



ANNUAL REPORT 2019/2020

June 2020

Chairman's Report

The Annual Meeting of the Electors of the Parish was scheduled to be held on 24 March 2020, in Wood Street Village. As in previous years, this meeting was to be utilised to highlight the wide-ranging community work of the Parish Council in conjunction with the local community.

Due to the exceptional circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, this, and other parish council meetings were cancelled or postponed prior to and following the Coronavirus Act 2020, and on advice from both National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and Surrey Association of Local Councils (SALC).

In 2019/2020 the budget was increased to £65.70 per annum for a Band D property. For 2020/2021, despite the best efforts of staff and councillors, the precept has been increased to £69.95 per annum for a Band D rating property. Despite the rise in the precept, Worplesdon Parish Council remains on a par with the national average parish council precept which was £67.18 in 2019/2020. We are an unusual parish in that we cover a large area, some 35 sq miles, but have no buildings to generate an income.

The introduction of the Localism Act 2011 saw the devolution of a number of services from the County and Borough Councils to the Parish Council, such as the cleaning of bus shelters, ditch clearance (of certain ditches in the Parish), vegetation clearance - including sightlines, siding out of pavements (removing the vegetation encroaching

onto pavements), litter picking, placement and emptying of litter bins and highway sign cleaning.

These tasks are carried out in addition to the ongoing maintenance of Parish Council assets and green spaces located across the Parish.

Currently the parish council deliver 15 grass cuts per year at the majority of locations. If this service was carried out by Surrey County Council, only 2 cuts would be provided per annum.

As councillors responsible for spending money raised through precept (within the council tax payment) we constantly assess value for money, and the staff employed by the Parish Council also seek alternatives to ensure best value is sought at every opportunity.

In past years we held regular work parties to address land management issues, saving the cost of having to employ contractors to undertake these works, however we have been suffering from a lack of willing helpers! Volunteers are always welcome and, when circumstances allow in the future, these events will be advertised in our newsletter, on our website and on our social media pages.

We have continued to maintain the improved sightlines for residents who cross the A323 Aldershot Road near Gravetts Lane. We continue to tackle our increasingly important ecological responsibilities. We have purchased a hybrid van, are allowing a large area of Harry's Meadow (Jacobs Well) to become a wildflower meadow, are considering the financial viability of extending a 10-



year lease on White House Pond (Jacobs Well) and continue to clear ditches and grilles where blockages may result in flooding of properties.

Worplesdon Flood Forum continues to focus on a wide spectrum of flooding issues which affect residents of the parish. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Anne Milton for her long-standing support of this forum, and look forward to welcoming Angela Richardson MP who has kindly agreed to take over this role.

The next Flood Forum Walk-about is scheduled to take place on Friday 3 July 2020 and will involve a tour of Blackwell Farm. The meeting point will be in Wood Street Village Community Car Park at 10.30am. Please wear appropriate footwear and ensure that you bring water and are appropriately dressed for the weather. If government restrictions are still in place, this event will be postponed. For further information, or to add your name to list of attendees, please contact the Assistant Clerk. This event is subject to confirmation due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Replacement play equipment from Proludic was installed at Worplesdon Memorial Ground play area during Summer 2019. On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to thank Guildford Borough Council (GBC) for their grant of £6,507 towards the equipment. We have had overwhelmingly positive feedback from parents, carers and the children who have been using this equipment.

The Parish Council continues to protect areas of land for which it is responsible through active land management, including undertaking annual tree inspections. Whilst we always act on the findings of the annual tree inspections, this year saw an exceptional run of storms and high winds which caused additional damage to trees which had previously been healthy.

Following complaints relating to damage to verges across the parish recycled plastic posts have been installed.

Community Speedwatch has been deployed regularly across the parish, and whilst suspended during the COVID-19 outbreak, will continue indefinitely. I would like to thank all those members of the public and councillors who have undertaken the police training, and regularly use their spare time to support this valuable initiative. The locations are all areas of concern to residents and/or accident blackspots. The registration numbers of speeding vehicles are reported to Surrey Police. If you would like to volunteer to assist, please contact the Assistant Clerk.

The Parish Council was disappointed to learn that the project to install a pedestrian refuge island on Aldershot Road (A323), near the entrance to Hunts Farm and Gravetts Lane could no longer progress due to the close proximity of fibre optic cables. The alternative scheme proposed was a combination of improved signage and road markings/rumble strips. We hope that this will promote safer driving to improve the pedestrian route to and from Worplesdon Primary School in Fairlands and for bus users to cross the A323. The installation of a proper crossing at this point remains a priority should any developer related funding become available.

Our assets require regular ongoing maintenance and, where appropriate, repair or replacement in response to vandalism. This year that has included two new noticeboards. One noticeboard was definitely a victim of high winds, but the second may have been damaged beyond repair as a result of anti-social behaviour. As always, if you witness any anti-social behaviour taking place, or the debris left behind as a result of it, please contact the police on 101 (their non-emergency number).

We are very pleased to welcome Dennis Paul and Curtis Riley to the Parish Council as councillors. I would also like to congratulate our Clerk on her attaining a Merit in her Community Governance Certificate in Higher Education qualification.

**CLlr Paul Cragg
Chairman**



WORPLESDON PARISH COUNCIL - INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS 2019/2020 - SUMMARY

Description	2018/2019 Expenditure (£)	2018/2019 Income (£)	2019/2020 Expenditure (£)	2019/2020 Income (£)
Administration	71,170.29	11,505.57	59,263.38	10,052.00
Parks & Open Spaces	53,090.39	7,220.92	47,282.81	8,326.15
Bus Shelters	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S137 Payment	650.00	45.00	650.00	25.00
GBC Grant Aid Expenditure	30,787.58	12,079.50	19,270.04	7,374.75
Tennis Court Costs	688.00	1,241.65	1,184.50	1,312.86
Ward Improvements	5,807.91	0.00	20,401.91	0.00
Environmental Improvements	137.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Precept	0.00	196,712.00	0.00	226,915.00
Bank Interest	0.00	788.84	0.00	807.20
Capital Expenditure	0.00	0.00	19,608.05	0.00
Staff Costs (included in Administration 2018/2019)	89,677.53	0.00	107,882.62	0.00
Subtotal	252,008.70	229,593.48	275,543.31	254,812.96
Balance as at 1 April 2018 (carried forward)		111,173.31		122,698.09
Add Total Income	252,008.70	340,766.79	275,543.31	377,511.05
Transfer from Earmarked Reserves		33,940.00		-7,000.00
Overall Total		374,706.79		370,511.05
Balance as at 31 March 2019		122,698.09		94,967.74

BALANCE SHEET 2019/2020

Current Assets	2018/2019 (£)	2019/2020 (£)
Stocks and Stores	0.00	0.00
Work in progress	0.00	0.00
Debtors (Net of provision for doubtful debts)	0.00	2,080.70
Payments in Advance	484.75	7,333.21
VAT Recoverable	10,050.29	16,859.10
Temporary lendings (investments)	0.00	0.00
Cash in hand	175,651.05	141,950.31
Total Assets	186,186.09	168,223.32
Current Liabilities	0.00	0.00
Creditors	-988.00	-3,755.58
Temporary borrowing	0.00	0.00
Net Assets	185,198.09	164,467.74
Represented by:		
General fund Balance	122,698.09	94,967.74
Capital	0.00	0.00
Total Earmarked	62,500.00	69,500.00
Adjustments	0.00	0.00
Total funds available as at 31.3.2020	185,198.09	164,467.74



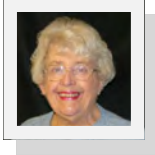
Parish Personnel - June 2020



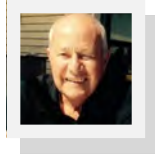
FAIRLANDS WARD



Gordon Adam
01483 234830



Sandra Morgan MBE
01483 233344

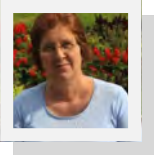


Tony O'Toole
07954 533070



Nigel Mitchell
01483 232538

JACOBS WELL WARD



Amanda Creese
07814 441243

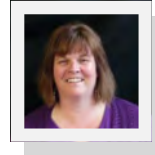


David Snipp
01483 343754

PERRY HILL WARD



Martin Fance
07766 781929

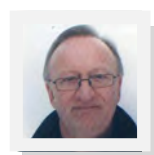


Jan Messinger
07761 589768



Beth Nagle
01483 232036

WOOD STREET WARD



David Bird
07999 944601



Paul Cragg
Chairman
01483 531597



Dennis Paul
07483 252980



Curtis Riley
07539 435401

STAFF



Gaynor White
Clerk
01483 300094



Victoria Fear
Assistant Clerk
07718 479409



Peter Trevena
Head Groundsman

The Parish Council comprises sixteen councillors, the Clerk to the Council, Assistant Clerk and Groundstaff (currently **three** councillor vacancies).

Elections, whether they are contested or uncontested, take place every four years.

If members leave during their term of office it creates a casual vacancy which is filled by co-option.

Those wishing to be considered for the vacancies have to meet the eligibility criteria. Further details can be found on our website:

<https://worplesdon-pc.gov.uk/your-council/>

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