

JANUARY UPDATE FROM HASCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

The reorganisation of local government in Surrey was discussed at the January HPC meeting, briefed by Cllr Deanus. Surrey aims to be included in the first tranche of new unitary authorities. There could be one Mayor and two unitary authorities instead of the County Council and many Boroughs. We will keep you updated.

The Hascombe parish precept for 2025/26 will go up to £9,000 (a 5% increase). The precept represents an annual council tax payment of £49.89 for an average Band D property. Parish Council expenses have exceeded income for a number of years and as our costs increase, this is projected to continue without increases in the precept.

The village pond and surrounding area will require more funding to keep it in good health and algae-free. Following recent HPC work, the water level, after rising, is now stable. This is good. But serious tree work is now needed before spring and a five-year plan will be drawn up. Meanwhile the Environment Agency has told us they need an updated water impoundment licence, even though we extract no water there! And the two Musgrave benches by the pond will be replaced.

There were more planning applications than usual, though none too dramatic. For more information on these, do log on to the HPC website where local applications and HPC responses and objections are summarised in the Minutes.

Stovolds Hill. We now have new dates for the adjourned Appeal Inquiry: June 3-6th and 10-13th. We continue to work with the three other parish councils and Waverley to resist further expansion of the travellers' sites on the boundary of the Surrey Hills.

Next HPC meeting will be at 7.30pm on 17th March 2025 at the Village Hall.