



SHERE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

26th August 2021 (postponed from May 2021 due to Coronavirus Covid-19) – Tanyard Hall, 30 Station Road,
Gomshall GU5 9LF

Present: Councillors R Davey (Chairman), C Carlisle, B Harrap, B Grover, J Hutton, M Keeble, J Cross and B Andrews.

Surrey County Council (SCC) Councillor B Hughes

Guildford Borough Council (GBC) Councillor Jan Harwood, Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Councillor for Climate Change

Guildford Borough Council Councillors R Billington and D Jones

Clerk S Hoyland, Assistant Clerk S Robins and Drop-in Coordinator J Duffy

Approximately twenty-five members of the public.

Chairman R Davey, gave a short welcome in the new garden at Tanyard Hall, during the refreshments. Following the refreshments members, staff and public were seated in the main building.

Councillor J Cross left

Apologies for Absence: Councillors P Carter, C Brooke, R Smith, G Reffo and M Taylor-Cotter.

Report by the Chairman of Shere Parish Council

Chairman R Davey welcomed residents to the meeting and addressed first the disappointing news that the Peaslake Farm Development was still with GBC planning, seventeen months after being submitted. It was hoped that people would have been living in the units by this time but unfortunately the report had not been finished by Guildford Planning despite much chasing. It was hoped that planning permission would be given shortly.

Chairman R Davey went on to report the following more positive news, including changes in the Council staff and Councillors and the work of the Parish Council in 2019/20 and 2020/21.

Staff - Clerk S Hoyland was thanked for completing the CiLCA qualification last year which allowed the council to adopt the General Power of Competence and gave the council more discretion over spending. The Assistant Clerk S Robins was congratulated on her promotion and increased responsibility and J Duffy was welcomed as the Council's Drop-in Coordinator and Parish Assistant.

The drop-in centre was reported to be fully open and new activities were planned.

Councillors – Councillor M Keeble was welcomed as new councillor for North Ward (Shere & Gomshall) after a contested election

Coronavirus Covid-19 – the impact of the virus has been substantial affecting both day to day and long-term issues. The visual appearance of the villages has been compromised and some of the character eroded. Chairman R Davey explained that the council was aware of the impact of visitors and was beginning the process for a detailed 5-year plan, to help provide a safe and pleasant community and balance this with the large numbers of visitors. More details on the 5-year plan would be available in the coming months.

Chairman Roy Davey also reported that as Borough and County funds were under strain it was likely that parish funds would have to be used for projects, not strictly the responsibility of the Parish Council.

Recent Projects

- Drop-in Centre Social Hub
- Protective fencing for oak tree in Shere
- Manging willow trees and re-turfing by stream in Shere
- Funded footpath repairs and new drainage by Shere Surgery
- Donation towards installation of prescription dispensing machine
- Donation towards Shere Pool works and offer of loan for additional works including the changing rooms
- Provision of five play areas in the parish – upkeep and replacement of equipment to be included in 5-year plan.
- Brining football back to Goose Green by allowing Albury Eagles access
- Resurfacing the path across the swimming pool field to the Church to provide safe access.
- Successful lobbying for yellow lines between Pathfields and Pilgrims Way
- Vehicle Activated Signs circulating the villages to encourage slower speeds
- Virtual pavement, Queen Street, Gomshall
- Holmbury St Mary (HSM) Traffic Calming

Chairman R Davey explained that the council hoped that the costs from visitors to the parish would become less of a burden and more self-financing by looking at the toilets, car park and parking management (yellow lines)

Questions relating to the Chairman's report

Q. What is a virtual path?

A. A virtual path is lane painted to the side of the road which is for pedestrians but can also be used by cars when clear. It improves safety for pedestrians

Q. What traffic Calming was agreed in Holmbury St Mary?

A. Build outs to narrow the road and slow down traffic

Q. Who should be clearing the vegetation from Forest Green to HSM and maintaining painted road sign entering HSM at Pitland Street along roads?

A. Surrey County Council are responsible and details can be forwarded to them

Q. Can the speed limit on Queen Street in Gomshall be lowered to 20mph?

A. Lowering speed limits is complicated. Speed limit reductions are only considered by Surrey County Council is the topography of the road forces the traffic to slow down to the desired speed

Q. Can parking spaces in Shere car park be reserved for local residents?

- A. Parking for residents is under consideration, alongside the larger topic of controlling parking more effectively. More information will follow in the coming months

Chairman R Davey introduced the guest speaker Guildford Borough Council Councillor Jan Harwood, Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Councillor for Climate Change.

Guildford Borough Council's response to climate Change

Councillor Harwood gave a very interesting and helpful talk on the Borough Council's response to climate change. He explained that at the moment GBC unfortunately had very limited resources (no budget and one member of staff) and that there was no grand strategy from the top down. However, he saw the Borough role as an enabler, working with parish councils, the university and hospital for a joined-up strategy.

Councillor Harwood wants parishes to identify suitable positions for electric car charging points and he will put those parishes in communication with each other, to possibly get a better deal. He also stressed to view this as a potential revenue scheme.

For solar energy he wants community involvement; individuals getting together to get a good deal. Surrey County Council has a scheme operating: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/climate-change/solar-together>

Councillor Harwood also touched on planning policies, carbon reduction and air quality and in all cases, he stressed the need for pressure from individuals and councils to drive the changes necessary to make a difference.

By 2030 Guildford Borough Council is aiming to be carbon neutral via replace, reduce or offset.

Questions to Councillor J Harwood

Q. What is an example of Carbon Offsetting

- A. Tree planting – in 20—100 years the in-air carbon becomes in ground carbon, although this is less useful in Guildford due to the ancient woodland

Q. Why don't all new builds have solar panels

- A. The Government has not gone so far to insist on solar panels in the planning policy. Although the Government set a target Future Homes Standard 2025 for low-carbon heating systems and high levels of energy efficiency for new builds by 2025, the planning policy does not currently support this.

Councillor J Harwood was thanked by the Chairman R Davey