

Minutes of the Meeting held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 17th January 2023
Cedar Room, West Horsley Village Hall

Present

Chairman Cllr E Best; Cllrs M Beynon, P Colborne-Baber, F King, G Murray, T Rogers; County Cllr C Cross; Borough & Parish Cllr C Young; Borough Cllr C Barrass; J McClung, Clerk; one youth councillor; eight residents.

23.001 **Chairman's Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, reminding them that Parish Council meetings are meetings in public, not public meetings.

22.002 **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs P Dodgson, V Buosi; Borough Cllr T Anderson; J McKenzie, Deputy Clerk

23.003 **Declarations of Interest; Amendments to Register of Interests; and Declarations of Gifts and/or Hospitality over £25**

- Cllr Young declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of Guildford Borough Council in respect of planning matters in 23.015.
- Cllr King and Cllr Best declared an interest in 23.007 d).

23.004 **Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting *Appendix 1***

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2022 were approved by the full council and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

Public Forum (*meeting adjourned to allow visitors to make comments*)

County Cllr Cross

- Heavy rainfall combined with large potholes which are now under water has resulted in a serious situation on the roads in the area. The RAC and AA won't attend vehicles caught in flooded roads. Cllr Cross is pushing Surrey County Council (SCC) for action, but they are unable to cope. Ockham Road North is closed due to flooding – believed to be partly due to felling of trees for the A3/M25 junction. Highways England has a diversion planned via Forest Road from 20th Jan, but the road is currently closed due to a sinkhole. There is a lack of communication between operators. Cllr Cross is putting pressure on SCC on a daily basis. He will attend the Parish Council's Roads Task Group meeting on 18th January.

Borough Cllr Young

- Farmers Market is closing as attendance and organisers have dwindled. GBC holding event on 9th Feb for anyone considering becoming a councillor at the May elections. Attended a Bridge End Farm planning meeting (Wisley).

Members of the Public

- Gritting – East Lane is a priority one road and should be gritted. The Street, close to A246, is also very icy. Long Reach is also very icy due to recent flooding.
- School Lane Parking – Since Nov 2022 some residents have been subject to harassment, anti-social behaviour and vandalism to vehicles (reported to Surrey Police). Police say it is a matter for the Council to resolve. The lack of parking in School Lane means cars have to be left in Overbrook or on The Street. Would like allocated/residents parking to be introduced. Cllr Young has already reached out to GBC and SCC about this matter. GBC has asked residents to log any incidences, and to formally log the matter with the Parish Council. The matter will be discussed at the PC Roads TG meeting this week.

Chairman's Initials: _____

- Flooding - The gullies at Ripley Lane need to be cleared. Water is flooding out over the road and will now be freezing. Roads Task Group to discuss on 18th January. Long Reach is also really bad, with too much water coming off the fields. Is the section of ditch outside your home your responsibility? Roads Task Group will fact-check.

23.005 **Clerk's Report**

- Oak tree on the Village Green has been inspected and is in excellent health.
- New noticeboard at the Village Hall has been installed. Any hall hirers wishing to advertise their classes/events should email flyers to the Village Hall Manager at whvhbooking@gmail.com
- There have been several burglaries in West Horsley in the last few days.
- The Deputy Clerk has asked Taylor Wimpey to make sure its works entrance on Ockham Road South is secure to ensure no further fly-tipping on site.

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

Residents frustrated and concerned by the ongoing flooding, potholed and dirty roads, and road closures. What is GBC and Surrey Highways doing about this? Can the Parish Council confirm it is tackling the issue? And what can residents do to support? This will be further discussed at the Roads Task Group meeting on 18th January.

23.007 **Financial Matters**

- Standing items: A list of proposed payments was approved by Full Council at this meeting. A list of payments authorised at the previous meeting was noted. *Appendix 2*
- Members received the bank reconciliation to 31st December 2022. *Appendix 3*
- Members received a report on expenditure against budget to 31st December 2022. *Appendix 4*
- Members agreed to move to monthly invoicing for village hall bookings from 1st April 2023, which will make monitoring spend against budget much easier.
- Members were informed that the Council's General Reserves are lower than recommended, that several projects with Earmarked Reserves are complete, and others have greater funds than are now required. Members approved the transfer of funds from several Ear Marked Reserves to General Reserves. *Appendix 5*

23.008 **Opening of Additional Savings Account** *Appendix 6*

The Council's savings are currently greater than the £85,000 that is protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. Members received and approved a briefing note recommending a Community Savings Account be opened with the Skipton Building Society.

23.009 **Prospective Councillors Event**

At the next local elections (May 4th) the Parish Council will increase from nine to 11 councillors. Members agreed to host an information event for prospective councillors. The event will take place from 6.45-7.20pm on Tuesday 21st February, in the main hall. The chairman will give a short presentation following by any questions. Attendees will then be invited to attend the Parish Council meeting.

23.010 **Village Garden Party / Sunflower Project** *Appendix 7*

Members received and approved a briefing note on the proposed level of contribution the Council should make towards the Sunflower Project and the (cancelled) Village Garden Party. It was agreed that £1660.05 would be paid towards the costs of these community events.

23.011 **WHPC Community Grants Scheme** *Appendix 8*

Members received a recommendation from the Finance Committee that an application for £1500 from the West Horsley Place Trust should be approved, so long as an audit report can be provided. The grant will contribute towards essential repairs to the historic cast iron guttering at the house, enabling the Trust to leave historic examples in situ.

Chairman's Initials: _____

23.012 **Subscriptions and Memberships 2023/24** *Appendix 9*

Members agreed to renew the following subscriptions/memberships for 2023/24:

- SALC – Surrey Association of Local Councils
- NALC – National Associations of Local Councils
- SLCC – Society of Local Council Clerks
- ALCC – Association of Local Council Clerks
- CPRE – Campaign to Protect Rural England
- SHS - Surrey Hills Society
- GRA - Guildford Residents Association
- LGBC - London Green Belt Council
- GEF - Guildford Environmental Forum

23.013 **Planting of Seven Trees at Nightingale Crescent**

- a) The trees will be planted as soon as the ground thaws. They were originally requested by Crescent residents and will be funded by the Parish Council via its Akerman Bequest fund. Cllr Young has liaised closely with residents and Guildford Borough Council to bring this project to fruition.
- b) Members agreed to purchase/install a plaque to mark the planting of these trees as part of The Queen’s Green Canopy. Cost not to exceed £200.

23.014 **Calendar of Events for 2023** *Appendix 10*

Members received a draft calendar of council-led community events for 2023. Purpose of events is to have contact with community members of all ages. The Community Events Task Group will confirm dates at the next meeting.

23.015 **Planning & Environment Committee Update** *Appendix 11*

Members received a report on Planning & Environment Committee meetings held since the previous Council meeting.

23.016 **Finance Committee Update** *Appendix 12*

Members received a report on Finance Committee meetings held since the previous Council meeting.

23.017 **Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday 14th March**

Members were informed that a guest speaker from Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) has been confirmed and that a local resident nurse has also agreed to run defibrillator demonstrations in the Cedar Room in the hour preceding the meeting. Members agreed the running order as follows:

- 6-7pm Defibrillator Demonstrations in the Cedar Room
- 7-8pm APM – Chairman’s Report; SFRS Talk; Q&A
- 8-9pm Drinks

23.018 **Umpire Chair**

Members agreed to purchase a wooden umpire chair for the refurbished tennis court at Long Reach. Cost not to exceed £750.

23.019 **Task Group Updates**

Asset Management, Road Safety & Village Appearance:

- Warden is to install shelving in the storage container. A padlock has been provided. The clerk has the keys.
- SCC has promised to return to the village with an engineer to walk the roads to look the condition of pavements/roads and as well as signage and speed limits.

Chairman’s Initials: _____

Climate Change:

- Hedgerow planting in December was a great success. Looking to organise another day soon.
- Next event will be in early March.

Communications:

- Councillors were reminded to draft and forward copy on any news items to Cllr Dodgson who is editing the first edition of the Council’s e-bulletins.

Community Events & Wellbeing:

- Nothing further to report.

Personnel:

- Nothing to report.

Special Projects:

- Nothing to report.

Youth Council:

- Tennis tournament is unlikely to take place this year. Council recommends Youth Council run this event in 2024.
- Organising a Fun Run – Horsley Hustle – which will be hosted by West Horsley Place on 4th June. Full details to be fleshed out in the coming weeks.
- Recruitment drive being planned. Looking for three or four new councillors.

23.020 **Other Matters**

None were raised.

23.021 **Date of the Next Full Council Meeting**

7.30pm on Tuesday 21st February at West Horsley Village Hall. This will be preceded by a Prospective Councillors Information Event which will start at 6.45pm.

The meeting was closed at 8.49pm.

Signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record:

Date:

Chairman’s Initials: _____