



**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in the
Council Chamber, Unit 2 Saxton, Parklands, Railton Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 9JX
at 7.33pm on Thursday 10 April 2025**

2025-119 - Present

Councillors:

Cllr G Adam, Cllr B Ahier, Cllr N Crampin, Cllr S Ellahi, Cllr B McShee, Cllr N Mitchell (Chairman), Cllr B Nagle, Cllr M Price, Cllr J Snowball, and Cllr T Wright.

Officer of the Council:

Mrs G White - Clerk to the Council

Members of the public:

County Councillor K Witham and Borough Councillor B Akhtar were present for part of the meeting. Cllr Akhtar had apologised for his late arrival due to a clash of meetings. By permission of the Council, it was agreed that the Borough Councillor's report would be delayed until Cllr Akhtar's arrival.

2025-120 - Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman gave a number of announcements covering health and safety, and the Standing Orders governing the running of the meeting.

2025-121 - To accept apologies and reason for absence in accordance with the LGA 1972, Sch 1, para 40

Cllr D Bird, Cllr M Fance, and Cllr C Riley had given their apologies and reason for absence. The reasons for absence were approved by the Members.

Borough Councillors Honor Brooker, Philip Brooker and the Assistant Clerk, Victoria Fear, had given their apologies for the meeting.

2025-122 - Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

2025-123 - Declaration of Non-pecuniary Interests

No declarations were made.

2025-124 - 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.

2025-125 - To receive and consider written requests for new DPI dispensations, if any

No requests were received.

2025-126 - Amendments to the Register of Interests

No declarations were made.

2025-127 - Declaration of gifts or hospitality over £50

No declarations were made.

2025-128 - County Councillor's report

Cllr K Witham's April 2025 reports had been circulated to all Members via email in advance of the meeting.

Cllr Witham's reports covered the following topics:

- Guildford Borough Council updating the "Local Plan" to enable more housing developments
- Information about road works in your area
- Contact details for your Guildford Borough Councillors in the Worplesdon Ward
- "Which Council does what" Guide
- Merrist Wood Golf Club, Holly Lane, Fairlands - Planning Application to remodel its golf course. Surrey County Council is set to refuse the application, which has subsequently been withdrawn by the applicant.

A short Q&A session then took place during which concern was raised about the County Council's proposal to reduce the number of coin operated car parking meters in the town centre. The meters to be replaced by Ringo app operated parking meters. The concerns were that for those without a mobile phone it will take longer to walk to a different coin operated meter. Will any leniency be offered in this situation? If the Ringo app isn't working, how will people be able to pay for their parking ticket?

Cllr Witham agreed to raise these concerns with the appropriate officers at Surrey County Council.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Witham for his report.

2025-129 - Borough Councillor's report

Cllr Akhtar apologised for his late arrival. This was due to his attendance at a Borough Council meeting which commenced at 7pm.

Cllr Bill Akhtar gave the following report to the Council:

1. **Devolution** – Guildford Borough Council is in favour of three unitary authorities being established.
2. **Local Plan** - Guildford Borough Council is required to review the Local Plan. For this reason, a [Call for Sites](#) has been issued. The Local Plan is required to guide development in the town for the next fifteen years. The deadline for responses is Friday 13 June 2025. The Local Plan review is intended to be completed by 2029; however, this will be after the new unitary authority or authorities are established.

3. **Wood Street Knoll SANG** (Site of Alternative Natural Green Space) – The car park has not yet been formally opened, and the vehicular access gate has been resecured. The S106 is still being negotiated. I am pressing the portfolio holders for Planning and Countryside in a bid to get this matter resolved prior to the abolition of the Borough Council.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Akhtar for his report.

Cllr K Witham and Cllr Bill Akhtar left the meeting at 20:07

2025-130 - Devolution - The abolition of both Surrey County Council and Guildford Borough Council and the creation of a new single unitary authority (or possibly two or three unitary authorities) and the creation of a Strategic Mayoral Authority

The subject of devolution was discussed at length. At present, Surrey County Council prefers the option for two unitary authorities. The majority of the borough councils would prefer three unitary authorities. Currently, the way forward remains unclear. Ultimately it is the Government that will decide the number of unitary authorities to be introduced in Surrey. Their decision is anticipated to be made by the end of 2025.

The appointment of a Strategic Mayoral Authority will follow the establishment of a new unitary authority or authorities.

Surrey County Council are providing devolution updates on their website which can be viewed via the following link <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/lgr>.

2025-131 - Devolution – the possibility of devolved services to town and parish councils

Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr B Nagle, seconded by Cllr N Mitchell and unanimously **RESOLVED** that any decisions regarding the potential devolution of services to the Parish Council should be deferred until the Government issues the promised Communities White Paper.

It should be noted that, unlike many other local town and parish councils, Worplesdon Parish Council has no form of income other than bank interest and the precept (council tax).

2025-132 - Minutes of the previous meetings

It was proposed by Cllr S Ellahi, seconded by Cllr N Crampin, and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held 27 February 2025 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

It was proposed by Cllr B Nagle, seconded by Cllr B Ahier, and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held 4 March 2025 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

The Clerk advised that she had received an email from Mrs J Smith at 18:30, which was duly read to the meeting. The Councillors discussed the contents of the email and **RESOLVED** that the draft minutes of the Planning/General Purposes and Finance Committee meeting held 20 March 2025 were accurate, it is the signage on the highway that is misleading.

It was proposed by Cllr G Adam, seconded by Cllr M Price, and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning/General Purposes and Finance Committee Meeting held 20 March 2025 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

It was proposed by Cllr B McShee, seconded by Cllr B Nagle, and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Policy/Risk Assessment Review Meeting held 24 March 2025 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

2025-133 - Nominations for the positions of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

The nomination forms for the positions of Chairman and Vice-Chairman had been received.

Cllr N Mitchell had received six nominations for the role of Chairman.

Cllr G Adam had received six nominations for the role of Vice-Chairman.

No other nominations had been received for either role. The vote for both positions will take place at the Annual Meeting on 22 May 2025.

2025-134 - Planning Applications for consideration

Planning Application No: 25/P/00346 - Jacobs Well Village Hall, Jacobs Well Road, Jacobs Well - Partial change of use of existing car park to water filling station including retention of existing structure.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council supports this planning application. It should be noted this small water dispensing unit provides an important source of income for the village hall.

Planning Application No: 25/P/00369 - 63 Applegarth Avenue, Guildford, GU2 8LX - Change of Use from Dwelling (C3) to Small HMO (C4) (part retrospective).

It was **RESOLVED** the Parish Council would point out that there are inconsistencies between the planning statement and the plans.

Although this property is already acting as an HMO, the Parish Council wishes to raise its concerns about the following issues:

1. Lack of onsite parking and the subsequent impact on highway safety.
2. No cycle parking appears to have been provided.
3. There is provision for at least eight people to occupy this property.

2025-135 - Finance

a) Proposed list of payments to be tabled at the meeting for approval

The payment list was presented to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr T Wright, seconded by Cllr N Crampin and unanimously **RESOLVED** that payments to the value of £20,108.01 be approved. The payment list was duly signed by the Chairman, Cllr N Mitchell, during the meeting.

Table 1: Proposed list of payments 10 April 2025

Code	Date	Description	Supplier	Net	VAT	Total
Establishment Charges	24/03/2025	ALCC - Membership - VF	ALCC	50.00	0.00	50.00
IT budget	24/03/2025	Standard Fibre 76 Pro & Digital Line	BT PLC	52.95	10.59	63.54
Establishment Charges	25/03/2025	SLCC Membership - VF - 01.03.25 - 28.02.26	SLCC	240.00	0.00	240.00
Chairman's Allowance	25/03/2025	Civic gift - PT	Squires Garden Centres	74.98	0.00	74.98
IT budget	26/03/2025	Lightning Charging Cable	Tesco	13.15	0.00	13.15
Establishment Charges	26/03/2025	Lateral flow tests	Mrs V C Fear - Jeneesa Pharmacy Ltd	13.50	0.00	13.50

Code	Date	Description	Supplier	Net	VAT	Total
Land Management	26/03/2025	Hire of storage container MW - March 2025	Activate Learning	87.00	0.00	87.00
Parish Office	26/03/2025	Fire Alarm and Emergency Lights Remedial works	W J Fire Ltd	230.45	46.09	276.54
Staff Costs	26/03/2025	Salaries/ PAYE/ NI/ Mileage/ Pension Conts Ee's & Er's	Staff Costs	14,474.03	0.00	14,474.03
Staff mileage	26/03/2025	Mileage	Mrs G F White	58.83	0.00	58.83
Staff mileage	26/03/2025	Mileage	Mrs V C Fear	31.20	0.00	31.20
Staff mileage	26/03/2025	Mileage	Mr A Connor	152.43	0.00	152.43
Parish Office	26/03/2025	External window cleaning	Trevor Porter Window Cleaning Service	21.00	4.20	25.20
Revenue Costs Works Vehicle	28/03/2025	Fuel for works van	Waitrose Shell	40.38	8.08	48.46
Bank Interest/Charges	31/03/2025	Bank charges	Unity Trust Bank	6.00	0.00	6.00
Parish Office	01/04/2025	Business rates - Parish Office	Guildford Borough Council	1,071.50	0.00	1,071.50
Community Car Park	01/04/2025	Business rates - Community Car Park	Guildford Borough Council	101.48	0.00	101.48
Revenue Costs Works Vehicle	01/04/2025	Service plan - 15th instalment of 45	PlanMyService LLP	27.08	5.42	32.50
Revenue Costs Works Vehicle	01/04/2025	MOT Service plan - 15th instalment of 45	PlanMyService LLP	3.78	0.00	3.78
Bus Shelters	02/04/2025	Removal of Bus Shelter opposite side of road to Perry Hill Green	T J Hunt (Contracting) Ltd	2,283.00	456.60	2,739.60
Provision of new parking spaces JW	02/04/2025	Car parking and access road in Grasscrete	T J Hunt (Contracting) Ltd	250.00	50.00	300.00
Land Management	04/04/2025	Materials	Screwfix Direct Ltd	6.66	1.33	7.99
Land Management	04/04/2025	3 x 80 Thick Large Wipes	Amazon EU S.a.r.L.	32.10	6.42	38.52
Land Management	04/04/2025	Fuel for strimmer	Waitrose Shell	5.00	1.00	6.00
Parish Office	09/04/2025	Gas & Electricity - Unit 2 Saxton - 01.03.25 - 31.03.25	Octopus Energy Limited	134.65	6.73	141.38
IT budget	04/08/2025	External back-up - March 2025	RISC IT	42.00	8.40	50.40
Total				19,503.15	604.86	20,108.01

b) Bank reconciliations for February 2025 and March 2025

The Finance Officer (FO) had prepared the bank reconciliation for February and March 2025 in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations, a copy of which had been issued to all Members via email in advance of the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr M Price, seconded by Cllr B Nagle, and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the bank reconciliations be approved and signed by the Chairman, Cllr N Mitchell, during the meeting.

Appendices 1 and 2 Bank Reconciliations February and March 2025

c) Monthly budget reports for February 2025 and March 2025

The FO had prepared the budget reports for February and March 2025 in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations, copies of which had been issued to all Members via email in advance of the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr G Adam, seconded by Cllr J Snowball, and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the budget reports be approved and signed by the Chairman, Cllr N Mitchell, during the meeting.

Appendices 4 and 5 – February and March 2025: Summary Budget Report

d) Grass cutting tender 2025-2028 (with a possible one-year extension)

The requested additional information had been received from one of the contractors. The submitted documentation for both contractors was then further assessed against the matrix criteria. The tender from GCB Gardens scored higher against the matrix criteria.

It was proposed by Cllr G Adam, seconded by Cllr J Snowball and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the tender from GCB Gardens be accepted.

Total annual cost of the contract = £19,658 per annum with a 1% RPI increase at the 1st and 2nd anniversary.

e) Christmas illuminations tender 2025-2028 (with a possible one-year extension)

The additional information had been received from both of the contractors. The submitted documentation for both contractors was further assessed against the matrix criteria.

The tender from JDS Decorations scored higher against the matrix criteria.

It was proposed by Cllr B McShee, seconded by Cllr G Adam and unanimously **RESOLVED** that tender from JDS Decorations be accepted. Total annual cost of the contract = £19,850 & VAT.

f) Quarterly financial check undertaken by Cllr M Price 20 March 2025

Cllr M Price provided the following report:

"I can confirm that all of the bank statements agree with the figures detailed in the Bank Reconciliation documents up to the 28 February 2025, and that we continue to keep our accounts in line with the FSCS compensation scheme, whilst at the same time endeavouring to obtain the maximum interest from them.

"As always, my thanks go to Helen for producing all of the documents that enable me to carry out the financial review".

It was proposed by Cllr G Adam, seconded by Cllr T Wright and unanimously **RESOLVED** that Cllr Price's report be approved and accepted.

g) External Audit 2024/2025 - PKF Littlejohn LLP

The internal audit deadline has been set for Tuesday 1 July 2025.

2025-136 - Land Management/H&S Report

The Assistant Clerk had prepared the following report for members' consideration. A copy of the report had been emailed to all members in advance of the meeting.

Weekly Reports

Worplesdon, Jacobs Well, and Fairlands play areas, the Husson Breeze, and community car park at Wood Street were checked on 16.12.24, 03.01.25, 13.01.25, 20.01.25, 27.01.25, 03.02.25, 10.02.25, 17.02.25, 05.03.25, 10.03.25, 17.03.25, 26.03.25, and 31.03.25.

Monthly Health and Safety Reports

The monthly inspections were undertaken on 16.12.24, 20.01.25, 20.02.25, 26.03.25, and 27.03.25.

Completion of works:

The Groundstaff have, in addition to regular inspections, litter picks, and grille clearance:

- Cut and stacked tree debris at Nevins Copse, Wood Street Village.
- Removed leaves and debris from the wetpour at each of the play areas.
- Removed molehills from Fairlands play area.
- Cleared additional waste from grilles (aggregate bags, etc).

- Replaced the rotten retaining posts at Wood Street Village Community Car Park.
- Filled in and seeded the holes left in the verge at St Mary's following the removal of two trees which were planted by residents without permission from SCC [Removed due to the proximity of major utility services beneath].
- Observed flooding at Littlefield Common and provided video evidence for use at the Flood Event [held February 20-25].
- Replaced the wiper blades on the works vehicle.
- Removed graffiti from the noticeboard at Broadacres and from the nearby bus shelter.
- Reported numerous fly tips across Wood Street Village including Pound Lane and near Wood Street Village Cricket Club.
- Resecured the memorial plaque, posts, and rubber ties on the tree adjacent to Wood Street Village Pond following vandalism.
- Replaced the double-bay display component of the noticeboard at Jacobs Well Village Hall.
- Erected a warning sign at Worplesdon MUGA regarding the use of the basketball hoop.
- Refitted the memorial plaque at Merrist Wood Golf Course.
- Made good the surfacing adjacent to the Thames Water manhole at Wood Street Village Green following the relocation of the bench.
- Filled and reseeded the damage to Perry Hill Green following a vehicle getting stuck on the grass.
- Dug out the watercourse opposite Rickford to facilitate the flow of water away from the properties.
- Stomped and reseeded Wood Street Village Green following damage by a vehicle and horses.
- Groundsman attended biodiversity training, playground inspection training, and first aid training.
- Removed the pallet which was blocking the ditch on Liddington Hall Road.
- Removed flailed vegetation debris from in front of the Worplesdon signage at Rickford.
- Cut back vegetation at the edge of Jacobs Well Recreation Ground to improve visibility of the watercourse.
- Cut, trimmed, and blew the grass in each of the play areas.
- Erected signage requesting food waste is not dumped in Harry's Meadow, Jacobs Well.
- Fitted replacement noticeboard stays to preserve the opening panels.
- Laid scalping at the entrance to Harry's Meadow from the car park.
- Fitted tape to the edges of the new bridge in Harry's Meadow to aid visually impaired people.

The Clerk and Assistant Clerk have:

- Accompanied representatives from the Environment Agency, Guildford Borough Council, and Surrey County Council on a flooding walk to follow the flow of water from Blackwell Farm, through Wood Street Village (both via Wildfield Close and along White Hart Lane), down to Aldershot Road. (December 2024)
- Arranged for the removal of a dangerous bus shelter at St Mary's, Perry Hill.
- Assisted residents with an application to SCC to locate live trees on the triangular area of grass neighbouring The Avenue as replacements for the disintegrating log stumps.

Contractors have:

- Completed the installation of Grasscrete car parking spaces, posts, bell mouth vehicle cross-over, and tarmac fillet at Jacobs Well Recreation ground.
- Made good with soil at St Mary's, Perry Hill and Wood Street Village Green following the removal of the Christmas trees and illuminations.
- Re-sited the bench at Wood Street Village Pond to allow Thames Water to access the manhole more readily.
- Located planters on Perry Hill Green and along Coombe Lane to complete the S106 environmental improvements.
- Replaced the ageing bench adjacent to Perry Hill Green noticeboard.
- Installed a bench on the northern edge of Perry Hill Green.
- Deposited and raked hardcore on White House Lane to fill in damage caused by vehicles.

- Installed a recycled plastic post at Perry Hill Green to replace a timber one which was damaged by persons unknown.
- Installed a replacement memorial bench on Wood Street Village Green to replace one which was damaged by a motor vehicle in Autumn 2024.
- Removed a bus shelter at St Mary's, Perry Hill due to health and safety concerns as it had been struck by multiple vehicles loosening the roof tiles.
- Laid scalplings on the footpath at the bottom of Harry's Meadow.

Work agreed with contractors/volunteers:

- Students from Merrist Wood College are currently growing plants to plant in the planters located at Perry Hill Green and Coombe Lane.
- Annual tree inspections have been scheduled to take place in late May/early June.
- Annual play inspections to be undertaken in Autumn 2025.

Quotations obtained for:

- Replacing the markings in the MUGA area at Worplesdon play area

Quotations required for:

- Camera survey of drainage at Coombe Lane, Perry Hill.
- Fixing the post catchment on the vehicle gate into Harry's Meadow from the car park.
- Fixing the height barrier to enter Jacobs Well Recreation Ground.
- Replacement basket swing seat [to be included with the additional works required for the upgrade to Worplesdon Memorial Hall Play Area].
- Wet pour shrinkage repairs at Fairlands play area [Assistant Clerk/Groundstaff to measure up].
- Replacement wood components for the multiplay unit at Jacobs Well play area.
- High-level inspection of the Typhoon play equipment (Worplesdon play area).

Significant outstanding works:

- HAGS multiplay unit at Jacobs Well to be re-stained (weather reliant) – part-completed.
- Assistant Clerk and Groundsman to create an inventory of items stored in the shipping container.
- Remove weeds from Wood Street Village Community Car Park.
- Edge paving at Jacobs Well Play Area and Worplesdon Play Area.

It was proposed by Cllr B Nagle, seconded by Cllr N Crampin and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Land Management report be approved and accepted.

2025-137 - Appointment of a part-time Groundsman

Cllr G Adam advised that the Staffing Committee's recommendation was to appoint Mr Neil Smart on a part-time basis with a six-month probationary period. The start date to be mutually agreed by Mr Smart and the Parish Council upon Mr Smart's acceptance of the job offer.

Starting salary Spinal Column Point (SCP) 10, pro-rated to 16 hours per week.

It was proposed by Cllr B McShee, seconded by Cllr G Adam and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Staffing Committee's recommendation be approved.

Mr Smart had indicated that he wished to opt out of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

2025-138 - Clerk's Report

The Clerk had nothing to report.

2025-139 - Chairman's Report

This report covers the period 27 February to 9 April 2025.

Community Speed Watch

The deployments continue across the parish with interesting results. Our efforts are reducing the number of vehicles exceeding the speed at which we record offences.

28 February

I chaired the Full Council meeting.

Whenever councillors pass Perry Hill Green, please report any usage of the newly installed bench.

4 March

I led the presentation at the Annual Parish Assembly.

The efforts of the Clerk, Gaynor White and Assistant Clerk, Victoria Fear, were rewarded by the attendance of the Networking Presenters and the Keynote speakers.

It was disappointing that there were so few residents present.

17 March

I attended the FLGCA management meeting and my report that has been circulated included the following:

- Feedback on the Community Engagement session on 25 January
- Community Speed Watch and Speed Data Recorder
- Annual Parish Assembly
- Christmas Lights
- Devolution
- Flood Resilience Session
- Flood Forum
- Hester's Yard

The church report included the news that there are two applicants for the Rector's vacancy.

The next meeting of the FLGCA management is on 19 May.

20 March

I attended the General Purposes Meeting.

24 March

During the morning the Clerk, Gaynor White and I attended the regular liaison meeting with Merrist Wood College, points of interest were.

- Merrist Wood Golf club is on sale for a minimum of £2.25M.
- The Surrey Hills Country Fair will be held in the college grounds on 21 and 22 June.
- Christmas tree collection. The college raised £12,000 for charity from this initiative.
- The planters are available for the college students to plant out, and the college has confirmed that this will commence from 3 May.
- The grounds person job could have been of interest to older students at the college.
- Liddington Hall - the college needs to find a functional use for the farmland. This could be community based, no fence grazing (as used by Surrey Wildlife Trust) or an increase in biodiversity.

The next liaison meeting is set for 19 May.

In the evening, I chaired the Policy Review Meeting.

The one major issue that we must address because of Devolution is the Council's Business Plan. To that end, a working party would be the best way forward.

2 April – Planning Update

This hour-long presentation from Guildford Borough Council was informative.

I noted that Cllr Nuala Crampin attended the online seminar.

Five Year Housing Supply - a presentation by Riaan Van Eaden

It was acknowledged that because of the new standard model, Guildford does not have the land supply to meet the increased housing requirement. The number of houses has increased from 562 delivered in the last five years annually to 1,155 per annum.

Based on current projections, the Blackwell Farm development could commence in 2030 but could also be brought forward, a planning application would be necessary as a first stage.

Because of the significant shortfall, the tilted balance would apply in favour towards approval.

Changes to the Green Belt - a presentation by Laura Howard

The definition of Grey Belt – Footnote 7 Applies

A development near to a Heritage Asset would be refused if there were Substantial Harm to the Heritage Asset.

Major Developments are defined as those of ten or more dwellings.

Affordable Housing numbers have been increased to 50%.

The Local Plan will continue through the devolution process.

Because of the lack of land for the 5-year supply, more planning inquiries are likely to occur.

The key dates to produce the updated local plan are.

Consultation	Sept/Oct 2026
Regulation 19	Spring 2028
Submission to Planning Inspectorate	Autumn 2028
Anticipated adoption	Mid 2029

You will all note that the above dates stride over the devolution dates and it could be questioned how the Local Plan will be impacted by the creation of Unitary Authorities.

3 April – Devolution Webinar

I noted that Cllrs Brigitte Ahier and Nuala Crampin logged in to the session, and the Assistant Clerk, Victoria Fear, also joined the session.

In summary, there were 120 attendees across a number of parish and town councils.

The publication of the White Paper on Communities, which was due by the end of March, has now been delayed until the summer of 2025, at the earliest.

Because of the overlapping of the various authorities, it is possible that there will be multi-hatted councillors (Unitary, County, Borough and Parish or Town).

Currently councils are awaiting input from Jim McMahon, the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution before supporting Parish Councils.

SALC desire a seat at the table at Unitary Council level.

Learnings – a joint presentation by Sarah Mason of Cornwall and Ewan Jones of Somerset

The knowledge of Parish Councils by Surrey County Council is limited.

Loss of staff equals:

- Loss of experience
- Loss of knowledge
- Assets
- Land
- Loss of contacts

Money does not follow the transfer of an asset.

Due diligence is necessary on land surveys. Do not rely upon a survey supplied by the Borough or County. The entire process to establish Unitary and Mayoral Authorities is a slow one.

Debt will follow into the Unitary Authorities.

Mergers will require Community Engagement Consultation.

Consultation on taking on assets will be necessary with residents.

Because of the proposed speed of devolution in Surrey, there will be no time for a boundary review.

Everything costs resources, time and money and the question we must ask is - do we have the necessary of the above three to be able to take on devolved services?

Precept is tax raised locally to be used locally for the benefit of the community.

Assets and Services – a presentation by Kate Jackson of Surrey Hills Solicitors

Make sure you can finance items devolved to the Parish Council.

Due diligence reduces risk.

Current leases will automatically be assigned to the Unitary Authority.

Conclusion by the Chairman

Worplesdon Parish Council needs to review its Business Plan.

How can we best serve our residents?

Collaborative engagement with other local Parish Councils.

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Devolution will cost money and the timescale is challenging.

2025-140 - Items for inclusion on future agendas

Cllr N Mitchell requested the following item be added to the agenda of the Annual Meeting:

- The creation of a working party to review the Council's Strategic Business Plan in light of the devolution programme and the world situation.

2025-141 - Date of the Annual Meeting - Thursday 22 May 2025 - 19:30.

Meeting closed 21:30

Signed:

Chairman of the Council

Date 22 May 2025