



**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in the  
Council Chamber, Unit 2 Saxton, Parklands, Railton Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 9JX  
at 7.30pm on Thursday 14 August 2025**

**2025-264 - Present**

**Councillors:**

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

**Officers of the Council:**

Mrs G White - Clerk to the Council  
Victoria Fear - Assistant Clerk

**Members of the public:**

Borough Councillors Cllr Honor Brooker and Cllr Philip Brooker were present for part of the meeting, as were Geoff Burch, Sally Busby (arrived 19:35), Richard Watson, and another resident of the Parish.

**2025-265 - Co-option of Councillors - Vacancies in the Wards of Wood Street, Fairlands, Jacobs Well and Perry Hill**

Four applications had been received to fill the current vacancies on the Parish Council. Two applicants applied for the two Wood Street Ward vacancies, one applicant applied for the Fairlands Ward vacancy, and one applicant applied for the Perry Hill Ward vacancy. No applications had been received for the Ward of Jacobs Well.

As one of the Wood Street Ward applicants had a pre-booked holiday, their application would be considered at the September Full Council meeting.

Each of the three attending applicants gave a three-minute presentation outlining their reasons for wishing to join the Parish Council, followed by a short question-and-answer session.

At 19:55, the Clerk accompanied the borough councillors, applicants, and member of the public upstairs whilst Members considered the three applications. At 20:23, the Clerk, borough councillors, applicants, and member of the public returned to the Council Chamber.

Members then cast their votes. The Clerk counted the votes, which were verified by the Chairman. The Chairman announced that Geoff Burch, Sally Busby, and Richard Watson had been duly co-opted onto the Parish Council and congratulated them on their successful applications.

All three new Members were provided with their Welcome Packs, signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office, completed their consent forms to receive summonses by email, and took their seats at the Council table.

The new Members were warmly welcomed by those present, and the existing Members introduced themselves before the remaining business of the meeting was conducted in full.

#### **2025-266 - Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman gave a number of announcements.

#### **2025-267 - To accept apologies and reason for absence in accordance with the LGA 1972, Sch 1, para 40**

Apologies and reason for absence were received from Cllr C Riley.

Apologies were also received from Cllr K Witham, Cllr Bill Akhtar and Sally Busby for her expected late arrival.

Victoria Fear had also tendered her apologies for the meeting.

#### **2025-268 - Public Participation**

No members of the public wished to address the Council.

#### **2025-269 - Declaration of Non-pecuniary Interests**

No declarations were made.

#### **2025-270 - 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.

#### **2025-271 - To receive and consider written requests for new DPI dispensations, if any**

No requests were received.

#### **2025-272 - Amendments to the Register of Interests**

No declarations were made.

#### **2025-273 - Declaration of gifts or hospitality over £50**

No declarations were made.

#### **2025-274 - Borough Councillor's report**

##### **1. Local Government Reorganisation**

- The Government has completed the final consultation on local government reform. A decision is expected in October 2025.
- Elections to the new authority or authorities may take place in May 2026. It is likely there will be either two or three unitary authorities, with two or three councillors per division.
- The Government plans to introduce the draft legislation in January 2026.

- If approved, Guildford Borough Council would be dissolved in May 2027.

**2. Full Council Meeting – 29 July 2025**

- Councillors expressed concern that the Improvement Plan and associated support measures are not yet fit for purpose. They agreed that further work is required, and the adequacy of Overview & Scrutiny resources will be reviewed again.

**3. Weyside Urban Village:**

- The financial forecast has worsened significantly, with further pressures expected in 2026–27. Around £20 million from the disposal of council assets will be used to support the project.
- Additional funding sources include long-term savings and income from the leisure contract.

**4. Housing Maintenance Budget:**

- The budget is expected to overspend by £6.5 million.
- Rising costs include replacement of fire doors and a small housing development of 27 homes, with costs averaging £450,000 per property.
- A review of budgets will be carried out to ensure value for money.

**5. Worplesdon Primary School MUGA:**

- The Planning Committee unanimously approved the application for a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA).
- The project still requires funding before work can proceed.
- The facility will be available for community use after school hours until 8.00 pm.

**6. Questions Raised**

- **Wood Street Knoll SANG:**  
Discussions are continuing behind the scenes, but no firm opening date has been given.
- **MUGA Playing Surface:**  
Concern was raised about the possible use of rubber-based materials, which could release microplastics into watercourses.  
The Borough Councillors advised that this should be taken up with the Headteacher of Worplesdon Primary School.
- **Burpham Court SANG:**  
Concerns were raised about what appears to be the creation of a dam. Councillors reported they have not yet been given clear information about this project.

**2025-275 - County Councillor's report**

A copy of Cllr K Witham's August report had been circulated to all Members via email in advance of the Full Council meeting.

Cllr Witham's report included details of:

- The significant road and pavement works being undertaken by the County Council, and
- The grants available to voluntary organisations.

Cllr H Brooker and Cllr P Brooker left the meeting at 20:53.

**2025-276 - Local Government Reorganisation in Surrey - Public consultation (deadline 5 August 2025)**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-surrey/proposals-for-local-government-reorganisation-in-surrey>

This matter had been covered via the borough councillors' report.

**2025-277 - Minutes of the previous meetings:**

It was proposed by Cllr M Fance, seconded by Cllr S Ellahi, and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Staffing Committee Meeting held 3 July 2025 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

It was proposed by Cllr B McShee, seconded by Cllr N Crampin, and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held 3 July 2025 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

It was proposed by Cllr B McShee, seconded by Cllr N Crampin, and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning/General Purposes and Finance Committee Meeting held 24 July 2025 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**2025-278 - Planning Applications for consideration**

**Planning Application No: 25/T/00162 - Birchwood, Perry Hill, Worplesdon, Guildford, GU3 3RE - Pine Tree:** Fell, Pear Tree: Fell and replaced by new cherry or pear tree, Elm tree: Fell and replace with laurel or deciduous hedge.

It was **RESOLVED**: leave to planners.

**2025-279 - Use of Harry's Meadow for community events by the Jacobs Well Social Club (Cllr J Snowball)**

Cllr Snowball advised that following on from the successful Summer Fair, the social club had asked whether it would be possible to hold events in Harry's Meadow due to the limited space available in the village hall car park and on the grass verge in front of the village hall. The types of events proposed are music events, car boot sales, fun fairs or similar events.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr J Snowball, seconded by Cllr B Nagle and unanimously **RESOLVED** that in principle, and subject to receipt of comprehensive risk assessments events would be permitted. The social club would need to apply for permission for each separate event. One exception being that car boot sales will not be permitted.

It was agreed that Terms and Conditions would be required to include that:

- a) All information requested by the Parish Council must be provided at least six weeks prior to the event.
- b) Any damage cause by the event would have to be put right at the hirers expense.
- c) The meadow area cannot be used.

The Clerk to confirm this information to the Jacobs Well Social Club.

**2025-280 - Community Governance Review – Guildford Borough Council – Public consultation – Deadline for responses 28 September 2025**

The Clerk advised that:

**Introduction and Background**

Guildford Borough Council has decided to undertake a Community Governance Review (CGR) under the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, to consider community empowerment or community governance options for the urban area of Guildford.

A request for a CGR was sent to the Council earlier this year by Guildford Residents' Association. It included a suggestion for the creation of three parishes described as Central, East and West. This, however, did not delineate boundaries by reference to a map, as required, and therefore could not be evaluated.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) proposes the formation of unitary authorities for Surrey, the abolition of Surrey's existing eleven district and borough councils and the Surrey County Council. HM Government envisages that by April 2027 new unitary authorities will be vested in Surrey at which stage the existing district, borough and county councils would be abolished.

### **Community Governance Review options**

Three proposals are being consulted upon. These are (as per Guildford Borough Council's website):

#### **1. No change option - Await the creation of the new Unitary Authority**

HM Government intends that Shadow Unitary Authority elections are held in May 2026. The successor unitary authority, being the future local council for the area of Guildford and surrounds, might be considered well placed to conduct a community governance review of its own to set up community governance arrangements that fit with this successor authority. The Council is aware of the view that it may be legitimate not to provide new forms of community empowerment or community governance at this time given that LGR is proposed to occur rapidly in Surrey.

**PROs** - Allows the future principal authority to decide the future of local governance. If this option were favoured, this CGR could conclude on that basis and the views expressed by respondents could be conveyed to the successor authority.

**CONS** - It is unknown whether community governance would be an early priority for a successor unitary authority, though it's thought that community engagement would be.

#### **2. Community empowerment option - Neighbourhood Area Committee**

A Neighbourhood Area Committee (NAC) is a formal sub-structure set up by a principal council - e.g. Guildford Borough Council and/or a successor Unitary Council - that would engage with and on behalf of the unparished urban area of Guildford.

Responsibilities could include local planning decisions, street scene matters, public spaces, and community development oversight. NACs are comprised of elected borough councillors and can involve partners too.

**PROs** - NACs can be quickly established at a comparatively low indirect cost to taxpayers because they do not have the statutory powers and duties that parish councils have. The set-up and operating costs are met by the principal authority, and that authority can choose to delegate certain functions and budgets to the NAC, providing some adaptability.

**CONS** - If this option were favoured, the principal authority (currently GBC) would have responsibility for the NAC's existence, remit, membership, and funding. A successor principal authority (e.g. a new unitary authority) would inherit this responsibility, and could choose to retain, change, or disband it. So, not necessarily long-term.

#### **3. Community governance option - Create a new parish council or council(s)**

The Council notes that what sets parish councils apart from other kinds of community representation and community empowerment is the fact that they are a democratically elected tier of local government with directly elected representatives, independent of other council tiers and budgets, and possessing specific powers for which they are democratically accountable.

**PROs** - Local parish councils play an important role in terms of community empowerment at a local level, and they do have certain duties and provide some services.

Parish councils have a key role to play in representing the views and promoting the needs of the borough's local communities and neighbourhoods.

**CONs** - All the funding for their operating costs and most services must be raised in the form of a new charge, known as a precept, payable as a proportion of Council Tax.

There is no limit on the amount that a parish may raise in respect of its precept each year.

### What do Parish Councils do?

By way of information, a summary of the general powers and duties of parish councils are:

| FUNCTION                                          | POWERS AND DUTIES                                                                                                               | STATUTE                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Agency Arrangements</b>                        | Power to arrange for the discharge of functions by another local authority                                                      | LGA 1972, s. 101                                                  |
| <b>Allotments</b>                                 | Power to provide allotments.<br>Duty to provide allotment gardens if demand exists.                                             | Smallholdings and Allotments Act 1908, ss 23,26 and 42            |
| <b>Ancillary power</b>                            | Power to do anything that will facilitate, be conducive to or incidental to the discharge of its power and functions            | Local Government Act 1972, s. 111                                 |
| <b>Bands and orchestras</b>                       | Power to maintain a band or orchestra or contribute to the maintenance of a band or orchestra in or outside the council's area. | Local Government Act 1972 s.145(1) (c)                            |
|                                                   | Power to charge for admission to performances                                                                                   | Local Government Act 1972 s.145 (2)                               |
| <b>Boating pools</b>                              | Power to provide a boating pool in a park provided or managed by the council                                                    | Public Health Act 1961 s 54(1)                                    |
|                                                   | Power to charge a reasonable amount for its use                                                                                 | Public Health Act 1961 s 54(3)                                    |
| <b>Baths and washhouses</b>                       | Power to provide public baths and washhouses                                                                                    | Public Health Act 1936, ss 221-223, 227                           |
| <b>Borrowing</b>                                  | Power to borrow money for statutory functions                                                                                   | Local Government Act 2003, Schedule 1 para 2                      |
| <b>Burial grounds, cemeteries and crematoria*</b> | Power to acquire and maintain.<br>Power to provide                                                                              | Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10<br>LGA 1972, s214                |
|                                                   | Power to agree to maintain memorials and monuments                                                                              | Parish Council and Burial Authorities (Misc. Prov.) Act 1970, s 1 |
|                                                   | Power to contribute to expenses of maintaining cemeteries                                                                       | LGA 1972, s214(6)                                                 |
| <b>Bus shelters*</b>                              | Power to provide and maintain bus shelters                                                                                      | Local Government (Misc. Prov.) Act 1953, s4                       |

| FUNCTION                                   | POWERS AND DUTIES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | STATUTE                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Byelaws</b>                             | Power to make byelaws for public walks and pleasure grounds.<br>Cycle parks                                                                                                                                                                                            | Public Health Act 1875, s164<br>Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, s57(7)                        |
|                                            | Public bathing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | PHA 1936, s231                                                                                  |
|                                            | Swimming pools, bathing places, baths and washhouses                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | PHA 1936, s223                                                                                  |
|                                            | Open spaces and burial grounds                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | OSA 1906, s15                                                                                   |
|                                            | Hiring of pleasure boats in parks and pleasure grounds                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | PHA Amendment Act 1907, s44(2): PHA 1961, 54                                                    |
|                                            | Mortuaries and post-mortem rooms                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | PHA 1936, s198                                                                                  |
|                                            | Dogs and dog fouling in parks and open spaces                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | PHA 1875, s164 OSA 1906, s15                                                                    |
| <b>Car sharing schemes *</b>               | Power to establish and maintain a car sharing scheme that benefits the council's area or to assist others in doing so                                                                                                                                                  | Local Government and Rating Act 1997 s.26                                                       |
| <b>Car parks (off-road)</b>                | Power to provide and maintain suitable off-road car parking places in the council's area to relieve or prevent traffic congestion or to preserve local amenities                                                                                                       | Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, s.57(1)(b)                                                    |
| <b>Charging for discretionary services</b> | Power to charge on a cost recovery basis (i.e. not to make any profit) if the council has discretion to provide a service. The power does not apply if the council has a separate power to charge for provision of a service or it is prohibited from charging for it. | Local Government Act 2003 s.93.                                                                 |
| <b>Charities</b>                           | Power to appoint trustees of parochial charities                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Local Government Act 1972 s.139 (1)<br>Charities Act 1993, s79<br>Charities Act 2011 ss 298-303 |
| <b>Cinemas</b>                             | Power to provide a cinema, or contribute towards the expenses of a cinema in or outside the council's area                                                                                                                                                             | Local Government Act 1972 s.145(1)(b)                                                           |
|                                            | Power to charge for admission to a cinema provided by the council                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Local Government Act 1972 s.145 (2)                                                             |
| <b>Clocks*</b>                             | Power to provide public clocks                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Parish Councils Act 1957, s2                                                                    |
| <b>Closed churchyards</b>                  | Power (and sometimes duty) to maintain                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | LGA 1972, s215                                                                                  |
| <b>Common land</b>                         | Power to protect unclaimed common land from unlawful interference                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Commons Registration Act 1965, s9                                                               |
|                                            | Power to manage commons and village greens under a district council scheme                                                                                                                                                                                             | Commons Act 1899, ss4 and 5                                                                     |
|                                            | Power to provide land in the council's area for common pasture if the council's expenditure can be recovered from any charges it makes for use of the land                                                                                                             | Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 s.34                                                     |
| <b>Community Gardens</b>                   | Power to provide and maintain open space as gardens in or outside the council's area                                                                                                                                                                                   | Open Spaces Act 1906 ss. 9 – 10                                                                 |

| FUNCTION                                    | POWERS AND DUTIES                                                                                                                                                                 | STATUTE                                             |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Community centres and village halls*</b> | Power to provide and equip premises for clubs and other athletic, social or educational organisations                                                                             | LG (Misc. Prov.) Act 1976, s19                      |
| <b>Conference facilities*</b>               | Power to provide and encourage the use of conference facilities                                                                                                                   | LGA 1972, s144                                      |
| <b>Contracts</b>                            | Power to enter into contracts                                                                                                                                                     | Local Government Act 1972 s.111                     |
| <b>Consultation</b>                         | Right to be consulted by principal councils if directed by Secretary of State                                                                                                     | LG and Rating Act 1997, S21: LGA 1972, s33A         |
| <b>Crime prevention*</b>                    | Power to (a) install equipment (b) establish schemes and (c) assist others in so doing for the prevention of crime                                                                | LG and Rating Act 1997, s31                         |
| <b>Drainage</b>                             | Power to deal with ditches and ponds                                                                                                                                              | PHA 1936, s260                                      |
| <b>Dog control orders</b>                   | Power to make orders for dog control offences for land in the council's area                                                                                                      | Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 s.55  |
|                                             | Power to issue fixed penalty notices for offences committed under dog control orders                                                                                              | Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 s. 59 |
| <b>Entertainment and the arts*</b>          | Provision of entertainment and support for the arts                                                                                                                               | LGA 1972, s145                                      |
| <b>Employment of staff</b>                  | Power to appoint staff                                                                                                                                                            | LGA 1972 s. 112                                     |
| <b>Flagpoles</b>                            | Power to erect flagpoles in highways                                                                                                                                              | Highways Act 1980, s144                             |
| <b>"Free Resource"</b>                      | Power to incur expenditure not otherwise authorised on anything which in the council's opinion is in the interests of the area or part of it or of all or some of the inhabitants | LGA 1972, s137                                      |
| <b>Gifts</b>                                | Power to accept gifts                                                                                                                                                             | LGA 1972, s139                                      |
| <b>Highways</b>                             | Power to maintain footpaths and bridleways                                                                                                                                        | HA 1980, ss43 and 50                                |
|                                             | Power to make a dedication agreement for a new highway or widening an existing highway                                                                                            | HA 1980, ss30 and 72                                |
|                                             | Power to veto application to magistrates' court to stop up, divert or cease to maintain a public highway                                                                          | HA 1980, ss 47, 116                                 |
|                                             | Power to complain to local highway authority that a highway is unlawfully stopped up or obstructed                                                                                | HA 1980, s130                                       |
|                                             | Power to plant trees, etc. and maintain roadside verges                                                                                                                           | HA 1980, s142                                       |
|                                             | Power to prosecute for unlawful ploughing of a footpath or bridleway                                                                                                              | HA 1980, s134                                       |
|                                             | Power to provide traffic signs and other notices                                                                                                                                  | Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, s72               |
| <b>Honorary titles</b>                      | Power to confer title of honorary freeman or woman                                                                                                                                | Local Government Act 1972, s249                     |
| <b>Land</b>                                 | Power to acquire land by agreement, to appropriate land and to dispose of land                                                                                                    | LGA 1972, ss124, 126, 127                           |
|                                             | Power to acquire land by compulsory purchase                                                                                                                                      | LGA 1972, s125                                      |
|                                             | Power to accept gifts of land                                                                                                                                                     | LGA 1972, s139                                      |
|                                             | Power to obtain particulars of persons interested in land                                                                                                                         | LG (Misc. Prov.) Act 1976 s16                       |
| <b>Life-saving appliances</b>               | Power to provide life-saving appliances (e.g. life belts, defibrillators)                                                                                                         | Public Health Act 1936, s234                        |



| FUNCTION                                  | POWERS AND DUTIES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | STATUTE                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lighting</b>                           | Power to light roads and public places                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | PCA 1957, s3 HA 1980, s301                                                                                                  |
| <b>Litter*</b>                            | Power to provide litter bins in streets and public places                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Litter Act 1983, ss5 and 6                                                                                                  |
| <b>Lotteries</b>                          | Power to promote lotteries                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Lotteries and Amusements Act 1976, s7                                                                                       |
| <b>Mortuaries and post-mortem rooms</b>   | Powers to provide mortuaries and post-mortem rooms                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | PHA 1936, s198                                                                                                              |
| <b>Newsletters etc.</b>                   | Power to publish information about the council, its services and the services provided in the council's area by other local authorities, government departments, charities and other voluntary organisations.                                                                                                           | Local Government Act 1972 s 142                                                                                             |
| <b>Nuisances*</b>                         | Power to deal with offensive ponds, ditches and gutters                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | PHA 1936, s260                                                                                                              |
| <b>Open spaces</b>                        | Power to acquire and maintain open spaces                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | PHA 1875, s164 OSA 1906, ss 9 and 10                                                                                        |
| <b>Parish documents</b>                   | Power to give directions as to the custody of parish documents                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | LGA 1972, s226                                                                                                              |
| <b>Parking facilities</b>                 | Power to provide parking places for motor vehicles and bicycles                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | RTRA 1984, ss57 and 63                                                                                                      |
| <b>Planning applications</b>              | Power to be notified of planning applications affecting the council's area and to comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Schedule 1, para 8                                                                      |
| <b>Precept</b>                            | Power to raise a precept (council tax)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Local Government Finance Act 1992, s41                                                                                      |
| <b>Public buildings and village halls</b> | Power to provide buildings for offices and for public meetings and assemblies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | LGA 1972, s133                                                                                                              |
| <b>Public conveniences</b>                | Power to provide public conveniences                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | PHA 1936, s87                                                                                                               |
| <b>Public right of way</b>                | Power to repair and maintain public footpaths and bridleways in the council's area<br>Power to enter into agreement to dedicate a road as highway in the council's area<br>Power to enter into agreement to wide existing highway in the council's area<br>Power to provide warning notices on footpaths and bridleways | Highways Act 1980, ss43, 50<br>Highways Act 1980, s30<br>Highways Act 1980, s72<br>Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, s72(2) |
| <b>Publicity</b>                          | Power to provide information about matters affecting local government                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | LGA 1972, s142                                                                                                              |
| <b>Public toilets</b>                     | Power to provide public toilets<br>Power to make byelaws                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Public Health Act 1936, s87<br>Public Health Act 1936, s87                                                                  |
| <b>Records</b>                            | Power to collect, exhibit and purchase local records                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | LG (Records) Act 1962, ss 1 and 2                                                                                           |
| <b>Recreation*</b>                        | Power to acquire land for, or provide recreation grounds, public walks, pleasure grounds and open spaces and to manage and control them                                                                                                                                                                                 | PHA 1875, s164<br>PHAAA 1890, s44<br>OSA 1906, ss 9 and 10                                                                  |

| FUNCTION                                                                       | POWERS AND DUTIES                                                                                                                                                                                                              | STATUTE                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | LG (Misc. Prov.) Act 1976, s19                                                              |
| <b>Rights to challenge services that are provided by a principal authority</b> | Power to submit an interest in running a service provided by a borough or county council                                                                                                                                       | Localism Act 2011, ss81-86                                                                  |
| <b>Right to nominate and bid for assets of community value</b>                 | Power to nominate assets to be added to a list of assets of community value<br>Power to bid to buy a listed asset when it come up for sale                                                                                     | Localism Act 2011, ss87-108<br>Localism Act 2011 ss87-108                                   |
| <b>Seats and shelters*</b>                                                     | Power to provide roadside seats and shelters                                                                                                                                                                                   | PCA 1957, s1                                                                                |
| <b>Swimming pools</b>                                                          | Power to provide public baths<br>Power to charge for use of public baths<br>Power to make byelaws                                                                                                                              | Public Health Act 1936, s221<br>Public Health Act 1936 s222<br>Public Health Act 1936, s223 |
| <b>Telecommunications facilities</b>                                           | Power to pay BT or any other telecommunications operator any loss sustained in providing telecommunications facilities                                                                                                         | Telecommunications Act 1984                                                                 |
| <b>Town and Country Planning</b>                                               | Right to be notified of planning applications                                                                                                                                                                                  | Town and Country Planning Act 1990, para.8 of Sch.1                                         |
| <b>Town status</b>                                                             | Power to adopt town status                                                                                                                                                                                                     | LGA 1972, ss 245 and 245B                                                                   |
| <b>Tourism*</b>                                                                | Power to contribute to encouragement of tourism                                                                                                                                                                                | LGA 1972, s144                                                                              |
| <b>Traffic calming</b>                                                         | Power to contribute to the cost of traffic calming measures                                                                                                                                                                    | HA 1980, s274A                                                                              |
| <b>Traffic signs</b>                                                           | Power to provide traffic signs on roads                                                                                                                                                                                        | Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, s72(1)                                                    |
| <b>Transport*</b>                                                              | Power to (a) establish car sharing schemes; (b) make grants for bus services; (c) provide taxi fare concessions; (d) investigate public transport, road use and needs; (e) provide information about public transport services | LG and RA 1997, s26                                                                         |
| <b>Village greens*</b>                                                         | Power to maintain, to make byelaws for and to prosecute for interference with village greens                                                                                                                                   | OSA 1906, s15;<br>Inclosure Act 1857, s12;<br>Commons Act 1876, s29                         |
| <b>Village halls*</b>                                                          | (See Community Centres, Public Buildings)                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                             |
| <b>War Memorials</b>                                                           | Power to maintain, repair and protect war memorials                                                                                                                                                                            | War Memorials (Local Authorities' Powers) Act 1923, s1 as extended by LGA 1948, s133        |
| <b>Water supply</b>                                                            | Power to utilise any well, spring or stream to provide facilities for obtaining water from them                                                                                                                                | PHA 1936, s125                                                                              |
| <b>Websites</b>                                                                | Power to provide a website to give information about the council, its services and the services provided in the area by other local authorities, government departments, charities or other voluntary organisations            | Local Government Act 1                                                                      |

## Community governance option

### Proposal 1 - A single parish council for Guildford

One proposal is to create a new parish for the entire unparished urban area of Guildford. If this proposal is supported by local people and approved by Guildford Borough Council, the review would then consider recent Electoral Reviews carried out by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE), and in the interest of coterminous boundaries, it would propose that a new parish council for Guildford should replicate the current borough council warding and councillor numbers.

The unparished areas of Guildford are the following current Borough wards:

| Borough Ward            | Electorate (1 May 2025) | Households (May 1 2025) | Number of Councillors |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Bellfields & Slyfield   | 4,506                   | 2,600                   | 2                     |
| Burpham                 | 5,030                   | 2,904                   | 2                     |
| Castle                  | 7,378                   | 4,597                   | 3                     |
| Merrow                  | 7,386                   | 4,000                   | 3                     |
| Onslow                  | 5,296                   | 2,926                   | 3                     |
| St Nicolas              | 2,365                   | 1,678                   | 1                     |
| Stoke                   | 5,855                   | 5,206                   | 3                     |
| Stoughton North         | 4,487                   | 2,487                   | 2                     |
| Stoughton South         | 4,365                   | 2,569                   | 2                     |
| Westborough             | 5,396                   | 4,039                   | 3                     |
| <b>Total electorate</b> | <b>52,064</b>           | <b>33,006</b>           | <b>24</b>             |

## Community governance option

### Proposal 2 - Three parish councils for Guildford

A suggestion for the creation of three parishes described as Central, East and West Guildford was sent to the Council earlier this year. This, however, did not as required delineate boundaries by reference to a map, and therefore could not be evaluated.

The CGR can consider submissions for this and any other alternative proposal, only if:

- They are received during the consultation period.
- The area(s) to which they relate are clearly defined by reference to a map.
- Any rationale for, and benefits of the proposal(s) are clearly expressed.

## Discussion

The consultation regarding the potential creation of a Guildford Town Council was discussed.

The Members felt that without a town council there would be anomalies between the unparished urban areas and the parished areas, creating a gap in local democratic representation. The need to ensure appropriate protection of heritage assets was also highlighted as being of critical local importance in terms of protecting the town's sense of place.

Town councils operate on the same statutory basis as parish councils, with councillors having a remit for community betterment. Should Guildford Borough Council be abolished and replaced with a unitary authority, parish and town councils will become increasingly important in ensuring local representation and service delivery, and in securing the continuation of grassroots democratic engagement.

Establishing a town council would not necessarily require an additional precept, as other income streams, such as car park revenue, could be utilised. Evidence from other areas demonstrates that town councils are well placed to deliver the services required by their communities.

From a business and operational perspective, the creation of a town council was considered to offer a more effective and accountable mechanism for delivering local services.

The importance of a Guildford Town Council with which parish councils can collaborate was emphasised.

It was agreed that the consultation link be recirculated to all Members and that the Clerk prepare a briefing paper for consideration at the next Full Council meeting.

#### **2025-281 - Layby outside the Worplesdon Memorial Hall - Potential removal of the existing ranch-style fencing and replacement with bollards by Surrey County Council**

A resident had contacted Cllr K Witham to complain about the unkempt appearance of the post and rail fencing and the verge beneath it and had suggested replacing the post and rail fencing with a yew hedge or bollards.

Cllr K Witham had asked for the Parish Council's opinion on both suggestions. The Clerk had also recommended that Cllr Witham approach the Worplesdon Memorial Hall and Ground CIO for their opinion.

The Members considered the suggestion of removing the post and rail fence, either replacing the fencing with a yew hedge or bollards.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr N Mitchell, seconded by Cllr N Crampin and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would prefer to keep the status quo. The Members felt that, for safety reasons, any money would be better spent realigning the bell mouth into the Memorial Ground, which is currently poorly designed and confusing for motorists entering the grounds.

#### **2025-282 - Community Volunteering Event - 15 October 2025 - Fairlands Community Centre**

As per the Council's decision to hold a Community Volunteering Event, the Clerk had booked the Fairlands Community Centre.

A draft list of invitees had been circulated to the Members. Four additional organisations were proposed to be invited to the event.

A colourful banner advertising the had been designed. Seven banners are to be purchased to ensure that the event can be advertised across the Parish.

The event will be held between 4pm and 7pm on Wednesday 15 October 2025. Set up will be from 3pm and the hall must be cleared away by 7.30pm.

The following councillors offered to assist with the event: Cllr G Burch, Cllr R Watson, Cllr N Mitchell and Cllr M Price.

## 2025-283 - 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 M Price, seconded by Cllr T Wright and unanimously **RESOLVED** that payments to the value of £18,077.75 be approved. The payment list was duly signed by the Chairman, Cllr N Mitchell, during the meeting.

**Table 4: Proposed list of payments 14 August 2025**

| Code                        | Date       | Description                                                           | Supplier                    | Net       | VAT    | Total     |
|-----------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| Equipment Maintenance       | 15/07/2025 | Materials                                                             | Spaldings Ltd               | 64.50     | 12.90  | 77.40     |
| Land Management             | 23/07/2025 | 5 x 5l Treatment Paint                                                | TradePoint                  | 108.33    | 21.67  | 130.00    |
| Traffic calming - SDR/VAS   | 23/07/2025 | SDR Battery x2                                                        | Traffic Technology Ltd      | 265.00    | 53.00  | 318.00    |
| Staff Costs                 | 24/07/2025 | Salaries/ PAYE/ NI/ Mileage/ Pension Concs Ee's & Er's                | Staff Costs                 | 14,813.33 | 0.00   | 14,813.33 |
| Staff mileage               | 24/07/2025 | Mileage                                                               | Mrs V C Fear                | 74.10     | 0.00   | 74.10     |
| Staff mileage               | 24/07/2025 | Mileage                                                               | Mr A Connor                 | 8.45      | 0.00   | 8.45      |
| Staff mileage               | 24/07/2025 | Mileage                                                               | Mrs G F White               | 42.90     | 0.00   | 42.90     |
| Land Management             | 24/07/2025 | Cable ties                                                            | Selco Builders Warehouse    | 12.99     | 2.60   | 15.59     |
| Establishment Charges       | 26/07/2025 | Greetings cards                                                       | Cards Direct Retail Ltd     | 8.62      | 0.00   | 8.62      |
| IT budget                   | 28/07/2025 | Office 365 charges                                                    | BT PLC                      | 370.50    | 74.10  | 444.60    |
| Land Management             | 28/07/2025 | Materials                                                             | Selco Builders Warehouse    | 36.10     | 7.22   | 43.32     |
| Land Management             | 29/07/2025 | Bags of Concrete and Sub Base                                         | Wickes                      | 23.83     | 4.77   | 28.60     |
| Land Management             | 29/07/2025 | Materials                                                             | Selco Builders Warehouse    | 38.67     | 7.73   | 46.40     |
| Land Management             | 30/07/2025 | 50 x Brown Wedge Strip 18mm                                           | Screwfix Direct Ltd         | 6.24      | 1.25   | 7.49      |
| Land Management             | 30/07/2025 | Hacksaw & pk5 75mm Zinc Plated Tee Plates                             | Selco Builders Warehouse    | 7.24      | 1.45   | 8.69      |
| Training                    | 31/07/2025 | LGR & Devolution Training 29 July 25 x3                               | Surrey ALC Ltd              | 135.00    | 27.00  | 162.00    |
| Parish Office               | 31/07/2025 | Annual monitoring and maintenance of intruder alarm 01.05.24-31.01.25 | Surrey Security Systems Ltd | 318.74    | 63.75  | 382.49    |
| Accrual for litter bins     | 31/07/2025 | Eco Litter Bin-Pyramid Lid 120ltr                                     | Broxap Limited              | 522.95    | 104.59 | 627.54    |
| Bank Interest/Charges       | 31/07/2025 | Bank charges - June 2025                                              | Unity Trust Bank            | 6.00      | 0.00   | 6.00      |
| Community Car Park          | 01/08/2025 | Business rates - Community Car Park                                   | Guildford Borough Council   | 101.00    | 0.00   | 101.00    |
| Parish Office               | 01/08/2025 | Business rates - Parish Office                                        | Guildford Borough Council   | 1,073.00  | 0.00   | 1,073.00  |
| Revenue Costs Works Vehicle | 01/08/2025 | Service plan - 19th instalment of 45                                  | PlanMyService LLP           | 27.08     | 5.42   | 32.50     |

| Code                           | Date       | Description                                            | Supplier                                           | Net              | VAT             | Total            |
|--------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Revenue Costs<br>Works Vehicle | 01/08/2025 | MOT Service<br>plan - 19th<br>instalment of 45         | PlanMyService<br>LLP                               | 3.78             | 0.00            | 3.78             |
| Land Management                | 04/08/2025 | 6 x Brown<br>Bollards with 2<br>Colour Bands           | Second Life<br>Products Wales<br>Ltd               | 567.68           | 113.54          | 681.22           |
| Land Management                | 05/08/2025 | 5ltr Extra Clean                                       | Cluskeys CCP Ltd                                   | 21.25            | 4.25            | 25.50            |
| Audit Fees                     | 06/08/2025 | External audit fee<br>- 2024/25                        | PKF Littlejohn                                     | 840.00           | 168.00          | 1,008.00         |
| Grass Cutting                  | 06/08/2025 | Grass cutting -<br>Month 4 2025                        | GCB Gardens                                        | 2,457.25         | 491.45          | 2,948.70         |
| Section 137                    | 06/08/2025 | Grant for HEMS                                         | Kent, Surrey &<br>Sussex Air<br>Ambulance          | 500.00           | 0.00            | 500.00           |
| PC Grant Aid to<br>Wards       | 06/08/2025 | Grant - Jazz<br>Festival 2025                          | Disability<br>Challengers                          | 500.00           | 0.00            | 500.00           |
| Land Management                | 06/08/2025 | Hire of Storage<br>container MW -<br>July 2025         | Activate Learning                                  | 87.00            | 0.00            | 87.00            |
| Land Management                | 06/08/2025 | Hire of storage<br>container MW -<br>June 2025         | Activate Learning                                  | 87.00            | 0.00            | 87.00            |
| Land Management                | 06/08/2025 | Hazard tape                                            | Mrs V C Fear -<br>Screwfix                         | 10.72            | 2.15            | 12.87            |
| Land Management                | 06/08/2025 | Gorilla Tape                                           | Mrs V C Fear -<br>Amazon EU<br>S.a.r.l., UK Branch | 5.98             | 1.20            | 7.18             |
| Parish Office                  | 06/08/2025 | External window<br>cleaning                            | Trevor Porter<br>Window Cleaning<br>Service        | 21.00            | 4.20            | 25.20            |
| Revenue Costs<br>Works Vehicle | 06/08/2025 | Fuel for works<br>van                                  | Shell Stoughton                                    | 50.43            | 10.09           | 60.52            |
| Land Management                | 07/08/2025 | Stihl Oil                                              | EDE Group<br>Limited (Amazon)                      | 28.75            | 5.75            | 34.50            |
| Land Management                | 07/08/2025 | 4 Scaffold<br>Boards                                   | Woodlands Farm<br>Reclamation                      | 80.00            | 16.00           | 96.00            |
| Land Management                | 13/08/2025 | Spray Paint                                            | Mrs V C Fear -<br>Poko Limited<br>(Amazon)         | 8.30             | 1.66            | 9.96             |
| Land Management                | 13/08/2025 | Emptying -<br>Dumpy Bin -<br>WSV Community<br>Car Park | Chambers Waste<br>Management                       | 34.42            | 6.88            | 41.30            |
| Land Management                | 13/08/2025 | Fuel for works<br>van                                  | Mr N Smart - MFG<br>Woodbridge Hill                | 7.99             | 1.60            | 9.59             |
| <b>Total</b>                   |            |                                                        |                                                    | <b>23,376.12</b> | <b>1,214.22</b> | <b>24,590.34</b> |

**b) Bank reconciliations for June 2025 and July 2025**

The Finance Officer (FO) had prepared the bank reconciliations for June and July 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 Fance, seconded by Cllr B Nagle, and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the bank reconciliation be approved and signed by the Chairman, Cllr N Mitchell, during the meeting.

Appendices 1 and 2: Bank Reconciliations June and July 2025

**c) Monthly budget reports for June 2025 and July 2025**

The FO had prepared the budget reports for June 2025 and July 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 J Snowball, seconded by Cllr M Fance, and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the budget reports be approved and signed by the Chairman, Cllr N Mitchell, during the meeting.

Appendices 3 and 4: Summary Budget Reports for June and July 2025

**d) Sponsorship**

Worplesdon Parish Council recently adopted a sponsorship policy with a view to being able to provide additional, or enhanced services to the community, without having to further increase the budget/precept (e.g. play area equipment and Christmas lights).

It was agreed that a working party be established comprising: Cllr N Mitchell, Cllr J Snowball, Cllr S Busby, and Cllr G Burch. A working party meeting to be arranged as soon as practicable.

**e) Drainage works - Coombe Lane**

The Clerk reported that tree roots causing the blockage in the drainage system in Coombe Lane had been cleared.

Advice had been sought from T J Hunt (Contracting) Ltd. Neil McGavin had carried out a thorough assessment of the drain beneath the entrance into Perry Hill Farm, the details of which had been circulated to all members via email advance of the meeting.

Mr McGavin's recommendation was to leave the existing pipe in place and monitor it every 6 months for any further tree root growth and silt build up within the pipe.

Given the level of clearance work already undertaken, it was agreed that the Council would take the watch and wait approach to monitor the effectiveness of the work already carried out.

**f) Annual pay awards announced – Effective from 1 April 2025**

The new pay awards had been announced on 24 July 2025. A uniform increase of 3.2% had been applied.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr N Mitchell, seconded by Cllr B McShee and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the 3.2% pay increase, as negotiated by the unions, be approved and that backpay be paid.

| Employee       | SCP payable [backdated to 1 April 2025] |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Gaynor White   | 36                                      |
| Victoria Fear  | 28                                      |
| Helen Lawrence | 22                                      |
| Andy Connor    | 13                                      |
| Neil Smart     | 10                                      |

**g) Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR)**

The Clerk advised that PKF Littlejohn LLP had issued an unqualified audit and there were no matters of concern that had been raised.

The Notice of Conclusion of Audit had been erected on the Parish noticeboards and website on 5 August 2025.

It was proposed by Cllr B Nagle, seconded by Cllr M Price, and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the auditor's report be approved and accepted.

**2025-284 - Clerk's Report**

- a) Kings Coronation tree – Wood Street Village Green** - Regrettably, we have been advised by an tree specialist that this tree has died. It will, therefore, be replaced in the Autumn being the optimum time for tree planting.

- b) Change to bus route no 28 – Falcon Buses - Woking, Wych Hill, St Johns, Knaphill, Brookwood, Pirbright, Worplesdon, Stoughton, Guildford** - From 4 August the timetable has been revised to assist with reliability. An early morning journey has been rerouted past Fairlands Estate (for pupils going to the Winston Churchill School) and extended to Kingfield Green (for St John the Baptist School and Woking College).

## **2025-285 - Chairman's Report**

This report covers the period from 3 July to 13 August.

### Thanks

Firstly, I wish to thank Councillors for substituting for me whilst I was on holiday.

- Cllr M Price for attending the Inauguration of the new Rector Revd. Dawn Lucas-Brown
- Cllr B Ahier for attending the Whitmoor Common Association AGM
- Cllr S Ellahi for attending the FLGCA Management Committee and delivering the WPC report.

### Community Speedwatch

In the last 6 weeks we have been visited twice by the Casualty Reduction Team, the first on 11<sup>th</sup> July the National Community Speedwatch Day and then on 7<sup>th</sup> August. Those with me on 7<sup>th</sup> August learnt about other work that the Casualty Reduction Team have been involved in over the last few weeks, including detecting illegal immigrants carrying out food delivery.

The figures show an indication that the education process we are carrying out is resulting in the lowering of offences that we record.

### 3 July

Before the Full Council, whilst the Staffing Committee was being conducted upstairs, Cllr Brigitte Ahier and I logged into the Guildford Borough Council and Waverley Borough Council joint webinar on the Local Government Review (LGR). We did not find any new information that is not already in the public domain.

The leaders of the respective councils admitted that the LGR has an ambitious timescale, at Surrey County Council's request, previous LGR's have taken between 3 and 5 years.

It is a central Government Decision to change the structure of local government.

Guildford and Waverley prefer a three unitary arrangement for Surrey.

Both 2 and 3 Unitary splits are viable.

Predicted savings of £60M by year 4.

Neighbourhood Access Committees can be top down rather than local. Examples in Somerset and Wiltshire indicate that they are not working.

This reorganisation is for the next 50 years.

GBC are proposing a Town Council for the 11 currently unparished wards.

### **Q&A Responses**

- All new councils to be financially stable.
- Authorities will have to meet debt.
- There will be part support from Central Government
- SCC debt to be proportioned across the new Unitaries.
  - £3bN across county
    - Housing support.
    - Woking debt £1.3bN unsupported
    - Spelthorne debt – unsupported
  - Answer before the Autumn from Central Government
  - Resolution necessary to proceed.



- Savings identified.
  - Reduction in Senior Staff
  - Duplications
  - Larger contracts – procurement

## 7 July

The Clerk, Gaynor White, and I attended our regular liaison meeting with Merrist Wood College. The college building work is progressing well, and they are expecting to open the new facilities later this year with the final building being completed early in 2026.

We did discuss the LGR and how it could impact on the college and ourselves, the college is also in the process of change being brought in by the Department of Education.

We also discussed the sale of Merrist Wood Golf Course and as no name of the new owner was known the conversation was short.

In the evening, I logged into the SCC Webinar on LGR.

- SCC believe that 2 Unitaries are best for Surrey.
- Central Government to publish a bill on LGR on 11 July
- Funding from Central Government
- Central Government concentrating on Health, Police, Fire and Rescue and Voluntary Services
- Government vision is expected during October.
- Mole Valley and Elmbridge are the only second-tier councils to support the 2 Unitary proposals (*distancing themselves from Woking and Spelthorne*).
- Elmbridge expressed concerns about the timescale and speed of LGR.
- Esher, Dorking, and Oxted are the three Pilot Schemes for NACs, and the first meetings will be in July.
- Cost of setting up the Unitaries includes rebranding, websites, redundancy payments, recruiting etc.
  - 2 Unitaries £85M
  - 3 Unitaries £93M
  - Costs to be met from current Council's reserves.
- Mayoral costs are not included in the above
- Debt
  - Good debt – Housing, Schools etc.
  - Bad debt – Commercial developments
- SCC consider that Bad debt needs to be written off.
- Long term position is not known; Woking debt interest is currently being supported by Central Government.
- **Woking's debt would represent 39% of the funding for the west Unitary.**
- There is no Referendum as LGR was part of the Labour Manifesto for the 2024 General Election. The option is to complete the Government consultation by 5 August.
- Government would not support a single Unitary
- SCC Budget for 2025/26 is £1.26bn made up of

|                                      |       |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| ○ Adult Wellbeing                    | £526M |
| ○ Children and family learning       | £314M |
| ○ Place                              | £197M |
| ○ Community Protection & Emergencies | £ 46M |
| ○ Resources                          | £ 81M |
- Neighbourhood Area Committees (NAC)

Pilot committees are to be set up in

  - Esher (Elmbridge)
  - Dorking (Mole Valley)
  - Oxted (Tandridge)
- Note none from the west of the county!

#### Members of NAC

- Health partners
  - Surrey Police
  - Education and business sector
  - Large Voluntary Community Social Enterprise groups
  - Local residents and community groups
  - Local councillors
  - Town and Parish Councillors
- 
- NAC offers the opportunities to influence funding and agree local priorities.
  - SCC are talking to other Unitaries and taking advantage of their learnings.
  - Probable double taxation.
  - Council Tax will increase irrespective of LGR by the 5% allowed by Central Government.
  - The mayor, when elected, will have responsibility for Police, Fire and Rescue, Transport amongst others.

#### 24 July

In the morning, Cllr Mike Price and I reviewed the agenda and presentation for the meeting.

In the evening, I attended the meeting as Chairman of the Council and with Cllr Mike Price in the Chair for inaugural meeting as Vice Chairman. Well done, Mike.

#### 29 July

In the morning Cllr Mike Price and I prepared a short item for the newsletter on LGR. This has been extended by the Assistant Clerk Victoria Fear to a two-page spread for the central pages of the newsletter as there was limited copy for the quarter.

I logged into the LGR and Devolution training session delivered by Andy Beams on behalf of SALC.

There were 10 attendees including three from SALC and three from WPC, Cllr Mike Price, the Clerk Gaynor White and myself, which was very disappointing.

Key points that came out from the training session were

- Concern about the speed of the changes to the new governing process.
- LGR is aimed at providing stronger community engagement.
- We are awaiting the Community White Paper, which was due in July 2025.
- Legislation for remote meeting is expected to be brought forward.
- The Mayoral Strategic Authority may be over Surrey or a number of Counties.
- Neighbourhood Area Committees could be 10 in the west unitary and 13 in the east unitary.
- There is likely to be a loss of skills and knowledge because of the devolution process.
- If a service is devolved to a parish or town council, it is unlikely that the associated costs will follow.
- Farnham Town Council is proposed to be the fourth trial NAC area.

#### 12 August

I was contacted by a resident about a development near to their property on Slyfield Industrial Estate.

WPC had not been contacted about the proposed development, and on checking the GBC website it had been included in the parish.

#### **2025-286 - Items for the next Full Council Meeting Agenda**

- a) Charitable donation in memory of the late Dr Paul Cragg.**

Approved by the Full Council 25 September 2025

**2025-287 - Date of next meeting – Full Council Meeting Thursday 25 September 2025 - 19:30.**

Meeting closed 21:53

Signed:

Chairman of the Council  
Date: 25 September 2025