

Shere Parish Council



Shere Parish Council Meeting Held Via Zoom, 4th March 2021

Due to the current Covid-19 Coronavirus situation, the Parish Council is meeting virtually as permitted in “The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (“the 2020 Regulations”)”

MINUTES

Present: Councillors: - R Davey (Chairman), J Hutton, C Carlisle, R Smith, B Andrews, G Reffo, P Carter, M Taylor-Cotter, B Harrap and J Cross

Clerk and RFO: - S Hoyland

Also present were Surrey County Council Councillor K Taylor and one member of the public.

20.189 To accept apologies and reasons for absence in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, s 85(1) (LGA 1972) – Guildford Borough Council Mayor R Billington and Shere Parish Councillors C Brooke and B Grover

20.190 Approved the Minutes of the Council meeting held on [9th February 2021](#) as a correct record (to be signed after zoom meeting)

20.191 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs) Declarations by Councillors on any of the agenda items below in accordance with The Localism Act 2011, ss.27-34 and the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012. (SI 2012 No. 1464). **Councillor C Carlisle declared an interest in item 20.197 (e) Peaslake Water Catchment Feature**

20.192 Brief Report from Surrey County Council (SCC) Councillor K Taylor on matters from Surrey County Council affecting Shere Parish.

On a county level, SCC Councillor K Taylor reported that activities were still dominated by the response to covid-19 and that there was good co-operation between social care and the NHS. There had also been surge testing in some areas. He also reported that the SCC precept had increased by 2.5% and they had avoided a larger increase by cost cutting over the last three years.

On a local level, SCC Councillor K Taylor reported the following:

- Gomshall Lane works would begin on 22nd March 2021
- The Maintenance and Road Safety Budget had been increased in the forthcoming financial year
- Flooding opposite the surgery would be investigated and may require a change to the camber of the road
- Works to the bank on Lawbrook Lane would be financed by the landowner
- The condition of the pavement from Gomshall to Shere would be investigated
- Road Safety Schemes to be carried out included The Holmbury St Mary works, Queen Street virtual path and a reduction to the speed limit on Hound House Road

20.193 Brief Report from Guildford Borough Council (GBC) Councillors on matters from Guildford Borough Council affecting Shere Parish – **no Borough Councillors present**

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20.194 Questions or requests from members of the public to the Council in relation to the business on the agenda or future items for discussion - A member of public asked where the seat on Goose Green had gone and he was informed it was removed due to its condition and memorial seats were not routinely replaced, unless the family of the person who passed away wanted to replace it.

20.195 Coronavirus pandemic

- a) **Noted** [continuation of the use of zoom](#) for council meetings. It was also **Agreed** to defer the Parish Annual Meeting to later in the year, possibly in the Summer in the renovated garden.
- b) to consider any other urgent coronavirus related issues – **None**

20.196 Finance matters

- a) **Approved** income of £4,671.55 and expenditure of £16,550.57 for the month ended February 2021 (Appendix 1)
- b) **Noted** bank reconciliations and statement balances for the month ended February 2021 (Appendix 2)
- c) **Noted** income and expenditure against budget and earmarked reserves to end of February 2021 (Appendix 3)
- d) **Noted** VAT expenditure for February 2021 (Appendix 4)

20.197 To consider the following items and agree resolutions where appropriate:

- a) **Surface Car Park, Shere** – to note progress with GBC over responsibility and repair. **Agreed** to put up a sign saying that the council was aware of the problems with the surface and was in communication with GBC. It was also **Agreed** to wait for GBC to come back to the council with details of repair.
- b) **Website** – to receive [updated specification](#) and consider next move – **Agreed** to ask for updated quote from potential provider and to include options of what information to receive emails about, for members of the public to sign up for.
- c) **National Trust Donation** – to consider request for a donation for works to be carried out on the steps from A25 into woods – **Agreed** to check if it is an official footpath and the responsibility of Surrey County Council and report if appropriate. Also **Agreed** £250 towards the cost from North Ward Funds if required.
- d) **Shere, Christmas Street Party in June** – to note initiative and consider [grant application for road closure](#). It was **Noted** that the date had changed to 4th July 2021 – **Agreed** £150 from North Ward Funds
- e) **Peaslake Water Catchment Feature** – to consider quotes and timing (if appropriate) for a feasibility and impact report – **Agreed** RPS £1,650 + VAT for initial report and to share other flooding information the council holds with RPS
- f) **Peaslake Farm** – to note that the council has received the first draft of the s.106 Agreement and to review and confirm the preferred [criteria for housing allocation](#) **Agreed** the following allocation priority:
 - 1. Peaslake Village
 - 2. Rest of Shere Parish
 - 3. Parishes adjoining Shere, in the Guildford Borough Council Area

It was also **Agreed** to ensure that agreed actual level of rent was clearly included in the s.106 agreement –

“In line with its charitable objective to provide quality housing at a rent level that people on low incomes can afford, Greenoak will charge its Local Policy Rent which shall be no more than 80% of the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) or 125% of the local average social rent. The annual rent increase will be restricted to that required by the housing regulator, currently Homes England, or its successor bodies.

For clarity, the initial rent on first occupation at Peaslake Farm will be;

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1 bed £119 per week (68% of LHA and 121% of social rent)

2 bed £155 per week (70% of LHA and 124% of social rent)

In line with regulatory requirements, annual rent increase will be limited to CPI +1% from 2020 to 2025.”

- g) **Request from the press** to note a request had been received for information regarding council procedures and activities by Guildford Dragon News who were directed to our website and sent the last three years Annual Report and to consider request to submit a 300–500-word article about the parish council for publication – **Agreed** Chairman R Davey to produce draft to be circulated to all councillors before sending.

20.198 To receive report from Byways Working Group meeting - Councillor B Harrap reported that there had been an increase in illegal off-road activity and that Mole Valley Police were aware and were actively pursuing the offenders; tackling the anti-social behaviour, reporting incidents on Facebook and impounding vehicles

20.199 Guildford and Waverley Borough Councils to explore options for closer working – to receive [press release from Guildford Borough Council](#) - **Agreed** to write a letter in support of closer working for the back office procedures between Guildford Borough Council and Waverley, as this was a preferable option to a Surrey wide unitary authority.

20.200 To consider adopting the following policies:

- a) Reviewed and amended [Community Engagement Policy](#) - **Adopted**
- b) [Co-option Policy](#) – **Adopted** subject to the following:
- Removal of “Where the Council wishes to discuss the merits of candidates and inevitable their personal attributes the Council will resolve to exclude the members of the press and public”
 - Add “The candidate must be able to respect confidentiality of certain information and refer to the Clerk if in doubt”
- c) [Council Representation on Outside Bodies Policy](#) - **Adopted**

20.201 Police Matters - to consider any matters that need to be brought to the attention of the Police – It was **Noted** that it had been anonymously reported that white envelopes had been transferred between individuals in the Peaslake Play area and several catalytic converters had been stolen in Holmbury St Mary.

20.202 Clerk’s Report (for noting, delegation to the Clerk or inclusion on the next agenda) – **None**

20.203 Date of next meeting: 7pm Wednesday 7th April 2021 via ZOOM

Meeting Closed 8.37pm