

Dunsfold Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 14th April 2026 at
6.30pm at the Winn Hall, Dunsfold

There were 42 attendees present.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Cllr Griffiths Chairman of Dunsfold Parish Council welcomed those present to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th April 2025

These were noted and agreed by those present.

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave the following report:

I am very pleased to welcome you all to Dunsfold's annual parish meeting. This is not a parish council meeting but is organised by the PC to enable all village organisations to tell us about their activities.

As always it has been a very busy year for the PC not least of all with up and coming reorganisation of local government. We were hoping to invite our local County & Borough councillor to talk to you about the potential affects of reorganisation. Unfortunately we are now in the pre election period and have been advised that to do so would breach the regulations.

One issue that has taken some considerable time is Dunsfold Common. As I'm sure most of you are aware the freehold of the common rests with Waverly Borough Council and the PC holds a lease for the common. In order to protect the future of the common the PC has made an application under the Community Asset Transfer provision for the freehold to be transferred to the PC. This process is now well underway.

On a similar issue the council has made an application to Surrey County Council for the transfer of ownership of the school field to the PC.

With regard to the Common one issue that has been of concern has been the lack of maintenance to the village ponds allowing them to become overgrown and have poor water quality. During the year we were fortunate in obtaining a grant to assist with the costs of obtaining a survey of the ponds. This was carried out by Surrey and Sussex Wild Life trust. As a result of this a three year plan has been produced to improve quality of all the ponds and ensure they support bio-diversity.

The Common includes large areas of woodland for which the PC is responsible. This year we have commissioned a tree survey. The first part of the survey has been carried out with the next phase due shortly. Once completed a programme of work will be drawn up to ensure both safety for all using the Common and effective management of the woodland.

Work on the neighbourhood plan has moved on during the year since the appointment of our clerk who is now working closely with our dedicated support from UVE. The time scale for the next phase is published on our web site. We are meeting with Waverley on 16th April to discuss how their work on the development of the Waverley Local Plan may impact on our neighbourhood plan.

The KGV over a number of years had fallen into disrepair. One serious issue was the state of the carpark which was very dangerous. The PC was able to use CIL funding to fully re-lay a new carpark. Internal redecoration has taken place as have repairs to walls in the corridor and changing rooms. Imminently a new heating boiler will be fitted.

All information regarding the former village school site which was reported at the public meeting on 25th November has been published on the council website. We were hoping by now to have carried out a community involvement exercise. Unfortunately this has been delayed by various legal matters and now by the imminent housing needs survey being carried out by Surrey Community Action.

We have been working closely with Alfold Parish Council regarding the serious issues caused by water tankers in both villages. Particular thanks to those villagers who assisted us in gathering information. We have recently attended a meeting with Jeremy Hunt MP, Councillor Kevin Deanus, Alfold Parish Council and Thames Water. As a result of this meeting Jeremy is raising the Dunsfold issues directly with the CEO of Thames Water.

The next year is going to be an expensive one for the PC. We are having to spend money on the regeneration of the woodland and the common - particularly the ponds - which have been overlooked for a number of years. We are very pleased we now have a fully qualified Clerk who is being paid according to the national scale that is required by her experience and qualifications. Taking all of this into consideration it has been noted by our auditor that our general reserves were low and this needed need to be addressed. Consequently, we have reluctantly had to increase the precept (which is the PC's proportion of Council Tax) by 70p per week for a Band D property for the year 2026/2027.

The council is now publishing a monthly newsletter in the parish magazine, on Dunsfold e news and posting information on Love Dunsfold. Monthly face to face surgeries are held in the Nugent Room and advertised on the village notice board. Agendas and minutes for all meetings are published on the council website.

Despite this I am aware that mis information is still circulating. If you are unsure of anything or do not understand items from minutes please speak to me, any councillor, the Parish Clerk or email us. A link to all council emails is on the web site and the clerk's phone number and email address are published on all council documents.

4. Report from Henry Smith Charity

Details of the accounts were circulated.

The Chairman advised that a grant of £4500 had been received. This was spent on 23 vouchers for £150 to be spent at the Village Shop, 15 gift boxes, and 6 bouquets of flowers, given to those in need of comfort. A balance of £722.32 remained in the account.

The 2025/2026 Henry Smith Charity Accounts were noted and agreed by all present

5. Presentations from village groups and organisations

Friends of Dunsfold Common – David Airey

The Friends has been in existence since 1958, formed as a result of a local petition, and became a Charity in 1974. David himself is in his 40th year of being Treasurer.

The purpose of the Friends is to promote the preservation of the Common for the benefit of all, especially residents of Dunsfold. A member of the Friends sits on the Commons Committee to advise the Council. A grant is given every year to the Council for grass cutting.

Work has taken place in the last year on the removal of Himalayan Balsam, and tidying up the Common.

Social activities include a skittles match with Hascombe Friends. There is no set fee for membership, members give anything from £5 to £500; they must be residents of Dunsfold. Contact David for details of how to become a member.

The Friends also act as banker for the Village Fete.

Winn Hall – David Airey

David invited people to "look around" to see the benefits of the Winn Hall. It was built in 1916 and was extended in 1997 with a grant from the Lottery and money from local resident Lord Nugent – hence the name for the Nugent Room.

The Hall is funded from hirings and grants, including one from the Parish Council, which holds its meetings in the Nugent Room.

However, there are a lot of outgoings such as insurance and oil, which even before the Iran War cost £1500 to fill the tank. Electric heaters were installed in the last year to try to offset the expense of the oil.

If there were to be a major financial problem, then the Committee would need to reach out to residents to assist.

The Hall is busy in term times, and is trying to attract weddings and parties at weekends. The Hall will be closed for two weeks in the summer for redecoration.

New volunteers are needed for the Committee, and a new Chairman will be needed as from July this year, as David intends to step down.

Village Community Shop – Gary Halls

Gary said that the shop changed its butcher in the last year, and now gets supplies from R. G. Young butchers in Chiddingfold. As a result, they sold 5300 sausage rolls last year!

Another new supplier is Bud & Flowers from Kirdford – all will have seen their fantastic displays. They run a loyalty scheme, whereby you collect stamps towards 20% of your next purchase.

The shop is always on the look out for alternative suppliers and products, to try to keep costs down. Current prices are on a par with local supermarkets.

Planning permission has been granted for a new pergola on the side of the shop, which will mean an expansion of the range of fruit and vegetables available. There will be a new chiller outside too. This means that there will be more space inside. It is hoped to re-decorate the inside in the near future.

Vicky joined the Post Office last April, and has noted an increase in banking transactions. The Post Office is trying to open for longer hours.

Horticultural Society – Sheri Sticpewich

Last year was the 100th anniversary of the Society and it continues to grow. There are members of all ages, who enjoy the speakers, workshops and garden visits offered via the great team of volunteers.

There is an annual show held in the Winn Hall, with over 40 people from Dunsfold and its surrounds entering classes for flowers and vegetables and the various competitions.

The Society has raised money for two new trees on the Common, and also raises money for the Perennial Garden Charity, which supports those working or retired from horticulture.

Evergreens – Sue Vesey

Sue said that members ranged in age from early 70s to early 100s. She reminded everyone that Pat Higgins celebrated her 100th birthday last July.

Meetings take place on the first Wednesday in the month in the Winn Hall; activities include teas, outings, talks, and parties. There is an annual quiz too.

Local author Lucy Weldon has given talks, as have Cranleigh Repair Café, and One Water, a company that sells bottled water to fund international clean water projects.

They will be having a cake stall at the fete.

The Chairman is Jo Burt, who does a wonderful job.

Toad Patrol (DART) – Mel Shone and Sarah Godwin

Mel reminded everyone how important the ponds are. People will have noticed that the amphibian crossing is currently operational, with the nets in place. This is to collect amphibians migrating to reach their specific spawning grounds. DART volunteers pick them off the nets, and from storm drains and move them across the road. Over 1000 were saved last year, including 18 Great Crested Newts. This year the rescued number was down to 800, but of these 43 were Great Crested Newts.

Data is shared with other relevant organisations.

There are currently 21 members, aged from 6.

Sarah Godwin is a new member, and shared her experience. She was surprised how much fun it was, albeit having to go out at night in all weathers. One night DART rescued 39 toads, 21 frogs and 19 newts.

Cricket Club – Peter Andrews

The Club is non-competitive, playing only friendly matches. Last season, they won 11 and lost 8 matches. The first match this year is 3rd May.

With the assistance of Kevin Deanus and Alan Ground, the lease has finally been renewed with Waverley BC for a period of 60 years.

New electric showers have been installed, and a new electronic score board. Benches around the ground are being renewed.

Membership has increased, including younger members. Wiltshires, the local agricultural machinery company, sponsor the Club, for which it is very grateful. Friends of Dunsfold pay £25 a year to be associate members.

The next social event is a Quiz in the Winn Hall on 6th June.

Tennis Club – James Goldman

The Club is a fantastic local resource, with over 75 members, aged 4 to over 90. Membership is very competitively priced at £80 a year for single adult, compared with Alfold, which is £120.

The Club maintains the courts and the lights. It runs cardio tennis, junior and teenage coaching. Chris Ranger is the new Chairman. New members are always welcome.

Dunsfold Village Fete – Ali Allison

This year the fete is on 9th May – there will be the usual stalls, a tug of war, raffle, cake stall etc. Canine Partners will be there, and the Secret Wood Sanctuary.

Volunteers are always needed, and cakes for the cake stall!

Last year, the income was spent on a new defibrillator outside the village shop. This year, it is intended to buy another unit for the KGV Field.

The Chairman thanked all the village organisations for their presentations.

6. Questions

The Chairman invited questions from residents.

Q: When will the asset transfer for the Common land be complete?

A: We don't have a date yet, but we are in the next tranche.

Q: What can be done about horses being ridden on pavements?

A: We are not aware of this issue, but will look into it.

Thank you for providing CCTV at the KGV Field.

Thank you for supporting DART's netting, and for the grant from Kevin Deanus's Councillor fund.

Q: What is happening with the installation of a mobile phone mast in the village?

A: There is no further news on this.

Cllr Jane Austin, present at the meeting, advised that Jeremy Hunt MP has regular meetings with providers, and she would update the Clerk with the latest information.

Q: What is being done about speeding in the village?

A: Speedwatch has discontinued as there was no-one to take over when the previous co-ordinator left. However, the Council is planning on buying two new Speed Indicator Devices, to be finalised at the next meeting.

There being no further questions, the meeting closed at 7.55pm