

Shere Parish Council



COUNCIL MINUTES

Thursday 6th March 2025, Tanyard Hall 30 Station Road, Gomshall GU5 9LF

Present: Councillors R Davey (Chair), P Tompkins, B Harrap, T Florent, J Hutton, M Keeble, J Cross, R Findlay, Q Jayne, M Taylor-Cotter and G Reffo
Guildford Borough Council (GBC) Councillor and Surrey County Council (SCC) Councillor B Hughes
One member of the public
Clerk & RFO S Hoyland

24.133 To accept apologies and reasons for absence in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, s 85(1) (LGA 1972) - Councillors W Esplen and R Smith. Guildford Borough Council Councillor D Newson

24.134 Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 11th February 2024 – approved and signed as a correct record

24.135 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**

Councillor J Hutton Arrived

24.136 Brief Report from Surrey County Council (SCC) Councillor on matters from Surrey County Council affecting Shere Parish. SCC Councillor B Hughes reported the following:

- The A25 will be resurfaced by Thames Water after the works were completed
- Work is taking place on the flooding issues in the Parish
- Double yellow lines (dyls) on Station Road, Gomshall are being chased together with the request to remove the bus stop by Queen Street to create more on street parking further away from the bend. Chair R Davey asked that the dyls are implemented along with a push for a 20mph limit through Gomshall, while the bus stop issue is being considered
- That he believes that the GBC and SCC will be replaced by one of two Surrey Unitary Authorities by April 2027 and in 2027/2028 a Mayor will be elected for the whole of Surrey. This Unitary Authority was going to include Waverley, Guildford, Surrey Heath, Woking and possibly Elmbridge. Any debt was going to be ringfenced (given a debt holiday). It was confirmed that there would be further talks with the parish councils to outline the partnership with the new Unitary Authority and what devolution will mean to the parish councils
- Supportive of future plans for improving the Old Fire Station Toilets and Shere Surgery

Councillor G Reffo asked SCC Councillor B Hughes the following questions:

- When will the Hoe Lane safety signs be investigated and reported that a local resident was still do the gritting on the road and had bought a sign which had disappeared. SCC Councillor B Hughes replied that he would chase and that the unauthorised sign had probably been removed by Highways

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- When was the Pursers Lane, review of the changing speed limit taking place – SCC Councillor B Hughes replied that these reviews take time
- The ditch on Pursers Lane (Opposite Appletrees) had been cleared but the pipe under the road was too narrow and the flooding had caused the pavement to be destroyed. SCC Councillor B Hughes replied that he would chase the works and look to get the pavement fixed

Councillor R Findlay asked what specific regulation required street lighting for 20mph on 'A' roads and major routes. Clarification is needed as a 20mph is wanted in Holmbury St Mary

24.137 Brief Report from Guildford Borough Council (GBC) Councillors on matters from Guildford Borough Council affecting Shere Parish – No further report was given

24.138 Questions or requests from members of the public to the Council in relation to the business on the agenda or future items for discussion – One member of the public asked again for street cleaning on Sandy Lane by the junction with Pilgrims Way, Shere as the double yellow lines were covered with hard dirt. The Clerk confirmed GBC Street Cleaning had been out and were coming out again. He also asked what was planned for the car park income. The Chair R Davey replied that it had been used to replenish reserves following the resurfacing in the car park and would now be used for future projects including the Old Fire Station public toilets refurbishment and possibly a lift for Tanyard hall to further expand the Drop-in centre. It was Noted that the Shere Parish Council Strategic 5-Year Plan was being updated in the May Management and Strategy Working Group Meeting.

24.139 Finance Matters 2025 – February 2025

- a) **Approved** income of £8,406.10 and expenditure of £16,594.97 for the month ended February 2025 ([Appendix 1](#))
- b) **Approved** of Lloyds Credit Card cashbook transfer & cashback of £558.90 and expenditure of £458.30 for February 2025 ([Appendix 2](#))
- c) **Noted** bank reconciliations and statement balances (including credit card) for month ended February 2025 ([Appendix 3](#))
- d) **Noted** income and [expenditure against budget](#) and [earmarked reserves](#) to end of February 2025 ([Appendix 4](#))
- e) **Noted** VAT expenditure for February 2025 ([Appendix 5](#))
- f) Earmarked Reserves 2025/26 – considered and **Agreed** figures for the forthcoming financial year with the addition of a code for the income from exclusive use of Holmbury St Mary carpark, earmarked for maintenance ([appendix 6](#))
- g) **Ratified** use of the EMR Play Areas Sinking Fund for the rest of the financial year for play area repairs ([Play Areas Maintenance](#) & [Play Areas - Repair & Replace](#))

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

- a) Shere Open Gardens – to consider the request to make the Shere car park free for the day – **Not Agreed**
- b) to consider [proposed Peaslake Farm public update](#) drafted by the Chairman (postponed from the February meeting) – **Agreed** - Voted in favour Councillors R Davey, P Tompkins, B Harrap, J Hutton, M Keeble, J Cross, Q Jayne and M Taylor-Cotter. Voted Against Councillors G Reffo, T Florent. Councillor R Findlay abstained. Councillor T Florent read [a short statement](#)
- c) Part pedestrianisation of The Square Shere - **Noted** the [consultation on the Experimental Prohibition of Motor Vehicles online survey](#) was live for feedback until the deadline on the 28th August 2025 – Councillors expressed alarm over the size of the planters and the intended bike rack/racks and asked SCC Councillor B Hughes to investigate. Councillors were also concerned about how residents would know about the consultation and deadline. Clerk replied the link (above) was on the council website and would be on the council's social media.

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- d) Franksfield Bridleway (179) – **Noted** condition and that SCC Rights of Way were aware of the work needed but were unable to action it until potentially 2026/27. Therefore, **Agreed** to instruct the contractor Graham Rapley at a cost of £320 ex VAT (Highways Act 1980 SS 43 50)
- e) To consider use of Peaslake Farmyard for refreshments for volunteers carrying out hedging on the 8th March 2025 (with risk assessment, buildings to be taped off with signage & person to monitor activity in the yard during works) - **Agreed** yard only for refreshments van and pedestrian access via the field (as with Peaslake Fair), with sign saying no access to the yard. **Delegated to Councillor G Reffo** to relay the information to Coverwood Farm and to ensure an adequate Risk Assessment is provided ahead of use.
- f) To consider signs for Peaslake Steps to ask dog owners to pick up after their dogs and a new bin at the bottom of the steps – extra bin **Not Agreed**. **Agreed** discreet sign on existing bin saying, 'There's no such thing as the Dog Poo fairy – Bin it!'
- g) **Noted** the lease to the Dorkinians for HSM Pitch and Pavilion has been completed
- h) **Agreed** (as long as the cables are buried deep enough for safety) wayleave for Broadband for the Surrey Hills (B4SH) across the Skudges to provide broadband to the school
- i) To consider [CloudyIT Gov Assist AI for councils](#) – **Agreed** subject to confirmation of Data Protection and Security

24.141 General Purposes Committee – [Received minutes](#) and considered the following recommendations:

- a) **Agreed** readoption of the following policies:
 - [Health and Safety Policy](#)
 - [Terms of Reference](#)
 - [Risk Management Policy and Risk Register](#)
 - [Environment Policy](#)
- b) **Reviewed & Agreed** (subject to any comments from the Holmbury St Mary Councillors) the amended (as necessary) Tenders for:
 - [Grass Cutting and Larger Projects](#)
 - [Routine Maintenance](#)
 - [Old Fire Station Toilets Cleaning](#) (subject to review post refurbishment)
 - [Tanyard Hall Cleaning](#)

24.142 Media & Communication Committee – **Agreed** Councillors M Taylor-Cotter and R Davey for short video and on suggested topic – Part pedestrianisation of The Square, Shere

24.143 Date of next meetings:

1. **Annual Parish Meeting (with guest speaker & refreshments) 8pm Thursday 3rd April 2025** at Tanyard Hall, 30 Station Road, Gomshall GU5 9LF.
2. **Next Full Council Meeting 7.30pm Tuesday 6th May 2025** Tanyard Hall, 30 Station Road, Gomshall GU5 9LF.

Meeting Closed 8.47pm