

2013 WONERSH PARISH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Record of the Annual Assembly of the electors of Blackheath, Shamley Green and Wonersh held on Thursday 18 April 2013 at 7.30pm at Blackheath Village Hall.

Present at the meeting were: Parish (and Borough) Cllr Mike Band, Cllr Kate Bawden, Cllr Richard Bawden, Cllr Paul Brodie, Cllr Georgina Grant, Cllr Bruce Holtom, Cllr Louise Healy, Cllr Anne Powell-Evans (in the chair); and 36 other local electors.

Special invitees: the Revd Sally Davies (Vicar of Shamley Green), Mrs Tess Trewinnard (Head Teacher of Wonersh and Shamley Green Infant School), PCSO Philip Snow, Ms Jane Abraham (Waverley Borough Council (WBC) Housing Strategy and Enabling Manager, Planning Service).

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Carolyn Smith, Borough Cllr Michael Goodridge, County Cllr Andrew Povey and the Revd Debbie Sellin (Vicar of Wonersh with Blackheath).

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

1. Cllr Powell-Evans welcomed all present and introduced the special invitees. Mrs Powell-Evans explained that the Annual Assembly was the opportunity for all electors in the parish to raise and discuss matters of local interest and concern. She outlined the agenda.
2. Cllr Powell-Evans presented a written report about the activities of the Parish Council since the last meeting of the Annual Assembly of electors, held on 24 April 2012. (Annex A).
3. Mr Michael Harding (Chairman of Trustees) presented the annual report of the activities of Wonersh United Charities since the last meeting of the Annual Assembly together with the audited accounts for the year ended 30 June 2012 (Annex B).
4. Mr Graham Healy presented a report on the activities of Wonersh Village Stores Ltd. He noted that the Village Stores (and Post Office) continued to flourish and that the adjacent office premises were also fully let. Mr Healy reiterated that the business was on target to repay all outstanding loans by 2015. He reminded the meeting that ownership of the assets had been transferred to a new body: the Wonersh Foundation to facilitate charitable giving within the village of Wonersh from the income derived from the business once it became debt free. However, the community could not afford to be complacent: it was important for everyone to continue to make good use of the village shop.
5. Cllr Richard Bawden made a presentation about the proposal for the parish to mark HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee by installing a toposcope on Chinthurst Hill. Mr Bawden invited everyone present to look at the display at the back of the Hall and to contribute their views, including making suggestions about landmarks or places for inclusion on the orientation table.
6. Cllr Powell-Evans updated the Assembly about the issue of parking in Shamley Green. The Parish Council supported WBC exploring two options to improve/extend

discreet parking in the areas around and including the site of the electricity sub-station. The Council also wanted to explore further the offer made by Longacre School for its car park to be used at weekends and out of term by organised groups of walkers/ramblers. The Council also wanted to advertise better existing car-parking facilities outside the village and encourage large groups to use them.

7. Cllr Grant made a presentation about requests for sheltered bus-stops on either side of The Street. Mrs Grant invited everyone present to look at the display at the back of the Hall and to contribute their views about installing shelters/canopies and suggestions about designs which would be in keeping with the conservation area.

8. PCSO Snow introduced himself to the Assembly and spoke about his role, together with Pc Tony Kerby, in making up the Safer Neighbourhood Police Team (SNPT) responsible for the parish. He noted the comparative security and absence of serious crime within the parish but encouraged everyone to be vigilant. On behalf of the community, Cllr Powell-Evans thanked the SNPT for their work and also commended their most recent initiative to revive small printed bulletins, available from the two village shops, highlighting seasonal crime prevention tips and other local issues of interest.

9. Mr Steve Scott made a presentation on behalf of Wonersh Woodland Group about the commitment of local volunteers to restore Gerald's Wood as a valued and accessible local amenity for individuals and groups in accordance with the terms of the donor who originally gave the woodland as a gift to the parish in 1959. Mr Scott invited everyone present to look at the display at the back of the Hall and to seek their support for the proposals the WWG would be submitting to the Parish Council for them to begin restoration work.

10. Cllr Powell-Evans updated the Assembly about progress to identify Buildings of Local Merit within the parish and to make recommendations about listing to WBC. Mrs Powell-Evans reiterated that the council was working in co-operation with property owners and the local History Societies to help ensure that the heritage of the parish was protected for the future.

11. Cllr Kate Bawden made a presentation about the Council's desire to improve outreach and communication with residents through its website and quarterly newsletters. Mrs Bawden invited everyone present to look at the display at the back of the Hall and to make comments and suggestions for improvements.

12. Cllr Holtom made a presentation about the name of the local area and its council. Mr Holtom explained that there was no requirement for the title to include the word "parish". Its deletion could permit a greater distinction with the local ecclesiastical parishes. He also asked if residents were content for "Wonersh" to predominate in the title in a community made up of three distinct villages. An unofficial straw poll of those present suggested a majority were in favour of changing the name and none were content with the status quo. He invited everyone present to submit their written comments and views.

13. Ms Jane Abraham, made a presentation about the Parish Council's project, supported by WBC and Surrey Community Action, to identify potential land within the parish on which affordable housing could be built to meet identified local need as set out in the results of the housing needs survey carried out in 2012. Ms Abrahams recounted the transparent steps already taken by the Council, including the parish-wide housing

needs survey and the more recent exhibitions and consultations at the Shamley Green and Wonersh village halls. She responded to concerns and objections to the Parish Council undertaking such a project. Ms Abraham defended the credibility of the housing needs survey.

14. The Assembly noted the objections on principle to the potential loss of any designated Green Belt land for further development within the parish expressed by some electors. Cllr Powell-Evans confirmed that the Parish Council was undertaking this project strictly on the basis of seeking to respond to identified, genuinely local need. The process of exploring the viability of different sites was only a first step and it could be that no sites were deemed acceptable. Mrs Powell-Evans reiterated that the Council had made no prior commitment to support building on any sites within the parish. The Council remained committed to an ongoing, open consultation of all residents on this important issue. She reminded the Assembly that all the Council's meetings were open to the public and invited residents to attend future meetings or to submit written comments for careful consideration by the Council.

15. While acknowledging some welcome improvements to the roads over the last year (eg the resurfacing between Wonersh and Shamley Green) a number of electors raised concerns about the danger of potholes and the deterioration of roads elsewhere within the parish. Cllr Powell-Evans confirmed that the Parish Council continued to lobby hard Surrey County Council to address serious problems. Cllr Band reiterated the importance of all members of the community reporting potholes to SCC directly and not leaving it to others to do so. However, he also said that the Parish Council wanted to address the frequency with which SCC made its own regular checks of the different highways and residential streets within the parish. If these checks could be increased, this could improve the response time for repairs. The Assembly noted that elections to SCC were due in May 2013 and that all electors had the opportunity to make their concerns known to the different candidates seeking to represent the Waverley Eastern Villages ward.

16. Cllr Powell-Evans expressed regret that County Cllr Povey had been unable to attend the Assembly this year but, noting that he had announced his retirement as the Member for Waverley Eastern Villages, wanted to place on record the thanks of the Assembly for all Cllr Povey's valuable support of numerous parish projects over the years. Finally, on behalf of the Assembly the Vicar of Shamley Green thanked the Parish Council for its continuing work on behalf of all the residents of Blackheath, Shamley Green and Wonersh.

17. There being no further business Cllr Powell-Evans closed the meeting at 8.55pm.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT : ANNUAL ASSEMBLY : 18 APRIL 2013

This year has been hard for many people and there are few signs of a respite - the incredibly cold and prolonged winter has done nothing to lift our spirits! However, we are fortunate in that we are surrounded by many local assets that cost little and are available for everyone's enjoyment i.e our environment, the beautiful countryside that surrounds our villages, local facilities and the sense of community that exists. The Parish Council is committed to preserving these local amenities and to facilitating local projects for the benefit of all our residents and has spent much of the past year endeavouring to do so.

Whatever your politics and whether or not you subscribe to the policy of localism, I am sure the majority would agree that there can be no doubt that working together is an effective and efficient way to proceed with projects in our community. In the last year we have seen several examples of how well this works through co-operative working of the Parish Council and residents.

The respective Wonersh and Shamley Green councillor/resident traffic calming working parties have been active – after a temporary hic-cup in Shamley Green, most of the traffic calming proposals have been put in place whilst in Wonersh, funding has been obtained for another Vehicle Activated Sign and Surrey County Council has agreed to look at drawing up plans for pavers between the village shop and The Grantley Arms. Both Speedwatch teams continue to function efficiently although hampered by the recent spell of bad weather.

The joint Buildings of Local Merit working party has been set up at the request of a Waverley Borough –wide initiative to identify such buildings in our area in order to improve records of local historical heritage features. So far the Parish Council has approved 11 buildings and sent them to Waverley Borough Council for their approval. There are several more in the pipe-line and many thanks to those members of local History Societies who have helped and from home-owners who have co-operated with the project.

We continue to draw on the expertise of local people for our Commons Enhancement and Management working party and, hopefully, the new trees that have been planted along the edge of the Common in Wonersh will look lovely when they eventually decide to blossom! We are grateful to those residents who have dedicated trees. More maintenance work has also been carried out at the small pond in Shamley Green.

The most recently formed councillor/ resident group is looking at assisting local volunteers to formulate a sustainable plan for the use of Gerald's Wood which does not incur additional cost to the Council budget. The wood was gifted to the parish many years ago but, due to insurance difficulties, had to be closed to the public in 2007. Following a consultation about the potential sale of Gerald's Wood, a group of Wonersh locals came forward wishing to consider alternative plans for this piece of land.

As well as joint enterprises, councillors represent the council in a variety of local organisations: Barnett Hill Traffic Management Consultative Committee, Longacre Traffic Management Consultative Committee, Blackheath Village Society, Bramley Library Steering Group and Wonersh United Charities.

The Parish Council also works with local organisations and other agencies as requested. They and the Blackheath Village Society have worked together with Surrey County Council Highways to resolve the problem of flooding in Blackheath Lane – a problem that has been around for many years but, hopefully, now satisfactorily settled. The Parish Council also took ownership of the project to repair some of the verges together with the Blackheath Village Hall Committee and Blackheath Village Society. Communication is on-going with SCC Highways regarding the extension of the pavement along The Street, Wonersh, towards Gerald's Wood in order to improve the sight-line when crossing the road.

We are in regular contact with our local police officers, PC Kerby and PCSO Snow who attend our council meetings whenever possible.

The new hall facilities at Wonersh and Shamley Green First School have been used for a public consultation run by the Parish Council and we have been pleased to support the school with their Woodland Project and with their bid to become a through primary school.

We are also in discussion with the head of Longacre about the use of the school car park at week-ends to ease parking difficulties in the village. One of our major projects is that of affordable housing and the council working party is meeting regularly with and taking advice from Surrey Community Action, Waverley Borough Council and English Rural Housing Association.

Councillors attend a variety of meetings locally and county wide. We are always pleased to be asked to local events and this year have attended the Newcomers' Party at Shamley Green, Blackheath Village Hall AGM and the opening of the new hall at Wonersh and Shamley Green First School as well as the consultation on the school's future status. Councillors have been to the Surrey Rural Partnership Conference, Surrey Association of Local Councils briefing, a meeting on Community Infrastructure Levy and Surrey County Council Local Committee.

There have been 2 major Parish Council led local consultations this year – one in Shamley Green in November 2012 to obtain residents' views on solutions to the parking situation in the village and another on 2 consecutive evenings, 29th January in Wonersh and 30th January 2013 in Shamley Green to look at potential sites for affordable housing in the parish. The outcome of these consultations is documented on our web-site and work on both these projects is on-going.

Other current projects include an application for Wonersh Sports ground to be designated as a Queen Elizabeth II field in addition to its present status as a War Memorial, the siting of a toposcope on Chinthurst Hill to commemorate the Golden Jubilee and the purchase of a new parish noticeboard outside Wonersh shop. As well as Parish Council matters, this will be available for local organisations to advertise meetings and events, as already happens in Blackheath.

The usual day-to-day work of the council carries on under the able and enthusiastic guidance of our Parish Clerk. The Parish Council is responsible for the allotments, a large area of common land, playgrounds, Gerald's Wood, the closed churchyard and many hundreds of trees for which we commission a biennial tree safety report. We produce a quarterly newsletter to keep residents informed of local issues.

This year we adopted a new Code of Conduct, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. We were consulted on the proposed changes to the parliamentary constituency boundaries and on aggregate waste. Our Risk and Audit and Personnel Committees continue to meet on a regular basis and our Planning Committee fortnightly. Working parties on Quality Council Status and Emergency Planning are also being convened.

Looking to the future, the Neighbourhood Plan is on hold until Waverley's Core Strategy is approved. We are discussing ideas to resolve some of the parking issues in Wonersh and also considering the erection of a bus shelter somewhere in the vicinity of the stop by the surgery.

The Council looks forward to considering the Gerald's Wood Group's proposals at its meeting in May 2013. We hope that the affordable housing project will progress to the satisfaction of the majority of residents. It has been suggested that we consider changing the name of the council to convey the parity of all 3 villages.

We welcome the in-put of residents on all these issues or any others that you would like to suggest. As usual, I should like to express my sincere thanks to all the councillors for their enthusiasm and commitment and to our Parish Clerk for all his hard work.

Anne Powell-Evans

Cllr Anne Powell-Evans

WONERSH UNITED CHARITIES
Accounts for the Year Ended 30th June 2012

<u>2011</u>	<u>Less</u>	<u>Income for Year</u>	<u>Less</u>	<u>2012</u>
£4,620.00		Smith's Charity		£4,900.00
£0.00		Wonersh Parish Council		£0.00
£189.94		Dividends		£190.03
£40.00		Donation Mr M		£0.00
£4.36		Bank Interest		£5.52
£300.00		Shamley Green PCC		£300.00
<u>£5,154.30</u>				<u>£5,395.55</u>
		Expenses		
	£20.00	Clerk's Remuneration	£20.00	
	£11.20	Mileage	£12.60	
	£18.00	Stationery, stamps, toner, flowers, cards	£45.29	
£49.20	-	Bank Charges	-	£77.89
<u>£5,105.10</u>				<u>£5,317.66</u>
		Distributions		
		Cheques July 2011/June 2012		
		2 x £300	£600.00	
		11 x £70	£770.00	
		11 x £150	£1,650.00	
		1 x £250	£250.00	
		1 x £239.99	£239.99	
		1 x £67.50	£67.50	
		1 x £420	£420.00	£3,997.49
		Cheques July 2010/June 2011		
	£300.00	1 x £300		
	£500.00	2 x £250		
	£200.00	1 x £200		
	£180.00	1 x £180		
	£120.00	1 x £120		
	£1,260.00	18 x £70		
£3,310.00	£750.00	15 x £50		
		Excess (Deficit) Income over Expenditure		£1,320.17
£1,795.10		Plus Bank balance brought forward		£4,905.02
<u>£3,089.92</u>		Balance carried forward		£6,225.19
£4,885.02		Less Clerk's 2010 cheque issued 2011		£49.20
-£79.20				<u>£6,175.99</u>
<u>£4,805.82</u>				
		Represented by:		
	£4,507.66	Balance at Bank: Current	£5,855.71	
£4,905.02	£397.36	Deposit	£398.17	£6,253.88
		Less Creditors:		
	£50.00	Cheque uncashed	£0.00	
£99.20	£49.20	Clerk's salary, etc.(cheque not issued)	£77.89	£77.89
<u>£4,805.82</u>				<u>£6,175.99</u>

The above is a correct statement of Income and Expenditure in accordance with the books, vouchers and bank statements produced to me.

Date: 19-9-2012

Signed: P D Bloss

P D BLOSS