

# **SHERE PARISH COUNCIL**

*Serving the villages of Gomshall, Holmbury St. Mary, Peaslake  
Shere and a large part of Abinger Hammer*

## **Minutes of the Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2009 in Tanyard Hall, 30 Station Road, Gomshall at 8.00 p.m.**

**Present:** Dr. C. Brooke (Chairman), Mr. R. Andrews, Mr. C. Carlisle, Mr. R. Davey, Mr. D. Hall, Mr. J. Hutton, Mr. R. Newman, Mrs. S. Nielson, Mr. R. Smith, Mrs. M. Taylor-Cotter, Mr. J. Tenner, Mr. M. Urban, Mrs. J. Williams, the Clerk Mrs L. Childs, Honorary Alderman K. Childs and seven members of the public.

**09/78 Apologies and reason for absence** (if appropriate) in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12, paragraph 40. Apologies had been received from Borough Councillor R. Hogben. Mr. James Hutton apologised for the fact that he would have to leave before the end of the meeting.

**09/79 Declaration of Personal or Prejudicial Interests** by Councillors on any of the agenda items below in accordance with the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 – (SI.2007/1159).

Mr. R. Davey declared a prejudicial interest in 09/97c (Shere Museum) and left the meeting whilst this matter was being discussed.

Mr Hall declared a personal interest in 09/84 (Shere War Memorial).

**09/80 Register of Interests** – no amendments were declared. *(Members were reminded that any amendments must also be notified by Councillors in writing to the Monitoring Officer, Guildford Borough Council, Millmead, Guildford. GU2 4BB).*

**09/81 Declaration of gifts or hospitality over £25.** *(Members were reminded that once a declaration of gifts or hospitality has been made then a new Form of Financial and other registerable interests must be completed)* – no declarations were made.

**The Minutes of the meeting** held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2009 were approved and signed as a correct record.

### **09/82 Police Matters**

- The Council was informed that the Police Community Officer had stated that a campaign had been held during the summer to help prevent theft from vehicles. Parking problems in Shere had also been targeted. The Chairman reported that, very sadly, shrubs and plant troughs had been stolen from Shere School during the holiday period.
- An invitation to attend the South East Community Crime Fighters training event on 13<sup>th</sup> October in Brighton was considered. Mr. Newman and Mr Tenner agreed to attend this event.

**09/83 Traffic Issues in the Parish** - Car Park, Shere and related traffic calming in Upper Street, Shere. The Council discussed the trial of the two build outs in Upper Street. Two letters had been received by the Council following the consultation letter to residents of Upper Street and

several councillors commented on talks held with residents. The meeting was adjourned to enable members of the public present to give their views. Three residents of Upper Street emphasised that action needs to be taken to slow down traffic but urged the Council to be aware of the danger of urbanisation. The need for a new car park was questioned.

Hon. Alderman Childs, the Chairman of the Shere Recreation Ground Association, re-emphasised the desperate need for the car park which had been recognised for many years and urged the Parish Council to agree with the installation of the lower build out to avoid any possible further delay to the car park.

The meeting restarted. Unfortunately the precise effect of the build out on the speed of traffic as it approaches the entrance to the Recreation Ground has not yet been established as the final speed survey results have not yet been received. However, the Council **RESOLVED** that Guildford Borough Council be informed that it is the Parish Council's view that, unfortunately, a permanent build out should be constructed at the lower point, in the region of East Lodge, to comply with the conditions of the planning approval but that the upper build out should not be made permanent as this had little, if any, effect on traffic speed. In addition the Parish Council **STRONGLY RESOLVED** to further their aims to reduce the speed of vehicles travelling through Upper Street although the Council recognised that this is a separate issue.

**09/84 Shere War Memorial** – the Council received an up to date report from Mr. Hutton. It was **AGREED** that the retained sum of £1,000 would be released to the contractor. The possibility of installing stone upstands adjacent to the grass bank to prevent destabilisation of the wall and the blocking up of the new drainage gulleys was also discussed. The Clerk stated that she felt that this was a separate issue from the road works and that permission for the work would be required from the landowner. Further enquiries will be made regarding this.

**09/85 Peaslake** – possible provision of public toilets. The Council to consider the matter further following receipt of the views of the Peaslake Community Council – **POSTPONED** until the next meeting.

**09/86 Oak Tree, Shere** – an estimate for injecting nitrogen into the soil to mitigate the effects of compaction had been received. Before considering this matter the Council **DECIDED** to make further enquiries regarding this treatment.

**09/87 30 m.p.h. speed limit, Burrows Lane, Gomshall** – the Council **RESOLVED** to request Surrey County Council to extend the 30 m.p.h. speed limit in Burrows Lane (a previous request had been refused).

**09/88 Steps up to Peaslake School** – the Council **AUTHORISED** the painting of a yellow strip at the edge of each step to improve visibility for a visually impaired child.

**09/89 Community use of Fire Stations** – **NO IDEAS** were suggested for the community use of Gomshall Fire Station (the Fire Service will still continue to provide a service from the building).

**09/90 Millennium Trail** – several Councillors very kindly **OFFERED** to check the trail (Mr Smith points 1 – 29, Mrs Williams 29 – 36, Mr Davey points 33 – 46, Mrs Williams 46 – 54,

Mrs Taylor Cotter 53 – end. The length of the trail will be included when the leaflets are reprinted.

**09/91 Heritage Open Day Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September** – a rota of volunteers was **DRAWN UP** to assist with the opening of Tanyard Hall.

**09/92 Seat on Goose Green, Gomshall** – the Council **AUTHORISED** the addition of a plaque in memory of Mrs Margaret Ellenger who had arranged for the seat to be installed many years ago.

**09/93 Tree Management Policy** – the full Council reviewed this policy and **DECIDED** that no changes were required.

**09/94 Lease of Land at Tower Hill, Gomshall** – The Council was informed that the current term had expired. The Council's solicitor had advised that the Council are entitled to continue as tenant on the same terms (known as holding over) until the Lease is terminated. Formal renewal could be sought but solicitors' fees could be expensive. Bray Estates had agreed to the continuation of the current Lease and this course of action was **APPROVED** by the Council.

**Future Adjournments for the Public** – the Council **RESOLVED** that two short adjournments for the public (maximum length 15 minutes) would be held at each Council meeting, one at the beginning and one halfway through the meeting, to enable the public to express a view or to ask a question relating to any matter on the agenda.

#### **09/95 Clerk's Report**

- The Clerk stated that the Council's set of speedwatch equipment had been received. It was **AGREED** that Mrs Williams would take responsibility for this. It was also **RESOLVED** not to insure the equipment.
- Notification of the subscription fee for Surrey County Association of Parish and Town Council's had been received. This is to be approximately £9 less than last year's subscription. Councillors were invited to join the Management Committee of the Association but no one volunteered.
- British Science Festival Debate on Energy from the Surrey Hills: Wind and Wood – details of meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> September **NOTIFIED** to Councillors.
- Seat adjacent to the Lychgate, Shere – Clerk to arrange for removal due to dangerous condition. Parish Maintenance Committee have authorised the purchase of a new seat. Engraved plaque will be transferred to this new seat in due course.

**09/96 Councillors' Business** – the following matters were raised (*for noting or including on the agenda for the next meeting – routine highway matters to be reported to Clerk either before or after the Council meeting*):

- Hazel hedge adjacent to 1 – 3 Felday Houses, Holmbury St. Mary – **DELEGATED** to the Clerk who will request Surrey County Council to cut this back to the height of the previous cut.
- Thames Basin Heathlands Protection Policy – no comment to be made.

- Introduction of Wheeled bins into the Parish – problems regarding positioning of bins – discussed.

## **ADJOURNMENT TO ENABLE THE PUBLIC TO EXPRESS A VIEW OR TO ASK A QUESTION RELATING TO ANY MATTER ON THE AGENDA.**

The following matters were raised:

- Mrs. Bray offered to contribute to the cost of a new seat and to pay for a replacement plaque for the other seat in memory of Bruce Hills.
- Hon. Alderman Childs expressed his concern at the introduction of wheeled bins as he felt these could be a hideous blot on the appearance of the Parish.
- Public Adjournment – two separate sessions were felt desirable, one at the beginning and one halfway through the meeting as agreed earlier by the Council.

The meeting restarted.

### **09/97 Finance**

- a. The Council **APPROVED/AUTHORISED** income and expenditure including details of Petty Cash expenditure since the last meeting. The detailed lists of transactions were signed by the Chairman.
- b. The Council received details of the bank balances as at the close of business on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2009.
- c. Shere Museum – The Council **APPROVED** a donation of £645 (originally agreed for a new window) to be reallocated to the provision of an emergency exit at the Shere Museum (Local Gov. Act 1972 s. 145).
- d. Grant Aid – the Council **AUTHORISED** a request for grant aid from Guildford Borough Council for the financial year commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010.

**09/98 Correspondence** received by the Clerk which required the attention of the Council:

- Consultation Documents – draft Statement of Principles for the Gambling Act 2005 (can be viewed at [www.guildford.gov.uk/GA2005consultation](http://www.guildford.gov.uk/GA2005consultation)). The proposed new statement of principles in respect of gambling licensing within the Borough will replace the previous policy adopted in January 2007 – closing date for responses 9<sup>th</sup> November 2009. Mr. Hall to **CONSIDER** prior to a response being issued by the Council.
- National Highways and Transport Survey – completion due by 25<sup>th</sup> September 2009. Opportunity to gain public feedback on the condition of highways and transport within the county in greater detail than existing surveys and compare performance with that of other authorities. Response **DELEGATED** to the Clerk following consultation with the Vice Chairman.
- Letter from a local resident regarding membership of the Swimming Pool in Shere. A letter to be sent to the Swimming Pool Committee stating that it is the view of the Parish Council that membership should be offered to residents of the Parish before renewing the membership of those living outside the Parish.
- Letter from a local resident regarding pedestrian safety in Shere Lane. To be referred to the next meeting of the Shere Traffic Working Group.

- Letter from Guildford Citizens' Advice Bureau requesting the Council to reconsider its decision regarding a donation to the Guildford Bureau. The Council **AGREED** that any donation made next year will be forwarded to the Guildford office.
- Reply from Sir Paul Beresford MP re the Parish Council's support for Surrey Police over the capping and re-billing issue (the detailed report on the debate in Westminster Hall was available at the meeting). The Council expressed concern over the fact that this campaign had been unsuccessful and that cuts in the police service would be necessary because of the Government's decision to cap the authority.
- Letter from the Principal Manager for Admissions & Transport (Strategy), Surrey County Council regarding the Council's request for a meeting to discuss school admission issues. Mr. Hall to **CONSIDER** the issue of school admissions further prior to recommending a proposal to the full Council for further action.

**Correspondence received after the agenda had been printed but requiring the attention of the Council** (*for noting, delegation to the Clerk or inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting – full details available at the meeting*).

Letter from the Local Works Committee seeking to obtain an amendment to the Sustainable Communities Act to ensure that Local Councils are included in the "bottom up" process whereby citizens and their councils can drive government action to promote or protect thriving communities. The Act has the potential to devolve powers down to local level, allow people to have more say over how public money is spent and even change primary legislation on things like planning rules. **SUPPORTED.** Letter to be **SENT** to Rt. Hon. Sir Paul Beresford M.P. Planning Inspectorate – copies of all statements of case re Holmbury St. Mary claimed footpath. **NOTED.**

Letter from British Telecom inviting the Parish Council to adopt Payphones at Tower Hill Gomshall and in the centre of Peaslake. To be placed on the **AGENDA** for the **NEXT MEETING.**

Invitation to Surrey County Ass. Of Parish & Town Councils AGM on 6.10.09 at 10 a.m. **NO ONE VOLUNTEERED** to attend.

Reply from Guildford Borough Council re the introduction of wheeled bins. **NOTED.**

Invitation to the AGM of the Lifetrain Trust on 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 7.30 p.m. **TO BE DECLINED.**

**Correspondence received which may be of interest to Councillors but not necessarily requiring discussion by the full Council** – *for noting only or a request made to the Clerk for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting (correspondence available immediately prior to the meeting)*.

Surrey County Council Rights of Way and Countryside Access Annual Report.

Sport Guildford Awards – nomination form.

Sports Clubs and Coaches development programme Oct 2009 – March 2010.

Letter of welcome to the Surrey Hills Society plus newsletter and invitation to organise some events etc.

Various editions of the Direct Information Service received from National Ass. of Local Councils.

About Guildford newsletter.

The Playing Field – Surrey Playing Fields Ass. newsletter.

Clerk and Councils' Direct magazine

**Exclusion of the Public and Press (Public Bodies Admission to meetings Act 1960)**

**09/99** Confidential Minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2009 re 09/76 Council Property – **APPROVED AND SIGNED** as a correct record.

**09/100/101** Possible land acquisitions – no further action to be taken.

Licence to use Council property – advice of the solicitor to be sought.

**09/102 Date of next meeting:** Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2009, 8 p.m. Tanyard Hall, 30 Station Road, Gomshall.