

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Friday 25 March 2022 at 7.30pm

Present:

Parish Councillors:

Cllr G Adam, Cllr B Ahier, Cllr D Bird, Cllr P Cragg (Chairman of the meeting), Cllr M Fance, Cllr J Messinger, Cllr N Mitchell, Cllr B Nagle, Cllr C Riley, and Cllr T Webber.

Staff:

Clerk to the Council – Mrs G White

Assistant Clerk – Mrs V Fear

Also present were:

County Councillor K Witham, Borough Councillor Bob McShee, Borough Councillor Ann McShee, Glenn Noble & David Grey (Wood Street Village Cricket Club), Sam Hutchison (Guildford Borough Council) and 22 members of the public.

Apologies were received from:

Mrs M Broughton (Sime Gallery), Mr E Marks-Oldham (Worplesdon Parish Charities), Mrs K O'Brien (Headteacher Worplesdon Primary School), Rector A Russell (Worplesdon St Mary's), and Mrs C Mankelow (WSVA).

To receive the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr B McShee, seconded by Cllr G Adam, and agreed that the minutes of the 2021 meeting be agreed and signed by the Chairman of the meeting as a true record.

Introduction of Parish Councillors

The Chairman introduced the Parish Councillors to the meeting.

Attendance Register 2021/2022

A copy of the Councillor's Attendance Register was issued to the meeting.

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

Cllr K Witham gave the following report on his role and activities as our Surrey County Councillor for the Worplesdon Division.

- I have now served as your County Councillor for ten years and was grateful for the support I received at the previous election
- I issue monthly newsletters via email – anyone wishing to receive the email newsletter needs to contact me and I will add you to my database
- Grants are available to local organisations, wherever possible I will endeavour to support grant aid requests
- Your Fund Surrey has grants available for larger projects (£10,000 up to millions of pounds) – to date Normandy Parish Council and Pirbright Parish Council have both benefitted from significant Your Fund Surrey grants
- Various highway improvements have taken place across the parish – including the resurfacing of Gravetts Lane and Fairlands Ave; traffic calming measures have also been introduced in Clay Lane

- I am extremely disappointed by the Parish Council's decision to no longer act as subcontractors to Guildford Borough Council in respect of the grass verge cutting – this facility was subsidised by SCC. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council had received intense criticism for cutting the verges too frequently, and had been asked to allow the verges to grow for the benefit of the wildflowers/insects. Cllr K Witham stated that anyone wishing to participate in the Blue Heart Scheme should contact Surrey County Council. Provided there is no impact on sightlines, it is likely that the verge will be included in the County Council's Scheme.

Project - (tackling social inequality) – A presentation by Sam Hutchison, Head of Community Services - Guildford Borough Council

Ms Hutchison gave the following report:

Levelling up is a concept introduced by the Government. Project Aspire was introduced by the borough council to tackle inequality within the borough.

The team is based in The Hive, Park Barn. Community Wardens are based in The Ash Office, as well as the Park Barn Centre. The Team have a caring for all residents from the cradle to the grave approach. Surrey County Council has also commissioned family support, separate to the facilities provided by Social Services. The approach is based on early intervention and to help those in most need.

Referrals can be made to the team by Surrey Police, Health Workers, and concerned people. The team will aim to build resilience to wider social isolation matters.

Funding aims to keep people together – various grants are available from the following sources:

- Crowdfund Guildford
- Guildford Philanthropy
- The Guildford Access Group
- Aspire – tackling social inequality
- Aspire community grants
- High Sheriff Youth Awards
- Armed Forces Community Covenant
- Guildford Community Lottery

Supported projects are varied and cover topics, such as:

- Gardening
- Cooking
- Youth work
- Art
- Environmental
- Heritage
- Intergeneration and much more

A community fridge is available in The Hive, Park Barn Day Centre, as is a revamped multi-generational space.

The Community Wardens are the front-line service, which continued throughout the Covid pandemic.

The Team also provide the Play Rangers Scheme – which encourages children to play outdoors with qualified Play Rangers supervising the structured free sessions.

Thrive at the Hive was launched in 2019. This scheme focuses on reducing landfill of homeware and clothes, Thrive at the Hive is a space to access essential items. Donations are invited.

They stock:

- Clothing from new-born to seniors
- Kitchen and homeware items
- Shoes for all sizes
- Toys
- Children's books, and
- Some essential larger items such as buggies

Respite day care is also available for older residents. Community transport is also available as are Community Meals (formerly Meals on Wheels).

A Care and Repair Team aim to ensure residents facing mobility issues can remain in their own homes. Additionally, Careline is a 24-hour emergency call system, helping people live independently in their own home.

The team are very happy to assist with community initiatives. Anyone concerned for a relative or neighbour is welcome to approach the team for advice/assistance.

On a Wednesday a café operates which provides free tea and biscuits.

The Team also offer refugee support and have helped Afghanistan's, Syrian's and are now helping Ukrainians.

The Team can help people dealing with debt, housing, benefits, and many other subjects. A Facebook page is available.

A presentation by Mrs Jan Messinger on behalf of the Sime Gallery, Worplesdon

Mrs Messinger, who is a Trustee of the Sime Gallery CIO, gave a presentation to the meeting.

The Sime Gallery is based at the Worplesdon Memorial Hall. It contains a wealth of work by Sidney H Sime 1865 – 1941, who lived in Crown Cottage, Worplesdon during the later stages of his life. All his works were bequeathed to the former Worplesdon Memorial Trustees on her death. Sime was an illustrator, caricaturist, humourist, artist, and scholar.

The Sime Gallery CIO has worked incredibly hard to raise the profile of the Gallery. Since 2019 – 2022 there has been an 18-month review of the Governance of the Gallery. Based on legal advice, the Worplesdon Memorial Trustees has now been split into two Charitable Incorporated Organisations.

From 2021 – 2022 the Sime Gallery CIO has successfully applied for Heritage Funding and has a three-year development programme in place, as received emergency grant funding due to the Covid lockdown restrictions, has rebranded, increased the Gallery opening times, improved the appearance of the entrance and successfully recruited new volunteers.

The objectives of the Sime Gallery CIO is the preservation of Sime's works and the ensure the permanent display of his works, alongside the advancement of education within the Arts increasing the knowledge and history of Sime's works.

The CIO has:

- Commemorated the 66th Anniversary of the Gallery
- Restored theatricals
- Improved access
- Considered a capital project
- Plan exhibitions for 2023.

As part of its Outreach Plan the CIO also plan:

- To appoint a Community Liaison Officer
- Engage with schools/Arts organisations and local venues
- Encourage new volunteers
- Recommence group visits
- Participate in the Worplesdon Memorial Hall Centenary (2022) celebrations
- Promote the Sime Heritage Trails
- Seek new sponsors.

The benefits for residents of Worplesdon being:

- The Ta Ta Café will be open during the Gallery opening times
- Heritage will be more accessible
- People will develop additional skills
- There will be greater community engagement
- A wider range of people will be involved and informed
- Heritage will be in a better condition
- The Sime Gallery CIO will be more resilient
- There will be greater collaboration, partnership, and greater connections within the community.

The Trustees wished to thank the following organisations for their funding support:

- The Heritage Fund
- Worplesdon Parish Council
- Cllr K Witham/Surrey County Council
- Surrey Museum Partnership
- The Worplesdon Memorial Hall CIO
- The Sime Gallery CIO
- Ewbank's Auctioneers
- Individual donors.

Worplesdon Parish Charities Trustees' Report

Mr Marks-Oldham had provided the following written report:

Accounts Held:

- Lloyds Bank Guildford – 3 accounts
- Charities Commission – 5 accounts

- Henry Smith Charity – 1 account

Funds in Lloyds Bank as at 31.10.2021 = £1,723.79

Income Year Ending 31.10.2021

Charities Commission	£ 746.60
Henry Smith Charity	<u>£2,400.00</u>
Total Income	<u>£3,146.60</u>

Total funds available for distribution 13.11.2021 £4,870.39

From the available funds, we distributed to their Christmas Gift List a total of £4,400.00

The basic gift was £200.00 per household, with an additional £50 per child in those households with additional problems.

The split per household was:

14 @ £200
4 @ £250
2 @ £300

Platinum Jubilee celebrations

A number of Platinum Jubilee Celebrations had been announced. These included:

- Fairlands – Community Fun Day (culminating in a beacon lighting and firework display)
- Worplesdon – Concert at St Mary's Church (culminating in a beacon lighting ceremony) beacon lit by the winner of the art competition and commemorative church service
- Worplesdon Memorial Hall – street party
- Wood Street Village – Weekend of celebrations (beacon lighting ceremony) fun fair, bring your own picnic – children's cricket match and maypole dancing.

Worplesdon Parish Council created and paid for a flyer, which was delivered to every household in the parish, banners advertising the event, each of the beacons and six gas cylinders.

The JWRA chose not to put any events on due to a lack of volunteers.

Wood Street Knoll (SANG)

The following update had been received from The Land Trust.

There has been a delay in the transfer of the land to the Land Trust. The Land Trust understands this is due to a problem with a small area of land (1 Acre), owned by company called Consilium, which cannot be transferred to the Land Trust as the company have gone into receivership. All the other land within the red line boundary is under one ownership, by a company called Hazelnut, and can be transferred to the Land Trust.

As a result, Hazelnut have had to submit a planning application (ref. 21/P/02356) to amend the approved plans and the SANG Management Plan to exclude the minor area of land, thus allowing the transfer of the SANG to the Land Trust. The exclusion of this area will not have any adverse impact on the delivery of the

SANG but has resulted in the significant delay. The planning application was submitted on 9th November 2021 and is awaiting a decision by Guildford Borough Council.

The Land Trust had no information as to when a decision is likely.

In the interim, the land remains private land in the ownership of Hazelnut, and it is understood they have asked the contractors who carried out the landscaping work to maintain it.

Wood Street Village Cricket Club

Glenn Noble and David Grey then gave a presentation to the meeting.

A brief history of the Club

The Wood Street Village Cricket Club is based in the heart of Wood Street Village.

Cricket was first played on the Green in 1871 and in 1991 moved to Toby's Oaks, Backside Common off Frog Grove Lane. A replacement pavilion was installed in 2006. In 2021 the Club celebrated its 150th anniversary.

Details about the Club:

- ECB Clubmark accredited
- 14 DBS checked members, ranging from adult captains to parent helpers
- ECB – ACO qualified cricket umpires
- ECB Level two qualified coaches
- Good facilities – Pavilion, nets, square, beautiful, secluded ground
- Family-oriented club with affordable membership options
- Winter training at St Peter's Catholic School

Colts

- 60+ registered colts
- Key feeder schools: St Joseph's, Worplesdon and Northmead
- Three teams in Surrey Junior Cricket Championship (SJCC)
- Age groups - u9's, u12's & u14's.

Colts in 2022

- Starts Friday 22nd April - Registration from 5pm
- Training every Friday 6pm - 7:30pm
- June - Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Colts cricket match on the green.

Adults

Young developing sides, undergoing a transitional period with enormous opportunities for colts to progress into senior cricket.

- 50+ Adult Members
- 2 Saturday league XI's
- 1 Sunday friendly XI
- 1 Mid-week XI.

Community Sponsorship

- WinSpeed Motorsport – Long standing sponsor
- Burns & Webber – New sponsor for 2022.

Community Marketing

- Social Media

- Worplesdon Witness, FLGCA Newsletter, Parish Council, WSVA Newsletter
- Signs & Noticeboards.

2022 and beyond

Ambitions

- Continue to thrive and prosper
- Promote competitive league cricket
- Enjoyable, inclusive cricket
- Develop our youth
- First XI... Win league promotion.

Want to be involved? Opportunities to support our club:

- Coaching
- Sponsorship
- Player recruitment (all ages)
- Marketing
- Social membership & always room for supporters... Come and watch us!

Anti-social behaviour, Wood Street Village Green

Regrettably, there are some inconsiderate motorists who continue in driving inappropriately over Wood Street Village Green.

Over the past few years, the number of incidents has increased. Historically, this has happened on and off, but the issue normally resolves itself.

Several residents living around the Green have persistently raised their concerns about (a) safety concerns and (b) the unsightly appearance of the Green once the rutted and had requested the installation of posts around the main Green.

As the Green is situated at the heart of the Conservation Area, the installation of posts would require planning permission and, as the Green is registered common land, consent would also be required from the Secretary of State for DEFRA under s38 of the Commons Act 2006.

As the Green is used for various events during the year as well as the council needing access to the maypole, village sign, and trees to facilitate maintenance, vehicular access would still be required. If posts were to be installed the installation of several high security gates or drop-down bollards would also be necessary. It is anticipated that the overall cost would be in the region of £20,000 - £60,000 including the cost of advertising for a S38 application and the installation of the high security gates/drop-down bollards.

The cost of soil and grass seed is minimal – this year, to date, the cost of materials to repair the damage has been £130.

Alternative options for physical defences are available, these being to install:

- Boulders, or tree stumps
- Dig a ditch or create a 'bund' around the edge of the Green – gates will be required for access (as above).
- Replace the kerbstones – however, this could cause issues if the Green was lower than the kerbstones.

Consideration does need to be given to the implications that the installation of physical barriers would be. These include, but are not limited to:

- A physical barrier which would prevent 4x4s using the Green but won't prevent motorcycles or quad bikes gaining access to the Green.
- If posts or boulders are to be installed, this would increase the grass cutting costs as each obstacle would have to be trimmed around 30 times per year.
- Posts or boulders would act as a deterrent in terms of reducing the risk of terrorism at public events on the Green – something the Parish Council and all event organisers are now required to take into consideration when planning events and the Parish Council when granting permission for events.
- Physical barriers can be concerning for those who are less mobile.
- A ditch would be hazardous, particularly during the winter months. Whilst the village is unlit, the Green is well used by dog walkers at all times of the day.
- Care must be taken with regard to any utility services present beneath the Green – i.e. drainage pipes, phone services, electrical and gas services.
- Posts should have red and white reflectors on them (as per Highways advice).
- Wooden posts will rot over time and will require more general maintenance (as the base of the posts are trimmed the posts become weakened). Wooden posts can be easily cut through so will not work as a measure to prevent Unauthorised Encampments.
- Post options: wood, recycled plastic, metal, metal back-filled with concrete – all types of post can be damaged if struck by an HGV.
- Ditch and bund – would have to be trimmed.
- Boulders – no maintenance (perhaps graffiti removal) though visually more intrusive.

To get an indication of the feeling of the meeting, an informal poll was carried out to get an idea of how to progress the request for the installation of posts.

The result of that informal poll was:

- Support 8
- Against 5
- Abstain 3

On this basis it was agreed that the Parish Council would hold a village wide survey to establish whether or not there was full support for the introduction of any of the above physical measures.

Refreshments

A short break was then held.

Community Speed Watch

Cllr N Mitchell gave a short presentation to the meeting.

- Worplesdon Parish Council would like to thank all the volunteers and councillors that assist with the deployments
- In April 2021 the scheme was changed from a Surrey-based scheme to a national initiative
- WPC have deployed at 7 police-approved locations across the parish a total of 31 times since April 2021
- *7,254 vehicles were noted passing through the various deployment locations*
- *236 vehicles were exceeding the designated speed for the location (which is 3.25%)*
- A deployment is one hour long
- Deployment locations are rotated on a regular basis
- New volunteers are very welcome to join the CSW group. All training is now carried out online.

Report of the Chairman covering the activities of the Parish Council

Cllr Paul Cragg

Despite Covid, the workload for the parish council has continued to increase, and the range of work continues to vary widely!

Councillors continue to set policies, review planning applications and risk assessments, set the budget, oversee, and get 'hands-on' with land management, oversee grass-cutting and pond works (on land we lease or own), manage Community SpeedWatch, and much more.

Worplesdon Parish Council undertakes additional work historically carried out by Guildford Borough Council and Surrey County Council.

The Head Groundsman, Peter Trevena, can be seen 'out and about' in the parish van whilst undertaking his regular checks, general maintenance, and all of the other jobs he ends up doing!

Flooding remains a critical issue around the parish. Our Head Groundsman has removed numerous items from the grilles in Wood Street Village including: double mattresses, a rubber dingy, double window frame, dog kennel to name a few. His prompt actions over many years have prevented properties from internal flooding.

Back-to-back storms this year caused a significant amount of tree damage across the Parish Council's land.

From Spring 2022 Worplesdon Parish Council will no longer be cutting the grass verges across the parish. This decision was taken by the Full Council, after extensive and wide-ranging deliberations. The areas which the parish council either owns or leases, such as Wood Street Village Green, Jacobs Well Recreation Ground, Harry's Meadow (Jacobs Well), Perry Hill Green, and Pitch Place Green, will still be cut regularly throughout the growing seasons to reflect the usage of the land at each specific location. The responsibility for maintenance of the grass verges has now reverted to Surrey County Council.

The parish office, which is located in Queen Elizabeth Park, Stoughton, has been hosting council meetings since Covid restrictions were relaxed.

The facility has also been used for multi-agency meetings to address long-standing issues across the parish, and to host the Flood Forum meetings which are kindly chaired by Angela Richardson, MP. The space also hosted the party to celebrate the retirement of Mrs Sandra Morgan MBE JP after serving over 53 years as a parish councillor.

Worplesdon Parish Council also hosted a tea party to thank the numerous Covid volunteers for all they did to help their fellow residents during the various Covid lockdowns.

Two bus shelters in Wood Street Village had to be removed as there were concerns about their structural integrity. These were not replaced due to the infrequent bus service through the village.

The aging wooden dipping platforms at Wood Street Village Pond were replaced by the Parish Council with recycled plastic platforms, which have proved to be a great success with the local fishermen.

Worplesdon Parish Council maintains three ponds across the parish. The Parish Council wishes to respectfully request that local residents do not put terrapins, pond weed (*crassula helmsii*), fish or anything else in the ponds as the introduction of invasive species can cause serious issues for the native wildlife.

Armistice Day events are held by the Parish Council every year commemorating the fallen of both world wars.

The Parish Council has recently chosen the street names of a number of new developments across the parish including Halifax Close, named in memory of the airmen who lost their lives during a friendly fire incident. The crash location on Merrist Wood Golf course has a war memorial which was restored several years ago by former councillor Chris Venables.

Worplesdon Parish Council responded to the recent Surrey Hill AONB Boundary Review.

Last year the Parish Council awarded a number of grants to local organisations, including:

- Challengers
- Crimestoppers
- The Citizens Advice Bureau
- The Kent, Surrey, and Sussex Air Ambulance
- Wood Street Infant School
- Worplesdon Primary School
- The Worplesdon Memorial and Recreation Grounds CIO

Having successfully applied to Surrey County Council for 110 free trees, a community tree planting session was undertaken in March. A number of residents kindly lent their support.

Open Forum (15 minutes maximum)

Question and Answer session.

The following topics were raised:

- Increase in the parish budget and Band D rating – the Chairman gave a detailed explanation of the increase in the parish budget and Band D rating to the meeting.
- A request for a reduction in the speed limit through Perry Hill from 40mph to 30mph – Cllr K Witham agreed to deal with this matter, which is a County Council issue.
- Driving over Wood Street Village Green – perhaps a suitable compromise would be to install posts along the top end of the Village Green to prevent motorists driving onto the Green directly from White Hart Lane? It was agreed that the Parish Council would be guided by the wider community's view on this matter following the agreed village wide survey.

Meeting finished 9.35pm