



ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023

June 2023

Chairman's Report

The Annual Parish Assembly, which is the annual meeting of the electors of the Parish, was held at Worplesdon Memorial Hall on 24 March 2023. This very well-attended meeting highlighted the exceptionally varied work of both the Parish Council and the local community.

We were fortunate to have a number of excellent presentations at the event - from Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance Trust, Safe Drive Stay Alive, Sime Gallery, Men in Sheds (AgeUK Surrey) and Emerge Advocacy Charity - all of which were very informative and eye-opening.

In 2022/23 the budget was increased to £79.05 annually for a Band D property, with an increase of 11p per month (per Band D property) for 2023/2024. Despite the rise in the precept, Worplesdon Parish Council remains on a par with the national average parish council precept which is £78.79 for 2023/2024 (Source: www.gov.uk). 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.

Over the last few years there has been a significant increase in workload—with the parish office receiving some 1,000 emails each month, and a greater number of phone calls received due to residents having issues contacting other authorities. We are also regularly maintaining our website and social media which similarly utilises officer time but is an effective way of communicating with a

significant number of our residents, e.g. with regard to road repairs, forecast bad weather, etc. We would encourage all of our residents to follow us on social media. To address some of the increased workload, a Finance Officer has been employed on a part-time basis. We are very pleased to welcome Helen Lawrence to the team.

Levels of asset management have significantly increased too, as we have more benches, trees, play equipment and other assets to maintain. We are taking steps to minimise future maintenance costs by using recycled, low maintenance materials where possible.

We are pleased to work supporting Guildford Borough Council as a collection point for replacement food waste caddies, to save residents from having to make special journeys into the town centre.

The Parish Office, not only used for storing records and equipment at a central location, and offering a safe working environment for the staff, also hosts meetings in the council chamber. These meetings are not just council meetings, but also include hosting flood forum meetings, civic events (such as the awarding of the Freedom of the Parish), and can be rented out for meetings by third parties.

In the last year hybrid Flood Forum meetings have proved popular with residents and agencies, and these meetings are still chaired by Angela Richardson MP. Progress has been made on a significant number of issues, and the upcoming Flood Forum Walkabout will focus on the ongoing issues affecting locations around Wood Street



Village. All are welcome. If you would like to come along, please wear stout footwear and be prepared to cover some 5km over the duration of the 2 hour meeting (starts at 10am on Friday 14 July - meet at Wood Street Village maypole).

Our Head Groundsman, Peter Trevena, was honoured as a Community Champion at a recent event hosted by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak at Number 10 Downing Street, for his work above and beyond with regard to addressing flooding across the Parish.

Under the Localism Act 2011 (which saw the devolution of a number of services from the County and Borough Councils to the Parish Council) these services, including cleaning 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, are carried out in addition to the ongoing maintenance of Parish Council assets and green spaces located across the Parish.

The Parish Council is responsible for three ponds across the parish - one at Wood Street Village, and the other two are at Jacobs Well Recreation Ground. Whilst the invasive crassula weed was sprayed at White House Lane pond last year, it, and the bullrushes, will now be re-addressed during Winter 2023 (outside the Great Crested Newt mating season).

The council has a statutory responsibility to encourage biodiversity on our land. To this end, a report for Harry's Meadow was commissioned in Summer 2022. It has been decided that two small wildflower trial areas will be established in Harry's Meadow, with seed spreading due to take place in Autumn 2023. Whilst temporary notices have been erected at both Jacobs Well Recreation ground and Harry's Meadow to explain both the trial and the fauna observed around the village, the Council intends a permanent interpretation

board to be erected at each location. The kissing gate at Harry's Meadow has been replaced to facilitate access for those less able, allowing a greater number of residents access to the meadow.

Following an unexpected, generous donation from the United Reformed Church, a commemorative bench has been installed on Perry Hill Green. The plaque was kindly paid for by a local resident whose relatives have a long established relationship with both the church and the immediate vicinity. The resident has provided a significant amount of historical information to the Parish Council which has been displayed on a special history page on our website.

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.

The Parish Council ensures comprehensive annual tree inspections are carried by a qualified professional. These inspections are especially important in light of the ruling against Witley Parish Council (which saw a tree fall on a bus).

Trees have been planted to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee in 2022, the subsequent passing of Queen Elizabeth II, and the recent Coronation of King Charles III. Commemorative plaques are affixed to the tree guards.

Community SpeedWatch has continued to be deployed regularly at Police-approved locations across the parish. A big 'Thank you' to all the volunteers who support the initiative, and to Surrey Police who support the deployments, where possible - and particularly during Project EDWARD week.

We are very pleased to welcome Nuala Crampin (for Wood Street Village Ward), Bob McShee (for Fairlands Ward), and Mike Price and Jonathan Snowball (for Jacobs Well Ward) to the Parish Council as councillors.

Cllr Nigel Mitchell, Chairman



WORPLESDON PARISH COUNCIL - INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS 2022/2023 - SUMMARY

Description	2021/2022 Expenditure (£)	2021/2022 Income (£)	2022/2023 Expenditure (£)	2022/2023 Income (£)
Administration	91,534.00	19,708.39	63,978.48	11,114.35
Parks & Open Spaces	87,540.98	8,673.40	33,032.20	507.72
Bus Shelters	6,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S137 Payment	675.00	50.00	1,835.00	20.00
GBC Grant Aid Expenditure	9,600.00	0.00	0.00	7,921.00
Ward Improvements	6,423.70	0.00	13,008.91	0.00
Earmarked Reserves	0.00	0.00	37,613.01	0.00
Precept	0.00	256,856.00	0.00	276,900.00
Bank Interest	72.00	293.51	72.00	1,260.71
Staff Costs	106,994.88	0.00	130,000.16	0.00
S106 Monies	0.00	0.00		0.00
Subtotal	308,840.56	285,581.30	279,539.76	297,723.78
Add Balance as at 1 April 2022 (carried forward)	0.00	106,359.09	0.00	117,901.89
Total	308,840.56	391,940.39	279,539.76	415,625.67
General Fund				
Total Income		391,940.39		415,625.67
Deduct Total Expenditure		308,840.56		279,539.76
Deduct Reserves Transfer		-34,802.06		3,622.79
Balance as at 31 March 2023		117,901.89		132,463.12

BALANCE SHEET 2022/2023

Current Assets	2021/2022 (£)	2022/2023 (£)
Stocks and Stores	0.00	0.00
Work in progress	0.00	0.00
Debtors (Net of provision for doubtful debts)	1,404.39	0.00
Payments in Advance	7,015.53	10,677.40
VAT Recoverable	9,178.82	3,423.34
Temporary lendings (investments)	0.00	0.00
Cash in hand	246,482.40	252,576.48
Total Assets	264,081.14	266,677.22
Current Liabilities		
Creditors	-35,887.31	-20,299.37
Temporary borrowing	0.00	0.00
Net Assets	228,193.83	246,377.85
Represented by:		
General fund Balance	117,901.89	132,463.12
Capital	0.00	0.00
Total Earmarked	110,291.94	113,914.73
Adjustments	0.00	0.00
Total funds available as at 31.3.2023	228,193.83	246,377.85



Parish Personnel - June 2023



FAIRLANDS WARD



Gordon Adam
Vice-Chairman
01483 234830



Brigitte Ahier
07852 533932



Bob McShee
01483 825907



Nigel Mitchell
Chairman
01483 232538

JACOBS WELL WARD



Mike Price
01483 571971



Jonathan Snowball
07788 916962

The Parish Council comprises sixteen councillors, the Clerk to the Council, Assistant Clerk, Finance Officer, and Head Groundsman (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 during those four years - you don't need to wait until the next elections. The next elections will take place in 2027.

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



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Jan Messinger
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Beth Nagle
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Paul Cragg
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Nuala Crampin
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Curtis Riley
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Terry Wright
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STAFF



Gaynor White
Clerk
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Victoria Fear
Assistant Clerk
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Helen Lawrence
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07308 658882

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