

**MINUTES OF THE SHERE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY 30th NOVEMBER 2012 AT
8.00 P.M. IN TANYARD HALL, 30 STATION ROAD, GOMSHALL**

Present: Parish Councillors R. Newman (Chairman), R. Andrews, C. Brooke, B. Cohen, J. Hutton, S. Nielson, R. Smith, M. Taylor Cotter, J. Tenner, M. Urban, the Clerk Mrs L. Childs, County Councillor K. Taylor, Borough Councillor D. Wright, Hon. Alderman K. Childs and eight members of the public.

12/113 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Parish Councillors C. Carlisle, R. Davey, D. Hall and Borough Councillor R. Billington.

12/114 Delegation of authority to the Clerk of the Council to grant a dispensation - the Council **DELEGATED** to the Clerk (Local Government Act 1972 section 101) authorisation to grant a dispensation to those Councillors living in the Parish of Shere who had requested, in writing, the granting of a dispensation in order that they may make decisions on the setting of the budget and the issuing of a Precept for the year 2013/14. The dispensations have been made necessary due to the inadvertent abolishment of the relevant Act of Parliament which allowed this when it was replaced by the Government's Localism Act recently.

12/115 Dispensations – the Clerk notified the Council that she had **RECEIVED** and **GRANTED** requests for dispensations in respect of the following parish councillors – R. A. Andrews, C. Brooke, B. Cohen, R. Davey, D. Hall, J. Hutton, S. Nielson, R. Smith, M. Taylor Cotter, J. Tenner, M. Urban.

12/116 Declarations of Interest – Declarations of disclosable pecuniary and other interests from Members in respect of any item to be considered at the meeting – **NO DECLARATIONS** of Interest were made.

12/117 Register of Disclosable Interests (Members were reminded that any amendments must also be notified by Councillors in writing to the Monitoring Officer, Guildford Borough Council, Millmead, Guildford. GU2 4BB so that they may be added to the Register). **NO AMENDMENTS** were disclosed.

12/118 Declaration of gifts or hospitality over £25. (Members were reminded that once a declaration of gifts or hospitality has been made then the Monitoring Officer of Guildford Borough Council must be informed). **NO DECLARATIONS** were made.

12/119 The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th October 2012 were **APPROVED** and **SIGNED** by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

12/120 Retirement of the Clerk/RFO - The Chairman informed those present that this Council meeting would be the Clerk's last as she is to retire at the end of the year after 23 years' service to the Council. He presented the Clerk with a bouquet of flowers on his own behalf. A retirement party will be arranged by the Council in due course.

SHORT ADJOURNMENT TO ENABLE THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL.

The following matters were raised:

- Concern was expressed over the frequent blocking of Bentley Bottom, Hound House Road often for some considerable time by transporters on their way to the car business in Ewhurst. The assistance of the Police will be sought.
- Recent filming in Shere – a member of the public felt that more notice of the filming should have been given to those living outside the village of Shere perhaps by way of a flyer being placed in the daily papers bought from the Co-op in Shere. Queries were raised as to whether the amount received by various individuals and organisations in Shere justified the amount of upset caused.

The meeting restarted.

12/121 Recent filming in Shere - the Council discussed the filming instead of waiting for this item to be reached on the agenda. The Clerk informed the meeting that £4,000 had recently been received by the Parish Council and other donations had been given to local residents, the Church, Shere School, Village Hall and some charities. A suggestion was made that any film monies received should be used for the benefit of all the villages in the Parish. However, the Clerk stated that the Council would be unlikely to receive funds if it was felt that the money was not being used for the benefit of the village that the film crew disrupted. She reminded Councillors that the public had in fact been consulted as to possible uses of the money received from the filming of 'The Holiday' and the two major suggestions were the repair of a bridleway between Shere and Gomshall and improvements to the land around the war memorial. She also stated that the Film Company would be returning for one day on 15th December.

The Council was advised of the filming policies of Surrey County Council, Oxfordshire County Council and Guildford Borough Council. It was felt that the latter could be improved and a suggestion will be made regarding this.

12/122 Police Matters

- The Clerk **REPORTED** that Surrey Police had stated that they have identified a male that they wish to speak to in relation to the shed burglaries in Peaslake and there are ongoing positive lines of enquiries. They stated that the Police had managed to identify the individual following a call from a member of the public regarding suspicious behaviour.
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- The Council was **INFORMED** that a resident of Holmbury St. Mary had two dogs stolen from their vehicle recently when this was parked outside the Parrott Inn in Forest Green. One dog had been abandoned in Kent and had now been returned to the owner. However, the other dog was still missing. A warning to residents will be included in the Council's Parish magazine report.

12/123 Goose Green, Gomshall

- The Council **GRANTED** a request from the owners of Downs View to create a separate drive and entrance to Downs View now that the neighbouring property is up for sale (there is a shared drive at present as both properties have been currently owned by family members).
- The Council **GRANTED** a request from the Holmbury and Westcott Wolves Football Club to train and play 7 a-side matches on Goose Green for the under 8, 9 and 10's on a Saturday morning. Discussions will be held regarding the maintenance of the pitch.

12/124 Purchase of Manorial Waste Land, Holmbury St. Mary – the Council was **INFORMED** that the solicitor is at present trying to sort out the position regarding the Mast.

12/125 River Bank, Ewhurst Road, Peaslake

- The Clerk informed the Council that she had not yet been advised by Bray Estates' agent of the exact properties that had entered into agreements covering access to the river bank. She had also requested a copy of the legal easement relating to Rangers Cottage but this had not yet been received.
- The Council **CONFIRMED** the locations for the planting of several trees on the river bank and **GRANTED PERMISSION** to local residents to plant these so that the trees can be place to celebrate the end of the Diamond Jubilee Year.

12/126 Field adjacent to Shere Swimming Pool – the Council **ACCEPTED** an estimate from G. Rapley in the sum of £2,900 plus VAT for works to the path across the Swimming Pool Field. Mr Hutton will liaise with Mr Rapley prior to the work being carried out.

12/127 Housing Policy – the Council **DISCUSSED** the impact of the Welfare Reform Act 2012 with particular reference to under occupation (bedroom tax). Following concerns raised by one local resident the Council thanked David Wright and Richard Billington for the helpful information received and for seeking extra assistance from the Borough Council to enable the resident to better understand the new regulations. Further requests for support from the Parish Council will be considered on a case by case basis.

12/128 War Memorial, Peaslake – it was **RESOLVED** not to carry out any work to enhance the lettering on the War Memorial.

12/129 Surrey Association of Local Councils – nomination of new members – **NO NOMINATIONS** were received from Councillors.

12/130 Plans for a new monthly cinema in Shere – the Council considered a letter from a local resident requesting advice on the administrative structure and the acquiring of finance. The Council was informed that a similar project in Peaslake was abandoned due to lack of customers but the one started in Chiddingfold village had been very successful. The Council **SUPPORTED** the project in principle. A business plan will be requested.

12/131 Peaslake School – the Council **AGREED TO SUPPORT**, via a web site survey, the proposal that Peaslake School becomes a Free School in September 2013.

12/132 Walkfest 2013 – The Council was **DELIGHTED** to learn that Mr. Roy Davey was interested in the activities of Walkfest and had offered to organise the Shere Parish Walk for the summer of 2013. His offer was **ACCEPTED**.

12/133 Recent Filming in Shere Village – This agenda item was considered near the beginning of the meeting.

12/134 Community Right to Bid – the Council was informed that communities can now apply to get a range of local assets registered as ‘assets of community value’. Once registered, should a registered asset of community value go up for sale, legally communities will have 6 weeks to express an interest in taking on the asset and fulfilling some of the criteria. If approved they will then have 6 months during which the asset cannot be sold to anyone to enable communities to develop plans and raise finance. **Agenda item for the next meeting.**

12/135 School/College visits to Shere – the Council **DECIDED NOT TO PASS THE RESPONSIBILITY** for granting visits to the Swimming Pool field to Shere Museum as the Council would still require risk assessments wherever possible and remain responsible for the visits to the field/stream.

12/136 Clerk’s Report (for noting, delegation to the Clerk or inclusion on the next agenda). The following matters were raised:

- The Council was very pleased to learn that the picture stolen from Tanyard Hall some time ago had been left on the doorstep earlier in the week.
- Ash Tree Disease – further information available from Surrey County Council and the Forestry Commission. The Parish Maintenance Committee to consider this matter further in due course.
- B 2126 speed restrictions – notification of the proposed imposition of a 40 m.p.h. on certain lengths of the B 2126 has now been received.
- The Council was advised that the Clerk had recently submitted a tree application to Guildford Borough Council’s Planning Department for permission to reduce by 40% a Willow tree on the Shere car park as it was felt that the shedding of branches could be a danger to vehicles and/or pedestrians.
- Planting of tree at the junction of Gomshall Lane and the Shere Road – Dr. Brooke and Mr. Hutton kindly offered to arrange this event.

12/137 Councillors’ Business (for noting, delegation to the Clerk or inclusion on the next agenda). The following matters were raised:

- The Council was informed that there had been eight power cuts in Gomshall recently, three of which had been for some considerable time. The Council **DELEGATED** authority to the Clerk to write to UK Power Networks and EDF Energy.
- The Council was **DELIGHTED** to learn that the Lord of the Manor Mrs Handa Bray was now out of hospital after her recent illness. A card will be sent to her from the Council.
- Flooding outside Pursers Farm Barn, Peaslake – concern **TO BE EXPRESSED** once again to Surrey County Council Highways.
- New kerb stones near Rad Lane, Peaslake – installation of these was **WELCOMED**.

- Dangerous surface of the footpath from Station Road to the railway station in Gomshall – an up date on action taken following the Council’s concern **TO BE SOUGHT** from the Rights of Way Officer.
- Peaslake Lane, Peaslake – contrary to reports at the last meeting it had been ascertained that there was a white line on both sides of Peaslake Lane. S.C.C. have been asked to move this further into the carriageway but, realistically, this is unlikely to happen.
- Speed Watch – following requests to the Clerk from residents, Mr Urban stated that Speedwatch would be carried out in all the villages once Police training of volunteers had taken place. Extra volunteers will be sought via the parish magazines.
- The Council was informed that a meeting had been held in Upper Street that morning attended by two local residents and representatives of Surrey County Council Passenger Transport team, the Police, S.C.C. Highways Department and Shere Parish Council to consider a complaint that buses travelling through Upper Street mounted the pavement at times which the two local residents felt to be dangerous. Suggestions had been made that to alleviate the problem bus stops should be placed on the A 25 rather than buses entering the village, the road widened or a one way traffic restriction imposed. It was pointed out that none of the suggestions were practical for various reasons and that the best course of action would be to await the findings of the traffic consultant at present studying traffic conditions in Shere. Once received traffic conditions in Shere will be considered further by the Parish Council in consultation with the residents of Shere.

SHORT ADJOURNMENT TO ENABLE THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Borough Councillor David Wright gave an up to date report on the Surrey Save Credit Union. He stated that the project was going well. £160,000 had been received and it was hoped that the Credit Union would be self sufficient when it reaches its sixth year. He felt it was all very encouraging with plenty of good quality loans having been taken out.

David Wright and Keith Taylor suggested that the Council might like to bid for funding for local services from the Local Committee. The Clerk stated that Worplesdon Parish Council was assembling a bid for funding to clean road signs. **AGENDA ITEM** for the next meeting.

County Councillor Keith Taylor apologised for the delay in resurfacing Lawbrook Lane, Peaslake but stated that this work would now be carried out around 9th January 2013.

His offer of funding, from his Member’s Allocation, a replacement grit bin in Peaslake which did not meet the current criteria was welcomed. He was informed that the most important site was that at the junction of Lenten Close with Pursers Lane.

Hon. Alderman Keith Childs informed the Council that Guildford Borough Council had now inspected the Shere car park and decided that the badly damaged section needs to be reconstructed. This work will be put in hand as soon as possible. The Council thanked Keith for his efforts.

Keith stated that he felt the Clerk had achieved very good financial deals with various film companies. The Council agreed and congratulated the Clerk.

Keith Childs then expressed great disappointment at the lack of progress by the Council on providing facilities for young teenagers. He felt that the Council had let the youngsters down. The Chairman stated that plans are in hand.

Finally Keith stated that he had been appointed to the Parish Council in 1982 and had served a total of 25 years, 15 of which as Chairman. However, he felt that he had still been involved with the Council since his retirement in view of the fact that he was married to the Clerk! He therefore felt that, as in the television programme the 'Two Ronnies' tonight was now a case of 'goodbye from him and goodbye from her' with the Clerk shortly due to retire. The Council, however, stated that they would welcome him at parish council meetings whenever he wished to attend.

The meeting restarted.

12/138 Finance Matters

- a. Income and expenditure, including details of Petty Cash expenditure since the last meeting, were **AUTHORISED AND APPROVED**.
- b. The Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 8th November 2012 were **APPROVED** by Members of the Committee and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- c. The Council **RECEIVED** the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting and **ACCEPTED** the 10 recommendations therein including payment to the Clerk of two weeks' salary in lieu of holiday not taken in 2012 and also payment of a gratuity of £1,145 once she has left the employment of the Council as per her contract with the Council. The budget for 2013/14 was also **ACCEPTED**. It was decided to postpone the issuing of the Precept for 2013/14 until the meeting to be held on 18th January when the Council will have received notification of the Band D equivalent figures from Guildford Borough Council.

12/139 Consultation Documents – none received.

12/140 Correspondence

Copy of an email from the Shere Surgery Practice Manager to Mr Keith Taylor regarding the lack of bus services. **NOTED**. Keith Taylor stated that the problem of passengers visiting Shere Surgery and having a very long wait (2-3 hours) for a return journey was not easily solved. He suggested that residents might like to consider the Dial a Ride and Good Neighbour schemes. A note to this effect will be included in the Council's next Parish magazine report.

Correspondence received after the agenda had been printed – details available at the meeting on 30th November 2012 - for noting, delegation to the Clerk or inclusion on the next agenda).

- Invitation to attend the North Street (Guildford) Stakeholder Forum on 10th December 2012 at the Mandolay Hotel, 36 London Road, Guildford 7 – 9.30 p.m.

- Letter of thanks for the warm tribute paid by the Council to Hon. Alderman M. Elston, at the last Council meeting received from her daughter Mrs Mary Ann Coombes.
- Mountain Bike Working Group – notes of a meeting held on 22nd March.

Correspondence not necessarily requiring discussion at the Council meeting

- Surrey County Council – Superfast Broadband update.
- English Rural Housing Association – Annual Report
- Surrey Clubs for Young People – update on activities.
- Victim Support – thank you letter for donation given.
- Surrey Playing Fields Association – Annual Report.
- CAB Waverley – letter of thanks for donation.
- Came & Company newsletter Parish Matters (Council’s insurance company)
- Surrey County Council – details of adopting in Surrey.
- Mobile Physiotherapy Service – letter of thanks for donation.
- Citizens Advice Bureau – letter of thanks for donation.
- Air Ambulance Service – letter of thanks for donation.
- Surrey Community Action – Annual Review
- GBC newsletter - Through the Looking Glass
- Direct Information Service – various newsletters.
- GBC – About Guildford newsletter
- Clerk & Councils’ Direct magazine.

12/141 Exclusion of the Public and Press (Public Bodies Admission to meetings Act 1960)

12/142 Appointment of a new Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer - The Chairman informed the Council of the names of the three candidates that were interviewed for the position. He stated that those Councillors on the interviewing panel recommended that Ms Joy Millett be appointed fulltime at a spot salary between NALC salary scales 35 & 36. Ms. Millett had indicated her willingness to accept.

A proposal to “defer any decision until an extraordinary meeting could have been held to enable Councillors to examine the scoring system and meet Ms Millett in view of this being the Council’s biggest financial decision” was defeated. The Council **APPROVED** the appointment of Ms. Millett as Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer from 1st January 2013.

The Chairman stated that the interviewing panel had been very impressed with the assistance given by the Deputy Director of the County Association, Mrs Anne Bott, who kept Members on their “toes” by suggesting ideas for discussion with candidates.

The meeting closed at 10.20 p.m.