

Wanborough Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 29th November 2023 at 7.30pm in Wanborough Village Hall

Meeting started 7.30pm

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

No members of the public were present.

1. **C-034 Minutes of the last meeting on Wednesday 27th September 2023 to approve and sign.**

JH thanked everyone for attending and asked if the minutes could be approved. MB said that in the meeting on the 27th September, under AOB, that consideration should be given to a planning application for twelve dwellings in Normandy that would have an impact on Wanborough parish and that this had not been included in the minutes. KS apologised that she had missed this from her notes. JH confirmed this would be corrected in the final approved minutes for signature.

2. **C-035 Matters arising**

JH asked if there were any matters arising that were not already covered on the agenda. No one had anything new to mention.

3. **C-036 Update from SCC and GBC representatives**

Road safety improvements

MF checked that everyone had seen his recent email detailing the signage upgrades proposed for Wanborough hamlet. MF confirmed that the new gateway style signs, with village name and speed limit, would be installed on the road at both ends of the hamlet with 20mph advisory speed limit signs to be installed on the sharp bends in-between. There followed a brief discussion to ensure all councillors understood and approved the exact locations of the signage planned.

MF stated that additional “anti-skid” material will not be added now that the road has been re-surfaced. In response to a question from MB, MF confirmed that there would be some branch pruning of the trees at the lower end of Wanborough Hill to ensure the new signage is clearly visible to motorists.

MF stated that following the recent accidents on Westward Lane, which are still being investigated by Surrey Police, he has asked the SCC Highways team to review road safety on the road through the hamlet. A speed survey has been commissioned which will determine whether the speed limit through the hamlet can be lowered to 30mph. This survey will run for a period of seven days (24 hours/day) during term time to get the most accurate picture of traffic volume, speed and flow.

SCC’s planned package of measures was welcomed by all and MF said he remained hopeful that the signage installation would be completed within the current financial year.

West Flexford Lane CLUED

GBC has now issued an instruction to a barrister to action the proposed revocation of the CLUED at this site. The license has not progressed due to the outstanding issues re planning permission.

Wanborough Fields Enforcement

SB and MF reported that they had had a meeting with GBC's planning team to investigate the wider enforcement issues in respect of Wanborough Fields. GBC officers acknowledged that a more holistic strategy is needed to consider all the various plots of land (and enforcement issues) in the Fields, rather than tackling each case individually. In response to OB, SB said that, to her knowledge, there had been no recent site visit by any GBC officer.

Flooding on East Flexford Lane at the Barns

A design has been drawn up by the GBC engineers, but funding remains the question. MF interjects, I have asked the Surrey Flood Team to see if they can assist.

Other GBC matters

SB reported that GBC and Waverley Borough Council (WBC) have not yet recruited a new joint chief executive, albeit the target deadline has expired. The GBC executive committee have said they are investigating an expanded merger with WBC. SB said that she is part of the group looking at shared locations and shared staff to drive further cost savings.

SB described a new initiative in 2024 to offer periodic "surgery sessions" at which local residents would have the opportunity to meet and raise any concerns with their GBC representatives. One had already been trialled in The Sands. SB suggested these might be held in Wanborough, once or twice per year, for perhaps an hour prior to a WPC meeting. MB asked how local residents would hear about them. SB explained she would work with the parish clerk to get the message out through various channels. The councillors agreed unanimously to provide WPC support for this initiative.

4. C-037 Planning and enforcement updates

Status of recent applications

20/00871/REVPP Farnborough Airport.

Fraser thanked everyone for their contributions to the proposed WPC response that he had drafted WPC. All were agreed that it should now be submitted.

23/P/01417 Green Lane East proposing housing development.

MB reminded councillors to review this application and its potential impact. MB said that in his view the application documents contained many inaccuracies. JH asked that everyone send their comments in to OC, so that he can compile a submission to GBC.

Appeal 22/P/01326 Erection of an agricultural storage barn and chicken house and retention of the existing boundary fencing and gates (part retrospective).

All councillors agreed that WPC should submit a further comment to GBC repeating the council's objection to the original application. In addition, WPC should ask that in the event of a site visit by the appeal body, a representative of WPC would be ready to show them around.

23/P/01598 Puttenham golf club access to temporary car park.

OC reported that since its last meeting WPC had submitted a comment of objection. It was noted that as members of Puttenham GC, both MB and JH were excluded from the discussion on grounds of possible conflict of interest. After a brief discussion it was recognised that it was now for GBC Planning to decide.

OC stated that a local resident has made him aware of a new caravan been installed on an area of hard-standing in the lower corner of the bottom field. It has now been logged as a potential enforcement issue by GBC and MF and SB thanked OC for bringing it to their attention.

5. C-038 Traffic and road matters

Road safety improvements planned for Westwood Lane. It was agreed that this topic had already been discussed under agenda item 3 above.

MH raised his concern about a large advertising sign on the Hogs Back. MF quickly reassured him that it had already been logged by SCC and would be taken down shortly; no advertising is permitted adjacent to the Hogs Back.

OC asked about the new prohibition against public bridge access through Guildford train station. MF explained that, due to alleged staff abuse, GBC officers have agreed to allow the station bridge to be closed on a trial basis. MF said that a number of GBC councillors have already pushed back heavily. MF recommended that local residents complained to their local MP.

6. C-039 Finances and cheques

Payments made since last meeting

Village Hall rental £48

Precept preparation proposed projects or expenditure

Councillors were presented with the draft WPC budget for the 2024/25 financial year, together with the original budget and current forecast for the current 2023/24 financial year. JH pointed out that the 2023/24 budget had overestimated projected spending on IT equipment, website maintenance and clerk expenses. As a result, the current year was now projected to deliver a small surplus, rather than a small deficit.

After a review of the figures, it was unanimously agreed that based on WPC's current cash position and projected spending WPC should not increase its precept request for 2024/2025; which should remain at £5,500. JH asked KS to submit the formal GBC precept request accordingly.

7. C-040 Consultations

JH asks if anyone has anything to add. No one does.

8. C-041 Date of next meetings

JH reminded councillors of the next meeting and thanked KS for putting the future meeting dates for 2024 in place.

Wednesday 31st January 2024

Wednesday 27th March

Wednesday 29th May AGM

Wednesday 31st July
Wednesday 25th September
Wednesday 27th November

9. C-042 Any other business

JH asked if there was any other business, but nobody had any.

Meeting closed at 20:30