

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 22nd January 2010 in Tanyard Hall, 30 Station Road, Gomshall at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Dr. C. Brooke (Chairman), Mr. R. Newman (Vice-Chairman), Mr. R. Andrews, Mr. R. Davey, Mr. J. Hutton, Mrs. S. Nielson, Mr. R. Smith, Mrs. M. Taylor-Cotter, Mr. J. Tenner, Mr. M. Urban, Mrs. J. Williams, the Clerk Mrs L. Childs, County Councillor K. Taylor, Borough Councillor R. Hogben and Mrs Handa Bray. No other members of the public were present.

09/155 Apologies and acceptance of reasons for absence (if appropriate) in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12, paragraph 40. Apologies had been received from Mr. D. Hall and Mr. C. Carlisle.

The Chairman commenced the meeting by informing the Council that Mr Geoffrey Hutton had died. She stated that he had assisted the Council on several occasions and especially recently during the carrying out of the Shere War Memorial project when he had given freely of his expert advice. The Chairman extended the Council's sincere condolences to James Hutton and his family.

09/156 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. Andrews declared a personal interest in items 09/166 (he had given evidence at the enquiry) and 09/173 – repairs to Holmbury Football Club (member of the Football Club Committee). Mr. Davey declared a personal interest in 09/161 (he had organised the petition re Upper Street).

09/157 Register of Interests – no changes were declared.

09/158 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.

09/159 The Minutes of the meeting held on 27th November 2009 were approved and signed as a correct record.

09/160 Police Matters – An email from the Neighbourhood Support Officer was read to the meeting. This gave details of car parking problems in Shere Village recently and stated that the Police would shortly have to commence prosecuting some drivers for dangerous parking.

Invitation to a meeting with the Chief Constable and the Chairman of the Police Authority to discuss policing in Surrey – Vice Chairman to attend.

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

The impact of the severe weather on the Parish was discussed.

The meeting restarted and the Council **AGREED** the following action:

- Letters of congratulation to be written to both the Holmbury and Shere milkmen and Dairy Crest for the example they set to other organisations in continuing their services during the bad weather.
- Letter of thanks to be sent to Mr Martin Nicholson for clearing Peaslake Village Centre of snow and ice.
- Letter to be sent to the bus company seeking confirmation of their procedures during bad weather as several elderly passengers had been set down at the Silent Pool bus stop and told to walk to Shere.
- Letter to be sent to First Great Western seeking an explanation for the cancellation of the arrangement for trains from Guildford to stop at Gomshall.
- Letter to the Post Office seeking confirmation of their arrangements during bad weather and especially the fact that it was not advertised that post could be collected from the Gomshall Post Office by local residents. A suggestion to be made that such arrangements in the future could be advertised on their website.
- Concern was expressed over the lack of road gritting – County Councillor Keith Taylor explained the arrangements regarding this matter.

09/161 Traffic Issues in the Parish

- Car Park, Shere – the Council was informed that the Borough Council had now gone out to tender. A meeting between Guildford Borough Council officers and the Chairman of the Recreation Ground Committee had recently taken place and exploratory works had also started on the car park.
- Other traffic issues in the Parish – no matters were raised.
- A reply had been received from Surrey County Council regarding the condition of the Upper Street pavement. This stated that the location had been recommended to the Maintenance Engineer for review and possible inclusion on the road surfacing schedule. However, the Council was doubtful whether any work will be carried out due to the current financial restraints.
- The Council received a copy of a petition to Surrey County Council completed by 41 residents of Upper Street, Shere regarding many accidents to people and property which were all speed related. This was discussed in some detail and the Council was of the opinion that speed tables were required. The possibility of village gates will also be discussed further by the Shere Traffic Working Group at their meeting on 8th February (*meeting subsequently postponed*). Mr Taylor stated that the petition will be discussed by the Local Committee at their next meeting.

09/162 Public toilets, Peaslake – the Council received a letter from the land owner Shere Manor Estate stating that they were happy for toilets to be installed on the Walking Bottom car Park provided that the Hurtwood Control (managers of the land) are in agreement and also that the Council was sure that they would be used at this location. A letter from Hurtwood Control was also received which stated that, apart from the fact that several Trustees had serious reservations over the extent to which toilets in that area would be used,

the Hurtwood Control would prefer to consider the whole question of the provision of wider facilities for visitors to the Hurtwood and would not therefore want to sanction, in isolation, a project for the establishment of toilets at Walking Bottom.

09/163 School Admission Issues – the Council **APPROVED** the content of a questionnaire for distribution to parish councils in Surrey via the Surrey County Association of Parish and Town Councils. Closing date for replies 31st March 2010.

09/164 Emergency Plan meeting – a Working Group meeting will be held on 2nd February at 8 p.m.

09/165 Parish Plan – Mr Davey gave a report on the meeting held on 2nd December. He stated that, due to lack of public interest, it would appear that the Plan would have to be pushed forward by the Council. The Clerk advised that this could jeopardise its acceptance by Guildford and Surrey County Council. A further meeting will be held on 10th February (*meeting subsequently postponed*).

09/166 Claimed Footpath 600 Holmbury St. Mary – the Council was pleased to **NOTE** that the order relating to the width of the footpath had been confirmed by the Inspectorate on 4th January. The Order will come into effect after six weeks from 29th January provided that a challenge on administrative procedures is not made to the High Court within this period.

09/167 Walkfest 2010 – the Council **AGREED** to host a walk on 21st July. This will be led by the Vice Chairman.

09/168 Common Land, Goose Green, Gomshall – the Council was pleased to learn that the unauthorised gate post had now been removed.

09/169 London Lane, Shere – no further information had been received and the Council was of the opinion that work to improve the drainage would not be carried out due to the current financial position.

09/170 Clerk's Report – the Clerk drew the Council's attention to the following matters:

- Clerk to attend a meeting with the Surrey Hills Office regarding the funding by them of decluttering works in the Surrey Hills and the possibility of funding being available for the provision of village gates. The Council was informed that the Surrey Hills Office would welcome suggestions from the Council regarding possible schemes (initial ideas to be forwarded to the Clerk as soon as possible).

09/171 Councillors' Business (*for noting or inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting – routine highway matters to be reported to the Clerk either before or after the meeting please*).

The following matters were raised:

- Enormous number of pot holes plus quality control relating to repairs and resurfacing of roads – County Councillor Taylor stated that the structure of the new contract will be very different. He also agreed to let the Council have further information regarding the current schedule for road repairs.

- Waste and recycling collections especially the fact that waste food processing is being carried out at Medway at present whilst a location within the County is sought.
- Drainage work carried out by Surrey County Council 2007/08 in Felday Glade, Holmbury St. Mary – water now overflowing further up the Glade, regular maintenance of system required. Surrey County Council to be contacted.
- Drainage system in Pitland Street also needs attention. Surrey County Council to be informed.
- Recent power cuts – Letter of concern to be sent to EDF Energy regarding some very localised failures which have been neglected when wider failures were being attended to resulting in a subsequent long delay in action being taken. Reasons for breakdowns also to be sought plus a request for an improvement in such information being conveyed to customers following power cuts.
- Grit bins – lack of grit/sand, supply of new bins. Advice to be sought from Surrey County Council on conditions in which sand/grit/salt should be used plus density of this in order that this information can be included in the report for the next Parish magazine.
Burrows Lane, Pursers Lane – tree obstructions – to be reported to Surrey County Council.
New bench for Pursers Lane – due to be delivered next week.
Gas/water ingress incident – lack of compensation for disruption caused – up to date information to be included in next Parish magazine report.

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

Mrs Handa Bray gave a report on the up to date position regarding the sale of the Felbury House and asked the Council to do their best to approve, at this meeting, the terms of the lease.

09/172 Finance

- a. Income and expenditure, including details of Petty Cash expenditure since the last meeting, were **AUTHORISED AND APPROVED**.
- b. The Council **RECEIVED** details of bank balances as at the close of business on 21st January 2010.
- c. The Council **AGREED** to contribute £95.75 towards the cost of the new parking sign erected at Shere Medical Centre (Road Traffic Act 1984 s.57).
- d. Work required to the base of the Old Fire Station Bell – the Council **APPROVED** an estimate of £525 expenditure for work to the Old Fire Station roof (Occupiers Liability Act 1957).
- e. Felday Chapel – renovation work to the arch over the gate – the Clerk was **AUTHORISED** to accept an estimate for renovation work provided that this did not exceed the funds held in the Felday Chapel Account together with grant aid available.
- f. Shere Play Area – estimate to be sought from the Council's contractor for the installation of turf in the Shere Play Area – expenditure to be approved at the next meeting. In the meantime the play area will remain closed.

09/173 Correspondence received by the Clerk which requires the attention of the Council – none received prior to the agenda being printed.

Correspondence received after the agenda had been printed but requiring the attention of the Council (*for noting, delegation to the Clerk or a request made to the Clerk for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting - correspondence available immediately prior to the meeting*).

- Letter received from the Secretary of the Holmbury St. Mary Football Club seeking funding for urgent repairs to the football pavilion and the widening of the doors on the equipment shed – a request to be made for further information and a claim submitted to the Council’s insurance company for the roof repairs. Funding for the widening of the doors to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting (the pavilion is owned by the Parish Council).
- Feedback from the Guildford Borough Council Housing Forum Workshop on 3rd December – Vice Chairman to attend meeting. **NOTED.**
- Traffic Regulation Order re closure of Beggars Lane BOAT – **FULLY SUPPORTED** by the Council.

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

- Surrey Hills Board – Management Plan and Annual Review.
- About Guildford – Borough Council publication.
- English Rural Housing Association – Annual Report and winter bulletin.
- Mount Green Housing Association – Annual Report.
- National Ass. Of Local Councils – Direct Information Service newsletters
- Parish of Shere – Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council.

09/174

- **Meetings for 2010** - The Council was **NOTIFIED** of the dates and times of future Council and Committee meetings.
- **Parish Annual Meeting – 30th April 2010** – the Mayor of Guildford, Councillor Pauline Searle, to be invited to the meeting. Councillors to inform the Clerk of suggestions for a speaker for this event.

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

09/175 Land adjacent to Felbury House, Holmbury St. Mary – following negotiations with the future owner the Council **AGREED** a rent for the land adjacent to Felbury House. The Council stated that this must be payable quarterly in advance once ownership of the property is secured with a rent review every five years. The Council then **AUTHORISED** the drawing up of a lease/licence for a period of 21 years.

09/176 Staffing Matters – Clerk’s holiday entitlement – the Council **AGREED** that the remainder of the Clerk’s holiday entitlement for 2009 could be taken in 2010.