

Shere Parish Council



COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday 11th February 2025 – Tanyard Hall 30 Station Roaf Gomshall GU5 9LF

Present: Councillors R Davey (Chair), P Tompkins, B Harrap, M Taylor-Cotter, T Florent, J Cross, R Findlay, G Reffo
Q Jayne (Applicant for Co-option)
Guildford Borough Council (GBC) Councillor and Surrey County Council (SCC) Councillor B Hughes
Five members of the public
Clerk & RFO S Hoyland

24.120 To accept apologies and reasons for absence in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, s 85(1) (LGA 1972) – Councillors W Esplen, M Keeble, and R Smith

24.121 To consider and vote on co-option applications – [Quentin Jayne](#) – postponed to later in the agenda

24.122 Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting held on [9th January 2024](#) – Signed and Approved as a Correct Record

24.123 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs) Declarations by Councillors on any of the agenda items below in accordance with The Localism Act 2011, ss.27-34 and the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012. (SI 2012 No. 1464) – **Item 22.129 (b) Councillor J Cross declared an interest as a member of the Shere Parochial Church Council (SPCC) and Councillor M Taylor-Cotter declared an interest as member of the SPCC Property Team**

Q Jayne arrived and Item **24.121 To consider and vote on co-option applications – [Quentin Jayne](#)** was considered. Q Jayne introduced himself. **Q Jayne was proposed by Councillor R Findlay and Seconded by Councillor J Cross – Council voted unanimously in favour, Q Jayne was Co-opted onto Shere Parish Council, signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took his seat**

24.124 Brief Report from Surrey County Council (SCC) Councillor on matters from Surrey County Council affecting Shere Parish – SCC Councillor B Hughes Reported the following:

- The waiting Sign was up outside the Co-op, Shere to stop parking for long periods
- The Part Pedestrianisation of The Square, Shere was due to take place before the end of the financial year
- Hoe Lane Accident - refilling of the grit bin on Pursers Lane was being chased, the one-way proposal was complicated and he didn't think local residents would be supportive but SCC was looking at the signage
- Hound House Road had too many potholes and he was trying to get it actioned
- Holmbury St Mary traffic calming – analysis of the existing measures would take place in the new financial year and a site meeting would follow, to see if anything else could be done
- Burchets Hollow, Peaslake was not meant to have been used for the recent diversion when Peaslake Lane was closed. Resurfacing will be taking place in the new financial year
- Communication regarding the Gas and Water issues in Gomshall was acceptable at first and then declined so Jeremy Hunt was asked for assistance, which helped

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Councillors asked the following questions:

- Councillor G Reffo asked when the Burrows Lane rail crossing would be opened – 17th February 2025
- Councillor J Cross reported that Barhatch Road was being used to access the filming on the Hurtwood, which was causing travel disruption – SCC Councillor B Hughes replied he would investigate
- Councillor R Findlay asked for an update on Whitedown Lane flooding – SCC Councillor B Hughes replied that there had been no progress but had chased for an update

24.125 Brief Report from Guildford Borough Council (GBC) Councillors on matters from Guildford Borough Council affecting Shere Parish – Nothing to report

24.126 Questions or requests from members of the public to the Council in relation to the business on the agenda or future items for discussion – The following issues were raised by residents:

- The traffic on Sandy Lane, Shere going into the village was too fast, the double yellow lines are ignored and covered up with detritus which adds to making the village look uncared for and less welcoming – **Agreed** to request Guildford Borough Council Street Cleaning
- The A25 in Gomshall was increasingly unsafe due to the traffic and speed of vehicles. The area was now more residential and safety needed to be a priority

A further member of the public arrived

24.127 Highway Issues:

- a) Hoe Lane Peaslake (leading to Pursers Lane – Peaslake end):
 - to note serious accident and to request more 20mph signage and any other immediate safety measures which could be applied – **Discussed earlier in the meeting**
 - To request a safety review by Surrey County Council – **a site visit was requested to review the road and signage**
- b) Speeding through Gomshall – to consider requesting a speed reduction on the A25 through Gomshall, in light of public consultation for 20mph restrictions on other ‘A’ roads locally - SCC Councillor B Hughes confirmed that there will be 20mph limit on A roads and speed tables in Shalford but there was street lighting. However, it was **Agreed** that SCC Councillor B Hughes would pursue the idea of reducing the speed limit on the A25 through Gomshall and would chase the double yellow lines on the bend opposite Colekitchen Lane with the proposal to remove the bus stop opposite the garage, to allow more parking.

24.128 Finance Matters 2025 – January 2025

- a) **Approved** income of £7,250.84 and expenditure of £14,467.92 for the month ended January 2025 ([Appendix 1](#))
- b) **Approved** of Lloyds Credit Card cashbook transfer and cashback of £472.74 and expenditure of £558.90 for January 2025 ([Appendix 2](#))
- c) **Noted** bank reconciliations and statement balances (including credit card) for month ended January 2025 ([Appendix 3](#))
- d) **Noted** income and expenditure against budget and earmarked reserves to end of January 2025 ([Appendix 4](#))
- e) **Noted** VAT expenditure for January 2025 ([Appendix 5](#))

24.129 To consider the following items and agree resolutions where appropriate:

- a) Peaslake Farm:

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- to consider [proposed public update](#) drafted by the Chairman (postponed from the January meeting) – Councillors were happy with the first part regarding the affordable housing update but did not agree on the second half regarding flooding. It was **Agreed** that a formal request is made to SCC Councillor B Hughes for SCC to conduct investigations to try and find a viable solution to flooding in the village during heavy rain, looking at the whole topography of Peaslake. There would be an agenda item for council to consider the implications of the report. In the meantime, the Chairman would review the wording on the update, including a [suggestion from Councillor T Florent](#) with comments from other councillors that the council cannot make guarantees but ‘can try and do all we can to try to ensure that whatever is done on the farmyard does not exacerbate flooding in Peaslake’
- To consider proposal for Peaslake Farm Site clearance and quotes if appropriate (postponed from September 2024) – it was **Noted** that the council had not heard back from the contractor who was investigating whether there was any viable option for affordable housing on the site. If a developer were found, it would be hoped that the cost of over £15,000 would be part of any project – **Agreed** to chase the contractor with a four-week deadline for a reply and not to carry out the removal of the buildings at this time, as the cost had not been budgeted for. **Agreed** the removal of the buildings would be considered at the May Management and Strategy Working Group Meeting alongside other Council projects and priorities.
- To consider approval of the [Community Garden License on Peaslake Farm Fields](#) – **Agreed subject to the change of definition of resident to ‘resident of Shere Parish Council’ and ‘provided that the Peaslake Community Garden CIC shall have discretion to admit as a member, individuals resident in villages adjacent to Shere Parish Council, where capacity allows’**

Three members of the public left the meeting

- To consider getting legal advice on what would happen to Peaslake Farm if Peaslake becomes its own parish council (with regard to how the title was obtained and registered) – **Agreed** to circulate to all councillors the information from Guildford Borough Council regarding the transfer of any land and assets together with the relevant legislation to a potential new Peaslake Council. **Agreed** no further legal advice necessary at this time
- b) **Agreed** [Grant Application from Shere Parochial Church Council](#) for half of the upkeep of cemeteries £3,545.86 (Local Government Act 1972 s 214 (6))
- c) **Agreed** [Memorial Bench Application](#) for Peaslake field with [preferred design](#) and [location](#)
- d) Annual Parish Meeting - to consider the following:
- asking Guildford Borough Council Mayor, Councillor Sallie Barker MBE or Ben McCallan (instrumental in setting up Zero Carbon Guildford) as speaker for the Annual Parish Meeting in April – **Agreed to ask Mayor, Councillor Sallie Barker MBE**
 - asking for questions via social media and the parish magazine ahead of the meeting - **Agreed**
- e) **Agreed** use of main Shere Car Park for disabled parking for Open Gardens – Shere Village Hall tablet to be used to upload number plates of those using the disabled parking for that day to give them free parking
- f) **Reviewed** use of Holmbury St Mary Parking Area; in particular the use by Holmbury Garage and decided no action at this time. **Agreed** Holmbury St Mary Councillors to speak to the garage regarding their extensive use of the parking area and to encourage a reduction of vehicles
- g) **Agreed** appointment of Councillor R Findlay to the Finance and Media & Communications Committee and as Representative for Holmbury St Mary Village Hall.

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- h) [New strategic approach to managing land use in England](#) – to consider completing the following consultation - **Agreed** no response required

24.130 [The English Devolution White Paper](#) – Noted and Agreed individual councillors to reply to the following consultation:

- a) [Strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England](#)

24.131 Media & Communication Committee – to agree March Councillor of the month for short video and topic – **Agreed** a short video from the council contractor on what he does. Also suggested a future video on the new Peaslake Community Garden

24.132 Date of next meeting: 7.30pm Thursday 6th March 2025 at Tanyard Hall, 30 Station Road, Gomshall GU5 9LF

Meeting Closed 9.37pm