

## Shere Parish Council



### COUNCIL MINUTES

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024 at Tanyard Hall 30 Station Road, Gomshall GU5 9LF

**Present:** Councillors R Davey (Chair), M Keeble, P Tompkins, B Harrap, J Cross, M Taylor-Cotter, W Esplen, C Carlisle and G Reffo

Guildford Borough Council (GBC) Councillor and Surrey County Council (SCC) Councillor B Hughes arrived with apologies for being late

Seven members of the public

PC Freya Ingram, Safer Neighbourhood team

Clerk & RFO S Hoyland

**24.61 To accept apologies and reasons for absence in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, s 85(1) (LGA 1972) and to consider special dispensation for Councillor B Andrews.**

Councillors J Hutton, B Andrews, T Florent and R Smith. GBC Councillor D Newson

**24.62 Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting held on [4<sup>th</sup> July 2024](#) - Approved and Signed as a Correct Record**

**24.63 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) – **None**

**24.64 Brief Report from Surrey County Council (SCC) Councillor on matters from Surrey County Council affecting Shere Parish – moved to later in the agenda**

**24.65 Brief Report from Guildford Borough Council (GBC) Councillors on matters from Guildford Borough Council affecting Shere Parish – Noted** Councillor D Newson provided an [update](#) prior to the meeting

**24.66 Questions or requests from members of the public to the Council in relation to the business on the agenda or future items for discussion – The following questions were posed by members of the public:**

- When were the double yellow lines (DYLs) going to be installed in Shere and will they be enforced as motorists do not respect them. It was reiterated that the corner by the William Bray Pub in Shere was particularly dangerous. It was **Noted** that the Parish Council tries to improve the situation of dangerous parking and **Agreed** the Clerk would ask for an update timeframe on the DYLs.

Councillor G Reffo arrived

- It was asked that the Peaslake Farm Steering Committee be disbanded until such time the National Policy changed and the parish council had moved away from social housing. This was **Not Agreed** and it was iterated that the council was still in favour of and pursuing Social Housing on Peaslake Farmyard.

GBC & SCC Councillor B Hughes arrived

- Shere Swimming Pool Committee (SSPC) Chair requested that the council review the recommendation for only one year (rather than two) for the green mesh crating path on

## Shere Parish Council

Swimming Pool Field. They explained a formal new path would cost £6,000-£7,000 but the temporary path was only £1,000 and this would allow time to raise funds for the formal path. **Item 24.71 (a) Swimming Pool Field Path** was discussed and it was **Agreed** that SSPC could assume that the temporary surface will be in place for two years to help with disabled access, with a review after one year and if it was not working as expected the council and SSPC would work together on a solution.

- Burrows Lane, Gomshall – it was reported that large amounts of litter was being left in the hedges all up the road and there had been no assistance from GBC and SCC – **Agreed** that the member of the public would email suggestions for a sign, which would be added to the General Purposes Committee in October for consideration.

24.67 **Talk from the police** – local matters and burglary prevention, with questions from the public and councillors- **PC Freya Ingram from the Safer Neighbourhood Team attended** and spoke about the following:

- The main issues in the area were burglaries, tool thefts and bicycle thefts and the police were trying to engage with residents on how they can protect their property
- The police were raising awareness on fraud which was constantly changing and becoming more intelligent

### **The following questions were asked:**

- How does the police deal with littering offences? – Littering was a crime and could be reported but there are not the resources to follow up without evidence such as video or dashcam evidence.
- What is the best way to report suspicious activity? – Call 101 or make a report online
- What method is best to identify a location? – [What3Words](#) was used for locations
- How can the parish council help to spread the word? – the police used Facebook and letterbox drops mostly but were happy to attend events. **Agreed** Clerk to send contact details for the Parish Magazines and information on events they could attend, such as Peaslake Fair and Albury Produce Show.
- What enforcement was available from the police for bad and dangerous parking? – if the highway or paths were being obstructed, the police could issue a ticket, if resources were available.
- HGVs needed to be stopped going through the village – SCC Councillor B Hughes replied that there were some experimental work happening and he had been pushing for a restriction in Shere

The Chair and Councillors thanked PC Ingram for coming along and talking at the council meeting. PC Ingram left the meeting.

**Item 24.64 Brief Report from Surrey County Council (SCC) Councillor on matters from Surrey County Council affecting Shere Parish was now addressed. GBC & SCC Councillor B Hughes Reported the following:**

- The 20mph speed reduction for Gomshall had been confirmed
- He was pushing for the Queen Street fence to be repaired quicker this time as a carpenter had been identified for the previous repair
- The payment for the VAS pole in Holmbury St Mary had been agreed out of Councillors B Hughes allowance
- Hedge cutting was taking place this week
- The Pursers Lane flood scheme had not been currently accepted for the next financial year but Councillor B Hughes was still pushing for it
- Councillor B Hughes was not supportive of the building at the back of Budgens on Queen Street, Gomshall

## Shere Parish Council

- The GBC Financial problem was still huge due to mistakes over the last 3-4 years, with major schemes out of control
- SCC also had a problem with finances, with £2m per day spent on adult social care, £50m extra on roads this year and an increase in special needs education. Reductions were being made where they could.
- SCC were going to have a significant reduction in headcount over the coming year.
- Support was being given to promote the Your Fund Surrey Application for Peaslake School to become a community hub.
- There had been no complaints about school placements this year

**Councillor C Carlisle** asked when the speed reduction of 30mph to 20mph was going to take place in Holmbury St Mary? – SCC Councillor B Hughes replied that he was supportive of it but it would not be quick.

**Councillor W Esplen** asked if there had been any statistics on the effectiveness of the average speed check on Newlands Corner and could it be considered elsewhere, especially in Gomshall to manage the speeding and noise of motorcyclists – SCC Councillor B Hughes replied that it had been effective on Newlands Corner and he had raised the issue of noise from motorcyclists with the Police Commissioner.

**Councillor J Cross** reported the that the changes in road speed from Newlands Corner to Gomshall lead to motorists speeding up past the junction with Coombe Lane, which was very dangerous for vehicles and cyclists pulling out and it would be better for the whole stretch to be 40mph.

**Finally, Councillor B Hughes said that he would ask for parking enforcement to come out to Shere on a Sunday**

Two members of the public left the meeting

### 24.68 Finance Matters 2024/25 July and August 2024

- a) **Approved** income of £12,681.72 and expenditure of £34,116.31 for the month ended July & income of £13,970.97 and expenditure of £19,316.61 for the month ended August 2024 (Appendix 1)
- b) **Approved** of Lloyds Credit Card cashbook transfers and expenditure for July and August 2024 (Appendix 2)
- c) **Noted** bank reconciliations and statement balances (including credit card) for months ended July & August 2024 (Appendix 3)
- d) **Noted** income and expenditure against budget and earmarked reserves to end of August 2024 (Appendix 4) – **Agreed** Clerk to check interest rates on deposits accounts and consider to moving to higher interest accounts
- e) **Noted** VAT expenditure for July 2024 & August (Appendix 5)
- f) Church of St Mary the Virgin, Holmbury St Mary – **Received** [annual accounts](#) and **Agreed** [grant application of £2,479.25](#) and [Treasurer's Report](#) for half the costs of churchyard maintenance for 2024 (Local Government Act 1972 s.214 (6))
- g) **Ratified** payment to Graham Rapley £960 ex VAT to build up the bank at Goose Green. Previously Agreed 7.2.24 Item 23.127 (f) (Public Health Act 1987 s 164; Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9&10)
- h) **Ratified** payment to Trowers and Hamlins £2,600 ex VAT for Legal Work associated with Peaslake Farm Fields Lease.
- i) **Ratified** Rob Arrow £7,230 ex VAT for Gomshall Bus stop (the insurance money has been received for this in March 2024 and Noted at Council 21.3.24 item 23.140 (f)) (Local Government Misc Provisions Act 1953 S. 4)
- j) **Ratified** British Heart Foundation £1,342.50 for Shere Defibrillator (£1,162.50 from donation and £180 for spare pads) (Public Health Act 1936, s234)

## Shere Parish Council

- k) **Ratified** Vodafone, increase from £27.66 ex VAT to £52.98 ex VAT per month for a 24-month contract to renew two staff mobiles Plus £66.99 upfront cost for two devices)
- l) **Readopted** the [Grant Awarding Policy](#)
- m) **Readopted** the [Annual Investment Strategy](#)
- n) Council Insurance – **Agreed** renewal on long term undertaking with the inclusion of insurance for data recovery (subject to cost and agreement by the Chair and Vice Chair)

### 24.69 To consider the following items and agree resolutions where appropriate:

- a) Shere Car Park – **Reviewed** Statistics and it was **Agreed** the charging would continue. Feedback from the charging had been positive and there was no evidence that it had damaged business trade. Ocean had mentioned a loyalty scheme which would potentially link using the car park with discounts etc. from local business – it was **Agreed** to review this scheme when it was available. The [parking account](#) was now on the website. The Residents and Sport Club area was more well used but not full all of the time. It was **Noted** that there was an option to widen the area in the future for more vehicles to park. The carpark income would replenish reserves which had been significantly reduced due to the car park repairs (reserves were always within legal limits) and would be used to refurbish the Old Fire Station public toilets and other projects.
- b) [Dignity at Work](#) – **Reviewed, considered minor amendments in red and Agreed to Readopt**
- c) Safety of Lithium-ion Batteries, E-bikes and Scooters – **Agreed** supporting the campaign by [Ron Bailey](#)
- d) Cleanings Old Fire Station and Tanyard hall – **Agreed** contractor request to increase payment for Tanyard Hall Cleaning from £195 per month to £205 per month and an increase from £650 - £750 per month for Old Fire Station cleaning
- e) New Road Safety Scheme – to consider other areas suitable for a 20mph speed limit using the [updated scheme](#) - Councillor G Reffo requested that Pursers Lane, Peaslake from junction with Burchets Hollow to junction with Hoe Lane is 20mph and the rest of Pursers Lane to Burrows Cross is 30mph – **Agreed** Councillor G Reffo to email SCC Councillor B Hughes with details.
- f) HSM Pitch and Pavilion – to consider proposal for lease – Councillor M Keeble **Reported** that he and the Assistant Clerk, C Lawrence had spoken with both interested clubs and a further site visit had been arranged to discuss details of a head lease and sub lease to accommodate both clubs for youth training and games, working together to ensure the ground is not overused and damaged. It was also **Reported** that a grant may be available for refurbishment of the pavilion. Any lease would ensure the clubs were responsible for all upkeep.

### 24.70 Peaslake Farm Development:

- a) Peaslake Farm Steering Committee – [Approved minutes and Recommendations](#)
- b) **Received** update from meeting with English Rural (ER) and Surrey Community Action and subsequent meeting. It was **Noted** that ER could now see potential in the project. Stonebond, ER and cognition were working on a cost-effective solution to the remediation. The companies were working together within the parameters of the criteria outlined in the Peaslake Steering Committee Minutes above, to see if the project was financially viable. It was also **Noted** that ER stated that Homes England Funding would be available.  
It was **Noted** that there were no Terms of Reference as the parties had been introduced to see if the project could be made viable and there was nothing to communicate to the community at this stage other than the current planning permission was not financially viable. **Agreed** Councillor G Reffo to set out what the flood risks are for the October Full Council meeting.
- c) To consider proposal for Peaslake Farm Site clearance and quotes if appropriate – It was **Agreed** not consider clearing the site until after the current planning permission expires on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – **Agreed** to be reviewed at the January 2025 full council meeting

## Shere Parish Council

- 24.71 General Purposes Committee – [Noted Minutes](#) and considered the following recommendations**
- a) Swimming Pool Field Path – Shere Swimming Pool Committee installing [green plastic mesh](#) (with grass growing through) from the main path to the gate of the Swimming pool for one year to combat the [flooding](#), with review after one year (Pool Committee originally requested two years) – decided earlier in the agenda under questions from the public.
  - b) [Tree Safety & Management Policy](#) – **Reviewed and Readopted**
  - c) Millenium Playground - G. Rapley's quote of £7,530 ex VAT, to replace and repair the areas of wet pour funded from EMR Playground Sinking Fund (Local Gov Act 1976 s. 19) - **Agreed**
- 24.72 Media and Communications Working Group:**
- a) **Received and Approved** [minutes](#)
  - b) **Agreed** [Terms of Reference](#)
  - c) **Agreed** recommendations to full council

SCC Councillor B Hughes **Agreed** to check when the part pedestrianisation of The Square would be taking place. There was concern that the first 6 months of the trial (the consultation period) would be over winter and the full impact would not be felt until after the decision had been made to keep or remove the trial. There was also concern over anti-social behaviour later in the evening with the later activities now taking place at Hilly's.

Councillor G Reffo left the meeting

**24.73 Date of next meeting: 7.30pm Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at Tanyard Hall, 30 Station Road, Gomshall GU5 9LF - Noted**

**24.74 Exclusion of the Public and Press (Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960) – Excluded** the public and press for the following item of business because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

**24.75 Human Resources (HR) Committee:**

- a) to recommend appointment for Assistant Drop-in Coordinator – as per attached confidential appendix – **Agreed**

Meeting closed 9.10pm