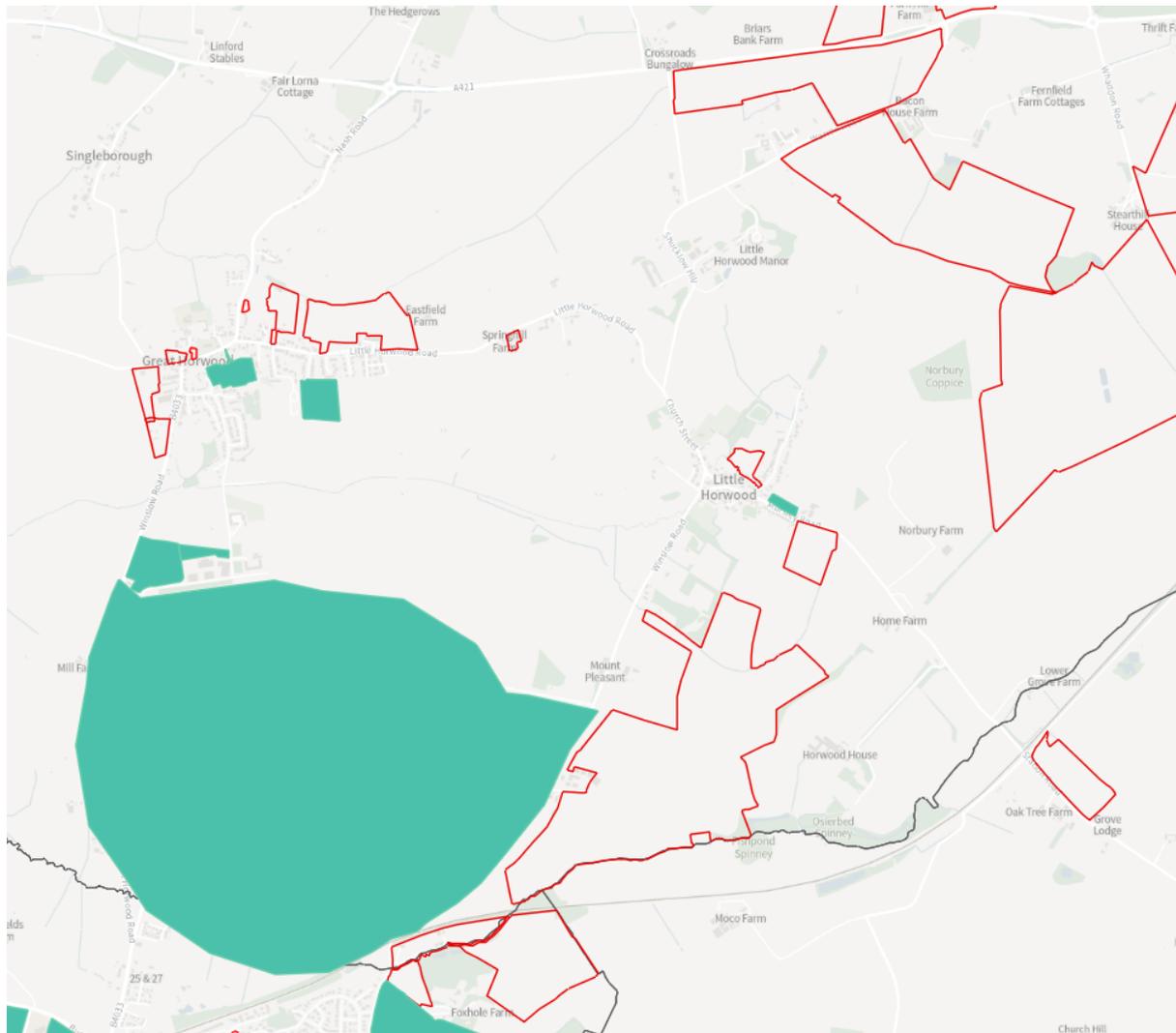


## Little Horwood Parish Council

### Reports for meeting 9 March 2026

#### Local Plan HELAA (26/029)

Buckinghamshire Council has undertaken its assessment called the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) to determine the suitability, availability and achievability of land for development. This is a key part of the process of preparing the new local plan, which will cover the whole of the Buckinghamshire Council area, for the period up to 2045. A number of sites in our parish were put forward by landowners and developers for inclusion as being suitable for housing development, these are shown on the plan below. The HELAA has ruled that all those in Little Horwood are unsuitable. However, the airfield has been shaded to indicate it will be subject to a 'new and expanded area study' and we are likely to be consulted as part of this study. Other areas shaded eg Mursley Road site, are those that already have planning permission.



### **Norbury Solar Farm, Elgin Energy (26/029)**

The Clerk attended a short on-line meeting to meet the new liaison & project manager. The Voluntary Unilateral Agreement was discussed & they have now sent out this out for the PC's approval and signature.

### **Greenspaces project summary report (26/032)**

Separate report

### **Communication with residents about the precept (26/038)**

We need to agree what we are to communicate to the residents about the precept for 2026/7. Here's my suggestion:

*The Parish Council is mainly funded through the precept on each property in the parish, which is collected through the council tax by Buckinghamshire Council. In Little Horwood our precept raised £21,000 in this financial year. The Parish Council spent this on staff costs, village & grounds maintenance, green spaces work, grants & donations and routine costs.*

*The PC calculates that it needs to increase its income to around £30,000 in order to cover increase costs and to build up a small reserve fund. This will provide sufficient funds to: cover the increase in costs such as street lighting (approx. £xxxx) and grounds maintenance (approx. £xxxx), the employment of the Parish Clerk and administrative costs (approx. £xxxx), and the purchase of a new speed indicator device (approx. £xxxx). To achieve a £30,000 income the precept on each property from April 2026 will rise by an average of £26.05 for a band D property.*

*All PC meetings are public meetings and residents are invited to attend and have their say about what the PC does and how it spends the money raised through the precept. It normally meets six times a year. The agendas and other official notices are put on the Parish Council notice board, on the village green near the post box, and the new Parish Council website [www.littlehorwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.littlehorwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk)*

*The next meeting is on 11/05/2026 at the Memorial Hall. This will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at which we have to go through a lot of administrative stuff to do with the running of the Council.*

*On xxxx at 7.30pm in the Recreation Ground Hall there will be the **Annual Village Meeting**. This is for the whole village to come and find out about the various groups and organisations in the village and make comments and suggestions for the future of the village. Please do come and get involved – there'll be drinks and snacks to tempt you along.*

**Post office (26/039)**

You will recall we have struggled to reach a settlement with the Memorial Hall to cover the cost of its hire for the weekly Post Office and coffee mornings, due in part to the change of treasurer, chairs and clerk of the PC and a lack any formal written agreement. To bring this to a head the Clerk proposed a full and final settlement and this indeed prompted a meeting with the Chair of the Mem Hall committee. After considering the number of years over which the debt has built up, and the provision made in the PC's accounts, it is proposed we make a one off payment of £1400.

Going forward it is recommended we pay the Mem Hall £800 pa to be invoiced in April (£400) and October (£400) each year, to be reviewed annually. It is felt this is an important facility for the village and one the PC should continue to support. The Mem Hall is not flush with money and about breaks even each year.

**Older folks club (26/040)**

We have received a proposal from a resident to organise a monthly club for older folk in the village to help combat isolation and loneliness and build friendships. She has asked the PC to cover the cost of hire of the Mem Hall. The Clerk has suggested to the Community Board that this might be something they could support but if they are not able to then it is proposed to put it before the Village Trust.