Minutes of the Fifteenth Annual General Meeting

held on 12th October 2026 at 7.30pm at Roffey Millennium Hall, Horsham

Present:
Ron Bates (HTCP Chairman & Horsham Society), Diane Sumpter (HTCP Treasurer), Roland Knight (HTCP Director), David Searle (HTCP Director, NHPC & HDOPF), Jon Olson (Horsham Town Councillor & HDC Councillor)
Sara Doy (HTCP Minute Secretary).

1. **Welcome by Chairman**: RB welcomed everyone to the 2026 AGM.

2. **Apologies for absence:** Martin Bruton (HTCP Director & Horsham District Older People's Forum), John White (HTCP Member & Volunteer)

3. **Acceptance of AGM minutes convened on 6th October 2025:** Proposed by RK, seconded by DSu and agreed by all.

4. **Chairman's Report and review of progress to 12th October 2026 (Ron Bates)**:

4.1 Riverside Walk:

During the past year HTCP has been in discussion with HDC and the management of Rookwood Golf Course about a possible route for the Riverside Walk through and around the Rookwood Golf Course. At the end of September 2026 HTCP and the management of Rookwood Golf Course agreed upon routes for the Riverside Walk; these routes do not include the Warnham Nature Reserve. The proposed routes have been drawn on a map of the golf course and on the 28th September 2026 were submitted to HDC as a proposal and a discussion document, to hopefully agree the proposed routes and the specification. Following this HTCP will look for funding for these Riverside Walk paths.

RB has asked HDC Councillor Ruth Fletcher if it would be worth getting a quote for the work.

DSu queried if putting in an additional path would be worth the cost if people would just use the existing crossing. RB said it would be an alternative to the original walkway. DSe thought it would be a good idea if it went up to the Club House. He also commented that people could park in Warnham Nature reserve and then do a circular walk through the Golf Course.

There are more sections of the Riverside Walk where funds are needed to carry out repairs to existing paths and raised walkways, and to create new paths.

Overall there is no appetite at this time to progress with the proposed route for the Riverside Walk around the perimeter of the Warnham Local Nature Reserve.

DSu said the HTCP should keep an eye on Hornbrook Farm as the Riverside Walk goes through it.

DSe thought it would be better to concentrate on a route to include the Mott and Bailey site. RB commented that Legal & General have improved the path under the railway bridge which could link up to it. DSe suggested it would be a good idea to mention the Mott and Bailey site in any bid for funding.

North Horsham PC may have some funds available.

4.2 Bus Map:

The integrated bus map for Horsham Town continues to be regularly updated on the website by John White. During this year updated copies of the bus map have also been placed in the display at the Bus Station and in cabinets around Horsham town. The HTCP website receives many comments and information requests which are answered by directing them to the bus companies.

4.3 Annual Riverside Walk Event:

The Riverside Annual Walk was to be held on the 13th September 2026 led by the Horsham Scouts but unfortunately they belatedly cancelled the annual walk due to insufficient human resources. HTCP is in discussion with Horsham Rotary to investigate if they will lead the Annual Riverside Walk in September 2027.

4.4 New Projects:

During the past year there have been no new HTCP project initiatives. We would welcome individuals or groups to contact HTCP with their thoughts on possible projects within Horsham town as HTCP is a company with the ability to carry out projects. HTCP looks forward to working closely with the new HTC and a continuing relationship with NHPC and HDC.

We need to be more proactive in identifying future projects for HTCP and to attract more members to join the HTCP.

5. Accounts and Treasurer's Report (Diane Sumpter):

The Bank Account has now been changed to a Lloyds online account. There is a monthly fee.
The year's outgoings were £790 and no income.
Eddie Case has audited the accounts, which he does for free. DSu will get him some wine.
There were no queries regarding the Accounts
The acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by RB, seconded by DSe and agreed by all.

6. Retirement & Election of Directors:
The Articles of Association require that one-third of the Directors should retire at each AGM.
A retiring Director is eligible for re-election.
Ron Bates and David Searle stood down.
DSe was proposed to be re-elected by DSu, seconded by RK, and agreed by all.
JO put himself forward as a new Director, representing Horsham Town Council. This was proposed by RK, seconded by DSu, and agreed by all.
(N.B Following the meeting DSu advised that JO will need to verify his identity with Companies House before his appointment is filed or before he can act as a Director. She emailed the information to him)

7. Election of Chairman:
RB was re-elected as the Chair. Proposed by DSu, seconded by RK and agreed by all present.

8. Company Procedures (Diane Sumpter):

Companies House: The information on the Directors has been updated. DSu confirmed that she will

submit the approved accounts to Companies House before the deadline of 31/12/26.

SAIL address: (SAIL is a single alternative inspection local address where a registered company can store their statutory records). DSu confirmed that her address is the registered SAIL address.

Bank Signatories: DSu to check if RB is a signatory.

9. Future of HTCP:

RB reiterated the need for more Directors and projects.
The suggestion of a Computer Club in Horsham was discussed. There are very successful clubs in Henfield and Southwater, where volunteers help elderly residents to use a laptop e.g. to book a Doctor's appointment.
SD has a neighbour who helps with the Southwater Club. She will ask him to contact HTCP.

10. Any Other Business: None

11. Next AGM: 4th October 2027

The AGM closed at 8.20pm.