

WANBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd March 2023 at 7.30pm at Wanborough Village Hall.

Meeting started 7:30pm

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

1. Minutes of the last meeting Wednesday 25th January 2023 to approve and sign

The minutes were approved unanimously and signed accordingly by JH.

2. Matters arising

JH noted that the pothole at the junction at the top of Puttenham Hill had been repaired by SCC. JH thanked MF for his support with that.

JH confirmed that WPC had made payment to The Great Barn Management Committee for their “schools programme” as agreed at the last meeting.

JH noted that any other matters arising were already issues on this agenda.

3. Update from SCC & GBC representatives

SCC update

MF requested help from WPC to identify any local projects that might benefit from the financial support from SCC community funding, which is now split into three application categories:

- (i) Members’ Community Allocation - £5,000 – opens 1st April 2023
- (ii) Your Fund Surrey – Small Community Projects - £50,000 over 2 years – open now
- (iii) Your Fund Surrey – Large Community Projects - £100,000,000 – always open

MF mentioned SCC’s Online Energy Advice Tool launched to help Surrey residents save money, given future expected energy cost increases.

MF reported that SCC is planning to restrict a rise in Council Tax to 2.99% in the current budget plans for 2023/24; this is lower than most other councils in the UK and far lower than the rate of inflation. SCC spends over £1bn a year on delivering vital services such as Adult Social Care, Children’s Services, maintaining roads and pavements, Surrey Fire & Rescue Service, libraries, countryside management and public health. Full details are on the SCC website.

SCC have agreed a new seven-year parking and traffic enforcement contract from 1st April 2023 with Marston Holdings Ltd to help achieve the council’s transport objectives.

MF also reported that SCC have agreed that all those aged under 20 will be eligible for half priced bus fares for the next 3 years, in order to encourage bus travel as a cheap alternative to the car. MB asked if seniors’ passes would be accepted by ‘buses on demand’; MF confirmed it would be free.

MF stated that plans were in hand for the installation by SCC of a new village sign at the bottom of Wanborough Hill. The sign will be in the 'gate' style used by Ash Green. The date of a site visit to agree the exact location needs to be arranged. MF also confirmed that traffic calming rumble strips will also be installed as part of planned resurfacing works, which SCC will schedule when the weather improves.

GBC update

TR reported that plans were in hand to resolve the drainage problems outside the Granary; GBC staff appointed a contractor to carry out the work within the next two months.

TR agreed with WPC that the extension of the AONB boundary north of the Hogs Back currently proposed in the ongoing consultation process was very welcome. TR recommended that WPC reiterate their comments and support for such an extension.

TR reported that GBC planning and enforcement resources remained thinly stretched following two more staff resignations. Enforcement now sits with Richard Holmwood. JH agreed with TR that GBC's recent enforcement progress in respect of Plot F in Wanborough Fields (ref. EN/18/00220) had been positive. However, OC stated that he did understand the difference in GBC's approach to enforcement action between Plot D and Plot F; TR said that he would seek clarification.

TR stated that he had recently met with a group of local residents on West Flexford Lane (named the Wanborough Greenbelt Protection Group), who were very concerned regarding the recent applications for various certificates of lawfulness at Homestead Farm. TR reported that the residents stated that GBC should not be approving any certificates in respect of caravanning and camping related activities where little or no evidence had been presented of such activity on this site over the last 10 years. TR said he would arrange a meeting with the relevant GBC officer to discuss these residents' concerns. JH stated that WPC had submitted a similar objection to GBC (without input from FH, who has disclosed a conflict of interest on this issue). TR also mentioned that caravan park activities would require a specific licence.

In conclusion TR stated that this was his last WPC meeting as, after 20 years of service, he will not be seeking re-election in May. On behalf of WPC, JH thanked TR for all his past work and effort for the residents of Wanborough over so many years; and in particular TR's work over the last 5 years to help protect the AONB/AGLV area of Wanborough Fields. JH said that TR's efforts had been much appreciated and would be remembered. TR responded that it had been a team effort with local residents.

4. Planning and enforcement updates

Status of recent applications

OC explained that WPC was up to date on all comment submissions and that there were no new applications to discuss or review.

Status of ongoing enforcement actions

The owners of Plot F, Wanborough Fields, have been instructed to remove all the existing structures or face prosecution in court.

5. Traffic and road matters

Progress on litter

KS had been in contact with Chris Wheeler's team at GBC; but following a site visit GBC had stated that the level of litter is not a concern. MB suggested that the increase in visible litter was directly related to the retirement of 'unsung hero' Lesley Frame who had been kindly picking local litter as a volunteer in the parish for many years. KS asked whether WPC should pay for a litter picker. JH agreed that this could be considered but there was currently no budget for it. In the meantime, it was agreed that WPC should manage the situation with organised volunteer litter picks. JH asked KS to liaise with Wanborough Great Barn Committee to see if the spring clean event could be coordinated some outside litter picking. KS will follow up.

6. Finances and cheques

JH stated that the following payments had been approved and actioned since WPC's meeting in January 2023:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Description</u>
21/03/23	£500	Wanborough Barn	Schools programme
21/03/23	£200	Community Group	Donation
21/03/23	£855	Clerk	Salary Q1 2023
21/03/23	£17	Village Hall	Meeting room hire

WPC's total cash balance at end March 2023 was expected to be £9,947.

7. Election preparation

JH stated that the next Borough and Parish elections will be held on Thursday 4 May 2023.

KS shares the key dates for this election:

Thursday 23 March 2023 publication of Notice of Election

Friday 24 March 2023 opening of receipt of nominations

Monday 27th March 2023 10:00-10:30am WPC return councillor election papers

Tuesday 4 April 2023 at 4pm deadline for receipt of nominations

Tuesday 4 April 2023 at 4pm deadline for withdrawal of nominations

Tuesday 15 April 2023 at 5pm deadline for receipt of Proxy Vote Applications

Monday 17 April 2023 at 11.59pm deadline for receipt of Applications to Register to vote

Tuesday 18 April 2023 at 5pm deadline for receipt of Postal Vote Applications

KS stated that all the relevant information is on the homepage of WPC website, and that notices are ready to go on the WPC noticeboard tomorrow in line with the process set out by GBC.

KS requested that all councillors standing for re-election fill out the GBC pack of election forms and return them to her, so that can be submitted by Monday's deadline.

JH asked if everyone was planning to stand for re-election. All five councillors confirmed they would be seeking election. JH thanked everyone for their support of WPC.

8. Consultations

AONB Boundary Review

JH reminded everyone that WPC had already submitted a detailed paper arguing for an extension of the boundary north of the Hogs Back. This next stage of the formal review process commenced in early March, providing the public with further opportunity for comment. JH stated that OC did an excellent job for WPC with the initial submission and it was unanimously agreed that WPC should submit a further response at this stage to address any new questions or issues arising. It was suggested that WPC's original document should be enclosed as an addendum.

9. Date of next meetings

JH told councillors that in May 2023 WPC needs to hold an informal AGM inviting residents to come and talk to councillors about what they would like to see on WPC's agenda for the coming year. This will be held at 7pm and immediately followed by a more formal Annual Parish meeting.

24th May 2023 AGM / Annual Parish meeting

26th July 2023 Ordinary meeting

10. Any other business

MB asked what has been happening with Farnborough Airport. KS stated that she had heard no further updates on this but will seek an update.

OC reminded JH about the trees leaning on local power cables. JH to follow up.

OC had spotted some new fly tipping in the hamlet and he will follow up.

KS wanted to let everyone know on behalf of Wanborough Village Hall Committee that they will be hosting a quiz and super night on the 21st April 2023. Everyone welcome.

JH thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting was then closed by the chairman at 20.44pm.
