



# ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021

## June 2021

### Chairman's Report

The Annual Meeting of the Electors of the Parish was held virtually on 10 March 2021. As in previous years, this meeting highlighted the varied community work of the Parish Council.

Due to the unparalleled, ongoing situation surrounding the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, this, and other parish council meetings have for the entire financial year 2020/21, been held online, in accordance with the Coronavirus Act 2020. A cautious, but welcome, return to face-to-face meetings is now occurring.

In 2020/2021 the budget was increased to £69.95 per annum for a Band D property. For 2021/2022, the precept has been further increased to £74.42 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 is £71.86 for 2021/2022. We are unusual in that the parish of Worplesdon covers a large area (approximately 35 sq miles), but we have no buildings to generate an income. The precept is the sole form of income for the parish council.

The Localism Act 2011 saw the devolution of a number of services from the County and Borough Councils to the Parish Council. These services include: cleaning of bus shelters, ditch clearance (of certain ditches), 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 devolved 'tasks', and numerous others, are carried out in addition to the ongoing maintenance of Parish Council assets and green spaces located across the Parish. In future, Worplesdon Parish Council will have to meet the cost of Guildford Borough Council emptying 14 litter bins on land for which we are responsible. This cost alone will be £2,700 per annum.

The parish council deliver 15 grass cuts per year at the majority of locations. If this service was carried out by Surrey County Council (SCC), only 2 cuts would be provided per annum, and this would be restricted to SCC maintained verges. As in previous years, a survey will be circulated to all residents in August 2021, to allow the parish council to gauge opinions on the grass cutting regime, and other matters. Please complete the survey once issued, as your opinion counts.

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

Sadly, our regular land management work parties had to be suspended due to Covid, but we are hopeful of recommencing them imminently. We have endeavoured to advertise these in our newsletter in previous years, but will be focusing more on utilising social media (and our website) going forwards, to allow greater flexibility, based on weather conditions. These work parties address a broad spectrum of land management issues, and saves the cost of having to employ contractors to



undertake these works. Volunteers are always made welcome, but if you do not have access to social media, please contact the parish office to leave your name and contact details.

Every year, the work of the parish council increases—and the work continues to vary widely. Councillors are required, amongst many other things, to set policies, review planning applications and risk assessments, set the budget, oversee (and be actively involved with) land management, oversee grass cutting and pond works, manage Community SpeedWatch, and much more.

We continue to keep abreast of our ecological responsibilities. Negotiations are continuing with regard to the extension of a 10-year licence on White House Pond (Jacobs Well). We are excited to see the continued impact this year of leaving a significant portion of Harry's Meadow (Jacobs Well) to become a wildflower meadow. In 2020, a large amount of differing species of butterflies were sighted at this location. The Head Groundsman continues to clear key ditches and grilles to alleviate flooding risk.

Worplesdon Flood Forum met virtually in 2020, chaired by Angela Richardson MP, and continues to focus on a wide spectrum of flooding issues which affect residents across the parish. The Flood Forum Walk-about for Blackwell Farm was rescheduled on numerous occasions in 2020 as a result of lockdown, and will hopefully, if the government indicated roadmap timings continues, take place later in 2021. Please contact the Assistant Clerk and/or keep an eye on our social media page for further information.

The Parish Council continues to protect areas of land for which it is responsible through active land management, including undertaking annual tree inspections. These inspections have always been an integral part of land management in a rural parish, but are especially important in light of the ruling against Witley Parish Council (which saw a tree fall on a bus). This year saw a significant

number of additional trees included in the report, based on the Court of Appeal's ruling in the Witley case, and also included the trees being tagged. Sadly, it appears a number of trees have contracted Ash Die-Back or Horse Chestnut Canker, amongst other issues, which has meant that a large amount of tree surgery has been undertaken, but there is more still to be done. Please be assured that our contractors are mindful of checking for any nesting birds and other wildlife, but that any tree that requires urgent attention (due to be being dead/dying, diseased or dangerous), must be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

Community SpeedWatch has been deployed regularly across the parish, despite COVID-19, but attendees have always adhered to the guidelines issued by Surrey Police. 'Thank you' to all those residents and councillors who have undertaken the police training (which is now available online for any new volunteers who would like to join us), and regularly use their spare time to support this valuable initiative, which has visible results. If you would like to volunteer to assist, please contact the Assistant Clerk.

Our parish has sadly seen an increase in anti-social behaviour during lockdown. 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) unless there is an imminent threat, in which case you should always dial 999.

As a result of the S106 developer contributions from the Keens Lane development, the parish council has moved into a new office with council meeting room, and additional contributions are to be made to education, highways and public art, to name but a few.

We are very pleased to welcome Tony Webber (for Wood Street Village) and Brigitte Ahier (for Fairlands) to the Parish Council as councillors. They have both keenly volunteered their services for initiatives and projects already!

**Cllr Paul Cragg, Chairman**



## WORPLESDON PARISH COUNCIL - INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS 2020/2021 - SUMMARY

Description	2019/2020	2019/2020	2020/2021	2020/2021
	Expenditure (£)	Income (£)	Expenditure (£)	Income (£)
Administration	59,263.38	10,052.00	73,416.75	12,106.12
Parks & Open Spaces	47,282.81	8,326.15	48,747.00	7,062.78
Bus Shelters	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S137 Payment	650.00	25.00	650.00	55.00
GBC Grant Aid Expenditure	19,270.04	7,374.75	0.00	0.00
Tennis Court Costs	1,184.50	1,312.86	0.00	0.00
Ward Improvements	20,401.91	0.00	3,438.14	0.00
Environmental Improvements	0.00	0.00	450.00	0.00
Precept	0.00	226,915.00	0.00	242,727.00
Bank Interest	0.00	807.20	0.00	416.97
Capital Expenditure	19,608.05	0.00	0.00	0.00
Staff Costs (included in Administration 2019/2020)	107,882.62	0.00	100,209.09	0.00
S106 Monies	0.00	0.00	0.00	51,528.46
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>275,543.31</b>	<b>254,812.96</b>	<b>226,910.98</b>	<b>313,896.33</b>
Balance as at 1 April 2019 (carried forward)		122,698.09		94,967.74
<b>Add Total Income</b>	<b>275,543.31</b>	<b>377,511.05</b>	<b>226,910.98</b>	<b>408,864.07</b>
Transfer from Earmarked Reserves		-7,000.00		-75,594.00
<b>Overall Total</b>		<b>370,511.05</b>		<b>333,270.07</b>
<b>Balance as at 31 March 2020</b>		<b>94,967.74</b>		<b>106,359.09</b>

## BALANCE SHEET 2020/2021

	2019/2020 (£)	2020/2021 (£)
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Stocks and Stores	0.00	0.00
Work in progress	0.00	0.00
Debtors (Net of provision for doubtful debts)	2,080.70	0.00
Payments in Advance	7,333.21	15,998.74
VAT Recoverable	16,859.10	9,592.64
Temporary lendings (investments)	0.00	0.00
Cash in hand	141,950.31	228,608.55
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>168,223.32</b>	<b>254,199.93</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	0.00	0.00
Creditors	-3,755.58	-2,746.84
Temporary borrowing	0.00	0.00
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>164,467.74</b>	<b>251,453.09</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
General fund Balance	94,967.74	106,359.09
Capital	0.00	0.00
Total Earmarked	69,500.00	145,094.00
Adjustments	0.00	0.00
<b>Total funds available as at 31.3.2021</b>	<b>164,467.74</b>	<b>251,453.09</b>



# Parish Personnel - June 2021

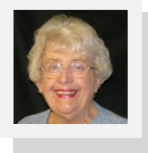
## FAIRLANDS WARD



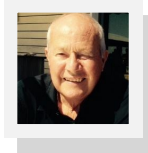
Gordon Adam  
01483 234830



Brigitte Ahier  
07852 533932



Sandra Morgan  
01483 233344



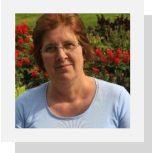
Tony O'Toole  
07954 533070



Nigel Mitchell  
01483 232538



## JACOBS WELL WARD



Amanda Creese  
07814 441243

The Parish Council comprises sixteen councillors, the Clerk to the Council, Assistant Clerk and Groundstaff (currently there are **two** 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 (next elections will take place in 2023).

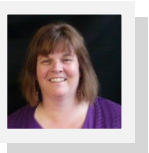
Those wishing to be considered for the vacancies have to meet the eligibility criteria. Further details can be found on our website:

<https://worplesdon-pc.gov.uk/your-council/meet-your-councillors/becoming-a-councillor/>

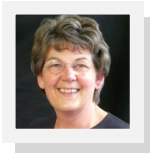
## PERRY HILL WARD



Martin Fance  
07766 781929



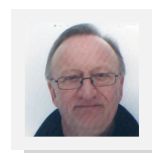
Jan Messinger  
07761 589768



Beth Nagle  
01483 232036

**Worplesdon Parish Council**  
**Unit 2 Saxton**  
**Parklands**  
**Railton Road**  
**Guildford GU2 9JX**  
<https://www.worplesdon-pc.gov.uk>  
**01483 300094**

## WOOD STREET WARD



David Bird  
07999 944601



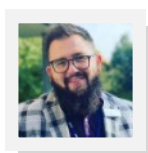
Paul Cragg  
**Chairman**  
01483 531597



Dennis Paul  
07483 252980

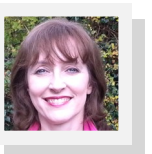


Curtis Riley  
07539 435401

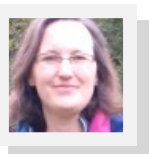


Tony Webber  
07983 645662

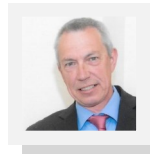
## STAFF



Gaynor White  
**Clerk**  
01483 300094



Victoria Fear  
**Assistant Clerk**  
07718 479409



Peter Trevena  
**Head Groundsman**  
07308 658882