



SHERE PARISH COUNCIL

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

ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021

Chairman's Report

Last year's report began by thanking everyone for their amazing response to the challenges that the pandemic and the lockdown created for us, both as individuals and as a caring community.

Because of the voluntary personal help from 'neighbourhood networks', the individual calls for assistance were met by our wonderful residents, leaving the council to deal with the more overarching activities, such as hygiene, signage, risk assessments etc. Also, anticipated requests for financial help to the two Parish based charity funds, the Village Larder, to which the Parish Council donated £400, and the Henry Smith Fund were less than feared. (For more information about this long established second fund please read the letter enclosed with this annual report).

Although the Parish council was not able to hold face-to-face meetings, zoom meetings and with the sterling home working efforts of the Clerk and Assistant Clerk, all the Parish's normal administration and maintenance work could take place alongside the management of some very abnormal events. The collapse of one of the large willow trees beside the river in Lower Street, and the need to put a fence around the oak tree in the Square to give the tree a chance to 'recover' its strength, were just two unplanned expenditures in the year.

Playground maintenance and improvement is always a significant element of the Parish's ongoing responsibilities – and this last year was no exception. With five well used play areas to look

after there is always something which needs money being spent!

A new small slide, suitable for the youngest children, was added to the equipment at the Shere Recreation Ground play area.



The frame of the junior swings also had to be replaced.



The play tower in the Peaslake playground was inspected and work undertaken to extend its life, by providing additional stability support.

Numerous small maintenance jobs are also undertaken around the play areas throughout the year.

Our Parish, and especially the villages of Shere and Peaslake have had to respond to the physical impact of many more visitors, cyclists and motorists, escaping from their more urban 'locked down' home areas, to enjoy the space, walks and the take away coffees, that our Parish offers.

Responding to this increase in footfall and queues has been costly and changed the look of the centre of Shere. We have had to double the budget for providing toilet facilities because of an enhanced cleaning regime (once it was agreed to reopen them after a period of closure). We have put up and updated on several occasions, more signage and established and rented barriers, to help facilitate safer distancing for residents and visitors, when queuing and moving around the village. We have also recently spent a considerable sum on buying some larger additional litter bins to cope with a huge increase in waste packaging.

We are currently faced, following an extended period of additional car movements, with a car park in need of major repair; responsibility and funding for which, is still being negotiated with Guildford Borough Council.

Another impact of the pandemic must have been the draining of resources from Guildford Planning Department. There can be no other explanation for the total lack of progress on the much-needed affordable housing project on Peaslake Farmyard. The planning application was submitted to the planning department March 2020. Having just been told they are only now completing their report on the plans, even though we have repeatedly pushed for progress on our project, our past frustration at the delays is now best described as incomprehension. Hopefully we will be able to move on with the project shortly.

The events of the last twelve months have thrown into sharp relief the crucial part that Shere Surgery

plays within our community. The Parish Council therefore felt fully justified in using precept funds for two matters not strictly speaking the responsibility of the Parish Council but of importance to the surgery users. Firstly, we agreed some financial support for the establishment of the new dispensing machine. And secondly, whilst it is Surrey County Council who are responsible for the condition and safety of pavements and roads, we agreed to fund the majority of the work in making safe the pavement outside the surgery and addressing the flooding and road erosion in the same area. The pavement work is completed – the work on the drainage and erosion is only partially done as at end of May.



Having solved one path problem we are now preparing to address a second, the path across the swimming pool field, which several people have expressed concerns about. A specification and quotes are being sought and the works will take place shortly.

The Tanyard Hall 'Drop-In centre and Social Hub' project launched in January 2020 and quickly proved itself popular, and fulfilling a clear and valuable contribution towards combatting social isolation in a rural parish. Then came lockdown and isolation for the whole community!

Without being able to bring people physically together for a 'cake and a chat' the Drop-in coordinator was able to maintain contact by phone with many of those who missed the opportunity to meet socially. Thankfully we are

now able to begin connecting people again and have resumed hosting 'coffee and a chat' sessions, initially by invitation only but to be extended as soon as possible.

Having taken the opportunity of the lockdown closure to have work carried out to grass and pave the small river-side area to the side of the Hall, it will be possible when summer actually arrives, to choose whether to socialise inside or outside in the now small private 'garden' we have created.



So, if you are feeling isolated, want the chance to meet and talk with fellow Parish residents, or simply fancy a free coffee why not come along - call 01483 203431 for details.

Roy Davey (Chairman)

Thanks to:

Parish Councillors; Suzanne Hoyland, Parish Clerk & RFO; Samantha Robins, Assistant to the Clerk and our Drop-in Coordinator and Parish Assistant, for their time, hard work and dedication; Mayor Richard Billington, Guildford Borough Councillor (GBC) Diana Jones and Surrey County Councillor (SCC) Keith Taylor for their advice and regular attendance at meetings. The Council wished all the best to Keith Taylor when he stepped down from his position of SCC Councillor and we now welcome Robert Hughes as our new SCC Councillor.

Thanks also to:

David Colebrook for ongoing repairs to the playing field in Peaslake;

Christina Gorsuch and the team and caring for the Shere ducks;

Brian Hilsdon, Christopher Rapley and Graham Rapley, the Council contractors;

Annabel Alford-Warren and her team for their gardening around Shere village.

Parish Council Information

Its role - Shere Parish Council is a non-political Council, unlike some others in the Borough and is entirely voluntary. This means that the Councillors do not claim any remuneration for their work.

Shere Parish is the largest in the area within Guildford Borough. It serves 4 villages: Gomshall, Holmbury St Mary, Peaslake and Shere and a 5th area, being a large part of Abinger Hammer excluding the village centre. The Parish is unique in the amount of land it owns and leases and, in the tourists, and film companies, attracted to it. These influence the Parish greatly in regards to the facilities it is able to offer and the character of the environment it seeks to preserve.

At least nine full Council Meetings are held each year as well as many other Committee meetings. All Council/Committee meetings are open to the public and there is at least one adjournment during each meeting to enable members of the public to ask questions or to address the Council. Meetings are held around the Parish in the village halls. Dates and times of these meetings are published on the village notice boards and on the Council's website. A short report of each Council meeting is published in the Parish magazines and the full Minutes of all recent Council and Committee meetings are available on the Council's website, together with the contact details of individual Councillors.

Routine Services provided by the Parish Council

Much of the Council's work each year involves the management of ongoing services across the Parish and involvement in statutory consultation processes. The Council is a statutory consultee on planning applications in the Parish and liaises with other authorities e.g., Police, Guildford Borough

Council and Surrey County Council. It is also Consultee on a whole range of policy documents from other authorities.

How to contact Shere Parish Council for assistance or information:

Council Office: Tanyard Hall, 30 Station Road, Gomshall, GU5 9LF. Tel: 01483 203431

Email – clerk@shereparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website – www.shereparishcouncil.gov.uk

Please note that correspondence to the Council should be sent to the Clerk, Suzanne Hoyland, at Tanyard Hall.



Shere Parish Council Councillors (as of May 2021):

North Ward (Shere & Gomshall)

Candace Brooke - The Old Netley Mill, Shere Road, Gomshall, GU5 9HA. 01483 203267

candace.brooke@shereparishcouncil.gov.uk

Jonathan Cross - 1 Shere Court, Hook Lane, Shere GU5 9QH. 01483 203443

jonathan.cross@shereparishcouncil.gov.uk

Roy Davey - Fernside, Upper Street, Shere, GU5 9JE. 01483 202443

roy.davey@shereparishcouncil.gov.uk

Brian Grover - Ivy Cottage, Middle Street, Shere, GU5 9HF. 01483 203428

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James Hutton - Netley House, Shere Road, Gomshall, GU5 9QA. 01483 203800

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South East Ward (Holmbury St. Mary & a large part of Abinger Hammer)

Bob Andrews - Ansells Cottage, Pitland Street, Holmbury St. Mary, RH5 6NP 01306 730693

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Christopher Carlisle - Upfolds House, Holmbury Lane, Holmbury RH5 6ND. 01306 621209

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Raymond Smith - 7 Felday Houses, Holmbury St. Mary, RH5 6NJ

raymond.smith@shereparishcouncil.gov.uk

South West Ward (Peaslake)

Paul Carter - 3 Rose Cottages, Ewhurst Road, Peaslake, GU5 9RP. 01306 731616

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Beverley Harrap - Little Orchard, Wonham Way, Peaslake, GU5 9PA. 01306 731009

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Geraldine Reffo - 1 Rose Cottages, Ewhurst Road, Peaslake, GU5 9RP. 01306 775023

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