

2014 WONERSH PARISH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Record of the Annual Assembly of the electors of Blackheath, Shamley Green and Wonersh held on Thursday 1 May 2014 at 7.30pm at Wonersh Memorial Hall.

Present at the meeting were: Parish Cllr Kate Bawden, Cllr Richard Bawden, Cllr Georgina Grant, Cllr Bruce Holtom, Cllr Louise Healy, Cllr Peter Maggs, Cllr Anne Powell-Evans (in the chair), Cllr Carolyn Smith; and 45 other local electors.

Special invitees: County Cllr Victoria Young, Borough Cllr Michael Goodridge, the Revd Sally Davies (Vicar of Shamley Green), the Revd Debbie Sellin (Vicar of Wonersh with Blackheath), PCSO Philip Snow (Safer Neighbourhood Police Team), Mr Ken Bare (Surrey Hills Society), Mr Leo Jennings (Surrey Wildlife Trust Ranger).

Apologies for absence were received from Parish (and Borough) Cllr Mike Band, Mrs Tess Trewinnard (Head Teacher of Wonersh & Shamley Green (CofE) Primary School), Pc Barry Baldwin (SNPT), Mr David Olliver (Waverley Bough Council Ranger – Blackheath), Mr Ed Baker (WBC Ranger - Shamley Green & Wonersh).

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 18 April 2013. (Annex A).
3. Mrs Diane Savage (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 2013 (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. The business also now owned the flat above the shop which could provide an additional revenue stream in due course. Mr Healy reiterated that the business was on target to be debt-free within the next 18 months. He noted that remedial works needed to be carried out to protect the cellar from future flooding and that an extension to the store at the back of the shop was being explored. He anticipated that Wonersh Foundation would then be in a position to facilitate charitable giving to other parish-based projects. 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. Mr Steve Scott made a report on behalf of Wonersh Woodland Group about the work of local volunteers over the last six months 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. He noted that the WWG and the Parish Council had agreed a future maintenance and enhancement plan. The WWG were enthusiastic about developments but would welcome additional volunteers. Mr Scott invited everyone present to attend the reopening ceremony due to take place on Saturday 10 May.

6. PCSO Snow gave a report about the work of the SNPT over the last year and an overview of categories of reported crimes and trends. He noted the ongoing comparative security and absence of serious crime within the parish but encouraged everyone to be vigilant. He highlighted the vulnerability of isolated dwellings to break-ins of sheds and other outbuildings as well as theft from (unlocked) motor vehicles. PCSO Snow explained that Surrey Police could advise about padlock alarms. On behalf of the community, Cllr Powell-Evans thanked the SNPT for their service within the parish. The Assembly also expressed its thanks to Pc Tony Kerby for his contribution over recent years and wished him success following his recent transfer to duties in Godalming. Electors welcomed the appointment of Pc Barry Baldwin to the SNPT and looked forward to meeting him on his new beat.

7. Mr Ken Bare made a topical presentation about the role of the Surrey Hills Society in supporting the protection of the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) within and adjacent to the parish, given the renewed pressures that the Green Belt was under. He explained that the SHS was actively promoting the extension of AONB status to areas presently designated as of outstanding landscape value (AOLV) to provide additional statutory protection against inappropriate development. He also noted an area of concern in relation to the many sunken lanes created over the centuries but now at risk of increasing erosion because of greater commercial and leisure activities.

8. Mr Leo Jennings gave an interesting talk about the significance of the Surrey Wildlife Trust compared to counterparts in other counties in managing large areas of protected countryside. He highlighted the importance in their own right of three areas located within the parish: Chinthurst Hill, Cucknold's Wood and Seccombe's Wood, as well as other nearby beauty spots such as Newlands Corner. He acknowledged that litter, including dog-mess, was a major concern at popular sights.

9. Electors raised a number of issues of concern, including the increasing traffic of large lorries through Blackheath and Woodhill Lane, Shamley Green. Electors requested that County Cllr Young investigate the possibilities of imposing restrictions or improving signage about the unsuitability of narrow lanes for big vehicles. The Parish Council noted that it was possible for local businesses and householders to request that deliveries be made in smaller vehicles and agreed to encourage them to do so through an article in the next quarterly parish newsletter. In the case of building developments it was also possible for the Planning Authority (WBC) to impose restrictions on the timing of delivery of materials/machinery as well as on the size of vehicles to safeguard the interests of neighbours and the wider community.

10. A resident of Wonersh expressed concern about the public footpath at the junction of The Street and Barnett Lane becoming dark and unsafe due to the growth of trees and hedging creating a tunnel effect. The Parish Council agreed to take this matter up with Surrey highways.

11. A Blackheath elector asked for an update about measures to improve traffic calming in Blackheath. Cllr Maggs outlined the role of the newly reformed community working party in considering different proposals and then seeking the support of the Parish Council and the relevant statutory authorities (eg Surrey County Council) for specific projects. All interested residents were invited to contact the Working Party to contribute their views or become more actively involved in WP's work.

12. Another Blackheath elector asked about the status of the former *Villagers* public house which was becoming increasingly derelict. The Parish Council confirmed that it had supported the case made by a large number of petitioners from Blackheath for the property to be registered as an asset of community value. The Parish Council would keep the matter under review and would consider any further representations made by Blackheath residents about maintaining or changing the ACV status.

13. In response to a question from a Wonersh resident about the reinstatement of white lines through the centre of Shamley Green, the Parish Council confirmed that their removal was an integral part of the traffic-calming initiative undertaken over the last two years.

14. 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.

15. There being no further business, Cllr Powell-Evans closed the meeting at 8.45pm and invited all present to enjoy refreshments and to view the displays of the many active local voluntary groups within the parish.

2014 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CIVIL PARISH OF BLACKHEATH, SHAMLEY GREEN AND WONERSH

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

We are now all emerging from a very difficult winter and looking forward to catching up on all those things we have not been able to do because of the dreadful weather. There is a parallel here in what has been going on in the Parish Council. Our Clerk, Kevin Garvey, has been on sick leave since October last year but we are delighted to report that he is now phasing himself back into work so, we too, are emerging from a rather dark winter. We have managed to keep things ticking over and were lucky to have the help of Celeste Lawrence, the Parish Clerk from Dunsfold for five hours a week. Perhaps we may not have been as proactive as usual but we are now anticipating resuming normal service!

However, when I look back over the year, I realise that we have seen several projects come to fruition.

Gerald's Wood – in November 2013, the newly formed Wonersh Woodland Group and Parish Council signed an agreement for the future management of Gerald's Wood and the volunteers have been working hard to repair the access, create viewing points and liaise with local organisations which might want to use the wood. They have received grants from the Parish Council and our County Councillor and will be holding a grand opening on 10 May at 2p.m. Thereafter, the wood will once again be open to the public.

Several **Buildings of Local Merit** were approved by Waverley Borough Council Executive in October 2013 and more have been submitted.

A **Toposcope** has been installed on Chinthurst Hill to mark HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee following a request from the Parish Council for suggestions to mark this event. 23 Nov saw the official unveiling of the Chinthurst Hill Jubilee Toposcope by Cllr Liz Wheatley, Deputy Mayor of Waverley and local resident Kate Williams, who first suggested the project. Project manager Cllr Richard Bawden gave a short address and an audience of about 30 residents raised a glass in a loyal toast.

A new **Jubilee community noticeboard** has been installed outside the shop in Wonersh. Local organisations were very generous in their donations and are able to use the board to advertise their events.

On the same theme, the council applied for special status for the sports field in Wonersh and there is now a covenant agreement between the Council and Fields-in-Trust for there to be a **Queen Elizabeth II Field** at Wonersh Common which protects the sports ground in perpetuity and incorporates eligibility to apply for grants.

Following extensive discussions with residents, the Council agreed that it should continue to liaise with WBC to evaluate the suitability of potential sites for **affordable housing development** in the parish, ensuring that all suitable brownfield sites be developed and ruling out any greenfield sites that are unsuitable, before reviewing the need for further affordable housing on any potentially suitable greenfield sites. The Council was also approached to consider proposals for an affordable housing development on Wonersh allotments. It noted its agreed commitment to support brownfield development ahead of any exceptional sites in the Green Belt and that this site had been considered unsuitable as an exception site in the recent survey undertaken by Surrey Community Action.

The Council has been giving its attention to **motor vehicle parking in Shamley Green**. WBC is trying to progress seeking permission (both planning and Common land works consent) for the proposed additional parking spaces opposite the sub station by the Red Lion. They are intending to submit a planning application at the same time as they do the informal consultation, which goes to specific organisations & neighbours affected by the development, required for the Common land consent application.

In Blackheath, a new joint parish council/ resident **Traffic Calming working party** has been set up at the request of residents. The previous working party did a sterling job in installing pinch points and erecting village gateway signs but it is felt that further measures are required.

Councillors attended the **Surrey County Council (SCC) Cranleigh and Eastern Villages Local Task Group** and once again requested a VAS at Wonersh Park, the development of a scheme to place pavers across The Street and that the planned resurfacing work at Church Hill be completed and extended as far as Bisney Cottage include rectification of the current flooding problems at the southern end of the section of the B2128. I think we have achieved 2 out of 3 there! Unfortunately, the request from the previous year to extend the pavement opposite Wonersh Hollow was turned down by SCC Highways as being too expensive.

Our new Blackheath councillor has also been working hard with residents and the WBC Ranger to reinstate the **Blackheath Residents' Volunteer Working Party for Heath Management** and he has been involved in the **Forestry Management** proposals for Blackheath facilitating a meeting between interested parties.

So, what next? - New projects or projects in the pipe-line.

Assets of Community Value – this is a means of preserving a facility for the community. Nominations for community assets can be made by parish councils or by groups with a connection with the community. If the nomination is accepted, the group will be given time to come up with a bid for the asset when it is sold. Recently, WBC has approved The Villagers pub at Blackheath as an ACV and we are now looking at other assets in the parish which we feel will benefit from this status.

Playgrounds - the Council is working with groups of parents at both playgrounds to install new equipment and provide facilities for older children. Applications for funding are being made to various sources and we have just heard that we have received a grant of £7,762 from the Surrey Legacy Fund as a result of Wonersh Common being designated a QEII Field so that was worth doing! Our County Councillor has also generously contributed towards Lordshill playground from her fund and there is the possibility of additional money being available from the Community Infrastructure Levy. Volunteer groups have worked hard to raise extra finances.

Footpath Wonersh to Shamley Green – a working party was formed last year and is on-going to look at this project, particularly in respect to the change of status of Wonersh and Shamley Green School to a Primary School and the desire to encourage pupils to walk to school.

Bus shelter at Wonersh Surgery and bench opposite - we are still pursuing this project although there have been more obstacles than anticipated.

Parking outside Wonersh village shop - vehicle parking is an on-going issue in all 3 villages and 2 councillors were tasked with trying to resolve some of the issues in Wonersh. Recently part of this initiative has developed in a way that the Parish Council would not have wished and it is hoped that the error will soon be redressed.

Last year I mentioned that we are trying to develop a **new name for the Parish Council** which encompasses its purpose whilst giving parity to the three villages it represents. This is one project that we had to shelve temporarily but we anticipate reactivating it very shortly. In the meantime we have changed the header on our newsletter and hope residents will feed back their views.

Apart from these projects, the Parish Council continues with its day-to-day work – administering and maintaining the allotments, maintaining the commons, playgrounds and closed churchyard at St. John’s Church. We hold our Planning Committee meetings every other Thursday morning and our Risk and Audit and Personnel Committee meetings annually.

Currently and during the past year, councillors have been involved in the following working parties: Commons Enhancement and Planning; Blackheath Traffic Calming; Shamley Green Traffic Calming; Wonersh Traffic Calming; Gerald’s Wood; Buildings of Local Merit; Footpath between Wonersh and Shamley Green; Parking – Wonersh; Parking –Shamley Green; Playgrounds/Young People. Or represent the Council on Barnett Hill Traffic Management Committee; Speckledy Hen Traffic Management Committee; Longacre School Traffic Management Committee; Bramley Library Group; Wonersh United Charities. We often have new regulations to adopt and have recently approved an updated Wonersh Parish *Planning Code of Good Practice and a Wonersh Parish Code of Conduct for Council employees*. We submit comments regarding various consultations i.e. this year to Surrey Hills AONB regarding their Consultation Draft AONB Management Plan (2014 - 2019), Waverley Borough Council’s Revised Statement of Community Involvement, SCC Road Safety outside Schools consultation and SCC Rights of Way Improvement Plan to name a few. We attend meetings with other organisations such as the WBC Towns and Parishes Forum and the WBC Planning Forum. Councillors have also been to Surrey Association of Local Councils AGM and Conference, the Tillingbourne Project, the Surrey Police Briefing - these enable councillors to keep up to date with latest developments and legislation.

Importantly, May 2015 sees the next **parish council elections**. We are all keen to see new people put themselves forward as parish councillors so, if you are interested, please contact the Parish Clerk for details.

Finally I should like to thank current councillors for the extra work that they have taken on this year and to congratulate them on a great team effort to ensure that residents continued to receive an effective service.

Cllr Anne Powell-Evans

1 May 2014

WONERSH UNTIED CHARITIES – 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Registered Charity Number: 200086

WUC was formed over 100 years ago in 1911 by merging six local charities. The oldest and by far the most significant of these, is Smith's Charity set up in 1616. The aim of the charity is to apply the income for "relief in need" to individuals or families within the Parishes of Blackheath, Wonersh and Shamley Green. WUC is made up of ten Trustees who are drawn from all three village communities. Changes to personnel over the past year, has seen the appointment of Diane Savage to WUC Chairman, the resignation of Mrs Sue King whose position has been filled by Mrs Glynis Drummond and the appointment of Mrs Penny Hodgson in succession to Mr Michael Harding. Meetings are held biannually or as necessary in the Jubilee Room, Christ Church, Shamley Green. In the past year to April 2014, WUC received an income of around £6000, made up from donations from the Henry Smith Charity and Shamley Green PCC. WUC have been able to distribute to some 14 households. Payments have ranged from a steam mop, help with fuel bills and dentures. We have been able to aid families and elderly folk, many who live alone. Most of our benefactors have come to our attention through word of mouth. We do advertise in the local parish magazines and this year revamped our advert. However, word of mouth does seem the best line of contact, so I ask if anyone here knows of anyone to whom the WUC may be able to assist, please let us know via the clergy, the Civil Parish Clerk or individual Trustees. You can be assured that confidentiality will always be respected.

Diane Savage
April 2014

Accounts for the Year Ended 30th June 2013

2012	Income for Year	2013
£4,900.00	Smith's Charity	£4,900.00
£0.00	Wonersh Parish Council	£0.00
£190.03	Dividends	£191.24
£0.00	Donation Mr M	£100.00
£5.52	Bank Interest from both accounts	£4.64
£300.00	Shamley Green PCC	£300.00
£5,395.55	Total Income	£5,495.88
	Expenses	
	-£20.00 Clerk's Remuneration	£0.00
	-£12.60 Mileage	£0.00
	-£45.29 Stationery, stamps, toner, flowers, cards	£0.00
	-£77.89 Total Expenses	£0.00
£5,317.66	Balance	£5,495.88
	Distributions	
Cheques July 2011/June 2012	Cheques July 2012/June 2013	
2 x £300 £600.00	4 x £500 £2,000.00	
11 x £70 £770.00	1 x £400 £400.00	
11 x £150 £1,650.00	1 x £300 £300.00	
1 x £250 £250.00	1 x £280 £280.00	
1 x £239.99 £239.99	1 x £200 £200.00	
1 x £67.50 £67.50	13 x £150 £1,950.00	
1 x £420 £420.00	1 x £100 £100.00	
	1 x £60 £ 60.00	
	Total Distributions	5,290.00
	Excess (Deficit) Income over Expenditure	£205.88
£1,320.17	Plus Bank balance brought forward	£6,253.88
£4,905.02	Balance carried forward	£6,459.76
£6,225.19	Less Clerk's remuneration (not taken in 2013)	£0.00
-£49.20		
£6,175.99		£6,459.76
	Represented by:	
	Balance at Bank: Current	£6,060.99
£5,855.71	Deposit	£398.77
£398.17		
Total £6,253.88	Total	£6,459.76
	Less Creditors:	£0.00
	Cheque uncashed	£0.00
	Clerk's salary, etc.(cheque not issued)	£0.00
-£77.89		
£6,175.99		£6,459.76

Signed: *Anne Powell-Evans*

12 June 2014