



**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at
The Fairlands Community Centre, Fairlands
on Wednesday 14 March 2018 at 7.30pm**

Present:

Councillors:

The Chairman Dr P Cragg, Cllr S Fisk, Cllr N Mitchell, Cllr S Morgan, Cllr E Nagle, Cllr D Snipp, Cllr P Snipp, Cllr C Venables, Cllr J Wray and Cllr L Wright.

Staff:

The Clerk to the Council and the Assistant Clerk.

Also present were:

Cllr B McShee – GBC, Cllr K Witham – SCC, Rev A Russell – St Mary’s Worplesdon, Mr A Buchan – Secretary to the Worplesdon Parish Charities, Mrs M Broughton – Worplesdon Memorial Trustees, Mr D Rose, Mr G Burch and 32 residents

Apologies were received from:

Cllr G Adam – WPC, Cllr D Bird – WPC, Cllr N Bryan – WPC, Cllr J Messinger – WPC, Mrs J Bradley - JW Country Market Mr R Partridge - Worplesdon Tennis Club, Mr R Dewing – Merrist Wood College, Mrs J Tanner – Merrist Wood College, Mr T Gamble – Merrist Wood College and Mrs K O’Brien – Headteacher, Worplesdon Primary School.

To receive the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting were distributed to the meeting.

Introduction of Parish Councillors

The Chairman introduced the Parish Councillors to the meeting.

To receive a report from Cllr K Witham (County Councillor for Worplesdon)

Cllr Witham gave the following report:

- I appreciate the input of Worplesdon Parish Council through the year, particularly in terms of pointing out where problems exist.
- I have attended numerous meetings of the WSWA, JWRA and FLGCA.
- If funding is available, for whatever purpose, for voluntary groups/organisations I will do my best to secure grants for those local organisations as I believe the voluntary sector is vital to the well-being of local communities.
- This year, I secured ten grants for various voluntary organisations in the Parish.

- I have dealt with various local issues this year but cannot go into detail due to time constraints. If you would like copies of my full report, please contact me.
- Following a public consultation Surrey County Council will be introducing car parking charges at Whitmoor Car Park, Salt Box Road and Brittens Pond Car Park. It costs approximately £1m per year to maintain the Countryside Estate (comprising the various commons across the County). In 2 years' time the funding allocated towards maintenance of the Countryside Estate by the County Council will fall to zero. Surrey Wildlife Trust is increasing its own efforts with regards to fund raising. The income received from the parking charges will be reserved towards maintenance of the commons in Surrey. Regular users of the car parks will be able to purchase an annual permit at the cost of £60.
- The County Council's element of the Council tax is going up by 6% overall due to the increasing pressures on adult and children social services.

Attendance Register

A copy of the attendance register was distributed by the Clerk.

Local history talk by David Rose and Geoff Burch (local historians)

Mr Rose and Mr Burch provided a fascinating insight into the history of the village of Worplesdon, which contained numerous old photos dating back to the late 1800s.

Presentation by Mary Broughton – Improvements to the Worplesdon Memorial Hall/use of Parish Council grant

Mrs Broughton gave a Powerpoint presentation about improvements to the Worplesdon Memorial Hall which covered the following points:

- The Worplesdon Memorial Hall is located at the centre of the Community in Worplesdon and the Trustees wish to enhance its appeal and broaden its usage by developing and recognising the importance of the Sime Gallery.
- The Trustees wish to increase the overall usage of the Hall making it the social and artistic centre of the community.
- Provide local and wider community facilities with a much-improved Hall and Gallery to be proud of.
- Raise the profile of and acknowledge the versatility and talent of Sidney Sime as a local artist of international repute.
- Safeguard an important piece of heritage.
- Improve conservation of the Hall building fabric and art collection.
- Create a future sustainability plan for the Trustees and their organisation.
- Embrace necessary change.
- The improvements are planned in two phases.
- Phase 1, completed October 2017, has seen an extended and refitted kitchen, outside ambulant toilets and a new internal chair store.
- Grants were obtained from: Worplesdon Parish Council - £825 (new toilets), Surrey County Council Community Buildings Scheme £40,000, Guildford Borough Council £4,632 and Cllr Keith Witham £500. The balance of funds being met by the Worplesdon Memorial Trustees.
- Phase 2 will comprise: First floor Sime Gallery extension, internal lift access, additional ladies' toilets, extended lobby to allow independent access and connecting door from outside the committee room.
- In achieving the above, the hall will become an enhanced hub for the community, an artistic centre for the Sime Gallery, and a venue equipped for the 21st century.

To receive the Worplesdon Parish Charities Trustees' Report

Mr Buchan gave the following report:

Before reporting on our activities over the last year I must say how sorry we all were to hear of the sad passing of our Treasurer, Mr Eric Morgan. Eric had been in post since 1996 a total of 22 years. During that time, he kept a close eye on our finances, ensuring that funds were available for any sudden need and for our end of year distribution. He was also instrumental in persuading me to take on the Secretary's role in 1999.

With the loss of Eric our Committee currently consists of the following:

Chairperson	Rev Alex Russell
Secretary	Mr Alastair Buchan
Worplesdon PC Nominee	Mrs Beth Nagle
Normandy PC Nominee	Mrs Valery Cheesman

A full committee meeting was held at the Rectory, St Mary's Worplesdon, on 22nd November 2017. Mr Morgan reported on the state of the accounts. These can be seen in the Statement of Income and Expenditure in the paperwork around the room. From these, it was established that we had a total of £4,100 available for distribution, should it be necessary. After the names on last year's list together with possible additions had been discussed, the question of giving extra to families with children with medical or other problems was raised. As funds were available, it was agreed that those households with these children should receive an additional £50 per child on top of the basic £100. Two families with one child got £150 each and one family with three children got £250. The total distributed amounted to £2,850.

I advised the committee of my intention to step down as Secretary and a replacement should be sought. I had no one in mind to take on the job but, said I would stay until September, by which time hopefully someone would be found. I still aim to go at that time. Adverts are going into the FLGCA Magazine and Crossway Church Magazine for both the Secretary and a Treasurer. Any takers would be much appreciated.

Refreshments

Chairman's Report

Dr Cragg gave a Powerpoint presentation covering the work of the Parish Council over the past year which has included:

- Improving sightlines for pupils/residents crossing the A323. The Parish Council has also continued to press for a pedestrian refuge near the entrance to Hunts Farm and is considering contributing £25,000 towards the installation of this much needed road safety scheme. This represents 95% of the anticipated cost of the scheme. As the use of common land is required s38 consent (Commons Act 2006) has to be obtained. The County Council, being the land owner, is currently preparing an application to DEFRA.
- Improving the environment: Work has been carried out, by councillors and staff, at Nevins Copse, Jacobs Well Recreation Ground and Holly Lane. The willow trees at the entrance to Fairlands have been crown lifted (paid for by the Parish Council). Members and staff have also sided out the pavement in Worplesdon Road from Salt Box Road up to the grass verge outside the Rifle Range.
- The Parish Council continues to push for flood improvement measures across the Parish.
- Last year new land drains were installed on Wood Street Village Green – This cost £11,200. We are grateful to Guildford Borough Council for their grant of £5,200 towards the work.
- We are currently planning to replace playground equipment in the Fairlands and Worplesdon Play Areas. The cost of which will be a maximum of £31,410, less a grant of £12,282 from Guildford Borough Council.
- Following several incursions at Pitch Place Green, at the request of local residents, we have provided steel posts, backfilled with concrete, and a new high security barway gate. The total cost of which amounted to £10,200. In the near future, we will be installing a high security height barrier and posts at the Worplesdon Memorial Hall in a bid to prevent incursions onto this land. We have also consulted the residents of Wood Street Village about the installation of physical barriers to prevent incursions onto Wood Street Village Green. Local residents have confirmed they do not want physical barriers to be installed at this location.

- Given ongoing parking problems in Fairlands, near the shops, the Parish Council suggested introducing bespoke planters to a) prevent parking on the grass verge which was obscuring sightlines and b) to enhance the aesthetic appearance of the area. The Parish Council contributed £600 towards this work. The balance of the cost was met by the County Council.
- We continue to monitor speeding traffic around the parish. Where a problem with speeding traffic is proven we will raise this issue with the County Council and Surrey Police.
- We will be contributing £3,000 towards the new wooden bus shelter in Jacobs Well Road (near Douglas Road). The County Council will be contributing over £4,000 towards this installation. The bus shelter will also benefit from Real Time Passenger Information, the cost of which is to be met by Surrey County Council.
- Finally, we have paid £910 for a new roof on the bus shelter at the top of Oak Hill.
- Despite this, we have reduced the budget for 2018/2019 by £544 resulting in a Band D decrease of 0.8%. This year the grass cutting grant we receive has been reduced by 36%. We have also lost the Lengthsman's Agreement grant of £5,500 from Surrey County Council.
- As councillors we constantly strive to deliver value for money and continue to work hard on your behalf. Our work is extremely varied. We hold regular work parties to deal with land management issues, saving thousands of pounds in the process!
- There is currently a vacancy for a parish councillor. Anyone interested in the position should contact the Clerk to the Council.

Open Forum (20 minutes maximum)

The following questions were raised:

Q: Has there been any news about the proposed development at Merrist Wood College?

A: No.

Q: With regards to the parking charges being introduced, surely this will push motorists to park on the adjacent verge?

A: As part of the public consultation, the Parish Council requested that double yellow lines be introduced at the same time. Parking on the grass verge behind yellow lines will still result in a fine of £70. Double yellow lines, meaning no parking at any time, are enforceable 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

Q: Will the small car park comprising 3 spaces be retained?

A: We have not heard to the contrary.

Q: Will that mean that other, free, car parks will be used instead?

A: Potentially, although with no lighting, or footpaths along Salt Box Road and an initial speed limit of 60mph it is unlikely that for the sake of £1.15 per week people will park e.g. in Fairlands to walk to Whitmoor Common. The Parish Council has provided the Community Car Park in Wood Street Village. This is free. Residents are fully entitled to walk on Broad Street Common.

Q: Is the man selling coffee paying for his pitch?

A: Yes, the vendor is paying Surrey Wildlife Trust.

Q: Will the Parish Council be represented at the Examination in Public in June?

A: Yes, the Parish Council wishes to raise concerns about policies (A26 – Blackwell Farm) and (A22 – Keens Lane). Richard Bate of Green Balance, a planning expert with considerable experience, will be representing the Parish Council.

Q: There is a weeping willow at the rear of Wood Street Village Green pond which is being affected by a larger and stronger upright yellow willow). This needs to be cut down to ground level. When will this be carried out?

A: A quotation has been accepted and the work should have been carried out last November, however, a planning application was required, as the tree sits just inside the Conservation Area. This has resulted in an unexpected delay. If planning permission is forthcoming before the end of March (bird nesting season), the work will be carried out. If not, the work will not be undertaken until the Autumn.

Q: What is happening to the White Lyon and Dragon, which has become an eyesore?

A: The Parish Council had been informed, a couple of months ago, that a publican was soon to take over. We will make further enquiries.

Q: Could the White Lyon and Dragon be turned into a Museum for Worplesdon?

A: A museum would be an expensive undertaking. Nevertheless, this will be considered by the Parish Council as part of our work on a new Strategic Plan.

S: May I record a vote of thanks to the Parish Council. We are very lucky to have a Parish Council of such credit. You do a very good job. Thank you.

A: Thank you. Being a parish councillor is immensely rewarding.

The Chairman thanked Mr Rose, Mr Burch and Mrs Broughton for their presentations.

Replacement Play Area Equipment – Fairlands and Worplesdon – Residents' opportunity to choose the replacement play equipment

The Chairman advised that three playground providers have been approached:

- Kompan
- Playdale and
- Proludic

3D images of the proposed schemes had been displayed and representatives of Kompan and Proludic of the schemes had been present. Attendees had been able to view the display during the refreshment break.

Voting then took place. A total of 14 votes were cast.

Children of Wood Street Infant School and Worplesdon Primary School will also be invited to vote on their preferred scheme.

Meeting closed 9.35pm.