

**MEETING OF WEST HORSLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

**Present**

Chairman, Cllr E Best; Cllrs M Beynon, V Buosi, F King, T Rogers, G Murray; Borough and Parish Cllr C Young; County Cllr C Cross; Borough Cllr C Barrass. Also present: Locum Clerk Mrs J Cadman; Clerk Designate Mrs J McClung; one resident.

**21.135 Chairman's Opening Comments**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, reminding them that Parish Council meetings are meetings in public, not public meetings. She advised that the meeting would be recorded for the purpose of the minutes, and that the recording would then be destroyed.

The Chairman said it had been an extraordinarily busy month for the Parish Council, including meetings with West Horsley Place and Sir Paul Beresford MP, along with a significant number of planning issues to address. She was delighted to see the Youth Council up and running and was looking forward to attending the delayed West Horsley in Bloom Awards on 24<sup>th</sup> July. She expressed her gratitude to all the judges, organisers and participants of this event.

**21.136 Apologies**

Cllrs A Graham and S Newman

**21.137 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Rogers declared a personal interest in 21.146 (a) with reference to Manor Farm as the landowner is a friend.

Cllr Murray declared a personal interest in 21.146 (a) with reference to Manor Farm as he lives close to the development site.

**21.138 Amendments to Register of Interests**

Cllr King declared that she is now the Chairman of the West Horsley Village Hall Management Committee and will amend her Register of Interests.

**21.139 Declaration of Gifts/Hospitality over £25**

None were made.

**21.140 Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting**

One amendment was requested at 21.117 Appointment of Clerk – to note that 'all were in favour with one abstention'. The minutes, with this amendment, were approved by the full council and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

*The meeting was adjourned to take comments from the floor.*

County Cllr Colin Cross: Informed the meeting that there is no ongoing dialogue between outgoing and incoming county councillors – so he has nothing except open files to work from. He expressed an interest in the work being done by the Horsley Country Preservation Society to improve the Jubilee Walk and the Chairman agreed to update him on the project.

Cllr Cross asked if there had been any further reports of lorries going down residential roads, following the numerous complaints received from residents. He was advised that the Council has written to all developers urging them to follow their Transport Management Plans. A meeting will be arranged to update Cllr Cross further.

Cllr Cross also agreed to meet with the Grants Task Group to discuss funding for developing proposals for Your Fund Surrey.

Borough Cllr Barrass: Using the Manor Farm application as an example, Cllr Barrass noted that once a site is assigned in a Local Plan it is no longer a question of 'if' but 'how' it will be developed. He felt that the officers often come with a report and that not sufficient time is given to consider the opinions of those opposing the application. It was agreed that this would be discussed later in meeting.

*The meeting was reconvened.*

**21.141 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk advised that all current items were being dealt with by the agenda.

**21.142 Significant Correspondence Received Since the Last Council Meeting**

On 21<sup>st</sup> June, on behalf of the villages of West and East Horsley, a letter was sent to Sir Paul Beresford MP inviting him to see first-hand the effect the Local Plan and our removal from the Green Belt is having on our villages; along with the devastating impact lorries are having on our lanes, roads, verges, and daily living. On 17<sup>th</sup> July, a constructive meeting was held (in attendance were Sir Paul Beresford MP; the Chairman, Cllrs Young and Murray from West Horsley; and Chairman, Cllr R Taylor from East Horsley. Three key themes were considered:

- i) volume of development, decimation of rural character and loss of Green Belt;
- ii) lack of infrastructure for the scale of development;
- iii) lack of weight and recognition given to Neighbourhood Plans.

Sir Paul has agreed to set up a meeting with the leader of Guildford Borough Council as quickly as possible to discuss the above. Cllr Barrass suggested that Dawn Hudd, Strategic Services Director at Guildford Borough Council, also be invited to the meeting.

**21.143 Appointment of Deputy Clerk**

Members considered the recommendation in the briefing note, and resolved to:

- i) approve the appointment of Mrs Jane McKenzie as Deputy Clerk with effect from 18<sup>th</sup> August 2021;
- ii) support a period of induction and initial training over the following months.

**21.144 Annual Parish Meeting 2022**

Contact will be made with other Parish organisations to find a suitable date for the next Annual Parish Meeting, hopefully avoiding any clashes. A date, either before 12<sup>th</sup> April or after Easter, will be confirmed at the next meeting.

**21.145 Financial Matters**

- a) Standing items: list of payments at the previous meeting and proposed payments were approved by full council at this meeting.
- b) Members confirmed the bank reconciliation to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.
- c) Members received the report of expenditure to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and were informed that outstanding \$106 funds would be paid into the account in the next few days.
- d) Members approved moving the balance of earmarked reserves in relation to the Toilet Project into general reserves.

- e) Members approved the purchase of recording equipment for the purpose of accurate minuting of meetings, up to a maximum cost of £150 + VAT.

## 21.146 Planning Matters

### 20/P/02067 Manor Farm

GBC's Planning Committee approved the application on 14<sup>th</sup> July – eight in favour, six against. Members thanked resident Guy Murray, Cllrs Young, Barrass, Cross and Anderson, for speaking against the application, and for expressing the views of residents so clearly. It was reported that the Parish Council has since been contacted by a number of residents asking what the next steps will be, with the possibility of a judicial review being discussed around the village. The Chairman said there would need to be very strong grounds for this to be successful. But to leave things as they are would be insufficient. She said there are three options: 1) do nothing; 2) seek legal advice to see if we have grounds for a judicial review; or 3) write a formal letter of complaint.

The Chairman proposed that the Council seek legal advice in order to make an informed, not emotional, decision. This would then still allow time to write a formal letter of complaint if appropriate. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Beynon. Members agreed to seek legal advice.

- a) **GBC Planning Applications and Decisions** received since the previous meeting up to the Wednesday before this meeting. See [www.guildford.gov.uk/planning](http://www.guildford.gov.uk/planning) for more information.

#### Planning Applications Considered from 10<sup>th</sup> June to 14<sup>th</sup> July:

The Planning Task Group has reviewed all applications under delegated authority and recommend the following, all of which were ratified as presented:

20/P/02067 Manor Farm: Objection sent \*  
21/P/01185 Round tree Farm: No objection\*  
21/P/01196 Round Tree Farm: Objection sent\*  
21/P/01206 Round Tree Farm: Objection sent\*  
21/P/01219 Shere Cottage: No comment  
21/P/01236 Syderstone: Comment sent  
12/P/01198 Land at Britains Farm: Objection sent\*  
21/P/00980 Woolgars Farm: No comment  
21/P/01190 Thelland: Comment sent  
21/T/00203 42 The Street: No comment

\* These planning applications were validated by Guildford Borough Council shortly after the June meeting. Extensions to the Neighbour Consultation Date were requested but refused by GBC. Responses were therefore drafted by the Planning Task Group and shared with all councillors via email for their consideration and acceptance or otherwise before submission. A show of hands at the meeting confirmed that all councillors were in agreement with the objections sent out and thereby agreed to ratify each decision.

#### Decisions Reported by Guildford Borough Council from 10<sup>th</sup> June to 14<sup>th</sup> July:

21/P/00989 Westbury: Approved  
21/P/00970 20 The Street: Refused  
21/P/00687 Pycroft: Approved  
21/P/00326 Shere Cottage: Refused  
21/P/00169 Fox Hollow: Refused  
21/P/00965 West Winds: Approved

- b) **Enforcements** Nothing to report as the list of enforcements had not been received prior to the meeting.

**Local Plan** Persimmon is expected to put an application in on 23<sup>rd</sup> July for land at Ockham Road. It was reported that to date, it was believed pre-application advice from Guildford had not been sought.

**TPOs / Listed Buildings** Nothing to report.

- c) **Wisley** The Planning Task Group recommended Members to approve the sourcing of specialist planning expertise to assist in its consideration of the latest proposed Wisley development. It was reported that there are currently funds available in reserves for this. East and West Horsley intend to respond individually, as the Parishes have different issues regarding the impact of the development. The Members approved the sourcing of planning expertise.

#### 21.147 **Policies**

Members considered four policies, with all in favour as follows:

- a) Document Retention – approved as presented
- b) Data Protection – approved subject to clarification on appropriate wording for data collected and sent via Mailchimp.
- c) Equal Opportunities – approved as presented
- d) Recording of Public Meetings – approved as presented

#### 21.148 **Noticeboards**

Members considered and approved a quote in the sum of £420 for the removal of the old noticeboards and the installation of the new ones.

#### 21.149 **Request for fireworks**

West Horsley Place has asked for permission to write to the Parish Council to discuss the possibility of an annual event in the grounds of the House that would close with a fireworks display. This was granted.

#### 21.150 **Surrey Hills Champion**

Members considered and approved annual membership of £25 and agreed that the new Deputy Clerk would take responsibility for communications.

#### 21.151 **Christmas Newsletter**

Members considered a proposal for a Christmas newsletter published jointly with East Horsley. Members agreed in principle that the project is worth exploring further. Concerns about the workload for a 2021 issue were expressed, along with the need to carefully retain the individuality of the two villages whilst recognising common interests. Members agreed to review the proposal with a 2022 issue in mind.

#### 21.152 **Photography Competition**

West Horsley Youth Council is running this project. There will be two age categories – 10 to 14s, and 15 to 18s. The competition will run from 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> August. The judging panel will include local photographer Rex Butcher, Clare Clinton (WHP), Elaine Best (WHPC), and one member of the Youth Council. The theme will be 'Tranquillity & Peace'. All entries to be made available for display.

Members considered and approved the sum of £150 for cash prizes.

#### 21.153 **Task Group Updates**

- a) **Community Events and Wellbeing:** Reported that the West Horsley in Bloom Awards ceremony will take place on 24<sup>th</sup> July at the Village Hall and plans are underway for this year's Teddy's Bear's Picnic in the Village Orchard on 12<sup>th</sup> September.
- b) **Asset Management:** Reported they have interviewed three contractors about the refurbishment of the tennis court, with the addition of lighting. The Group will present its full recommendation at the next meeting.

- c) Roads: Nothing to report.
- d) Communications: Reported it is drafting new working policies on online communications; and that it has a Gigabit update meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> July with Openreach.
- e) Personnel: Nothing to report.
- f) Youth Council: The Council is up and running and very enthusiastic with many plans for the next 12 months. They are getting their own noticeboard.
- g) Climate: The Group has a list of residents to approach to join the task group. They would like to work with the Youth Council. They are also exploring the BLUE Campaign and the TerraCycle scheme. East Horsley is keen to work with them.

Review of courses – Cllr Newman is tracking all the courses.

**21.154 Action Log**

Members agreed to defer this item to the next meeting as it is being reviewed by the Locum and Designate Clerks. All agreed.

**21.155 Other Village Matters**

It was noted that our Community Police Officer has been doing the rounds visiting properties. Members agreed that they should write a letter of thanks.

Surrey Hills is looking to extend the boundaries of the AONB. It was suggested and agreed that a speaker on this subject be sought for the Annual Parish Meeting (30 mins + 30 mins Q&A).

**21.156 Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021, 7.30pm in the Cedar Room, West Horsley Village Hall. The Chairman ruled that only essential items would be discussed.

The meeting was closed at 8.54pm.