

Wonersh Parish Council

BLACKHEATH • SHAMLEY GREEN • WONERSH

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WONERSH PARISH COUNCIL

held on Thursday 13 September 2012, at 7.30 pm at Wonersh Sports Pavilion

PRESENT

Cllr M Band, Cllr K Bawden, Cllr R Bawden, Cllr G Grant, Cllr L Healy, Cllr B Holtom, Cllr A Powell-Evans (in the chair), Cllr C Smith; and

Mrs J Bowden (for items 12/165 to 167 and 176 only), Mr N Morris (for items 12/165 to 167 only), PCSO P Snow (for item 167 only).

In attendance: Mr K Garvey, Clerk to the Council.

12/165	Apologies for absence. The Council received and accepted apologies from Cllr P Brodie.
12/166	Wonersh Parish Code of Conduct – Disclosure of Interests. No Members declared any personal or prejudicial interests in respect of the after-mentioned business.
12/167	Open meeting for electors to raise matters with the Council. (a) New Blackheath bus timetable/routes and community notice board 1. Mr Morris commended the Council and individual residents of Blackheath for their submissions to the Surrey County Council (SCC) consultation about local bus services earlier in the year and for securing an acceptable outcome of revised routes/timetables to/from the village from September 2012 onwards for valued, essential services. 2. Mr Morris noted with thanks the installation of the new community noticeboard in front of the Village Hall. (b) Flooding in Blackheath Lane 1. Mr Morris expressed serious concern about the lack of progress by Surrey Highways in mitigating the regular flooding of Blackheath Lane which made the road impassable to all pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and most motor vehicles. He understood from Mr John Hilder, Highways Manager, that the department presently lacked human resources to draw up the required engineering specifications for such a project. The Council shared these concerns and rehearsed the repeated, direct representations it had made over the last twelve months to SCC to seek to ensure that this problem was resolved. 2. Members agreed to consider next steps under matters arising (see item 12/169(a) below).

	<p>(c) Briefing by Mrs Bowden, Countryside Manager, Waverley Borough Council (WBC) about options to improve motor vehicle parking in Shamley Green</p> <p>1. Mrs Bowden began by presenting a short background note about the common land in the centre of Shamley Green. It helpfully addressed widespread misconceptions about ownership, bylaws and the requirement to seek the consent of the Secretary of State to change the use of registered common land, eg for parking places for motor vehicles.</p> <p>2. Mrs Bowden briefed the Council about the contents of the report into potential options for additional motor-vehicle parking, following the site visit she made with Cllrs Band and Powell-Evans, the Clerk and Mr E Baker, WBC Countryside Ranger, on 6 September 2012. Members agreed to consider the report further, along with next steps under item 12/176 (see below).</p> <p>(d) Briefing by PCSO Snow, Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT)</p> <p>1. PCSO Snow presented his report on local crime over the last month, highlighting a burglary at an isolated private dwelling and a further incident of theft from a motor vehicle. In the light of a number of similar crimes in the neighbouring parish of Bramley, the police had increased patrols in the Parish.</p> <p>2. PCSO Snow confirmed that he would be holding the next <i>Neighbourhood Policing Surgery (NPS)</i> at 10.00 am on Tuesday 18 September at the Wonersh Sports Pavilion. He would also be distributing copies of the latest NPT news sheet to the village shops in Shamley Green and Wonersh.</p>
12/176	<p>The Council agreed to bring forward consideration of the following agenda item.</p> <p>To consider options for improving motor vehicle parking in Shamley Green and to agree next steps.</p> <p>1. The Council carefully considered the pros and cons of fourteen potential sites in or near the centre of Shamley Green identified in the report prepared by Mrs Bowden. Members agreed that no one site on its own could adequately address the problem but a number of them combined could make a difference in such a way as to enhance the attractiveness of the village for existing and new small commercial enterprises as well as in preserving the valued amenity of the open, rural environment to neighbouring private dwellings and the wider community.</p> <p>2. The Council accepted that there were many hurdles to overcome before it and WBC would be in a position to seek the consent of the Secretary of State to create more motor-vehicle parking spaces on the edges of the common land or to secure the financial resources to undertake the necessary works. However, Members agreed that as a first next step it would be essential to consult Shamley Green residents and secure their support for the way forward. The Council therefore requested that the Clerk seek to book the Arbutnot Hall for a public meeting in mid to late November. It also agreed that it should prepare an information leaflet for inclusion in the Shamley Green (ecclesiastical) parish magazine at the beginning of November (as well as via the Council website) setting out a number of preferred options together with</p>

	<p>reasons for discounting others, inviting comments/views ahead of a full discussion at the public meeting. Members were grateful to Mrs Bowden for her offer to revise the options report recommendations for inclusion in the proposed leaflet. Members agreed that they should consider and approve all literature and public meeting arrangements at the next Council meeting to be held on 11 October 2012.</p>
12/168	<p>The Council resumed consideration of agenda items in their original order.</p> <p>To approve the minutes of the Council meetings held on 12 & 19 July 2012.</p> <p>The Council accepted these were true records of the previous meetings. Cllr Powell-Evans signed the minutes accordingly.</p>
12/169	<p>Matters arising.</p> <p>The Council noted the matters arising update submitted by the Clerk. Members made the following additional observations and decisions.</p> <p>(a) Flooding in Blackheath Lane</p> <p>The Council shared the concerns expressed by Mr Morris and other members of the Blackheath community. Members noted that the lack of acknowledgment by SCC to letters from the Clerk and Cllr Powell-Evans were disrespectful and brought SCC into disrepute. The Council therefore agreed that it should be represented at the forthcoming SCC Local (Waverley) Committee meeting on 21 September to question County Councillors and senior officials about this unacceptable situation and to seek assurances that SCC would address this problem urgently before autumn and winter weather made conditions worse.</p> <p>(b) Projects to mark HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee</p> <p>The Council thanked Cllr R Bawden for his report about potential proposals for an orientation table at the summit of Chinthurst Hill and agreed that Members should provide him with feedback before he brought the matter back to the Council for further consideration.</p>
12/170	<p>To receive the approved minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 5 & 19 July and 2, 16 & 30 August 2012.</p> <p>The Council received the approved minutes which had been signed by Cllrs R Bawden and Powell-Evans.</p>
12/171	<p>Finance – to consider and approve the following:</p> <p>(a) the list of receipt and payment vouchers in July and August 2012</p> <p>The Council <i>RESOLVED</i> unanimously to approve these (proposed by Cllr Band, seconded by Cllr Healy);</p> <p>(b) the end-July & end-August 2012 financial statement</p> <p>The Council <i>RESOLVED</i> unanimously to approve these (proposed by Cllr Healy, seconded by Cllr Band);</p>

	<p>(c) the payment of £270 (ex VAT) to <i>Marmax Products Ltd</i> for a new seat at Wonersh Common playground</p> <p>The Council <i>RESOLVED</i> unanimously to approve this (proposed by Cllr Grant, seconded by Cllr K Bawden);</p> <p>(d) the payment of £40 (ex VAT) to <i>Getmapping PLC</i> for the 2012/13 annual subscription to <i>Parish Online</i> mapping services</p> <p>The Council <i>RESOLVED</i> unanimously to approve this (proposed by Cllr R Bawden, seconded by Cllr Healy);</p> <p>(e) the payment of up to £200 (ex VAT) as the Council's contribution to a new community notice board in Wonersh to mark HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee</p> <p>The Council <i>RESOLVED</i> unanimously to approve this (proposed by Cllr Band, seconded by Cllr Grant).</p>
12/172	<p>To consider the duty on the Council to promote and maintain high standards of conduct (Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011) and to approve as follows:</p> <p>(a) a revised Code of Conduct for Members</p> <p>The Council <i>RESOLVED</i> unanimously to approve this (proposed by Cllr R Bawden, seconded by Cllr Band);</p> <p>(b) a revised Register of Interests of Members</p> <p>The Council <i>RESOLVED</i> unanimously to approve this (proposed by Cllr R Bawden, seconded by Cllr Holtom);</p> <p>(c) revised arrangements for dealing with complaints against Members</p> <p>The Council <i>RESOLVED</i> unanimously to approve this (proposed by Cllr Grant, seconded by Cllr K Bawden).</p>
12/173	<p>To consider and approve the Council's updated Standing Orders</p> <p>The Council <i>RESOLVED</i> unanimously to approve these (proposed by Cllr Band, seconded by Cllr Healy).</p>
12/174	<p>To consider and approve the Council's updated Financial Regulations</p> <p>The Council <i>RESOLVED</i> unanimously to approve these (proposed by Cllr K Bawden, seconded by Cllr Band);</p>
12/175	<p>To consider and approve the completed 2011/12 Audit Annual Return and to note the issues arising report (for which no further action is required)</p> <p>The Council <i>RESOLVED</i> unanimously to approve this (proposed by Cllr Healy, seconded by Cllr R Bawden).</p>
12/177	<p>To consider further the issue of new affordable housing within the parish and to agree next steps.</p> <p>The Council strongly supported proposals that the Housing Working Party</p>

	<p>should urgently arrange a meeting with the Surrey Community Action Enabler and WBC to pursue this initiative.</p>
12/178	<p>To consider further a request for a bus shelter at <i>The Street, Wonersh</i> and to agree next steps.</p> <p>The Council noted the request from Wonersh residents for a shelter at the bus stop in front of the Wonersh Surgery/Pharmacy. Members also noted that this issue would require public consultation in due course. As a first step, they agreed that Cllr Grant and the Clerk should consult Wonersh Surgery (as the relevant property owner) for its views and report back to the Council.</p>
12/179	<p>To consider requests for improvements at Lordshill Playground, Shamley Green.</p> <p>The Council considered a report by the Clerk about the following issues:</p> <p>(a) Suggestions for new/replacement play equipment</p> <p>Members noted that the Council's ongoing policy to-date is to encourage the Wonersh and Shamley Green-based playground volunteers to take the lead (with the Council's support) in raising funds for new equipment. The Shamley Green-based group are presently focused on fundraising for some new equipment for the younger children. The Council was also willing to consider further an idea for a new petanque/boule pit but requested that the interested individual do some more research and prepare more definite proposals, including the size and estimated costs/fundraising proposals.</p> <p>(b) Maintenance of mini-football playing field</p> <p>The Council noted that this is a rural playground and not a sports field. The Council could not rely on a volunteer, similar to the individual who cares for the Wonersh Sports Ground, to maintain the present mini football area to a playing standard. However, the Clerk agreed to approach the SG cricket club to see if they would be willing to roll the pitch. The Council agreed that it would be prepared to fund the replacement of the goal-mouth nets from the playground maintenance budget and requested that the Clerk undertake this.</p> <p>(c) Maintenance of the ditch</p> <p>The Council noted that it had undertaken some works in the past but formal responsibility continues to lie with WBC. The Council agreed that it was not feasible to create a barrier or cover the ditch to prevent balls or other items falling into it.</p> <p>(d) Playground mowing and strimming</p> <p>The Council noted that the present contractor undertakes work at the Lordshill and Wonersh playgrounds on an equal basis. He is flexible over the timing of mowing, subject to the weather. The Council presently budgeted for 6 mowings a year over the spring and summer months but agreed to consider whether or not this was sufficient as part of its 2013/14 budget preparations.</p>

12/180	<p>To consider and approve procedures for selling Gerald's Wood.</p> <p>The Council noted the willingness of <i>Woods 4 Sale</i> to act on the Council's behalf in seeking to identify a purchaser for Gerald's Wood. The Council agreed that the proposed commission/fee was reasonable. The Council further agreed that it would be willing to enter into a 12 month time-limited exclusive representative deal with <i>Woods 4 Sale</i>.</p>
12/181	<p>To consider <i>Sundial Group's</i> 2012 annual report on the implementation of the Barnett Hill Traffic Management Plan and to agree next steps</p> <p>The Council <i>RESOLVED</i> unanimously to approve this and agreed that there was no requirement to hold a meeting with Sundial Group about any of the contents (proposed by Cllr R Bawden, seconded by Cllr Smith).</p>
12/182	<p>To consider the Council's response, if any, to Surrey County Council (SCC)'s public consultation about the <i>Surrey Minerals and Waste Development Framework: Aggregates recycling joint development plan document</i>.</p> <p>The Council considered the report presented by Cllr R Bawden and agreed that it had no comments to make about the SCC document.</p>
12/183	<p>To appoint the Council's representative to the Surrey County Association of Parish and Town Councils (SCAPTC) AGM to be held on 27 September 2012.</p> <p>The Council <i>RESOLVED</i> unanimously to appoint Cllr K Bawden as its official representative at this meeting (proposed by Cllr Healy, seconded by Cllr Band).</p> <p>The Council noted that Cllr Grant and the Clerk also planned to attend the meeting.</p>
12/184	<p>To consider and approve the Council's representation on SCC's Local Committee (Waverley) Highways Task Group.</p> <p>The Council <i>RESOLVED</i> unanimously to appoint Cllr Powell-Evans as the Council's official representative at meetings of the TG, with all other Members as Alternates, for the next twelve months, (proposed by Cllr Band, seconded by Cllr Healy);</p> <p>The Council noted that the Clerk also planned to attend future meetings of TG in support of the official representative.</p>
12/185	<p>Reports by Members and the Clerk:</p> <p>(a) Wonersh Traffic Calming</p> <p>The Council received an update from Cllr R Bawden, following the meeting of the Wonersh Community Traffic Calming Working Party earlier on 13 October. The WP had agreed to focus on two key issues arising from the latest traffic speed survey – getting motorists to observe the 30 mph speed limit through the centre of the village and tackling irresponsible drivers recorded travelling at more than 60 mph through the village. The WP therefore wanted to examine options to move the vehicle activated device closer to the centre of the village ,</p>

	<p>the possible introduction of pavers on <i>The Street</i>, and an adverse camber sign on the B2128 highway at Mellersh Hill. The WP also wanted to lobby the <i>Arriva</i> bus operator against the recent reintroduction of some double-decker buses which were unsuitable for the route.</p> <p>(b) Shamley Green Traffic Calming</p> <p>The Council received Cllr Band's report and awaited SCC's response to the most recent recommendations for the implementation of this initiative.</p> <p>(c) Buildings of Local Merit</p> <p>The Council received an update from Cllr Powell-Evans. She looked forward to receiving details of properties in Shamley Green to add to the consolidated Parish List, so that letters could be sent to the property owners inviting them to comment on potential inclusion as BLMs, ahead of submission of an agreed list to WBC in due course.</p> <p>(d) Wonersh United Reform Church, Induction of new Minister</p> <p>The Council received a report from Cllr Grant, who had attended the ceremony on 2 September 2012 at which the Reverend Phillip Jones had been inducted. Cllr Grant had warmly welcomed Mr Jones to his new ministry on behalf of the Council.</p>
12/186	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>(a) SCC Local (Waverley) Committee meeting on 21 September 2012</p> <p>The Council requested that the Clerk consult Cllr Brodie and other Members to ensure that the Council would be represented at this meeting.</p> <p>(b) Wonersh Village Stores Ltd: 2012 loan repayment instalment (£500).</p> <p>The Council noted that the annual £500 loan repayment instalment of £500 had been received. The Council further noted that only £1,500 remained outstanding from the original interest-free loan it had made. This was on track to be cleared by September 2015.</p> <p>(c) SCC Leader's Initiative: Community Improvement Fund</p> <p>The Council noted the value of seeking to apply for funding from this fund for future parish projects and agreed to ensure that this was taken into account ahead of the next deadline in early 2013.</p> <p>(d) Surrey Hills Society "a day in the country" guided walk</p> <p>The Council noted the request by the SHS to consider organising a guided walk within the parish but agreed that, since Wonersh and Shamley Green had been included only within the last two years, it would be more appropriate for other parishes to host walks for the foreseeable future.</p>
12/187	<p>Members' business for noting or including on a future agenda.</p> <p>(a) Risk and Audit Committee meeting: 11 October 2012</p> <p>The Council agreed that the R&AC should next meet on 11 October, half an hour ahead of the full Council meeting. This would provide the opportunity for</p>

	<p>it to consider relevant items of business arising from the 2011/12 audit and the half yearly update of the Council's Assets Register and Risk Management Register.</p> <p>(b) 2013/14 Council Budget Working Party meeting</p> <p>The Council agreed that it should hold its first informal brainstorming meeting to discuss the 2013/14 budget on Monday 8 October at 8.00 pm at Great Tangley Manor.</p> <p>(c) Autumn 2012 Council Newsletter</p> <p>The Council noted with thanks that Cllr Grant was due to begin putting together the next newsletter. Members agreed that they would actively consider making contributions and let Cllr Grant know. The contents would need to be agreed at the next Council meeting, ahead of the planned publication at the beginning of November.</p>
12/188	<p>Dates of future meetings:</p> <p>Council: 11 October 2012</p> <p>Planning Committee: 24 September & 11 October 2012</p> <p>Risk & Audit Committee: 11 October 2012</p>

There being no further business, Cllr Powell-Evans closed the meeting at 10.10 pm.