

SHERE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

23rd May 2019 – Tanyard Hall, 30 Station Road, Gomshall GU5 9LF

Present: Councillors R Davey (Chairman), C Carlisle, B Harrap, R Smith, B Grover, G Reffo, M Taylor-Cotter and C Brooke. Ten members of the public. Mayor and Guildford Borough Councillor R Billington. Clerk S Hoyland and Assistant to the Clerk C Smith

Apologies for Absence: Councillors P Carter, B Andrews, A Case and J Cross. County Councillor K Taylor and Guildford Borough Councillor D Jones

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th May 2018 – **Approved and Signed as a correct record**

Report by the Chairman of Shere Parish Council

The Chairman welcomed residents to the meeting and reported on the changes in the Council staff and Councillors and the work of the Parish Council in 2018/19. Suzanne Hoyland took over as Clerk/RFO from Joy Millett with a very smooth handover. Clare Smith was then appointed as Assistant to the Clerk. The Chairman reported that the Council is very fortunate to have a very strong team in the office, which is a tremendous benefit to the Council.

At the Local Elections A Collingwood and A Golightly stepped down. As there were less nominations than candidates, all sitting Councillors were re-elected and no election took place. With two vacancies available, the Council was fortunate that the vacancies were filled by co-option, where a candidate is voted onto the Council by signed ballot. The Council welcomed Alex Case for North Ward (Shere & Gomshall) and Marion Taylor-Cotter for South West Ward (Peaslake).

For 2018/19 the precept remained the same and the Council used reserves to maintain and in many areas, increase our spending on the community. This included areas of work normally undertaken by the Borough or County Council. This year 2019/20 the precept was raised by 2.5%. This was largely due to the increase in Parish maintenance and carrying out those works not normally undertaken by a Parish Council but are appreciated by the community.

Three major projects are still in progress by the Parish Council; Peaslake farmyard affordable housing, Shere Pool repairs/renovations, and tourism and traffic.

Peaslake Farm Affordable Housing – The Chairman reported that planning submission will take place very soon. The designs have been approved by both residents and the Council and the plans can be viewed on the website <https://www.shereparishcouncil.gov.uk/peaslake-farm/>. It is hoped that they will be occupied by the end of 2020 or early 2021. If you are interested in renting one of these properties, please register with Guildford Borough Council Housing and complete an expression of interest form found on the above website page.

Shere Pool – There was concern last year that a complete rebuild would be required but after some significant repairs last year, a structural report has confirmed that a re-build is no longer necessary. However, some major works are still required for the pumping, filtration and chemical equipment, including a new extended pump house. The changing rooms also need renovation. A revised application was made to the London Marathon Charitable Trust and the Council has earmarked a donation of £20,000 to the repairs/upgrade, to support this much-loved community asset.

Traffic and Tourism – Traffic and tourism is an ongoing problem for the village of Shere. The Parish Council has argued for more enforcement and traffic wardens has been in the village several times recently. Double yellow lines have been proposed on the non-pavement side of Middle street from the junction of Upper Street and Middle Street to the stream, to improve the flow of traffic over the bridge. This has been agreed by Surrey County Council and Guildford Borough Council and will hopefully be installed this financial year along with a couple of other small areas.

Shere is groaning under the weight of parking from visitors. The extension of the car park is fully utilised and often used by walking groups who would normally have parked at Newland Corner (pre parking charges). Last summer bank holiday there were 170 cars in the village, with all car parks full and this causes some resentment from residents/locals. It is worth remembering that without tourists supporting the local shops, the village would lose facilities.

Below are just some of the projects financed by the Parish Council in 2018/19:

- The catchpit for London Lane, Shere – the Parish Council worked with Surrey County Council to stop debris, mud and water flooding the village during heavy rain – completed 2017/18 paid for 2018/19
- Peaslake Farm Fields – the hedgerows and trees have been cut back and the ditches cleared - completed 2017/18 paid for 2018/19
- The turf on the riverbank in Shere has been renewed again
- Old Fire Station Public Conveniences – storeroom repairs and complete building re-wire
- Tufts were installed on Shere Recreation ground to mark out a track to encourage walking a ‘Shere Mile’
- Donation to renew the floor at Peaslake Village Hall
- Donation for guttering at Holmbury St Mary Village Hall
- Replaced the slide in Shere
- New store of tables for community use
- WWI Book ‘Lest We Forget’ on the lives of the fallen
- Extension to the shared walkway in Peaslake

On a final note, duck numbers have been increased and there are now seven white ducks and two crossbreeds being looked after by wonderful volunteers.

Question by a member of the public

Q Did the traffic wardens comment on the issue of cars parking on pavements?

A Parking on pavements is not legally allowed. It cannot be addressed by traffic wardens and is a police issue. The Police will tolerate it, if enough space is left for a pushchair or wheelchair to fit through between the car and the inside wall. The Parish Council has drafted some notices which will be put on offending cars to attempt to stop the practice of blocking the paths.

A very interesting talk was given by guest speaker: Henry Barnard Lead Ranger for North Downs West Properties The National Trust on the wildlife of the North Downs and the measures the National Trust is taking to improve priority habitats, restoring and creating priority habitats over the next six years and by 2025 having 50% of the National Trust land in High Nature Status. A short question and answer session followed.

For more information on the important works the National Trust are carrying out, please see the following websites:

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/appeal/land-outdoors-and-nature-appeal>

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/abinger-roughs-and-netley-park>

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/bookham-commons>

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/denbies-hillside>