



NORTH HORSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

POLICY AND CONDITIONS OF HIRE IN RELATION TO PARISH COUNCIL OWNED PREMISES – February 2026

1. EXTENT OF THE POLICY

The Policy and Conditions of Hire relate to all premises owned by North Horsham Parish Council - Holbrook Tythe Barn, North Heath Hall and Roffey Millennium Hall.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence shall be addressed to the Parish Clerk, North Horsham Parish Council, Roffey Millennium Hall, Crawley Road, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 4DT.

Telephone – 01403 750786. Email – parish.clerk@northhorsham-pc.gov.uk

3. REGULATIONS

All Hirers of Parish Council premises are bound by the rules and regulations governing use of the premises, which are deemed to be incorporated in these conditions.

4. AGE OF HIRER

Persons under the age of 18 years are not acceptable as Hirers or as signatories to the Parish Council's documentation in relation to hire of any of the premises.

5. BOOKING PROCEDURES

Bookings may be made by telephone or email.

On receipt of the required information, a Booking Confirmation letter will be sent to the Hirer, in duplicate. The Hirer is required to confirm the booking by returning a signed copy of the Booking Confirmation letter to the Parish Office.

Provisional bookings are not accepted.

6. BOOKING EXCLUSIONS

a) Bookings will not be taken for groups that it is believed may exceed the capacity of any room or rooms as prescribed by the current Fire Regulations.

b) Bookings will not be taken for parties or events specifically for persons between 13 and 21 years.

c) Bookings are not taken at any of the Parish Council's venues (including the Multi Courts) on any Bank or Public Holidays i.e., New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Early May Bank Holiday, Spring Bank Holiday, Summer Bank Holiday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day and any other Public Holiday that may be announced from time to time.

Bookings are generally not taken during the Parish Council's Christmas closure from 1pm on Christmas Eve until the New Year return to work date (the Parish Office will advise of opening hours).

Bookings may be taken on the Saturday and Sunday between Good Friday and Easter Monday.

d) The Council will not hire premises for purposes that conflict with its policies on Equality and Diversity, Safeguarding, Counter Terrorism and Security and / or that are in breach of the Equality Act 2010, Children Act 2004, Care Act 2014 and the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. This legislation will also be taken into account when considering whether to accept a booking. The Council also reserves the right to not hire premises to people or organisations whose views and / or conduct are not in accordance with the Public Sector Equality Duty to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Prevent people being drawn into terrorism
- Advance equality of opportunity between different groups
- Foster good relations between different groups

The Council will not hire premises for purposes that are likely to cause offence to public taste and decency, except where the possible offence is balanced or outweighed by other factors (e.g. freedom of expression or artistic merit). This will ultimately be determined by the Property Committee who will make a determination as to whether to hire the premises.

The Council will report individuals and / or organisations to the Police if it is believed that they may have committed a public order or incitement to hatred offence (or any other criminal offence) on Council premises.

When hiring the premises, the Council expects the Hirer to observe exemplary standards of behaviour and conduct with regard to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The Hirer is responsible for being fully aware of issues concerning the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. Any possible risks involved in proposed activities must be considered by the Hirer and appropriate action must be taken to protect everyone involved. The Council reserves the right to cancel any bookings where the safeguarding conditions within its safeguarding policy are not adhered to. This will include any incident where a group has allowed a person or people to help with running a group in any capacity without formal notification to the venue or without enhanced DBS checks being made available for inspection.

7. REAR GARDEN AT NORTH HEATH HALL

Use of the rear garden at North Heath Hall may be enquired about by Hirers of rooms in the building. The specific hiring of the rear garden at North Heath Hall e.g. for amateur dramatic productions, may be at the discretion of the Parish Clerk.

In the event of such a hiring the hire charge will be the same as that currently for the hire of Rooms 1 and 4 together.

8. HEIGHT BARRIER AT HOLBROOK TYTHE BARN

There is a height barrier in place at the entrance to Holbrook Tythe Barn with a maximum height restriction of 2.1m. To arrange for taller vehicles to gain entry to the premises, please contact the Parish Council office.

9. HIRE CHARGES

The charges for the hire of each of the Parish Council's premises and services provided shall be those as determined, from time to time, by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council's Policy is to review hire charges annually, coming into effect on the 1st of April each year.

Where a booking is made for a date or dates after the date on which the Council's reviewed charges come into effect, the scale of charges determined at the review shall be those applicable to the Hirer.

10. DEPOSITS

The taking of a deposit shall be at the discretion of the Parish Clerk and shall not exceed £350.

The deposit shall be paid at the time the invoice for the hire is sent out and is refundable subject to the conditions in the following paragraph.

The Council may make deductions from the deposit for damage to property and equipment, the need for additional cleaning after the event and any additional costs incurred by the Council associated with servicing the event outside the agreed times and terms of hire.

11. ADDITIONAL CHARGES

Any other charges due from the Hirer shall be invoiced by the Council as soon as is practicable after the date of hire.

Additional charges shall include costs due from the Hirer for damage, breakages, additional hire time, additional cleaning time (where the Hirer has left the premises in an unacceptable condition), any charges incurred as a result of a false fire/intruder alarm call out or for any other item referred to in these conditions.

12. PAYMENT OF HIRE CHARGES

Payment of charges will be notified to the Hirer by way of an invoice.

When premises are hired by an **Occasional Hirer** for bookings of five or fewer sessions, an invoice will be drawn prior to the booking. Payment must be made at least 14 days prior to the event taking place and, in any event, by the date stated on the invoice.

Where a booking is made with less than seven days' notice, payment of the amount due must be made in full immediately by bank transfer.

Where payment is not received as directed, the hire may be subject to cancellation at the discretion of the Parish Clerk or other authorised officer.

Late payment of any invoice may, at the discretion of the Parish Clerk, attract an administration fee of £5 per week, beyond the due date of the invoice.

13. METHODS OF PAYMENT

Payments for hire may be made in the following ways:

- By Bank Transfer – bank details are on the invoice.

Currently, the Parish Council is unable to accept payment by credit or debit card.

14. CANCELLATION POLICY

In the event of a cancellation by the Hirer **twenty-eight days or more** prior to the event, a full refund will be given for any monies paid, providing notification of the **cancellation is given in writing**.

In the event of a cancellation by the Hirer with **less than twenty-eight days'** notice, a refund is at the discretion of the Parish Clerk.

Bookings are accepted by the Parish Council on the basis of the information supplied by the Hirer. In the event that any information given as to the proposed use, number of persons attending, or any other relevant factor is found to be incorrect, the Parish Council reserves the right to cancel the booking. In such cases, a refund will be considered by the Parish Council's Property Committee, on application by the Hirer in writing.

All of the Community venues owned by the Parish Council are registered Polling Stations and as such, certain areas of North Heath Hall, Holbrook Tythe Barn and Roffey Millennium Hall will be closed on those days when European, Parliamentary and/or local elections are held. Where possible, the Parish Council will endeavour to find alternative accommodation within their venues. Notification of forthcoming elections will be given to the Hirer as soon as possible.

Bookings may be cancelled by the Parish Council for the essential safety of the Hirer or for operational reasons. Notification of the cancellation will be given to the Hirer as soon as possible. The decision of the Parish Council in this regard is final. Every attempt will be made by the Parish Council to provide alternative premises, where possible. The Hirer will be given a full refund of any monies paid in respect of such a cancellation.

15. PURPOSE OF HIRE AND SUB-HIRING

The Hirer shall not use the premises for any purpose other than that described in the Booking Confirmation letter and shall not sub-hire the premises to any other person or organisation.

16. INDEMNITY AND INSURANCE

The Hirer shall be liable for and indemnify the Parish Council against any liability, cost, claim or proceedings whatsoever arising under any statute or at Common Law in respect of any default or injury however or by whoever caused by or to any persons which shall occur while such person is in or on any part of the premises; or in respect of any loss or damage suffered or sustained by any person in consequence of any such default or injury, other than arising from the Parish Council's negligence.

The Parish Council reserves the right to require any Hirer to produce evidence that the necessary insurances referred to in the above paragraph have been taken out and are in force at all material times.

Hirers are asked to consult their own insurers so as to safeguard themselves in the event of their being held liable for any claim, demand, action or proceedings in this connection.

Public Liability - Hirers, other than those hiring for a non-paying function such as anniversary parties, birthday parties, funerals etc. will be required to produce Public Liability insurance to a level recommended by the Parish Council's insurers. Small non-constituted groups that meet as a group of friends to enjoy activities of mutual interest will be covered by the Parish Council's Public Liability Insurance.

All Parish Council owned premises are insured against claims arising out of the Parish Council's negligence.

17. GOOD ORDER

The Hirer shall be responsible for good order being kept through the period of hire.

The Parish Council may make an additional charge for any expenses incurred in engaging the Police or other personnel to preserve order prior to, during or after the period of hire.

18. SECURITY - NORTH HEATH HALL AND HOLBROOK TYTHE BARN

The Hirer (or their representative) must be present in the building at all times during the agreed hire period. At no time must the building be left empty and unlocked and unalarmed. At the end of the hire period, Hirers must wait for the caretaker to arrive before vacating the building.

If the Hirer needs to vacate the building earlier than the end of the hire period, the Caretaker must be contacted on the number displayed at the building and the Hirer must then wait for the Caretaker to arrive before vacating the building.

19. PERSONAL INJURY AND LOSS OR DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

The use of the premises and equipment, facilities and amenities, including car parking where available, is permitted solely at the Hirer's own risk. The Parish Council shall not be liable for any injury to any Hirer or any employee, invitee or guest of the Hirer; or for loss or damage to any property.

Any property and effects in the premises belonging to the Hirer shall be at their sole risk; and unless previously agreed by the Parish Council, if such equipment, property and effects are not removed at the end of the hire, an additional charge may be made.

20. RISK ASSESSMENT

Every Hirer is responsible for performing a Risk Assessment prior to each and every use of the premises. The Parish Council, may at its discretion, require a copy of the Risk Assessment.

21. ILLEGAL OR UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES

The Hirer shall not cause or permit the premises to be used for any unlawful or illegal activity. The Parish Council reserves the right to cancel the hire immediately and any monies paid will be forfeited. The Parish Council will report evidence of illegal activities on the premises to the Police and assist with their enquiries.

Hirers are prohibited, at all of our buildings, from using any personal devices to watch or stream any broadcast, whilst the device is plugged into the mains as the Parish Council does not hold the necessary TV licensing.

22. UNDESIRABLE SUBSTANCES AND ACTIVITIES

No article of an inflammable, explosive, dangerous, noxious, intoxicating or offensive nature may be brought onto the premises without the written permission of the Parish Council.

Wax candles, smoke and bubble machines must not be used in any premises owned by the Parish Council due to the automatic fire alarms.

Hirers may be able to use handheld bubble pots after enquiring with the Parish Office. The Hirer will need to consider the health and safety aspect of this and build it into their risk assessment and send a copy to the Parish Office staff for consideration.

Hirers must keep helium filled balloons weighted, so that they do not rise to the ceiling and cause activation of the automatic alarm systems.

No equipment powered by gas cannisters is permitted inside any of the Parish Council buildings.

No wheeled activities may take place inside any premises owned by the Parish Council, i.e. roller skating, where floors could be marked or damaged.

23. SMOKING

In accordance with the law, smoking or vaping is not permitted in any premises owned by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council also requests that smokers do not congregate outside the entrances of the buildings.

24. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

At the commencement of any period of hire, the caretaker on duty will point out the location of all fire exits and assembly points and any other emergency procedures that may be in place.

It is the responsibility of the Hirer to familiarise themselves with the means of escape from the premises and to ensure that any person at the period of hire requiring a Personal Evacuation Plan is identified and a Plan in place.

The Hirer shall ensure that all fire exits (internal and external) and common parts of the premises are kept free of any obstruction and shall immediately remove anything deemed to be an obstruction at the request of the caretaker on duty or other authorised officer of the Parish Council.

All rooms within each of the premises have a maximum number of people allowed to use each room either seated at tables or for dancing which have been set by the Fire Service.

It is the responsibility of the Hirer to ensure that the maximum numbers are not exceeded. The hire will be stopped immediately by the caretaker in charge or other authorised officer of the Council if the number of people in any room exceeds the permitted maximum.

In the event of an emergency, the Hirer shall comply with all directions given by any authorised officer of the Council; or any member of the Emergency Services; or any other statutory body or agency.

25. ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Any electrical equipment brought to the premises for use by a Hirer should carry an up-to-date PAT certificate.

The Parish Council will offer an annual service to Regular Hirers to enable electrical equipment used on the premises to be tested by a PAT registered electrical inspector.

The electrical circuits in the premises must not be overloaded by the attachment of excessive quantities of electrical equipment. The maximum loading on the circuits must not exceed 30amps. Should any damage occur to the electrical circuitry of the premises by overloading or by the use of faulty equipment, the Hirer will be responsible for the cost of any call out charges, repairs etc. to reset circuits.

26. RIGHT OF ENTRY

The Parish Council reserves the right for any authorised officer of the Parish Council, the Police, Fire Brigade or any other statutory body to enter the premises at all times; and the right to require the Hirer to refuse admission to or remove from the premises any disorderly person or persons, which may cause danger or damage to the premises.

27. EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY THE COUNCIL

Hirers can use the stage lighting and sound equipment at North Heath Hall, which is owned by the Parish Council, providing that they sign the required Agreement and produce the necessary paperwork.

The kitchens at each of the premises provide basic items of crockery and cutlery – cups, saucers, water glasses and jugs, kettles, flasks and urns. Each kitchen also has a cooker (except for the kitchenette in Room 15/16 of North Heath Hall) and a fridge. Dishwashers are available at all Halls and information on this will be given by the caretaker on duty at the time of hire.

The kitchens in each of the premises are not intended for the preparation and cooking of full-scale meals but for warming food and cooking small items only.

Deep fat frying is not permitted in any of the kitchens in each of the premises.

Hirers shall be responsible for ensuring that all small electrical appliances (kettles and tea urns) are switched off at the mains at the end of the hire.

Chairs and tables are available at each of the premises at no charge. The Parish Council can also provide multimedia projectors, projection screens, tv screens and flip charts – all of which are subject to an additional charge. Please note the tv screens cannot be used as televisions due to licensing.

Operation of the moveable partition walls at North Heath Hall and Roffey Millennium Hall must only be undertaken by the caretaker on duty or another authorised employee of the Parish Council and hirers should not be in the halls when the partition walls are being moved.

It is the responsibility of the Hirer to report any damage or defect; or the loss of any equipment to the caretaker on duty or to the Parish Office.

Equipment owned by the Parish Council, such as tables and chairs, will not be loaned or hired out to any third party for use outside of Parish Council premises.

28. CLEANLINESS

All Hirers shall leave all areas of the premises which have been hired clean and tidy and in an acceptable condition, including kitchen appliances, crockery and cutlery.

No Hirer's equipment shall be left in any part of the buildings outside of the Hirers booking period, unless previously arranged or Hirers have a dedicated payable storage area.

Black rubbish sacks will be provided for occasional Hirers for functions such as a birthday party to dispose of rubbish in the Parish Council's refuse bins, the location of which will be pointed out by the caretaker on duty.

The location of brooms, dustpans and brushes and mops will be pointed out by the caretaker on duty for use by Hirers at the end of hire, as appropriate.

29. BARBECUES

Barbecues are permitted on the outside patio areas of North Heath Hall and Holbrook Tythe Barn. The intended use of a barbecue must be notified by the Hirer to the Parish Office at the time of making the booking or prior to the booking.

Barbecues must not be placed near to any wooden structures e.g. seats, sheds etc. The use of an accelerant, such as petrol, must not be used to ignite the barbecue.

If disposal barbecues are used, these must not be disposed of in the Parish Council waste bins.

The use of a hog roast may be permitted but Hirers must contact the Parish Office before making any arrangements for this.

The safety of others and any loss or damage arising from the use of a barbecue or hog roast is the full responsibility of the Hirer.

30. ACCIDENTS

The Hirer must report all accidents involving injury to the public to the caretaker on duty or other authorised officer, as soon as reasonably practicable.

There is a legal requirement under the RIDOR Regulations to report certain types of accident or injury. The form to be used in such instances is prescribed and assistance will be given, if required, by the Parish Clerk.

31. ALCOHOL

The Parish Council's venues are not subject to a Premises Licence. If it is the intention of the Hirer to sell or supply alcohol, it is the Hirer's responsibility to make an application to Horsham District Council for a Temporary Event Notice.

A copy of the Notice, when obtained, must be provided to the Parish Office. It is the responsibility of the Hirer to ensure that the provision and serving of alcohol is in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003.

32. BROADCASTING AND FILM RIGHTS

A Hirer, hiring any Parish Council owned premises, shall not be granted broadcasting or film rights without the prior consent of the Parish Clerk.

If such consent is given, the Parish Council reserves the right to take part in any negotiations, to be party to the terms and condition of any agreement reached and to share in any income and publicity derived therefrom.

33. PUBLIC PERFORMANCE AND COPYRIGHT WORKS

It is the Hirer's responsibility to ensure that there is no infringement of copyright during any period of hire and the Hirer shall agree to indemnify the Parish Council in respect of any liability arising from any infringement of copyright or performance rights.

The Hirer shall comply with the requirements of the Performing Rights Society Limited in relation to all musical work in the Society's repertoire.

The use of the stage lighting and other production equipment at North Heath Hall and the sound system at Roffey Millennium Hall, may only be used subject to permission being given by the Parish Clerk or other authorised officer and may be subject to supervision by an authorised officer of the Parish Council.

34. MUSIC AND DANCING

The Hirer shall observe all statutes, regulations and bylaws in relation to music and dancing in public places.

Wherever possible, windows and doors shall be kept closed during all events involving music/noisy activities held at the Parish Council's premises, so as to avoid disturbance to neighbouring premises.

Hirers should ensure that their employees, invitees or any other person associated with the Hirer leave Parish Council premises quietly and to minimise noise outside the premises.

All music shall cease at 11pm.

Hirers are asked to note that North Heath Hall is fitted with a Sound Limiter system which automatically cuts off the power supply if the noise level exceeds a prescribed level. Hirers will be given instruction on how the system works and how to reset the system to restore power. In the event that the Hirer cannot reset the equipment, the caretaker on duty must be informed immediately, as this may affect the use of other equipment.

Any attempt to over-ride the system will disqualify the Hirer from further bookings at Parish Council premises and may give rise to an additional charge being made for the employment of an outside contractor to reset the equipment.

It is recommended that any electrical equipment brought to the premises for use by a Hirer should carry an up-to-date PAT Certificate.

35. SERVICES AND ALTERATIONS

No additions or alterations shall be made to the gas, water or electrical supplies, any electrical equipment; and no structural or other alterations shall be made to the fabric of the building; nor to any of the furniture, fixtures, fittings or other property in the premises; nor any attachment by way of hooks, nails, screws or any non-removable substance e.g. glue, shall be made of any equipment or materials to the fabric or structure of the building without the express permission of the Parish Clerk. Any such permission shall be subject to any terms and conditions as may be stipulated.

36. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS

The Hirer shall ensure that any activities for children under the age of eight years complies with the provisions of the Children Act 1989 and any other relevant legislation; and that only fit and proper persons have access to the children.

The Hirer shall take responsibility for all children in their care at all times while they are on Parish Council premises.

The Parish Council will not assume responsibility for the care or welfare of any unaccompanied child or children.

Any suspicious behaviour should be reported immediately to the caretaker on duty or other authorised officer of the Council, or to the Police.

37. ANIMALS

The Hirer shall ensure that no animals (including birds) are brought onto Parish Council premises, unless prior permission has been given by the Parish Clerk.

Assistance dogs are welcome on Parish Council premises, providing they are accompanying their owner.

38. INFLATABLE BOUNCING DEVICES

It is the responsibility of the Hirer to ensure that that the company from which the equipment is hired (the Company) fully complies with the guidance 'The Safe Operation of Inflatable Bouncing Devices' issued by the Inflatable Play Inspections Schemes.

It is the responsibility of the Hirer to ensure that the Company employs suitably experienced and trained adult personnel, where the Company is responsible for setting up, operation and supervision of the Bouncy Castle.

It is the responsibility of the Hirer to ensure that the Company provides written evidence of a current Public Liability Insurance Policy with a limit of indemnity of at least £1 million.

No Inflatable Bouncing Device is permitted to be erected outside of any of the Parish Council owned venues.

If the Hirer is to operate the Bouncy Castle, it is the responsibility of the Hirer to ensure that they are provided, by the Company, with written instructions about the safe setting up, operation and supervision of the equipment and that the name and address of the manufacturer or supplier is clearly marked upon it.

The Hirer's attention is drawn to the following guidelines:

- (a) The Bouncy Castle must be adequately secured to the ground and situated away from possible hazards.
- (b) Soft matting covering hard surfaces must be placed adjacent to the front or open sides. Users should not be allowed to obstruct the entrance or exit. No-one should be allowed to play on the step or front apron of a Bouncy Castle.
- (c) There should be responsible adult supervision paying close attention to the children at play at all times during its use.
- (d) The number of children using the Bouncy Castle must be limited to the number recommended in the Hire Company's safety instructions. There must be no overcrowding.
- (e) A rota system for different age or size groups should be operated, together with the observance of any age limit of users (it is suggested that children over the age of 10 years should not use the equipment).
- (f) All children should be made to remove footwear, hard or sharp objects such as jewellery, buckles, pens and other similar pocket contents.
- (g) Eating or performing acrobatics must not be allowed.

The above is guidance only and is not a comprehensive guide. Further information may be obtained from www.pipa.org.uk/playSafe

It is recommended that any electrical equipment brought to the premises by a Hirer should carry an up-to-date PAT Certificate

39. FLYPOSTING

Flyposting on vacant shop premises, street furniture, trees etc. is an offence and makes an offender liable, on summary conviction, to substantial penalties.

An unauthorised and illegal display of posters may result in the cancellation of a booking and may be taken into account when considering accepting future bookings of any Parish Council premises.

40. ADVERTISING AND OTHER SIGNAGE

Notice boards are provided at Parish Council premises to advertise a variety of events and Hirer's activities at each of the Parish Council premises, subject to the approval of the Parish Clerk.

Any inappropriate, offensive, commercial or non-relevant posters, flyers or stickers will be promptly removed.

Advertising and signage on the outside of any Parish Council premises are subject to approval by the Parish Council; and may also require planning consent and the consent of the Highway Authority.

41. LOTTERIES, RAFFLES AND GAMING

No gaming, betting games or lotteries shall be carried on or be allowed to be carried on in any of the Parish Council premises, except those games made lawful by the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Acts; and then only if the statutory provisions are complied with.

42. END OF HIRE

All periods of hire at all Parish Council owned premises shall cease at the following times:

Monday to Thursday 11.00 pm
Friday and Saturday 11.00 pm
Sunday 9.00 pm

43. NOISE

It is the responsibility of the Hirer to ensure the effective supervision of the arrangements and the activities in the premises during the period of hire and for the prevention of disorderly behaviour, so as to ensure that no nuisance or annoyance is caused to nearby residents.

It is the responsibility of the Hirer to ensure that the Hirer and the Hirer's employees, invitees and guests make the minimum of noise and disturbance on arrival at and departure from the premises, and in the immediate environment of the premises.

44. DECORATIONS

Hirers may place decorations on wooden posts, wooden doors or on any metal parts of the room, using blu or white tac only. No cello tape or drawing pins are allowed and nothing is to be attached or stuck on any painted wall.

45. COMPLAINTS

Any complaint by the Hirer in respect of the use of Parish Council premises or the arrangements for that use, shall be made in writing to the Parish Clerk, within seven days of the date of hire.

In the event of a complaint being made, the Parish Council's Complaints procedure will be followed.

46. CHANGES TO POLICY AND CONDITIONS OF HIRE

The Parish Council reserves the right to amend this Policy and the Conditions of Hire at any time; and any changes to the Policy and Conditions of Hire shall be notified to all Hirers.

The Policy and Conditions of Hire in force at the date of hire shall be those which are applicable to the hire.

47. DATE OF REVIEW

This Policy and the Conditions of Hire will be reviewed by the Property Committee every 2 years. The next schedule review is due in February 2028.