



SHERE PARISH COUNCIL

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

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MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 8.00 P.M. ON FRIDAY 20th JANUARY 2012 IN TANYARD HALL, 30 STATION ROAD, GOMSHALL

Present: Parish Councillors R. Newman, C. Brooke (Vice Chairman), C. Carlisle, B. Cohen, R. Davey, J. Hutton, S. Nielson, R. Smith, M. Taylor Cotter, J. Tenner, M. Urban, Surrey County Councillor K. Taylor, Borough Councillors D. Wright and R. Billington, six members of the public and the Clerk Mrs L. Childs.

11/150 Apologies in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12, paragraph 40 were submitted on behalf of Councillors R. Andrews and D. Hall and Mrs Beth Tyrrell (Chairman of the Shere Village Nursery). The Council requested that their best wishes for a speedy recovery be sent to Mr Andrews who is unwell.

11/151 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): Dr. Brooke declared a personal interest in Shere Village Nursery. This was in relation to vandalism matters raised under Police Matters.

11/152 Register of Interests – to declare any amendments. (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). Mrs Taylor Cotter stated that she had amended her Register of Interests to include membership of the committee of Gomshall Club.

11/153 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).

11/154 The Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th November 2011 were **APPROVED** and **SIGNED** as a correct record.

SHORT ADJOURNMENT TO ENABLE THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE PUBLIC

The Clerk and the Council's contractor were congratulated on the speed of the work to the trees which had toppled into the field adjacent to the Swimming Pool recently during adverse weather.

It was suggested that in relation to item agenda 11/162 no speed calming measures should be considered for Queen Street, Gomshall without bearing in mind the impact that these might have on traffic through Goose Green.

The meeting restarted.

11/155 Police Matters – various incidents of vandalism in Shere and Gomshall were reported, including many incidents at the Shere Village Nursery over a period of six months, destruction of equipment at Shere Infants School and recent problems in Gomshall and Shere. The Police had been informed. The Council **AGREED** to supply a list of incidents to Borough Councillor Billington who had offered to speak to the Chief Constable on the Council's behalf. Those present were asked to ensure that all future incidents are reported to the Police on the 101 telephone number or via their website to enable the Police to have an overall view of the current problem and to be able to act accordingly. It was suggested that some residents might also like to become members of 'Countrywatch'.

11/156 Possible new Meeting Room incorporating Library Facilities in the Parish – the Council was informed that building work is due to start next week and to date there have been no problems regarding the building regulations for the proposed works. The Council gratefully **ACCEPTED** an offer of an extra £1,000 from County Councillor Taylor's allocated funding towards the provision of IT equipment. A note will be placed in the February edition of the Parish magazine seeking volunteers to assist with the day to day running of the library and meeting room.

The Council **ACCEPTED** the suggestions outlined in two letters received from the Chairman of the Shere Village Hall regarding the conditions for the use of the meeting room apart from consideration of a possible rent which will be discussed by the Finance Committee at their next meeting.

11/157 Improvement in Train Services – the Chairman reported that a meeting had been held with a representative of Great Western Railways who are to bid for the franchise for the Guildford Redhill line. This enabled the Council's ideas for an improved service to be discussed. The Parish Council also **AGREED** to host a meeting of groups interested in this train route.

An unsatisfactory reply had been received from Network Rail regarding the lack of safety measures at the Gomshall Station railway crossing. A letter will be sent to the Rail Safety Board.

11/158 Goose Green Pavilion - Expenditure on replacement windows of £342.50 was **AGREED** (Local Gov. Act 1972 s. 111). Insurance documents and a risk assessment were still awaited from Albury Eagles and therefore further consideration of the use of the Pavilion and Goose Green was postponed until the next meeting.

11/159 Cycling Proficiency trainings – it had proved difficult to ascertain the number of children who might benefit from training. It was therefore **RESOLVED** that an article be placed in the Annual Report with a view to parents/guardians informing the Council if they were interested in their children participating in such a training. The Duke of Kent School had kindly offered the use of a site free of charge.

11/160 Peaslake Village Improvements (area around the telephone box) – an email had been received from Surrey County Council stating that it would require official plans and a safety audit as the proposed scheme protruded into the highway. In addition Surrey County Council is of the opinion that the cost would be much in excess of the funds available to the Parish Council (50% of this funding expires 31.3.2012). A site meeting with Surrey County Council officers will be sought and County Councillor Taylor kept informed of progress.

11/161 Shere Swimming Pool Field

- A full examination of the water pipe had not proved possible. The Council therefore **DECIDED** to place an order with Graham Rapley for drainage improvements (Open Spaces Act 1906 s. 9 & 10).
- The Clerk reported expenditure of £500 (delegated powers -Open Spaces Act 1906 s. 9 & 10) on the clearance of fallen trees recently.
- Broken signpost at the entrance to the field – to be reported to Surrey County Council.
- Vegetation clearance work – to be chased.

11/162 Highway matters

- Shere – the Council was informed that a meeting had been held with the County Council and the County had agreed to commission a report from traffic consultant Colin Davis in relation to traffic conditions on the approach roads (Upper Street, Shere & Gomshall Lanes). The Council **AGREED** to contribute £2,000 towards the cost of this (Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ss 57,33). This will be taken from the Parish Council's earmarked account which had been reserved for the possible installation of humps in Upper Street. It was requested that the consultant observe rush-hour traffic prior to drawing up a scheme. County Councillor Taylor stated that the County Council would shortly be considering the allocation of funding in the budget for 2012/13 for improvements to Shere.
- Gomshall – a request had been received from a member of the public asking the Parish Council to consider requesting SCC to install speed prevention mechanisms in Queen Street. It was felt by the Council that any request should ensure that traffic conditions in Goose Green are also taken into consideration. Surrey County Council will be contacted prior to the setting up of a Gomshall Traffic Working Group. County Councillor Taylor stated that he had nominated Queen Street for road surface improvements.
- Parking of delivery vehicles outside Gomshall Mill was discussed. This was felt to be dangerous at this location and the Chairman **AGREED** to speak to the Manager regarding this.

11/163 Cycling in the Parish – the Chairman **INFORMED** the Council that productive work is being carried out by other organisations to alleviate problems throughout the Surrey Hills and, in particular, that of the Surrey Hills Mountain Biking Working Group of which

the Parish Council is now a member. The Council was **ADVISED** that one Mountain Biking website was complaining about the lack of parking in Peaslake.

11/164 Felbury House, Holmbury St. Mary – Permission was **GRANTED** for the removal of several trees (as specified previously by the owners of Felbury House) where these are on Parish Council land.

11/165 Public Adjournment agenda items – The Council stated that it **APPROVED** of the new wording for the agenda items advising of the two public adjournments.

11/166 Localism Bill – the Council **RECEIVED** a report on the Localism Bill which has now been approved by Parliament.

11/167 Clerk's Report (for noting, delegation to the Clerk or inclusion on the next agenda). The following matters were raised:

1. Details of Surrey County Council's new Community Improvement Fund.
2. Guildford Borough Council's on-street formal advertisement of proposals for the introduction of primrose yellow lines in various areas of Shere – 13 objections received, 8 of which were regarding Lower Street which is the area of particular concern to the fire service. Copy of a letter from a resident of Gomshall Lane circulated to Councillors.
3. New Road, Gravelpits Development – public meeting to be held in Tanyard Hall on 24th January 3 – 8 p.m.
4. Visit by the Mayor to the Parish – **DELEGATED** to the Clerk to invite the Mayor and Mayoress to the Parish Annual Meeting.
5. Mayor's Award for Service to the Community – nominations required.
6. Friends of the Hurtwood – **DELEGATED** to the Clerk to invite the Chairman to the June Council meeting to give an update on current activities etc.
7. Details of a campaign to share highways information with residents – www.surreycc.gov.uk/highwaysinfo.
8. Shere toilet usage during one week in November received from Guildford Borough Council following their count.
9. Details of a motor bike event commencing at Newlands Corner on 20th May 2012 (at least 500 bikes etc).

11/168 Councillors' Business (for noting, delegation to the Clerk or inclusion on the next agenda). The following matters were raised:

1. Concern was expressed that the Council had not been directly informed by the National Trust prior to clearance work being carried out at the entrance to Shere as the work had been more severe than expected. It was suggested that the Parish Council consider planting a tree in this area to mark the Diamond Jubilee. Agenda item for the next meeting.
2. Telephone Box, Holmbury St. Mary – following a suggestion from a GBC Conservation Officer for improvements, The Vice Chairman's very kind offer to fund the painting of the box was **ACCEPTED**.
3. Concern was expressed at the lack of a directional sign on Pitch Hill at the junction of the road leading to Walking Bottom, Peaslake with the Hound House Road. County

Councillor Taylor to raise this matter with Surrey County Council as the Parish Council and residents have requested a sign on many occasions.

4. Friends of the Hurtwood event 2013 – wish to use Holmbury Football Ground (Parish Council property) as their base – Agenda item for the next meeting.
5. London Lane B.O.A.T. – it was confirmed that this was closed at present to vehicles but not to motorbikes. It was **NOTED** that the flooding situation in Shere had been greatly improved and there have been no instances of silt being washed down into the village since the B.O.A.T. had been closed.
6. B2126 – Surrey County Council will be approached once more regarding the Parish Council's request for a speed limit.

SHORT ADJOURNMENT TO ENABLE THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

The following matters were raised:

- Jubilee and Olympic celebrations in Shere – the Council was advised that a note had been placed in the next edition of the Parish magazine inviting residents to a meeting in Shere Village Hall on 21st February to discuss ideas to celebrate these events. Borough Councillor Wright stated that, in this respect, Chilworth and St. Martha Parish Councils had decided to install large grinding mills at the entrance to their villages. A note will be placed in the next Parish magazine advising residents that the Parish Council will not be co-ordinating parish celebrations, other than the new library facilities, but will leave these to be arranged by individual villages.
- Excessive growth of weed in the Tillingbourne adjacent to the Compasses Inn car park – advice now received that the Environment Agency does not feel this is a flood risk and is therefore unable to clear this. Environment Agency requested to inform the management of the Compasses Inn and the adjacent Engineering Company.
- Possible provision of skateboarding facilities for youngsters – questions were asked about the age of the youngsters being catered for, location(s) under consideration, the criteria against which these were chosen, the reason for these sites being kept confidential and a request for amendments giving clearer information in the Minutes and on the website.

The Vice Chairman advised that 14 potential locations were originally considered. Members of the Working Group familiarised themselves with these locations and, using a set of criteria drawn up by the Working Group, reduced the short-list to 3 locations. These are currently being considered by the Working Group members who will draw on final advice from the Police. Two locations are on privately held land. It was decided by the Working Group that the list of locations should not be released until the land owners have been consulted. This would also minimise any concern to residents living near the sites prior to public consultation. She stated that further information would be placed on the website.

- Concern was also expressed that the Council had not sought professional advice from the local outreach youth worker regarding youngsters gathering at locations in the Parish. The Clerk reported that talks had been held and the Youth Worker had stated that, in his view, the Council's course of action was satisfactory. A member of the

public felt that this should be revisited. It was also recommended that the Parish Council consider providing activities for older teenagers.

- Borough Councillor Wright expressed the view that the Working Group was made up of unpaid volunteers that were giving up their time in an attempt to do their best to provide local youngsters with something to do and should therefore be supported. He also felt that, upsetting residents by publishing possible locations prior to the final choice being made and public consultations held, was totally unnecessarily.
- The Council warmly welcomed Mrs Chapman back to Council meetings following her very serious operation. She praised the Police for their assistance and satisfactory outcome following an incident of vandalism in Lower Street last year.
- Surrey Save – the Council was pleased to learn that this is now operational.

The meeting restarted.

11/169 Finance Matters

1. Income of £1,302.01 and expenditure of £19,185.08, including details of £160.70 Petty Cash expenditure since the last meeting, was **AUTHORISED** and a list of transactions signed by the Chairman.
2. The Council **RECEIVED NOTIFICATION** of the Current bank balances.
3. Budget update – to be submitted to the Finance Committee meeting on 9th February 2012. **AGREED.**
4. Notification **RECEIVED** that the cost of the uncontested 2011 elections for each Ward had been set by Guildford Borough Council at £60 per Ward. **NOTED** – invoice awaited and payment **AUTHORISED (Representation of the Peoples' Act).**

11/170 Consultation Documents

11/168 Phase 3 of the Review of Local Bus Services (representations to be submitted by 31st January 2012 – the Council discussed Surrey County Council's proposals and noted a letter which had been received from a bus user. It was **AGREED** that representations would be submitted and Mr Smith's comments would be forwarded to County Councillor Taylor.

Guildford Borough Council – the future of Guildford Town Centre – representations to be made by 23rd January 2012 (see www.guildford.gov.uk/towncentremasterplan). Borough Councillor Wright gave a brief explanation of the proposals which was appreciated by the Council.

11/171 Correspondence

- Letter from Thames Water apologising for the frequent bursts along Hook Lane. They are at present carrying out field work to consider the situation further but, in the meantime, will repair any bursts in the asbestos cement main as they occur. **NOTED.**
- Information re superfast broadband in rural Surrey – can be found at www.superfastsurey.org.uk **NOTED.**
- The Council were informed that the County Council had rejected the insurance claim made against them by a visitor to the Parish regarding an accident in Lower Street in

August 2011. The Council also **NOTED** the ongoing safety concerns of the lady who had experienced the accident. **NO ACTION TO BE TAKEN.**

- Local Anti-Bribery Policy – **RECEIVED** from Guildford Borough Council.
- Various information received re Olympic events and the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee celebrations. **NO ACTION TO BE TAKEN** (see further information recorded under ‘Adjournment for the Public’).

Correspondence received after the agenda had been printed – details available at the meeting:

Surrey Minerals and Waste Development Framework – Aggregates recycling joint DPD – notification of submission to the Secretary of State on 16th December 2011 of the aggregates recycling joint development plan document (DPD), availability of documents and details of public hearings plus copy of a DVD. **RECEIVED.**

Letter from a local resident re possible provision of skateboarding facilities and other issues – copy given to all Councillors who **AUTHORISED** the Clerk to reply following consultation with the Chairman.

Correspondence not necessarily requiring discussion by the Council – details available at the meeting.

Citizens Advice, Waverley – Annual Report and accounts.

Guildford Environmental Forum Newsletter.

English Rural Housing Association – winter bulletin.

S.C.C. – leaflet – your insight into Surrey – see www.surreyi.gov.uk

Surrey Association of Youth Clubs – annual review.

Clerk and Council’s Direct magazine.

Direct Information Service (2) – newsletter of National Association of Local Councils.

11/149 Exclusion of the Public and Press (Public Bodies Admission to meetings Act 1960)

The Chairman proposed, and the Council agreed, that the following matters be discussed in accordance with the above Act.

The confidential minutes of the meeting held on 25th November 2011 were **APPROVED AND SIGNED** as a correct record.

Staffing – the Council **AGREED** that Mrs A. Anderson be employed as a temporary administrative worker for a few hours per week, when required, for a period of less than 3 months.

Council Property – a request for an alteration to a lease was discussed. This matter was postponed pending receipt of advice from the Council’s solicitor and further information from the tenant.

Next full Council meeting Friday 24th February 2012 at 8 p.m.

