



**Minutes of the Planning/General Purposes and Finance Committee meeting held virtually
8 October 2020 at 7.40pm**

289-2020 - Present

Councillors:

Chairman Cllr N Mitchell, Cllr D Bird, Cllr A Creese, Cllr P Cragg, Cllr J Messinger, Cllr T O'Toole and Cllr D Snipp (substitute for Cllr G Adam).

Officers of the Council:

Mrs G White – Clerk to the Council

Mrs V Fear – Assistant Clerk

290-2020 - To accept apologies and reason for absence in accordance with the LGA 1972, Sch 1, para 40

Apologies and reason for absence were received from Cllr G Adam. Apologies and reason for absence accepted. Cllr D Snipp had agreed to substitute for Cllr G Adam.

291-2020 - Public participation session – 10 minutes

There were no members of the public present.

292-2020 - Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs) – by councillors in accordance with The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012. (SI 2012 No. 1464)

No declarations were made.

293-2020 - Amendments to the Register of Interests

No declarations were made.

294-2020 - To receive and consider written requests for new DPI dispensations, if any

No declarations were made.

295-2020 - Declaration of Non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct

No declarations were made.

296-2020 - Declaration of gifts or hospitality over £25

No declarations were made.

297-2020 - Minutes of the previous Planning/General Purposes and Finance Committee meeting

Cllr J Messenger noted that at minute reference 249-2020 a reference was made to a 'Full Council' meeting on 8 October 2020, which should have read 'GPs, Planning and Finance'. The chairman, Cllr N Mitchell, amended the appropriate minute reference by hand.

It was proposed Cllr D Bird, seconded Cllr J Messenger and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning/General Purposes and Finance Committee meeting held 27 August 2020 be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

298-2020 - Planning applications for consideration

Planning Application No: 20/P/01435 - Tangley Place Farmhouse, Tangley Place Farm, Tangley Lane, Guildford, GU3 3JZ - Changes to fenestration including timber cladding on the elevations and changes to windows. Roof cladding in grey steel with the addition of solar panels.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council comment that the design documents submitted do not match with the stated intention for a portion of the building to be retained for agricultural use – as such, there is an inaccuracy in the design.

Planning Application No: 20/P/01512 - Willowmead, Goose Rye Road, Worplesdon, Guildford, GU3 3RJ - Replacement dwelling following demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings.

RESOLVED: Leave to Planners.

Planning Application No: 20/P/01620 - Willow Cottage, 83 Wood Street Green, Wood Street Village, Guildford, GU3 3DY – Replacement attached two bay car barn (retrospective application).

RESOLVED: The Parish Council comment that whilst the design is a visual improvement to the structure it replaced, a condition should be placed on any successful application that the structure must remain open and not be enclosed by garage doors or similar, and also a separate condition that requires the structure to be removed if it is no longer to be used for the parking of vehicles.

Planning Application No: 20/T/00290 - The Old Paddock, Perry Hill, Worplesdon, Guildford, GU3 3RE - G1 Lawson Cypress - fell approximately 20 trees (Worplesdon Conservation Area).

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council **OBJECT** to this application on the following grounds:

- The submitted arboricultural report is 4 years old.
- The arboricultural report supports the original development.
- The arboricultural report does not support the felling of the cypress trees.
- There is no given justification for the felling of the trees.

Planning Application No: 20/P/01644 - 48 Frog Grove Lane, Wood Street Village, Guildford, GU3 3HA - Replacement of existing felted flat roof with stainless steel standing seam roof.

RESOLVED: Leave to Planners.

Planning Application No: 20/P/01500 - 15 Stringers Avenue, Jacobs Well, Guildford, GU4 7NW - Proposed side and rear dormers.

RESOLVED: Leave to Planners.

299-2020 - Government Planning Consultations: For consideration and comment

Planning for the future - The Planning White Paper - Deadline for responses 29 October 2020

Transparency and competition: a call for evidence on data on land control - Deadline for responses 30 October 2020

The Clerk had circulated copies of Cllr G Adam's comments on The Planning White Paper. The Clerk and Cllr N Mitchell attended a webinar on the topic, in addition to reading the document. Notes of the webinar meeting were also circulated by email ahead of the meeting.

It was agreed that these comments would be submitted but that the overall feedback to 'Planning for the future – The Planning White Paper' is that the proposed changes are in favour of developers not communities.

It was decided that no comments were to be submitted in respect of the 'Transparency and competition: a call for evidence on data and land control' consultation.

300-2020 - Precept 2021/2022 - To receive and consider the 1st draft precept for 2021/2022

Standing Orders were suspended to allow councillors to make multiple comments on this agenda item. Councillors assessed the precept on a page-by-page basis asking questions and making suggestions/observations in respect of each item.

- The cost of the wi-fi/broadband at the Worplesdon Memorial Hall is to be removed as the Parish Council is not likely to resume meetings there for the foreseeable future.
- The IT budget was deemed sufficient.
- Cllr D Snipp asked if Worplesdon Parish Council were intending to take part in the Surrey County Council's New Tree Strategy to support the succession planting which has been included in the draft precept. The Clerk confirmed this to be the case.
- Consideration will be given as to whether it is feasible to include a yearly average for the accruals in respect of bus shelters to reflect the actual new bus shelter spend over the last decade.
- A lengthy discussion took place with regard to the potential increase to the amount of funds set aside to support grant aid applications for community/charitable ventures within the parish, and the degree to which this should be increased. It was proposed to vire £825 from the earmarked tree succession planting budget.
- An accrual for a car parking provision at Jacobs Well has been included due to ongoing parking issues at this location.
- It was decided that the proposal to replace the wooden kissing gate into Harry's Meadow be removed at this time.
- Discussions took place at length with regard to the Reserves Policy and the recommendations made by the Internal Auditor.
- The anticipated costs of a locum Clerk were discussed in the event that the Clerk to the Council were to be absent for a significant period of time.

In conclusion, it was agreed that Cllr D Snipp would further discuss the budget with the Clerk separately, and the committee recommended that the Clerk should structure the precept and budget to return the general reserves to 40% over a number of years.

Cllr P Cragg offered his thanks to the Clerk for her efforts on the budget/precept.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

301-2020 - Fairlands Medical Practice Patient Participation Group (FMPPPG) Mental Health Event – postponed due to Covid-19

Following discussion, it was proposed Cllr P Cragg, seconded Cllr J Messinger and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the FMPPPG be allowed to retain the previously given grant with a view to rescheduling the event during the next financial year.

302-2020 - Jacobs Well Recreation Ground – Ground works: Safety works required

Various works are required for safety, aesthetic and flood mitigation purposes. These include:

- Clear to ground level the brambles and saplings alongside The Brook (Dollies pond)
- Remove all fallen trees in Dollies pond and those that look likely to fall
- Remove any fallen trees from the perimeter of the pond and make safe any others
- Clear back scrub both sides of the path (to the play area) and reduce the trees overhanging the path
- Select oak trees to grow on and remove the rest that encroach onto the pond and path
- Cut back the blackthorn by the play area
- Cut back scrub encroaching on to the recreational field from White House pond
- Cut back scrub around dead willow tree
- Remove branches from the dead willow tree; leaving a monolith trunk for habitat purposes
- Cut long grass on the outside of the play area
- Remove scrub from the front of Dollies pond and hazels up to the small poplar tree
- Wood chips and timber to be removed
- Alternatively, to leave timber (banded) and wood chips on site; reduce price quoted by £1,000 & VAT. Total cost £8,110 & VAT or £7,110 & VAT if timber and wood chips left on site.

It was proposed Cllr P Cragg, seconded Cllr T O’Toole and unanimously **RESOLVED** that, subject to additional quotes being sought, the council approve the spending of up to £7,110 & VAT to remedy the safety issues and undertake the necessary works at the earliest opportunity.

Power to spend: Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10

303-2020 - Quarterly playground inspections

It was proposed Cllr D Bird, seconded Cllr P Cragg and **RESOLVED** that the Council accept and approve the Quarterly Playground Inspection Report. Cllr D Snipp abstained.

Appendix 1 – Land Management Report

304-2020 - Armistice Day – Private Event Worplesdon Parish Council only - 11 November 2020 at 11am

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it was decided that this year’s event will be a simple, private event at which wreaths will simultaneously be laid by Worplesdon Parish Council at the war memorial in Queenhythe Road and in Harry’s Meadow, beside the WW1 commemorative bench. The two-minute silence will also be observed.

This change is to be widely advertised via social media, noticeboards (Parish and local shops) and via the JWRA.

305-2020 - Purchase of one new Speed Data Recorder (SDR) and one new temporary Vehicle Activate Sign (VAS)

Whilst the SDR is still operational, both VASs currently require repair. Worplesdon Parish Council’s current SDR is not compatible with the Surrey Safer Camera Partnership’s equipment, and they are currently assisting with the deployment of this kit, however, at present there are insufficient funds to replace the SDR. It is possible that there may be sufficient funds to purchase one VAS later in this financial year. There may also be opportunities for the cost of this to be mitigated through support funding from our local County Councillor.

306-2020 - Potential Data Centre Facility, Harry’s Meadow – Without prejudice and subject to contract

The Councillors discussed an approach from a third party with a view to leasing (on a minimum 20-year lease - with no break clauses) a small part of Harry’s Meadow for the installation of a Data Centre facility (compound to measure 7.5m x 7.5m) to facilitate the delivery of a new, full fibre, network to the borough.

It was proposed Cllr N Mitchell, seconded Cllr D Bird and **RESOLVED** that, in principle, the Council is willing, subject to contract and without prejudice, to consider granting a 20-year lease for a 7.5m x 7.5m compound on Harry’s Meadow to accommodate a Data Centre Facility providing an anticipated income of £3 – 5k per annum, assuming that no costs were to fall upon the Parish Council and that the lease amount agreed were to increase at a rate to be agreed if the matter is progressed by the third party. Result of vote: 6 For. Cllr J Messenger abstained from the vote. Motion carried.

Cllr D Snipp agreed to research to present the pros and cons.

9.50pm Cllr T O’Toole left the meeting (iPad flat battery)

307-2020 - For information only:

a) Repainting work – Worplesdon Play Area: 2 x steel benches, basketball post and centre section of the Typhoon to be repainted as soon as practicable by Dick Randall Services Ltd – Total cost £698 & VAT. Quotation accepted under delegated authority.

b) Surrey County Council – Surrey Community Projects Fund: Co-Design £20m of funding available each year for 5 years towards community projects.

308-2020 - Date of next Planning/General Purposes and Finance Committee meeting – 19 November 2020.

Meeting closed 10.00pm.

Signed:

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Chairman of the Planning/General Purposes and Finance Committee
Date: 19 November 2020