

Godstone Parish Council

(incorporating the Villages of Godstone, South Godstone and Blindley Heath)

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MINUTES OF GODSTONE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

at St Stephens Church, South Godstone on Monday 15 May 2017

Present:

Parish Councillors

Cllr J Gardner - Chairman of the Parish Council

Cllrs B Davis, M Gillman, C White, J Faulkner, B Hubrey and R Johnson

County Councillor

Cllr R Thorn

District Councillor

Cllr R Thorn

Cllr N Childs

Cllr E Blake-Thomas

Member for East Surrey

Mr S Gyimah MP

and 22 Members of the Public

In attendance:

S Endersby (Clerk), M Parsons (Admin Assistant) and Mark Pearson, Surrey

Wildlife Trust (Guest Speaker)

- 1 Apologies for Absence
 - 1.1 Apologies were received from Councillor K Knox, Councillor M McLoughlin, V Seymour (Surrey Police), S Mir (Godstone Scouts), C Snell (United Baby & Toddler Group)
- 2 Minutes of the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting (APM)
 - 2.1 Copies of the minutes of the 2016 APM were available at the meeting.
 - 2.2 There was one correction raised and agreed, item 4 should read 'apolitical' not 'a political'.

RESOLVED – It was unanimously agreed that, following the correction being noted on the minutes, the minutes of the 2016 APM be signed by the Chairman.

- 3 Guest Speaker – Mark Pearson, Surrey Wildlife Trust

Mark Pearson (MP) introduced himself, the organisation Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) and Lucy Bryce the Parish's local contact.

MP spoke about SWT as an organisation, its charitable status; how it is funded; funding pressures; income generation; what different research and consultant areas it covers; its education centre at Nower Wood, work across Surrey; connecting sites and what it manages within the Parish.

SWT manages Blindley Heath Common which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) on behalf of the Parish Council. MP spoke about the range of responsibilities which were involved in managing the site, for example tree safety or managing the grazing of cattle on the site. MP reported that Natural England will be carrying out a review of Blindley Heath Common this summer. Natural England are part of the Blindley Heath Liaison Group along with Parish councillors, representatives from SWT, Parish Councillors and residents, grazer.

MP spoke about the trust looking at future possibilities to expand the use of Bay Pond for education.

The trust will receive a zero financial contribution from Surrey County Council by March 2021 and the trust is currently working on how this will be managed and achieved.

MP explained that SWT are always looking for volunteers to help carry out work on the sites they manage. The signage of sites was raised and discussed in relation to the cost of SWT investing in interpretation, the consideration of managing footfall on the sites dependent on the size, the relevance of Blindley Heath Common being a SSSI site and the potential to provide individual site information on the SWT website.

MP was asked if Tandridge District Council had consulted SWT about proposed planning. MP responded that he was not able to answer that as he would need to consult his planning department.

4 Chairman's Report

4.1 Copies of the Chairman's report were available at the meeting.

4.2 The following matters covered is summarized below:

- i. Register of Parish Assets;
- ii. The review of the Aims and Objectives for 2016-2017, including what has been achieved;
- iii. Local Plan scrutiny, the creation of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee and work towards protecting the villages;
- v. The Air Quality Monitor and recognition of the volunteers involved;
- vi. Clearing and tidying the Salisbury Road Allotments;
- vii. Continuing to fulfil aspects of the planning application to allow work to commence on the building of the much-needed car park on Bletchingley Road;
- viii. Extension of the path at St Nicholas burial ground as part of the long-term management of the burial ground;
- ix. Tree care as necessary at the Enterdent;
- x. Cleaning of the war memorials at St Nicholas, Godstone and St Johns, Blindley Heath;
- xi. The children's playground and improving the condition of the boundary fence; and
- xii. Updating the Website to make information current and accessible.
- xiii. Service at the Fenemore Memorial with thanks to L Head for his work in organising this and thanks to B Fairall who donated a new bench for the Memorial site.
- xiv. The creation of a Neighbourhood Plan Committee
- xv. Volunteers working to monitor HGV activity
- xvi. Continuing to work in partnership with SWT on the SSSI at Blindley Heath
- xvii. Thanks to Tandridge District Councillors, current and previous Surrey County Councillors, Gardenwise, volunteer organisation's working within our Parish and fellow councillor's.

5 Presentation of Certificates - on behalf of the Parish Council the Chairman presented awards to –

- i. Leslie Head of Godstone – for recognition of his contribution to the Fenemore memorial project
- ii. Karla Wood of South Godstone – in recognition of her services organising community events for charities
- iii. Andrea Gower of Blindley Heath – in recognition of her varied services to the community

The Parish council thanked all three parishioners for the contribution they made to community life.

6 Reports from and about local organisations - Reports from the following local organisations were available at the meeting and would be available on the Parish website:

- i. Godstone Preservation Society;
- ii. 1st Godstone Scout Group;
- iii. St Johns Church Blindley Heath;
- iv. Caterham, Oxted and Godstone Lions Club;
- v. Godstone United Charities

7 Open Forum – an opportunity for members of the public to put questions to the Parish Council.

S Gyimah – Commented on the positive nature of the Parish carrying out a Neighbourhood Plan and a good way to make the Parishes voice heard.

Allotment Holders – Asked councillors to address the issue of waste disposal on the allotments. The council acknowledged concerns and explained that there is still only pedestrian access to the allotments and the allotment holders should take their waste away with them. The Parish council welcomes suggestions and stated that the Parish council are considering there being an allotment holders association.

H Windsor – Thanked Parish councillors.

J Quincey – Asked when the accounts would be available. It was confirmed that following the audit the accounts information would be available.

A Parr – Raised the 2018 Chain of Beacons to celebrate 100 anniversary of the end of the First World War on 11 November 2018.

The meeting ended at 9.30pm.