



# ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022

June 2022

## Chairman's Report

The Annual Meeting of the Electors of the Parish was held at St Albans Church Hall, Wood Street Village on 25 March 2022. This well-attended meeting highlighted the exceptionally varied community work of the Parish Council.

Following the relaxation of the Covid-19 lockdowns meetings have returned to face-to-face rather than online. Some special meetings, such as those for the Flood Forum, will now be held as hybrid meetings. This is to facilitate the attendance of officers from outside agencies.

In 2021/2022 the budget was increased to £74.42 per annum for a Band D property, and for 2022/2023, the precept has been further increased to £79.05 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 £74.94 for 2022/2023 (Source: SLCC). We are unusual in that the parish of Worplesdon covers a large area (approximately 35 sq miles), but we have no buildings to rent out to generate an income. The precept is the main 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 at some locations, siding out of pavements (which is the removal of the vegetation encroaching onto pavements), litter picking, placement and emptying of some 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.

The Parish Council now deliver a range of grass cuts per year at Parish Council owned and maintained locations. The cuts have been amended to reflect the environmental commitment to encourage flora and fauna, and the use of each parcel of land.

As councillors are responsible for spending money raised through precept (via the council tax payment), we constantly 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.

Our regular land management work parties had to be suspended due to Covid, but we are hopeful of recommencing them imminently—and possibly with the support of Merrist Wood. We have endeavoured to advertise these in our newsletter in previous years, but will continue to focus on utilising social media, in conjunction with our website, going forwards, to allow greater flexibility based on weather conditions and any last minute changes.

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 and do wish to help, please contact the parish office to leave your name and contact details.



Year-on-year, the work of the Parish Council increases—and this 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.

Our ecological responsibilities are at the forefront of decisions made by the Council. The Parish Council has extended the licence on White House Pond (Jacobs Well), and undertaken works to remove the invasive *Crassula* weed. After the huge success of leaving a significant portion of Harry's Meadow (Jacobs Well) to become a wildflower meadow, this will continue for the foreseeable future. Species surveys are currently being undertaken at this location.

The Head Groundsman continues to clear key ditches and grilles to alleviate the risk of flooding at key locations.

Worplesdon Flood Forum has returned to a combination of in-person, and hybrid meetings, chaired by Angela Richardson MP, and continues to address a wide spectrum of flooding issues which affect residents across the parish. The Flood Forum Walk-about for Blackwell Farm took part during Summer 2021. All attendees found it valuable. This year's Walk-about will be focussing on the flooding affecting the upper roundabout on Holly Lane, St Mary's access road, Perry Hill Antiques, and a number of properties at Rickford. Please contact the Assistant Clerk and/or keep an eye on our social media page for further information.

The Parish Council continues to strive to protect areas of land for which it is responsible through active but sympathetic land management, including undertaking comprehensive annual tree inspections by a qualified professional. 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 not only a significant number of additional trees included in the report, based on the Court of Appeal's ruling in the Witley case, but an increased number of diseased trees, including trees affected by Oak Processionary Moths. The parish trees were also significantly affected by the three back-to-back storms in February 2022. Our carefully chosen local tree 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 always be dealt with irrespective of the season.

Community SpeedWatch has continued to be deployed regularly at Police-approved locations across the parish. A very big 'Thank you' to all those volunteers who have undertaken the police training (which is now available online), and regularly generously give their spare time to support this valuable initiative, which has produced clearly visible results. If you would like to volunteer to assist, please contact either myself or the office.

The increase in anti-social behaviour seen during lockdown has continued. Repeated vehicle damage to Wood Street Village Green culminated in a public meeting to discuss action. If you witness any anti-social behaviour taking place, or the debris/damage 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.

It is with great sadness that I note that recently both former councillor Sandra Morgan MBE and renowned local resident John Gunner have passed away. Both were very generous with their time and efforts to benefit the local residents, and both are greatly missed. Earlier this year former councillor Tony O'Toole also passed away, and he is keenly missed for his humour and insight.

We are very pleased to welcome Terry Wright (for Wood Street Village Ward) and Mike Price (for Jacobs Well) to the Parish Council as councillors. Both have readily involved themselves with a wide variety of initiatives and projects already!

**Cllr Nigel Mitchell, Chairman**



## WORPLESDON PARISH COUNCIL - INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS 2021/2022 - SUMMARY

Description	2020/2021	2020/2021	2021/2022	2021/2022
	Expenditure (£)	Income (£)	Expenditure (£)	Income (£)
Administration	73,416.75	12,106.12	91,534.00	19,708.39
Parks & Open Spaces	48,747.00	7,062.78	87,540.98	8,673.40
Bus Shelters	0.00	0.00	6,000.00	0.00
S137 Payment	650.00	55.00	675.00	50.00
GBC Grant Aid Expenditure	0.00	0.00	9,600.00	0.00
Ward Improvements	3,438.14	0.00	6,423.70	0.00
Environmental Improvements	450.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Precept	0.00	242,727.00	0.00	256,856.00
Bank Interest	0.00	416.97	72.00	293.51
Capital Expenditure	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Staff Costs	100,209.09	0.00	106,994.88	0.00
S106 Monies	0.00	51,528.46	0.00	0.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>226,910.98</b>	<b>313,896.33</b>	<b>308,840.56</b>	<b>285,581.30</b>
Balance as at 1 April 2020 (carried forward)		94,967.74		106,359.09
<b>Add Total Income</b>	<b>226,910.98</b>	<b>408,864.07</b>	<b>308,840.56</b>	<b>391,940.39</b>
Transfer from Earmarked Reserves		-75,594.00		34,802.06
<b>Overall Total</b>		<b>333,270.07</b>		<b>426,742.45</b>
<b>Balance as at 31 March 2021</b>		<b>106,359.09</b>		<b>117,901.89</b>

## BALANCE SHEET 2021/2022

Current Assets	2020/2021 (£)	2021/2022 (£)
Stocks and Stores	0.00	0.00
Work in progress	0.00	0.00
Debtors (Net of provision for doubtful debts)	0.00	1,404.39
Payments in Advance	15,998.74	7,015.53
VAT Recoverable	9,592.64	9,178.82
Temporary lendings (investments)	0.00	0.00
Cash in hand	228,608.55	246,482.40
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>254,199.93</b>	<b>264,081.14</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Creditors	-2,746.84	-35,887.31
Temporary borrowing	0.00	0.00
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>251,453.09</b>	<b>228,193.83</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
General fund Balance	106,359.09	117,901.89
Capital	0.00	0.00
Total Earmarked	145,094.00	110,291.94
Adjustments	0.00	0.00
<b>Total funds available as at 31.3.2022</b>	<b>251,453.09</b>	<b>228,193.83</b>



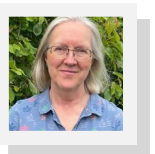
# Parish Personnel - June 2022



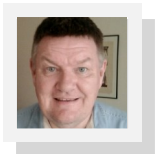
## FAIRLANDS WARD



Gordon Adam  
**Vice-Chairman**  
01483 234830

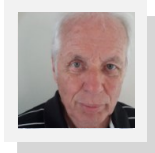


Brigitte Ahier  
07852 533932



Nigel Mitchell  
**Chairman**  
01483 232538

## JACOBS WELL WARD



Mike Price  
01483 571971

The Parish Council comprises sixteen councillors, the Clerk to the Council, Assistant Clerk and Groundstaff (currently there are **four** 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 during those four years - you don't need to wait until the next elections. The next elections will take place in 2023.

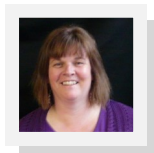
Those wishing to be considered for the vacancies have to meet the eligibility criteria. Further details can be found on our website:

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

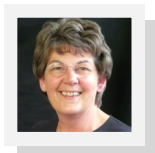
## PERRY HILL WARD



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



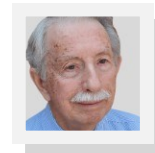
Paul Cragg  
01483 531597



Curtis Riley  
07539 435401

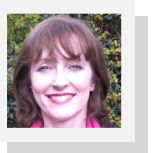


Tony Webber  
07983 645662

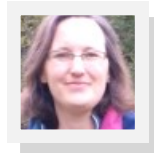


Terry Wright  
079331 766770

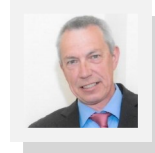
## STAFF



Gaynor White  
**Clerk**  
07487 686903



Victoria Fear  
**Assistant Clerk**  
07718 479409



Peter Trevena  
**Head Groundsman**  
07308 658882