

Reports from the Annual Parish Meeting 28th May 2026

Chairman's Report Parish Meeting 2026

What a year this has been ...















The world has gone mad so much fighting. Thank goodness for Horningsham.

We, the council are a small group of willing volunteers who work hard to maintain Horningsham as a peaceful and supportive place. Each of us have a unique set of skills which we use to action tasks willingly, before we then go to an external source for support. Spending money wisely.



Over the past couple of years we have welcomed Stephanie Storrar as our new parish clerk. She is getting to grips with the rigours of running a local parish council. Proving a complimentary asset to the team allowing us to work efficiently.

So, what have we done

Over the past couple of years, we have and some of these are ongoing . . .

-  Ensured that the tennis courts have been maintained, particularly renewing the white lining.
-  Completed a programme to introduce 'street name plates' to assist visitors to the village finding their way around.
-  Converted the phone box on The Common into an Information Kiosk.
-  Improved the bus stop at Hollybush.
-  Moved the parish council noticeboard to the centre of the village so that it is more accessible.
-  Worked with Longleat to organise the repair of the wall beside the war memorial.
-  Liaised with Wiltshire Council Highways to ensure that verges are cleared and the white lining in the village is improved.
-  Liaised with Wiltshire Streetscene to ensure that the verges throughout the village are kept to a high standard.
-  Ensured that the defibrillator at The Village Hall is maintained.
-  Worked with Longleat to organise the purchase and planting of an oak tree for The Common to replace one that was accidentally knocked down.
-  Organised the purchase and planting of an oak tree in the memorial orchard as part of the Oaks at 80 scheme. Children from Horningsham Primary School helped to plant the tree.
-  Bought two benches for the memorial orchard and ensured that the other benches were renovated.
-  Worked with Longleat to ensure that the memorial orchard is properly maintained.
-  Developed a resilience plan to ensure that the village is prepared in case of an emergency.

Going forward we are looking to

-  Working with the children from Horningsham Primary School to make a minibeast habitat in the memorial orchard.
-  Purchasing a further six apple trees for the memorial orchard to ensure that the orchard continues to represent those from the village who died in the two World Wars.

- 🌱 Purchasing a planter for The Common to commemorate 40 years of the village fayre and 60 years of Longleat.
- 🌱 Working with Longleat to improve the area around the well.
- 🌱 Continuing to ensure that the bus stops and benches are well maintained and that our grounds contractor continues to keep the village looking tidy and cared for.
- 🌱 Repairing the fence on the tennis court, one of our objectives from our precept meeting
- 🌱 Making a clear path to improve access to the tennis court.
- 🌱 Working with the village hall to develop their resilience plan.
- 🌱 Providing grants to village organisations to support the community.

Precepts commitments, tennis court, grants, benches – all well underway

Horningsham is a very special place, we are all very lucky. Councillors look forward to working together. Altogether we need to value and respect our surroundings so that endures for generations to come. It provides us with a wonderful backdrop for a calming and unique lifestyle.

Thank you Horningsham.

Police Report

Please find below the policing report from the last year ranging from **11th May 2025- 19th May 2026**

There has been a total of **20 crimes recorded** in your area.

Crime data released by the Office for National Statistics shows a decrease in overall recorded crime across Wiltshire, with significant reduction being seen in areas identified as priorities for the force by Chief Constable Catherine Roper - burglary, violence and safer public spaces.

- There have been **0 burglary offences** recorded in your area this year.
- There have been **recorded 3 theft related offences** where unknow suspect has stolen some historic ornament from a garden at the historical site in the area. Unknown suspect has accessed land and stole substantial number of apples. Unknown suspect has taken the lights of a machine belonging to a business.
- You have a very low level of **antisocial behaviour** occurring within your area which is good news, as **0 reports** of this nature has been reported during this time frame.
- We have had **4 reports of RTC's** in your area. Including driver has lost control and collided with tree. Head on two vehicle collision.
- There have been **2 instances of criminal damage reported**, where unknown suspect has been seen trying to gain access to farmland by bashing on the double gates.
- There have been **2 instances of fraud reported**, where suspect impersonated himself to be calling from a bank advising the aggrieved about her bank account being compromised.
- There have been **2 instances of animal/wildlife** where a deer has been hit by a vehicle causing injury. Deer shot by a silenced weapon.

Wiltshire Police have also attended Horningsham for a variety of other non-crime incidents – mainly suspicious incidents linked to poaching and hare coursing reports, as well as assisting other agencies such as Highways Agency and the ambulance service. Our Rural Crime team have also had contact and visited various landowners and farmers as part of their patrol network.

The PCC has invested in Mobile Police Stations which each Neighbourhood Team has access to on a week-by-week rotation. These are to bring the police into the rural communities now we have fewer physical police stations. We are also committed to advertising “drop-in” sessions in our rural communities where you can come and meet your local policing team. We will let you know when your next session in Horningsham is.

As always, please be aware of the Bobby Van Trust, a registered charity who work alongside Wiltshire Police and offer a completely free service to anyone over 60 (or over 18 and registered disabled). They offer a free Home Security service which includes checks for door and window locks, lighting, dummy CCTV cameras and more. They also offer a Stay Safe Online service which will help prevent any fraud related offences occurring. For more information please visit their website <https://www.wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk/> or contact them on 01225 256867

We are committed to keeping your community safe and secure. Therefore, we strongly encourage to take the following steps to protect your home:

- Install CCTV and Ring doorbell- these can help deter criminals and provide valuable evidence in case of an incident.
- Stay alert for Rogue Traders- be cautious of doorstep callers offering services. Always check ID and never feel pressured into making quick decisions. If in any doubt, say no and report suspicious activity to the Police and Trading Standards Department in Wiltshire Council.

If you would like my attendance at a future meeting, or if you would like me to attend a local event, please contact me via email below:

Lukasz Kolasinski 70901

Police Community Support Officer

Warminster Rural Beat

Police Station, The Avenue, Warminster, BA12 9AA

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WILTSHIRE POLICE

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

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Church of St. John the Baptist, Horningsham

Report for The Annual Parish Meeting

The Church has remained open to visitors throughout the past year and was used by the School for their Christmas and Leavers services,

Work was done on repairs to the roof etc as recommended in the architect's quinquennial report and further repairs including repointing are due in the coming year with the building generally in good order,

The churchyard has been kept well mown and tidy, thanks to Horningsham PC, for which we are very grateful.

We have two weddings of local residents due this summer and have had baptisms and funerals so serving the local community.

Tim Moore, Church Warden

May 2026 Village Hall Report

Good evening, and thank you for inviting me to give a report tonight. The Village Hall is physically at the heart of the village, and we really want everyone in the village to feel a warmth towards it – it belongs to the people of Horningsham. We also need to attract people from outside the village to use it, to share this great resource and bring money in.

This year we've been successful in attracting a more varied range of users, which is very encouraging. Overall the Hall has had a busy and exciting year, maintaining its regular users (the school, the luncheon club, and the cricket club), and trying out some new enterprises. The yin yoga classes have continued and we hosted the Maiden Bradley fitness classes while their hall had its new windows installed. In addition, the events held by, or in conjunction with, the hall committee have thrived – the Spring and Autumn village meals, bonfire night (in conjunction with the cricket club), the village Fayre (in conjunction with the Fayre committee) and the Rural Voices monthly Saturday breakfast talks, raising funds for the Regeneration Project. The monthly village coffee mornings have recently benefitted from an uptick in attendance, because the informal Horningsham gardening group now use this as an opportunity to meet in the Hall.

We have been trying out some new ventures, like our first opera (La Traviatta) in July 2025, and the revival of the Horningsham pantomime tradition in January 2026. The latter was so successful that plans are already afoot for the next one, with the potential for more “home grown” theatrical fun in between. It was noticeable that both of these productions brought new faces to the hall, and strengthened links between locals. Businesses have also hired the Hall for a range of activities, from an antique valuation to a pickling workshop. The current economic climate means that our running costs have increased alarmingly (utility bills are up 30%) and we are struggling to cover these from rental income.

Maintenance of this aging building is, as ever, ongoing. This year the Jubilee Room has had a big clean up, and new shelves have been fitted in the cupboards. The veranda has been repaired, as has the cooker, and we benefitted from some new kitchen items thanks to an Area Board grant from Wiltshire County Council. We are currently working on a big cupboard project at the back of the hall, and unfortunately we now need to replace some large kitchen appliances.

I would like to take this opportunity to record our thanks to Wilts CC for the Area Board grant, the Fayre committee, for donations to both the hall upkeep and the regeneration

project, and SSEN for their grant for the regeneration project. This project uses our impending centenary in 2030 as a target to update the hall and make it fit for the next 100 years. The ambition is to address the spiralling maintenance and energy costs, improve accessibility and sustainability, and provide the community with a vital hub which can also be used as a refuge in times of emergency. To this end we have been consulting the village about the initial draft plans, and working with the Parish Council as they develop their emergency plan. A significant grant from SSEN has put us in a position to move forward with the planning stages and we have recently formed a subcommittee to provide more focus to speed this along. Fundraising for the work, especially from Rural Voices, continues steadily, but will need to step up once we have concrete plans.

Looking ahead to next year, we will continue with our events, and efforts to expand the range of people using the hall. We would also like to expand the committee membership further (it has gone up by 50% this year), and ensure that all the key user groups are represented. We hope to submit a premises licence application soon, move regeneration project on to next stage – i.e. tender for first works, and have another panto, and possibly more theatrical events.

Annemarie, Chair

Horningsham Primary School Parish Council Report 2026

Headteacher Odele Lapham Assistant Headteacher Charis Young Chair of Governors Stephanie Storrar

We currently have 66 pupils on our school roll and are expecting a roll of 72 pupils from September. Our pupils live in: Horningsham, Warminster, Corsley, Frome, Maiden Bradley and Kilmington. It has been another busy and rewarding year at Horningsham Primary School. We remain proud of the school's place at the heart of the village and are grateful for the continued encouragement and support of the Parish Council and wider community.

Our Activities This year we have finalised our curriculum overview, which we are very proud of. It is ambitious, provides opportunities for deeper learning and both reflects our local area as well as the diversity of Britain and the wider world. Our overall aim is for our students to be confident and engaged and ready for their next steps. We are proud of the progress that they have made in their learning journeys so far this year.

We continue to offer a range of enrichment opportunities including clubs, trips and visitors to further enhance our educational offer. Trips have included: residential to a new PGL site in Surrey; making gelato at Palette and Pasture; touring Salisbury Cathedral; learning about the Titanic at The SeaCity Museum and discovering how sewage is processed at the Wessex Water Saltford. Including all of the sports events that we take part in, we have already by end of May completed a total of 30 trips. This year we have been proud to be awarded Gold Healthy Schools status – a reflection of our dedication to healthy, active lifestyles.

The Fort in the Magic Wood has been demolished and FOHPS are funding further development of the area. So far a new staircase is in place to allow easier access, plans for the slide to be reused and installed on the bank and we hope to also add a mud kitchen. Significant investigations are under way on the School House floorboards and roofing. We have sold the commercial kitchen equipment to make way for a child-friendly kitchen which can be used to support both our pastoral and cooking and nutrition offer.

Ofsted inspected us the week beginning 4th May – we are pleased with the outcomes and await the written report.

What is the Compass Collaboration? We work closely with five other local schools (Crockerton, Sutton Veny, Wylve Valley, Sambourne and The Minster) as part of the Compass Collaboration Hub. We are all Local Authority maintained schools (not part of a Trust). As a strong family of local schools, our vision is to work in partnership to ensure the best possible outcomes for all of our children and school communities. Whilst respecting and supporting each school's individual culture, value and identity we are committed to a core set of professional partnership values.

Our community-based projects this year have included:

- Singing at Warminster Independent Market
- Share the Miracle: we donated Easter eggs to Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance
- Big Sing at Warminster School as part of Minster's Fete

How do we engage with our community?

- Using the local area to support our curriculum e.g. Geography studies, seasonal walks for EYFS
- Carol singing at Luncheon Club each Christmas
- Hiking Club: promotes a love of walking, the local footpaths and flora and fauna
- Utilising the village hall for social events, Christmas plays, Sports Day
- Supporting Parish Council activities: the stars on the Christmas tree, planting in the orchard
- Headteacher has joined Crey's Charity as a trustee
- Longleat: Curriculum outreach, Acorn Project, Christmas/end of year visit, attending Longleat events
- Dancing and tombola stall at the Village Fayre
- Holding our Carol Service and Leavers' Service at the church
- FOHPS invite the community to our fundraising events

Do we face any challenges? Like many small rural schools, we continue to work carefully within increasing financial pressures while striving to maintain the rich educational experiences our pupils deserve. Without support for fundraising, we will not be able to offer such a wide variety of opportunities in the future. Declining birth rates result in lower cohorts which in turn impacts funding. As everybody has experienced, the cost-of-living increases results in higher costs for things such as fuel and food - we try to avoid passing these pressures on to parents.

Aspirations: Looking ahead, our priority remains ensuring that every child at Horningsham Primary School receives an ambitious, enriching and nurturing education.

We would like to further pursue our outdoor learning offer, which will require further investment and fundraising. Horningsham Primary School would like to thank our dedicated staff, governors, families and volunteers for their continued support of the school. We would also like to thank the Parish Council for their ongoing support of the school and also for the hard work that goes into keeping our village looking great and promoting a thriving community.

Horningsham Gardening Club review of activities, May 2026

This year the gardening club has continued with its mission of propagating plants for the plant stall at Horningsham Fair as well as supporting our individual and collective interest in plants, growing and propagation, gardening, ecology, wildlife and sustainability.

Towards this end, we held several well-attended events during our spring village hall coffee mornings. These included a seed swap, a session on seed sowing and an introduction to propagation-by-cuttings that anyone could come and participate in.

As discussed last year, our other main focus has been creating an allotment / community growing space. Many of us in the group are keen to create more growing space for veg and flowers and to create an active outdoor space for the whole community to access and enjoy. We envisage space for picnics and outdoor activities, in addition to a small orchard and fruit bushes, and see it as an integral part of Horningsham's sustainability and resilience plan.

To this end, a group of us met with Hugh Hitchings at the beginning of May to discuss our plans and needs eg access, and look at possible sites. We viewed three sites all within walking distance of the village hall. Cherry and Sophie are in the process of drafting a brief proposal for Longleat, outlining our aims and how we intend to use, maintain and run this long-term project.

We also have plans for sales and swaps of plants and home grown veg and flowers that could take place on a regular basis either at the village hall and / or on the new community garden / allotments.

HORNINGSHAM LUNCHEON CLUB

Horningsham Luncheon Club is now in its 43rd year.

We have 42 members, 2 of which have their dinners delivered to them in Horningsham.

We have a team of 10 cooks, two of which are on duty each Thursday as well as helpers who wait at table and in the kitchen. Without all of these people who give up their time we would not be able to continue.

The price of the meal went up to £5 in January 2025 and we will have to review costs at our next meeting.

We are very fortunate to receive an annual donation from the Horningsham Village Fayre and are extremely grateful to the Village Hall for the favourable rent charged to

the club. We realise that without such a well-equipped kitchen we have at Horningsham we would not be able to continue.

We believe the Club is an asset to the Village and beyond, bringing people together to enjoy a cooked meal and meet and chat to their friends.

We hope it will continue well into the future, with perhaps some new younger cooks and helpers.

Jack and the Beanstalk - Horningsham Theatre Group, January 2026

At the beginning of the year, a group of enthusiastic local actors and backstage team joined together to bring panto back to Horningsham. Jack and the Beanstalk was a community-based, collaborative project which proved to be a resounding success!

History

The last full pantomime in the village was performed approximately 70 years ago (thank you to Emma Challinor for researching this).

Barriers

Here are a few of the challenges we faced with a lack of infrastructure in place:

- **Lighting** – the Village Hall lights - including the ones lighting up the stage- are simple on/off switches, with no spotlights, floodlights or any form of overhead lighting that is commonly found in theatres.
- **Sound** – the Hall has its own PA system which functions well and delivers good quality sound. In the absence of a sound technician, luckily a very talented Year 6 pupil stepped forwards to manage sound while reprising a role!
- **Blackout blinds** - some missing in the hall – this made staging the matinee tricky
- **Budget/funding** - with no previous productions & ticket sales to support the panto, aside from a small, kind donation from the Village Fayre, no budget was available. This made advertising, paying royalties, procuring costumes and printing scripts incredibly challenging (we're very grateful for help from the Treasurer of the VH).

Funds raised

Net profit of approximately £1,500 - a fantastic achievement for the Village Hall & community, paving the way for future projects and productions.

Future projects

- Next Pantomime: scheduled for January 2027. We have also discussed staging other productions. Autumn/Spring plays have been suggested.
- To raise funds for Horningsham Primary School, some of the Theatre Group will be staging a highly abridged version of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on Thursday 16th July '26 in the Secret Garden at School. Open to all members of the community, we hope it will be a wonderful event!
- Workshops

- Could we run workshops such as the *West End in Schools* format? (<https://westendinschools.org.uk>). A local actor runs these - it would be a great opportunity to engage younger performers.
- The Woolstore Theatre in Codford runs free acting workshops for all ages (from 7+) twice a month; could we do something similar?