

## Wanborough Parish Council

### **DRAFT Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 at 7.30pm in Wanborough Village Hall**

Meeting started 7.30pm

**Those present:** James Henry (chairman, JH), Oscar de Chazal (OC), Fraser Hodgkin (FH), Martin Bramley (MB), Sallie Barker (GBC rep, SB), Matt Furniss (SCC rep, MF), Kim Sweeting (clerk KS)

**Apologies for absence:** Matthew Harrison (MH)

Members of the public were present.

#### **1. C-043 Minutes of the last meeting on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023 to approve and sign**

JH confirmed everyone had received the minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously and signed accordingly by JH.

#### **2. C-44 Matters arising**

JH noted that the 2024-25 precept request agreed at the last meeting had since been signed-off and submitted to GBC.

JH announced that the individual WPC had hoped to nominate for a Guildford Mayoral award had won an award for the same activity 16 years ago and was therefore not eligible to win it again. MF and SB suggested putting our candidate for a national award. JH and KS agreed to look into the application process.

#### **3. C-045 update from SCC and GBC representatives**

##### **GBC update by SB**

GBC and Waverley Borough Council (WBC) have appointed Pedro Wrobel as the new Joint Chief Executive. Mr Wrobel starts on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 and joins from Westminster City Council where he was Executive Director for Innovation and Change. Annie Righton will act as Interim Joint Chief Executive for GBC and WBC for the two months period ending 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

GBC are now proposing a balanced budget for 2024-25, with every indication that the Council will not need to submit a section 114 notice.

GBC are also updating the Local Plan, given the time elapsed since its publication it is due to be reviewed at the council meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February. JH asked what format the review will take. SB explained that housing figures and demographics will be checked to make sure the plan is still appropriate. OC asked whether the review would take into account university students MF stated that it will not because students are considered a “transient population”.

GBC have appointed additional consultants to continue the ongoing investigation into a potential fraud regarding council house maintenance contract spending.

SB also alerted WPC that the price of GBC garden waste (brown bin) disposal has gone up by £10 pa for local residents.

Finally SB was delighted to announce that, at the last GBC meeting, she had been confirmed as Mayor of Guildford for the year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. Everyone present congratulated SB on this news.

### **SCC update by MF**

#### **Surrey Road Safe Vision Zero - public consultation**

The Vision is to have zero deaths or serious injuries by caused by road traffic incidents by 2050. The number of these incidents have halved in recent years, although plateaued more recently. As part of the Stockholm declaration the SCC commitment is to reduce the number of deaths and serious accidents by 50% within the next 10 years and to zero by 2050. MF asked that WPC review and comment on the consultation.

#### **Surrey Rights of Way Improvement Plan - public consultation**

MF stated that the consultation process is not perfect at the moment; most of the workload has been directed in response to complaints highlighting bridleways that are not in good order. SCC is interested in getting your views; do SCC need to update improve signage, add technology or improve certain routes? Please let SCC know.

JH asked whether WPC should only comment on Wanborough parish. MF responded that comments can be on any area, and can from individuals or organisations.

MF stated that he has a total of £50k in his 2024-25 budget for smaller projects, should WPC have any specific need.

#### **Road safety improvements to Westwood Lane**

MF stated that, as residents are aware, the works have been started. He expected the smaller village sign to come down once the large Village Gates had been erected.

In answer to a question, MF pointed out that it is a statutory requirement to show the current speed limit of 40mph despite the traffic slowing signs installed and the 20mph advisory signs on the sharp bends. KS asked why the commencement of the road works was not communicated to local residents. MF explained that because it had been classed as “small works”, the community did not need to be made aware of it in advance. MF stated that he had since amended this policy. MF confirmed that the two tall empty poles installed were in preparation for the village gate.

#### **Drainage on road by Granary**

MF confirmed that WPC needed to follow up with the responsible engineer at GBC.

## **4. C-046 Planning and enforcement updates**

OC reported that the appeal in respect of Plot F on Wanborough Fields had been declined. The plot owners were now required to remove all structures and material from the site.

Following recent meetings with planning staff, SB reported that GBC are working on an overall strategy and enforcement approach for the whole Wanborough Fields area, rather than dealing on a case-by-case basis. MF mentioned that SCC will be accompanying GBC on a joint visit to the Fields to improve coordination on relevant planning and enforcement matters

A member of the public raised the fact that a detailed study of this area in the 1970's had identified that the woodlands on the north-western boundary of Wanborough Fields were ancient and of historic importance; the flora and fauna are different and rare and thus worthy of comment and note in respect of any planning applications. JH thanked the member of the public for his contribution and new knowledge and assured him that WPC would research this topic.

MF states that he has a meeting with GBC to review the legal opinion and next steps in respect of the past West Flexford Lane CLUED.

MB asked about the proposed housing development on Green Lane West (in Normandy). MF said he was very concerned there was no mention of the potential adverse impact of increased traffic at the small and dangerous crossroads (with Westwood Lane). MF suggested that it is because the planning application has not yet been sent through to SCC; but he will take it away to follow up. OC stated that WPC have not yet submitted a comment; JH and MB agree to draft a comment for consideration by WPC.

OC stated that the planning application for a large solar panel farm near Blackwell Farm had been withdrawn. MF mentioned that SCC had submitted some very strong comments regarding a potential access to and from the A31. Where possible, MF agreed to share more information on this issue with OC/WPC.

In response to a question from a member of the public, MF confirmed that there were no current SCC plans to install fixed speed cameras on the Hogs Back. SCC felt that the average speed monitoring system had been successful to date in reducing speed and accidents.

## **5. C-047 Traffic and road matters**

JH asked if anyone had anything else to add to this topic. Everyone confirmed it had been covered under agenda item 4 above.

## **6. C-048 Finances and cheques**

Payments made since last meeting:

- Clerk salary for Q4 2023 £897.75

Rural England prosperity fund

- JH asked if anyone wanted to talk through this; MF explained that it's for large local community projects. It was agreed that this fund was not relevant to WPC at the moment but good to be aware of it.

## **7. C-049 Consultations**

- SCC Surrey Rights of Way Improvement Plan
- SCC Surrey Road Safe Vision Zero Public Consultation

The detail of these consultations has already been shared by MF; WPC expressed their thanks for the information. JH stated that KS, MB, and JH will review and submit any comments on behalf of WPC. KS said that she will add details of both consultations to the mailshot to residents in February.

## **8. C-050 Date of next meetings**

JH highlighted the AGM date change to Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

## **9. C-051 Any other business**

JH reminded councillors that they were entitled to request an individual copy of the updated electoral roll for WPC business purposes. It was agreed that as the clerk only KS need apply for one.

KS reminded everyone that a community “litter pick” has been arranged for the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 from 10:00am, meeting at The Great Barn, with work focussed on Wanborough Hill / Westwood Lane. A member of the public asked that the Puttenham Hill side of the Hogs Back be included as well, given traffic usage was much higher on the B3000. KS explained that the complaints received about litter to date had been exclusively about Westwood Lane. However, KS said that if numbers allow, the team will venture further. KS stated she would also ask if Puttenham Parish Council volunteers might get involved on the same day.

Meeting closed at 20:15