

Godstone Parish Council

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

Clerk to the Parish Council

S Endersby

Admin Assistant

E Cross

The Bounty
Godstone Green
Godstone, Surrey
RH9 8DY

Telephone/Fax: 01883 744209

MINUTES

of the meeting of Godstone Parish Council held on
Monday 2 August 2021 at 7.30pm at St Stephens Church, South Godstone.

Members: Cllrs J Gardner, C White, C Farr, L Case, S Farr, M McLoughlin, B Davis and J Farnaby
Apologies: Cllrs D Stone and District Cllr C Swann (TDC)
In Attendance: E Cross (Admin Assistant), P Lyman

1. Questions from Members of the Public

1.1 P Lyman (PL) asked if Councillors were aware of the Parliamentary proposal put forward on 22 June. PL reported that the proposal is part of the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Production and the investment is about enlarging the public access network for recreation (cycling), housing development and investors. PL is against the proposal and feels it is very important to obtain tranquil footpaths which are not misused. It was noted that there is information on the Surrey Wildlife website.

Councillors were unaware and Cllr C Farr commented that he didn't think Surrey County Council would change the rules on footpaths and it is likely to require an act of Parliament. Cllr C Farr commented that maybe footpaths could be looked at and widened to what they should have been.

Councillors agreed that if PL gives us contact details then we can consider the subject.

2. Apologies and reasons for absence

2.1 Apologies were received from Cllr D Stone due to recovering from an operation.

RESOLVED – Councillors noted the apology received and the meeting was deemed quorate.

2.2 Apologies were received from District Cllr C Swann due to other commitments.

3. Declarations of Interest – No pecuniary interests were declared.

4. County and District Councillors – Brief report on matters affecting the Parish.

4.1 Cllr C Farr commented that there were no significant plans regarding the temporary transit camping site in Bletchingley and that Tandridge District Council were waiting for the Local Plan.

5. Minutes of the previous meetings held on 5 July 2021.

RESOLVED – The councillors unanimously agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2021 were an accurate record of the meeting and that they be signed by the chairman.

6. Finance Committee report: Report on borrowing money from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)

6.1 The committee reported its findings following the meeting held to discuss and consider the Parish Council applying for a PWLB loan and its recommendation to proceed.

7. Motion proposed by Councillors

7.1 It was proposed at the Parish Council meeting of 5 July 2021 that the council proceed with an attempt to buy the current Parish office known as the Bounty from the Godstone Scout Group. A loan from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) would be the proposed way to fund the purchase and an action was agreed for the clerk to seek out information in relation to a PWLB loan and circulate it to all councillors.

Motion Proposed: The information on obtaining a loan from the PWLB has been investigated and circulated by the Clerk to all parish councillors. Taking such a loan is a serious commitment for both the current and future councils it is therefore appropriate for councillors to confirm receipt of the terms and conditions of such a loan and to approve the next step to process which is to seek approval from the Secretary of State to agree PWLB loan, once and if a sale figure has been agreed.

(Proposed: Cllr B Davis; **Seconded:** Cllr J Farnaby)

RESOLVED: The councillors unanimously agreed seek approval from the Secretary of State for a PWLB loan for the purpose of purchasing the Bounty which is the parish office.

ACTION 8/2021 – 1 – Clerk to start the necessary process for the Parish council to apply for a loan from the PWLB.

7.2 Motion Proposed: Godstone Parish council have been trying for many years to build a much needed new car park on its land on the Bletchingley Road, addressing issues as part of the process, which have required the council to seek permissions from Tandridge District Council, Surrey County Council Highways, UK Power Networks and other authorities; completing the necessary surveys involved in the applications, including Great Crested Newt; Bat and Archaeological surveys and dealing with boundary issues with adjoining properties. The Parish council have already spent considerable sums of money and yet still find itself with issues in constructing the required entrance to the proposed car park site. Many of our permissions have exceeded their execution time and it is with regret that it is proposed:

- a. The Parish council stop this project with immediate effect, pay all outstanding invoices and reinstate a fence along the edge of Parish property to make it secure from trespass.
- b. The Parish council produce a financial report on spend to date and predicted spend to close the project.
- c. The Parish council produce a summary report of this disappointing episode for publication in the appropriate place so that the people of Godstone Parish have all the relevant information.

(Proposed: Cllr B Davis; **Seconded;** Cllr J Farnaby)

RESOLVED – The councillors unanimously agreed that a report would be produced to the public, any outstanding invoices to be paid and the project would sadly be closed.

8. Reports

- 8.1 Chairman's Report – Nothing new to report.
- 8.2 Reports (for noting) from representatives on outside bodies etc:
 - i. Cllr L Case reported information obtained from the Surrey Police presentation given by Jo Grimshaw relating to Anti-Social Behaviour. The information given which [we] are doing already is to work with the community, recognise the harm, report to borough and district regarding fly tipping, abandoned cars, noise nuisance etc. There is a specialist outreach team in place.
 - ii. Cllr C White had information from a rail forum that they would be cutting all services and there would be no through trains for the next few months from South Godstone. There would just be a shuttle service from Caterham to Purley.
 - iii. Cllr J Farnaby reported speaking to Nutfield Parish Council to let them know that Godstone Parish Council support them with the proposed large development. This is to be discussed in Part 2.
 - iv. Cllr L Case raised concerns regarding the Waterboard where 400 more houses are proposed to be built. All Councillors agreed that this was public knowledge even though Bletchingley Parish Council had said they were unaware.

9. Committee Reports

- 9.1 Planning Committee report from 7 July 2021 and 26 July 2021 –
 - i. Application 2021/1108 – It was reported that the opportunity to provide vehicular access to the allotments has not been incorporated in the proposal which is a great shame as this would be of great benefit to the community. The committee did not object to the planning application.
- 9.2 Green Spaces Committee report from 13 July 2021 – noted that the Fete Committee Grant Application had gone through.
- 9.3 Green Spaces Committee report from 20 July 2021
 - i. 14 The Enterdent – No Comment made.
 - ii. Delineation of the Salisbury Road Allotments Boundary – Cllr J Gardner attended the allotment site and measured the boundary, he reported the findings of his measurements.
 - iii. Unauthorised parking within the Enterdent – it was noted that the car that was parked at the Enterdent had now gone.

10. Finance Matters

10.1 Accounts for payment - JULY

GPC Ref.	Business	Invoice	Invoice Date	Payment For	Net amount	VAT	Invoice Total
Salary Payments							
G1075-77	Salaries			JULY Salary Payments (5wk month)	2304.09	0	2304.09
G1078	HMRC			NI and Income Tax - JULY			
G1079	Nest Pension			Pension JULY – Employees/Employers total payment paid by GPC to NEST			
Direct Debits							
G1074	British Gas Lite	1766443	7/9/2021	Electricity Bill	19.13	0.96	20.09

G1080	BT			Telephone and Internet	49.78	9.95	59.73
Invoices for Payment							
G1073	HPS	5796	7/7/2021	IT Support for June	66.55	13.31	79.86
G1081	Neat Gardens			Grass Cutting	2038.01		2038.01
G1082	St Stephens			Hall Rental – June Planning Meeting	20		
G1083	Exalls			Resurfacing of the Car Park nr Pondtail Surgery	2100	420	2520.00

*Salaries paid in accordance with 7. Payment of Salaries of the Parish Council Financial Regulations. **Employees/Employers total payment paid by GPC to NEST.

TOTAL **£6,597.56** **£444.22** **£7041.87**

RESOLVED – Councillors by a majority, approved the accounts for payments totalling **£7041.87**

10.2 Accounting Statements - Summary Financial Report to **APRIL, MAY and JUNE** - Bank Reconciliation; Income and expenditure; Restricted Funds (incl. CIL funds) and Designated Funds Summary.

RESOLVED – Councillors unanimously agreed receipt of Summary Financial Report to **APRIL, MAY and JUNE** and that they be signed on behalf of the Parish council.

11. Greens, Commons and Land, to include:

11.1 Review of inspection reports

i. Godstone Green

a. White Hart Car Park has deteriorating of surface, weeds and vegetation at base of large tree.

ACTION 8/21 – 2 - Councillors would monitor this and report in next months inspection report.

Several benches in a state of disrepair and two unusable – Councillors unanimously agreed that we should get rid of the benches in question. Cllr C White suggested using recycled material on future benches to make it easier to maintain.

ACTION 8/21 – 3 - Cllr M McLoughlin to get the specifications, locations and seek to get quotes to have these removed.

ACTION 8/21 - 4 – Clerk to put together a table of alternative materials for benches.

MOTION Proposed – Cllr B Davis suggested we nominate a specified contractor to do certain small jobs rather than having to go to tender.

ACTION 8/21 -4a – Clerk to include this on the agenda of the next meeting.

(Proposed: Cllr B Davis; Seconded: Cllr S Farr)

b. Broken drain covering located to area by Godstone Club.

ACTION 8/21 – 5 - Councillors will monitor and report in next months inspection.

c. All footpaths deteriorating.

ACTION 8/21 – 6 - Councillors will monitor.

d. Identified a dead tree adjacent to no2 Ivy Mill Lane and one deteriorating opposite entrance to priory. Confirmed this has been dealt with.

e. Signage opposite The Forge in need of renovation – This is being looked at to be refurbished.

ii. Godstone Playground

Exposed Foundations Several areas of floor matting now exposed in sand covering the ground areas of the playground identifying a possible trip hazard for all users Cllr L Case suggested investigating a new rubber surface to replace the sand.

RESOLVED - Councillors unanimously agreed that the matting should all be cut away.

iii. Tilburstow Hill Common

a. Lots of overhanging branches towards the top of the Enterdent.

ACTION 8/21 – 7 - Cllr M McLoughlin will monitor and note in next months inspection report.

b. Knotweed – reported and action being taken.

ACTION 8/21- 8 - Cllr M McLoughlin to meet contractor next week to spray all the knotweed.

iv. Burial Grounds

a. Graves with edging have been reported to Clerk – it was noted that Councillors agreed that we need to keep on top with sending letters out to the graves in question.

b. No water in water tank.

Cllr L Case confirmed that the tank is now full.

c. Several benches need re-painting – Councillors suggested removing the benches in question following on from letters being sent out to the owners asking if they still would like them.

d. Footpaths all have many weeds and need strimming. Cllr L Case reported information on a voluntary group tidying some footpaths.

v. **South Godstone**

a. Posterngate notice board is open and needs attention.

11.2 **Godstone**

11.2.1 Playground – Basket Swing

RESOLVED – Councillors unanimously agreed that the quote from a supplier to refurbish the current basket swing was very expensive and not to proceed with this option.

Noting the urgency due to Health and Safety, the following proposal be considered:

Proposal – Purchase of brand-new basket swing rather than continuing any further with the refurbishment of the current swing.

(Proposed: Cllr J Gardner; **Seconded:** Cllr J Farnaby)

RESOLVED – Councillors unanimously agreed that a brand new basket swing be purchased and installed.

11.3 **Hilly fields** – Councillors discussed Hilly Fields and it was decided to leave it as it is.

11.4 **Bounty and Allotments**

11.4.1 Bounty – update on status of Rent Review or potential purchase of the Bounty – Councillors noted that this was discussed in motion 7.1.

11.4.2 Rubbish Bin – Godstone Club have offered to arrange a bin for the council, bowl and tennis clubs.

RESOLVED – Councillors unanimously agreed that the Bounty does not need a rubbish bin.

11.5 **Tilburstow Hill/The Enterdent**

11.5.1 Japanese Knotweed – To be sprayed next week by the councillors contractor.

11.6 **South Godstone**

i. A proposal by Cllr C White was put forward, that the Parish council put up a new bus shelter replacing the one that was taken down after it was damaged beyond repair.

ACTION 8/21- 10 – Cllr C White will find out cost.

ii. Awaiting quote to put Christmas lights in tree outside St Stephens Church.

11.7 **Blindley Heath**

Councillors noted the information from the Clerk in relation to the Parish as a burial Authority in relation to a previous query in relation to St John's, Blindley Heath. No further action agreed.

ACTION 8/21 – 12 - Check Christmas lights are working.

12 **Burial Grounds and Memorials**

12.1 Exclusive Rights of Burial Applications - None

12.2 Memorials – Rules should be made aware when clients enter into a contract. It was suggested that these rules should be sent to the undertaker and also put on the notice board in the Church Yard.

12.3 War Memorials and Posterngate Farm Memorial Site

12.3.1 It was noted that the Posterngate Farm Noticeboard is in need of repair.

13 **Correspondence** – The following correspondence which had been circulated by email was noted:

- Petition – Save Godstone's B2235! (Road leading to J6 M25) – Change.org
- FW: Surrey Hills Community Forum
- FW: On site LRF – off site flood plan and inundation map for cascade effect – Godstone – Emma to send information again.

14 **Matters for reporting or inclusion on future agendas**

13.1 The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 6 September 2021 at 7.30 pm and to be held at St Stephens Church Hall.

-----Meeting ended 10.05pm -----

Chairman

Dated