributions, plus an increase in the hours worked by the Assistant Clerk after his probationary phase was concluded. No parish councillors received any remuneration.

There was also a large increase in the costs of maintaining the free public car park behind Station Parade due to substantial rises in business rates and lighting costs that we bear under this GBC lease.

Several areas of expenditure declined. A new Village Warden was appointed during the year - prior to his engagement only limited work was undertaken for a certain period, resulting in 53% lower costs than the year before. Highways-related costs were also well below budget although two sizeable contracts have now been agreed for over £20k of road safety work due in the 2023-24 financial year.

c) Net Income

With total income of £178,968 and overall expenditure of £184,368, the Parish Council had a net deficit of £5,400 for the financial year ending 31st March 2023. This compares with a budgeted surplus of £463.

d) Liquidity

As at 31st March 2023 the Parish Council had net liquid assets of £187,772, a decrease of 0.5% compared with the previous year. This degree of liquidity complies with NALC's recommendations for solvency levels of parish councils.