



2017 WONERSH PARISH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Record of the Annual Assembly of the electors of Blackheath, Shamley Green and Wonersh held on Thursday 4th May 2017 at 7.30pm at Wonersh Memorial Hall.

Present at the meeting were: Borough Councillor Michael Goodridge, Borough and Parish Councillor Mike Band, Chairman and Parish Councillor Rod Weale and Parish Councillors Anne Powel-Evans, Christopher Crouch, Oli Burdick, Helen Kendall, Peter Maggs, Graham Payne and approximately 50 local electors.

Presenters: Diane Savage, Wonersh United Charities, Graham Healy, Wonersh Foundation, Rob Burton, Wonersh Woodland Group and Mr David Munro, Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner.

Apologies were received from the Revd. Debbie Sellin (Vicar of Wonersh with Blackheath), the Revd. Sally Davies and Cllr Victoria Young.

In attendance; Janet Crowe, Clerk to the Parish Council.

Annual report; Wonersh Parish Council – Cllr Weale (Chairman)

Cllr Weale welcomed all the attendees and presented his report about the activities of the Council since the last meeting of the Annual Assembly of electors, held on 21 April 2016. Cllr Weale informed the meeting that he had been elected to serve as Chairman following the departure of Cllr Peter Neve for pastures new in the autumn. He also commented on the fact that the Council had appointed a new Clerk, Janet Crowe, and that he and Janet had experienced a steep but enjoyable learning curve. After Cllr Neve's departure, the Council had co-opted a new Councillor and Oli Burdick was already proving to be a considerable asset to the Parish.

Cllr Weale informed the meeting that via the Planning Committee a watching brief was being kept on the situation at Dunsfold. Wonersh Parish Council had joined with other local Councils to ensure that the interests of everyone were kept in mind as the Public Enquiry comes ever nearer. The work of Councillors Payne and Kendal was highlighted as it is they who have responsibility for ensuring the Councils accountability with regard to the Wonersh and Lords Hill playgrounds are met. Cllr Weale thanked Cllr Powell-Evans for all the support and guidance she gave both him and the clerk based on her considerable experience having been at various times clerk, councillor and chair of the council.

Other works on which the Council needs to maintain a watching brief include the drainage system on the Wonersh Cricket Field and the Closed Burial Area at the Wonersh Parish Church. Cllr Weale explained that the Council was assessing likely future commitments to ensure these responsibilities were met and that funds were available for the works that will be required. This is just one reason that the Council ensure that there is a great deal of thought given to how the annual budget is spent. Other projects on which Cllr Weale commented included the Speed Watch Programme and the need to recruit volunteers to re-start the programme in Wonersh. Some new waste bins had been provided across the Parish although there was an outstanding matter on which the Council were liaising with Waverley Borough

Council. Concern over the noise from the revised flight paths from Gatwick and Heathrow were matters on which the Council had been consulted. It was explained that whilst the concerns of residents were given attention in all cases it was also the case that many residents considered the benefit of living close to two major airports was paramount. Finally, Cllr Weale ended his report by thanking his fellow Councillors and all volunteers for their efforts during the year. He assured the meeting that all the Councillors took their responsibilities very seriously but that they also found it enjoyable and fulfilling work.

Annual report: Wonersh United Charities – Diane Savage

Diane Savage (Chair 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 2016. Please see the full annual Report on the Notice Board section of the website.

Annual report: Wonersh Foundation and Village Stores Ltd – Graham Healy

Graham Healy spoke about the Wonersh Foundation and reminded the assembly that it is now about 11 years since local people clubbed together to buy the village store. The loan is now fully repaid and the Foundation also owns the flat and gallery. Any surplus rents will be gift aided to the Foundation.

The shop front has had a make-over to improve its structure and to ensure that it continues to attract good business. Advice is being sought about how the shop might be further supported and extend its offering from experts in the field. Graham would welcome any suggestions on this. Wonersh Foundation has made donations to support the Wonersh woodland Group and Wonersh Playground.

Annual report: Gerald's Wood – Rob Burton

Rob Burton gave a report on behalf of Wonersh Woodland Group (WWG) about the work of volunteers over the last year to continue restoring Gerald's Wood back to public use. Rob reported that this area has been used regularly by the Scouts and Guides, and by Wonersh Pre-School. Rob appealed for more volunteers to help support the work. Rob's presentation with some lovely photographs can be found on the Notice Board section of the Wonersh Parish Council website.

Policing Priorities, Challenges and Solutions in Surrey – Mr David Munro, Surrey PCC

The PCC David Munro addressed the meeting at length. He explained that the Police and the demands on their services were changing; the need to fight child abuse and cybercrime were one of the key priorities but he assured residents that the fight against crime continued and the PIYN (Policing in Your Neighbourhood), introduced last year was proving a success with crime in many areas seeing a reduction. Mr Munro reported that the "101" number for non-emergencies was now far more efficient and the time taken to answer calls had been greatly reduced.

David Munro updated electors on the challenges faced by Surrey Police as all public services have to work for efficiently in this era of public service cuts. He outlined the key priority areas which Surrey Police focus on but reassured electors that issues such as dangerous parking and speeding will always be taken seriously by the police as will anti-social behaviour. The full speech can be found on the Notice Board section of the Wonersh Parish Council website.

Questions from the floor

Questions from the audience to Mr Munro focused on the issues of dangerous parking, speeding, speed limits and anti-social behaviour. Regarding speeding Mr Munro reassured electors that Surrey Police are always interested in problems caused by speeding and will co-operate with and support local Speed Watch volunteers to both apprehend culprits and work to prevent people from speeding. Regarding the Speed Watch volunteers, Mr Munro undertook to investigate the issue of insurance which may be disallowing older people from volunteering on this valuable programme. Cllr Maggs of Blackheath asked Mr Munro for his opinion regarding the national speed limit currently in force through Blackheath village. Whilst this continues to be a Surrey County Council Highways matter, Mr Munro said that Surrey Police would be willing to investigate such matters if necessary when requested. In answer to questions about dangerous parking and anti-social behaviour in the parish, Mr Munro emphasised that Surrey Police would always be willing to take action as and when necessary but reminded the audience that another unfortunately common problem, fly tipping, was strictly a council issue. Police and Community Support Officer, Phil Snow reminded electors to sign up the Surrey Police notifications "In the Know" as the best way to keep up to date with everything police and crime related in the parish.

There being no further business, Cllr Weale closed the meeting at 9.30pm and invited all present to enjoy refreshments.