

SHERE PARISH COUNCIL

*Serving the villages of Gomshall,
Holmbury St. Mary, Peaslake and Shere*

Minutes of the Council meeting held on 17th October 2008 in Tanyard Hall, 30 Station Road, Gomshall at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Mr. R. Newman (Chairman), Mr. R. Andrews, Dr. C. Brooke, Mr. C. Carlisle, Mr. R. Davey, Mr. J. Hutton, Mrs. S. Nielson, Mr. R. Smith, Mrs. M. Taylor-Cotter, Honorary Alderman Keith Childs, the Clerk Mrs L. Childs and two members of the public.

94/08 Apologies and reason for absence in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12, paragraph 40 – apologies were submitted on behalf of Mr. D. Hall, Mr. J. Tenner, Mrs. J. Williams, County Councillor D. Davis, Borough Councillors R. Hogben and D. Wright.

95/08 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 112/08 and left the room whilst the possible donation to the Museum was being discussed.

Mrs. Taylor Cotter declared a personal interest in 105/08 and 112/08.

96/08 Register of Interests – no amendments were declared.

97/08 Declaration of gifts or hospitality over £25 – none declared.

98/08 The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 1st September 2008 were **AGREED AND SIGNED** as a correct record after Mr. Urban was included in the attendance list.

99/08 Traffic Calming in the Parish

- The Council received the Minutes of the Shere Traffic Working Group meeting held on 7th October 2008 and **AGREED** to adopt the recommendations contained therein.
- Proposed car park, Shere – Keith Childs who is chairman of the Shere Recreation Ground Association highlighted the changes which had been made to the Agreements. The Council **AUTHORISED** the Chairman and one other Councillor to sign the Management Agreement and the Construction Agreement for the car park following two small amendments to the appendices. The Clerk was **AUTHORISED** to submit the Planning Application. *Action: The Clerk.*
- Speedwatch – up to date report postponed until the next meeting.
- Other traffic issues in the Parish:

1. request for an extension to the 30mph limit along the Horsham Road – up to date position to be sought. *Action: The Clerk.*
2. request for extension of speed limit in Peaslake – up to date position to be ascertained. *Action: The Clerk.*
3. Request to be made to SCC for stop signs rather than give way signs to be installed at the Albury/A25 junction. *Action: The Clerk.*
4. Road closure for Lawbrook Lane – enquiries to be made as to what recent work has been carried out. *Action: The Clerk.*
5. Request for “children crossing” signs on Shere Lane near Pathfields – up to date position to be ascertained. *Action: The Clerk.*
6. Lower Street, Shere – letter to be written to two local residents regarding parking problems. *Action: The Clerk.*

100/08 Parish Plan – it was **AGREED** that the Chairman would obtain an up to date report in order that this could be submitted to the next meeting. *Action: The Chairman.*

101/08 Goose Green, Gomshall – the Council was informed that this land is in fact designated Common Lane and the installation of the new gate was therefore unlawful as it had not been authorised by the Secretary of State for the Environment. It was **AGREED** that a letter of explanation will be delivered by the Chairman to the adjacent resident who had installed the gate. *Action: The Clerk/Chairman.*

102/08 Peaslake Village Centre improvement scheme

- A site meeting had been held with representatives of the Surrey Hills Office and a simple schematic plan for the centre of the village is awaited. This and other proposals will be considered by S.W. Ward Councillors when received. *Action: Clerk/South West Ward Councillors.*
- Surrey Hills Office will also be asked for their suggestions of the nature of a project to help manage/provide infrastructure for mountain biking with a view to obtaining funding under the LEADER scheme. *Action: The Clerk.*
- Village name plates – decision to be made when considering the above. *Action: The Clerk/South West Ward Councillors.*

103/08 Byways Open to all Traffic

- **Beggars Lane/Drove Road/Sheepwalk** – the Council **NOTED** that the County Council has implemented a temporary closure to vehicles on safety grounds and in order to protect the surface of the route from further damage over the winter period.
- **London Lane** – the Council **POSTPONED** full discussion of this item until the next meeting to allow Councillor David Davis to report on his meeting with senior Rights of Way Officers and also to report on proposed changes to Surrey County Council policy regarding BOATs.

Councillors noted that the current soakaway fills up with silt within approximately 20 minutes in inclement weather. A suggestion had been received from the Rights of Way Officer that a more substantial, well designed silt trap/soakaway be installed at the bottom of the lane. This would cost approximately £10,000 - £15,000 although a contribution of £2,000 - £3,000 would be available from the Surrey County Council Rights of Way budget. To be **CONSIDERED FURTHER** at the next meeting.

104/08 Horsham Road/Radnor Lane junction, Holmbury St. Mary – the Council **APPROVED** the addition of the triangle of grass to the Grass Cutting Contract. *Action: The Clerk.*

105/08 Shere and Peaslake Scout Group – The Council **GRANTED** permission for the annual bonfire and firework display on Goose Green on 7th November subject to the receipt of a satisfactory risk assessment. *Action: The Clerk.*

106/08 Changes to Governance Arrangements for Surrey County Council – the Council discussed the two options of:

- an elected Mayor and Cabinet
- an Executive Leader and Cabinet.

A letter to be sent to Surrey County Council **DEPLORING** both options. *Action: The Clerk.*

107/08 Sponsor a Telephone Kiosk – the Council to decide whether it wishes to sponsor any telephone kiosks in the Parish (further details awaited from British Telecom) – further information **AWAITED** from British Telecom.

108/08 Bluebeckers, Gomshall – The Council **DECLINED** a request for permission to place a link for Bluebeckers on the Council's website. *Action: The Clerk.*

109/08 Proposed new sound system – technical advice awaited for consideration at the next meeting.

110/08 Clerk's Report

The Clerk informed the Council of the following:

Affordable house at 5 Tower Hill Rise, Gomshall for sale at £169,860 for a 57% share. A letter is to be sent to the Rural Housing Trust stating that, in the Council's opinion, the sale price is too high in view of current market conditions.

Proposed kerbing of Burrows Cross triangle – permission received from Surrey County Council together with the suggestion of materials to be used. Tenders to be sought in the near future.

Request for the Council's initial reaction to letting the hall free of charge to enable pampering treatments to be given to carers – Council to consider fully when a firm proposal is received although not adverse to a nominal rent of £1.10 just to cover insurance fees.

Bridleway between Shere and Gomshall – widening and flood prevention works now completed. Several expressions of approval and gratitude have been received.

Shere stream project – the Council was informed that the contractor has stated that he has waited all summer for a spell of good weather that co-occurred with a low water level. He apologised to the Council for the delay but states he is not prepared to carry out the work until he can guarantee a good strong base for the edging stones.

Advice now received from GBC's Arboricultural officer re the oak tree in the middle of Shere. The matter to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. *Action: The Clerk.*

Also advised that, in his opinion, Councillors and the Clerk are putting themselves at risk if trees in high risk areas (e.g. overhanging roads or property) are not inspected by a level 3 tree expert every 2 years. Last inspection - September 2006. Implications of this to be discussed at the forthcoming Finance meeting. Weekly Contractor – unable to carry out contract for approximately 10 weeks due to him having an operation. Noted. Quality Council Status renewal – full submission required. Council's Complaints Procedure – to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

111/08 Councillors' Business (for noting or inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting). The following matters were raised:

Opening of affordable development scheme at Pathfields.
Affordable Housing seminar to be held in Shere on 14th November – invitation to be sought.
London Taxi advertising “stoves” parked on the A 25 – Guildford Borough Council's Enforcement Department to be advised.
Sheer volume of educational school trips to Shere – further details to be sought.
Possible loss of pharmacies at local doctors' surgeries – delegated to the Clerk to lobby the Government and local Members of Parliament.

SHORT ADJOURNMENT TO ENABLE THE PUBLIC TO ASK QUESTIONS OR TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL – one small traffic matter was raised.

112/08 Finance

- Income totalling £58,281.50 was notified to the Council. Expenditure since the last meeting, totalling £17,710.48 (including petty cash of £52.44) was approved/authorised by the Council and the detailed list of transactions was signed by the Chairman.
- The Council **REVIEWED** its current banking arrangements and resolved that £75,000 be transferred from its banking facilities in Ireland to the account in Guildford. *Action: The Clerk.*
- Enquiries to be made re 90% day Government bonds. *Action: Chairman.*
- Consideration of a request for funds from the Lifetrain Trust – to be considered by the Finance Committee.
- The Council decided to bid for funds from the new Star Energy Community Fund for a new soakaway for London Lane. *Action: The Clerk.*
- Shere Museum – the Council **DONATED** the sum of £645 for the provision of a new window at the Shere Museum (Local Government Act 1972 s. 145), this being the unspent balance of a previous grant of £2,000.
- Insurance – The Council **NOTED** that the Holmbury Village Pump is now insured at an extra premium of £200 per annum.

113/08 Items of correspondence received by the Clerk which require the attention of the Council:

Shortlisting of National Express by the Department for Transport for the bid for the South Central rail franchise – no comment to be made.

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

Letter from Surrey Police stating unable to move PC Patey back to this area but the new police officer will make the same engagement with the Parish as PC Patey did - **NOTED.**

Letter from Sir Paul Beresford regarding the capping of Surrey Police Authority - **NOTED.**

Consultation Document on the making of Byelaws - no representations to be made.

Notification of proposed changes to the internal Zurich Financial Services Group – our policy will be transferred to the UK Branch of Zurich Insurance Ireland Limited on 1st January 2009 - **ACCEPTED.**

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).

Town and Parish Standard – newsletter from the Standards Board for England.
Notification from Guildford Borough Council that Councillor Len Scott of Ash Parish Council has been appointed a parish representative on the Standards and Audit Committee.

Invitation to Surrey Pension Fund AGM on 31st October.

Invitation to Service of Remembrance at Holy Trinity Church, Guildford.

Road closure order – Ewhurst Road, Peaslake – 6 months from 31st August 2008.

Various issues of the Direct Information Service newsletter.

“Surrey Voice” newsletter of CPRE plus leaflet re Green Belt issues.

Heritage Open Day – thank you letter from Helen Mitchell of Guildford Borough Council.

Shere Swimming Pool – Minutes of the meeting held on 17th September 2008.

Invitation from Lifetrain Trust to their race night on 21st November (£10 per ticket).

“Through the Looking Glass” newsletter from Guildford Borough Council.

Details of the Surrey Hills Countryside Fair on Sunday 2nd November in Dorking Halls.

Sport Guildford – invitation to meeting on 3rd December.

Invitation to Guildford Citizens Advice Bureau AGM on 30th October.

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

114/08 War Memorial, Shere – to be considered fully at the next meeting following exploratory talks with three contractors.

115/08 Dates of future meetings:

- Next Council meeting moved from 7th to 28th November 2008
- Finance Committee meeting – 2nd December 2008.
- Playground Committee meeting – 30th October 2008.