

**MINUTES OF THE SHERE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2014
AT TANYARD HALL, 30 STATION ROAD, GOMSHALL**

Present: Parish Councillors R Davey (Chairman), R Andrews, C Carlisle, A Collingwood, M Fontana B Grover, J Hutton, R Smith, M Urban and the Clerk: J Millett; County Councillor Keith Taylor, and two members of the public.

13/209 Apologies – apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillors C Brooke, B Cohen, M Taylor-Cotter and J Tenner.

13/210 Declarations of Interest – no declarations of disclosable pecuniary and other interests were received in respect of any other item to be considered at the meeting.

13/211 Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interests– declarations of disclosable pecuniary and other interests from Members in respect of any item to be considered at the meeting – no changes to the register were made.

13/212 Declaration of gifts or hospitality over £25 - NO DECLARATIONS were made.

13/213 Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 15 January 2014 were **APPROVED** as a correct record of the meeting.

13/214 Police Matters – to receive a report

PCSO Damon Young attended the meeting and reported on recent incidents of theft and criminal damage. He reminded councillors that stolen goods could be registered on the police database.

13/215 Gomshall Railway Bridge – it was **NOTED** that Network Rail had advised that the footbridge was now scheduled to be installed in March/April 2014.

13/216 Gomshall Post Office – it was **NOTED** that the Post Office had indicated that the majority of respondents to its public consultation exercise were happy with the Post Office being re-located to The Compasses Inn. In addition, a facility for people to pick up their undelivered mail from there was to be discussed with the new agent.

13/217 Kingswood Hangar woodland: damage by mountain bikes and motor bikes to footpath – a letter and report from a local resident were **NOTED**. It was also noted that the Head Ranger for North Downs West was aware of the damage being caused and the letter would be copied to him; the police would also be made aware. This was a growing problem in other areas of local woodland and these concerns would also be passed to Friends of Hurtwood Control.

13/218 Shere Car Park maintenance –a report of a meeting held earlier in the week, with Guildford Borough Council was **NOTED**. The Borough Council had acknowledged that a more permanent repair solution was needed to remedy the poor state of the car park surface. In the meantime, Guildford's contractors had filled in some of the worst holes and had left some gravel and sand for local volunteers to fill in others that might appear.

13/219 Shere Traffic Proposals – the finalised plans for the agreed traffic calming works had just been received by the Parish Council. K Taylor reported that traffic calming works in Shere were scheduled to start on Monday, 24th February but realistically, would not start until early March. J Hutton offered to look at the materials used to ensure that design details and materials met conservation standards. K Taylor stated that there would be a ‘before and after’ study of traffic travelling along New Road, to establish how it would be affected by the traffic calming measures in Shere.

M Urban asked whether the proposed 20mph speed limit for part of Peaslake had been considered by the Guildford Local Committee. K Taylor reported that this was to be considered at the Local Committee’s March meeting, together with several other requests for 20 mph zones. The Chairman asked what was happening with the request to put HGV restrictions in Shere, on the agenda of the Local Committee.

13/220 Cycling issues – C Carlisle reported that there were two further sportif events being organised and that the Cycling Forum had called for regular reports from Surrey County Council and the Police. K Taylor acknowledged the need for more control over sportifs – Surrey County Council currently had no control over these but was trying to address this. C Carlisle highlighted the need for a legal speed limit for cyclists.

13/221 Speaker for and format of Annual Parish Meeting – various speakers were suggested as well as a different format: the formal part of the meeting first with a social event, such as a quiz, afterwards.

13/222 Local Plan – there had been two meetings earlier in the week to discuss the draft Guildford Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA). The first had been with Guildford Borough Council who had received a report from their consultants on housing need. Within the report, planned provision of houses was substantially higher (800+ houses to be built per annum) than in the last Local Plan, which was around 300 per year. The second meeting was between local parish councils and representatives of CPRE and Guardians of the Green Belt were speakers. Their reports pointed out that many of the assumptions in the consultant’s report were questionable. Also, the meeting had been informed by Guildford Borough Council that a parish council response to the draft SHMA would carry no more weight than that of an individual. It was, therefore **AGREED** that individuals be encouraged to respond to the draft SHMA by the closing date of 21st February. A draft Parish Council response would be put on it’s web-site so people could refer to it in constructing their responses, the draft to be put together by the Chairman of Council, Chairman of Planning and a Peaslake ward councillor; posters would be placed around the Parish and social media could also be used.

13/223 Finance matters

- Income (totalling £455.10) and expenditure (totalling £8,561.13) since the last meeting, as set out in annexe 1 to these minutes was **APPROVED**. Expenditure to date, by budget head, was **NOTED**.

(A Collingwood declared an interest regarding cheque 3977, payable to R Arrow)

- **bank balances** as at 31 December 2013 were **NOTED**:
Lloyds 30 Day Notice account = £206,573.03
Lloyds Treasurers account = £20,000
Bank of Ireland Treasurer’s Deposit account = £1,964.55

- **To receive and accept bank reconciliations** – bank reconciliations, as set out at annexe 2 to these minutes were **RECEIVED** and **ACCEPTED**.
- Surrey Pension Fund – it was **NOTED** that a response from Surrey County Council on the pension fund deficit was still awaited
- Council Tax Referendum Trigger Point – it was **NOTED** that the Localism Act included a provision for referendums to veto excessive council tax increases and allowed the Secretary of State to decide on proposed council tax increases s/he considers excessive. The Secretary of State would then propose limits, to be approved by the House of Commons. A final decision to increase/veto their Council's council tax increase would be via a referendum of local people.
- Payment of grant to Holmbury St Mary Village Hall –it was **AGREED** that the remainder of the grant to the Village Hall Trust, of £1,864.79, be paid.
(Local Government Act 1972, s 133 and Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s 19)

13/224 Minutes of Management & Strategy Working Group held on 22 January 2014 – the minutes of the Working Group were **NOTED** and it was **AGREED** that a Human Resources Committee be established, to consider the range of human resources policies; membership to be Councillors Bob Andrews, Chris Carlisle, Melanie Fontana, Marion Taylor-Cotter and Roy Davey (ex-officio, Chairman)

13/225 Clerk's Report (for noting, delegation to the Clerk or inclusion on the next agenda)

- Reporting local problems on-line – it was **NOTED** that a schedule of contacts for reporting local problems, such as road repairs, flooding and police matters, had been put together and would be widely advertised for use by local residents and councillors.
- Emergency plan – a copy of the most recent plan had been circulated. It was **AGREED** that this be checked for relevance and councillors responsibilities be confirmed, at the next meeting.
- Mayor's Award for Services to the Community – it was **NOTED** that the Mayor of Guildford Borough Council had invited nominations for this Award.
- Purchase of duck house, Shere – following consideration of three quotations, it was **AGREED** that a duck house be purchased, at a cost of £249.99, including VAT, and 4 saddle stones, at a cost of £39.99 each
(Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, section 77)
It was further **AGREED** that help be sought to try to alleviate the problem with rats by the river, in Shere.

13/226 Councillors' Business (for noting, delegation to the Clerk or inclusion on the next agenda).

B Grover reminded North Ward councillors that they needed to get together to discuss future arrangements for Christmas lights.

C Carlisle commented on the many pot-holes/poor condition of Holmbury Road. The Clerk had reported these but undertook to follow up on this with K Taylor.

R Davey said that the extent of the flooding on Goose Green might have been caused by a collapsed culvert and there was a need to investigate the situation.