

# Wonersh Parish Council

BLACKHEATH • SHAMLEY GREEN • WONERSH

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## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WONERSH PARISH COUNCIL

held on Thursday 9 December 2010, at 7.30pm at Wonersh Sports Pavilion

### PRESENT

Cllr A Powell-Evans (in the chair)

Cllr M Band

Cllr R Bawden

Cllr G Grant

Cllr M Harding

Cllr L Healy

Cllr N Morris

Borough Cllr M Goodridge and Mr R Fowler

In attendance: Mr K Garvey, Clerk to the Council

### 10/202 APOLOGIES

The Council received and accepted apologies from Cllrs C Howard and A Shareef.

### 10/203 CODE OF CONDUCT

No Members declared any personal or prejudicial interests.

### 10/209 PRESENTATION BY THE SHAMLEY GREEN VILLAGE ASSOCIATION (SGVA) ABOUT TRAFFIC CALMING ISSUES.

The Chairman brought forward this agenda item with the approval of the Council. In his presentation, Mr Fowler highlighted issues of concern about speeding traffic at the southern (approach from Cranleigh) and northern (approach from Wonersh) entries to the settlement, as well as through the centre of Shamley Green. He drew attention to the above average number of accidents in recent years at the southern end (Church Hill). He referred to proposals from Surrey County Council Highways for new traffic calming signage along the B2128 highway. However, he noted that this was not a priority project for Surrey Highways in the present tough financial climate. Although SCC had offered an overall estimate of £12-14,000 for the works, they had not so far been able to provide a more detailed breakdown of the various components. Mr Fowler confirmed that the SGVA wanted to make traffic calming a priority for action, including fund-raising, over the coming years. He requested the support of the Parish Council in this endeavour.

In response, Members congratulated the SGVA on identifying the traffic problems and potential signage solutions. Cllr Grant added that it would be helpful if the problems of speeding along Northcote Lane could also be addressed. Members commended the SGVA for wanting to take the lead on this issue and stressed that achieving sustainable traffic-calming outcomes could take a number of years. It was essential to gain the widest

possible support from Shamley Green residents in order to impress SCC and other potential donors about the high level of local commitment to mitigating the problems. They referred to the experience of Blackheath and Wonersh, citing the importance of visible community self-help measures, such as Speed Watch, and carrying out robust data collection about evidence of speeding. Members also suggested that the SGVA could commission a survey of residents, eg through the local Parish magazine, and organize public meetings and exhibitions to raise local awareness and support for traffic-calming measures. The Council agreed in principle to lend its support to such a Shamley Green community initiative and to consider the issue further at its next meeting by formally appointing Members to join a SGVA-led working party. Mr Fowler thanked the Council for its suggestions and would brief the SGVA accordingly.

**Action:** Cllr Morris to send background papers about the Blackheath traffic calming campaign to Mr Fowler. Cllr Powell-Evans to provide similar advice about the Wonersh approach. Clerk to add the issue to the next agenda for discussion and approval of Members to the proposed SGVA/Community working party.

**10/204 OPEN MEETING FOR ELECTORS TO RAISE MATTERS WITH THE COUNCIL ON LOCAL ISSUES**

Borough Cllr Goodridge shared the concerns of the Council about the state of local bridleways, including inadequate handling of fly-tipping and other obstructions. He confirmed that he was raising the issue with SCC.

Cllr Healy raised the present status of the WBC-owned property: Lady Mead in Barnett Lane. She asked Borough Cllr Goodridge about the possibility of access for the wider community to play equipment within the grounds or for moving these items to the nearby village playground.

**Action:** Borough Cllr Goodridge to make enquiries at WBC and revert.

**10/205 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14 OCTOBER 2010**

The Council accepted these were a true record of the meeting. Cllr Powell-Evans signed the minutes.

**10/206 MATTERS ARISING:**

Members noted the latest updates and commented on a number of issues.

**Action:** Clerk to revise the matters arising document ahead of the next meeting of the Council

**10/207 MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 11 and 25 NOVEMBER 2010**

The Council received the confirmed minutes that had been signed by Cllr Harding.

**10/208 FINANCE:**

(a) **The Council RESOLVED** unanimously that the list of Payment and Receipt vouchers in November 2010 be approved (proposed by Cllr Morris, seconded by Cllr Bawden);

(b) **The Council RESOLVED** unanimously that the end-November 2010 financial statement be approved (proposed by Cllr Healy, seconded by Cllr Harding).

**10/210 CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL'S EMERGENCY PLANS.**

The Clerk presented a revised Emergency Plan document, based on the latest good practice promoted by SCC/WBC and the updated plan already being implemented by Cranleigh Parish. Members reaffirmed the value of having discrete plans for each of the three settlements within the Parish, based on the proposed model. Cllrs Morris and Healy confirmed their willingness to lead on co-ordinating Blackheath and Womersley-tailored plans respectively. As a resident of Shamley Green, the Clerk agreed to do so for that community. The Council requested that the Clerk facilitate a meeting of the Emergency Planning Working Party early in the new year to take forward preparation of the plans, including compiling lists of volunteer resources available to respond to a declared emergency.

**Action:** Clerk to organize a meeting of the EP Working Party in early 2011 to complete the three plans.

**10/211 CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF GARDEN ALLOTMENT RENTS FOR 2011/12.**

The Clerk presented proposals for allotment rents in 2011/12, taking account of a proposed budget of £1,000 in necessary expenditure. The Council agreed that while it was appropriate to maintain subsidized access to allotment gardens, the holders should bear at least 50% of the estimated costs in the next financial year. In view of the growing demand for allotments the Council confirmed its policy to offer new half-plot leases to residents of the parish only. The Council further agreed that rents of whole plots should no longer be cheaper relative to half plots. **The Council RESOLVED** unanimously that annual rents for the period of 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012 should be set as follows: £18 for a half plot (previously £17, set two years ago) and £36 for a whole plot (£30 also set in 2009).

**Action:** Clerk to notify all allotment holders of the newly set rental rates as from 1 April 2011.

**10/212 APPOINTMENT OF A FOURTH MEMBER OF THE RISK & AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE**

**The Council RESOLVED** unanimously that Cllr Band be appointed to the Risk and Audit Sub-Committee (proposed by Cllr Harding, seconded by Cllr Morris).

**10/213 RECEIPT OF THE 2010 PLAYGROUND INSPECTION REPORT.**

The Council formally received the 2010 playground inspection report.

**10/214 RECEIPT OF THE 2010 TREES INSPECTION REPORT.**

The Council formally received the 2010 tree inspection report.

## 10/215      REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

### (A) Local broadband access

Cllr Bawden presented a report about the WBC workshop on access to (super) fast broadband in rural Waverley. The Council noted with concern the assessment of “medium risk” that future roll-out might not include Blackheath or Wonersh and that Shamley Green was at “high risk” of not being included because of the negative impact this could have on local economic/business activity and property values. Members agreed that local residents should be encouraged to participate in BT’s *race to infinity* before the 31 December 2010 deadline to try to secure inclusion of the upgrading of the Bramley exchange on which most parish residents relied.

**Action:** Cllr Bawden to prepare an article for placement in the Surrey Advertiser and Cllr Morris to design a poster for display on local notice boards and in village shops.

### (B) WBC Planning Forum

Cllrs Healy and Harding reported the main issues discussed at the WBC Planning Forum held on 8 December 2010. Cllr Harding informed the Council that he had raised inadequacies in controls on permitted development in a rural setting. WBC (Mr Matthew Evans) undertook to write to DCLG about problems with the present regulations, which seem more appropriate to an urban environment. In view of the experience of the Council over certain recent permitted development applications it agreed it should also take up Mr Evans’ suggestion to raise its concerns by lobbying the local MP, copying the correspondence to WBC. The Clerk also informed the Council that he would consult the local *Clerks’ Cluster* about concerns of neighbouring parishes.

**Action:** Clerk to draft a letter to Mrs Anne Milton MP for consideration and approval by Members.

Cllr Healy also informed the Council that WBC had abandoned plans for an early move from paper-based to e-planning consultation with Parish and Town Councils. However, WBC remained committed to making improvements for access to its online planning enquiry system. With this in mind, the Planning Committee had also discussed this issue earlier on 9 December and agreed to recommend the go ahead for the purchase of computer & projection equipment to allow the Committee to consult online background documents in real time at meetings to aid consideration of planning applications.

**Action:** Clerk to seek quotations for new equipment and to include for consideration under the Finance agenda item of the next meeting.

## 10/216      COUNCILLORS’ BUSINESS FOR NOTING OR INCLUDING ON A FUTURE AGENDA.

The Clerk confirmed that he would be including detailed quotations/costings for tree works for consideration and approval under the Finance agenda item of the next meeting.

