

## Wanborough Parish Council

### Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.30pm in Wanborough Village Hall

Meeting started 7.30pm

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

**Apologies for absence:**

Matthew Harrison, Fraser Hodgkin

Members of the public were present.

**1. C-026 Minutes of the last meeting on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023 to approve and sign**

The minutes were approved unanimously and signed accordingly by JH.

**2. C-027 Matters arising**

JH asked re any matters arising that were not already on the meeting agenda.

OC updated the council on the GBC training course he and FH had attended on planning applications. OC reported that Waverley and Guildford have separate planning departments, but with Claire Upton-Brown heading them both. The course covered the grounds on which objections can be made. OC will share copies of any slides received.

**3. C-028 update from SCC and GBC representatives**

MF provided a verbal update on a number of new SCC local initiatives, details of which are available online.

a) Surrey Connect - on demand bus service

<https://news.surreycc.gov.uk/2023/08/31/on-demand-bus-service-launches-in-five-more-surrey-towns/>

Surrey connect, is an on-demand minibus service which will be available from 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 across Tandridge, Farnham (including Wanborough), Cranleigh, West Guildford and Longcross, in addition to the already established service in Mole Valley, to help residents travel sustainably. Journeys can be booked online at: [www.surreyconnect.org.uk](http://www.surreyconnect.org.uk)

b) Bus pass extended for Ukrainian nationals

<https://news.surreycc.gov.uk/2023/09/18/bus-pass-extended-for-ukrainian-nationals-on-the-homes-for-ukraine-scheme/>

Surrey County Council has agreed with bus operators in Surrey to extend the Homes for Ukraine temporary bus pass scheme, offering Ukrainian nationals continued free travel on their most used bus route.

c) Surrey Link - half price bus fares for under 20s in Surrey

<https://news.surreycc.gov.uk/2023/07/03/half-price-bus-fares-for-under-20s-in-surrey/>

Young people aged 20 and under are now entitled to 50% off all bus journeys across Surrey.

d) Grants of up to £10,000 on new electric vans to improve air quality on the A3

<https://news.surreycc.gov.uk/2023/09/07/drivers-to-save-up-to-10000-on-electric-vans-to-improve-air-quality-on-the-a3/>

Commercial diesel van owners who drive along the Guildford stretch of the A3 more than three times a week, could be eligible for a grant to replace their vehicle with an electric model.

e) Recycling - Surrey community recycling centres to accept small DIY waste from households free of charge

<https://news.surreycc.gov.uk/2023/08/29/surrey-community-recycling-centres-to-accept-small-diy-waste-from-households-free-of-charge/>

From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023, Surrey County Council will lift charges on resident DIY waste in line with Government policy changes that were proposed in June.

MF also reported on the ongoing Farnborough Airport consultation process on which the response deadline is Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The consultation is seeking views on proposals to change:

- the existing annual flight limit from 50,000 to 70,000 flights per year
- the existing annual non-weekday flight limit from 8,900 to 18,900 flights per year
- the operating hours on non-weekdays from 8am-8pm to 7am-9pm
- restricted aircraft weight category from 50-80 tonnes to 55-80 tonnes, and increase the related amount of annual flights allowed within this category.

Further information is available online at [www.FarnboroughAirport2040.com](http://www.FarnboroughAirport2040.com)

MF said that many local residents will be very concerned by these proposals and he would be voicing those concerns to the airport's CEO in late September. JH stated that the proposed flight capacity increases were excessive, particularly given the current limits had been set less than 2 years ago. MB stated that, in his view, the increase in flight noise was related to the higher number of the flights that seem incredibly low. In response to MB, MF confirmed that Rushmore Council is the decision-making authority, but that it could be overridden by the Central Aviation Authority.

SB provided a verbal update on the poor state of GBC's finances. SB stated that many newly elected GBC councillors were shocked at the apparent lack of internal financial controls within GBC over the last few years. It was noted that the CEO of GBC had resigned last week. On a more positive note, SB reported that GBC has now managed to balance its budget for the current 2023-24 financial year and identified enough savings to avoid the issuance of a Section 114 Notice at this time. However, there is still much work to be done and a Financial Recovery Plan is due to be presented to GBC councillors in October 2023.

SB reported that Claire Upton-Brown is gradually getting up to speed on the running of GBC Planning Department. SB understood that responsibility for all

outstanding Wanborough fields planning enforcement issues has been consolidated for future efficiency.

MF asked OC if he had met the engineer who is resolving the outstanding drainage issue on the lane in front of the Granary. OC said that he has received updates from an engineer on drainage, but that the engineer was questioning ownership of the drain. MF said this had been established previously and would follow up.

#### **4. C-029 Planning and enforcement updates**

Status of recent applications:

There are no outstanding applications for consideration.

Status of ongoing enforcement actions:

OC had asked GBC again for a further update on the status of enforcement actions against the unapproved development activity in the lower fields, but nothing had been forthcoming to date. MF said he understood WPC concerns and that he and SB were also pushing for a response.

#### **5. C-030 Traffic and road matters**

JH noted that road safety issues had been discussed at the last WPC meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> July, following a serious car accident in the hamlet on Westwood Lane earlier in the month. Although no members of the public attended that meeting, it was well understood by WPC, SCC and GBC that road safety was a matter of serious concern for local residents.

JH summarised the actions already undertaken by SCC or planned in the current financial year:

- re-surfacing of Wanborough Hill (done)
- re-painting of white lines (mostly done)
- white gate style village sign on Wanborough Hill (to be installed in 2023-24)
- roadside vegetation maintenance (mostly done regularly)

Although the installation of rumble strips (requested in the past by WPC) had also been considered by SCC, MF reported that the Highways works team now recommended anti-skid surfacing as the most appropriate solution for this location. JH asked for other suggestions on further improvements.

A local resident then spoke of their experience, having lived in the hamlet adjacent to Westwood Lane for the last five years. In that time, he had seen three serious accidents with cars crashing into the gardens of his neighbours. The police were only involved in one of these accidents. He stated that residents have a duty to demand action before someone suffers a serious life changing injury or death. It had been his observation that these three accidents had occurred as a result of careless driving by young people under 22 years old. In his opinion many young inexperienced drivers tended to drive at the speed limit set, without due attention to local conditions (for example a sharp corner) where a slower speed was appropriate. In conclusion he said that a lower speed limit through the Wanborough hamlet was both needed and justified.

MF reported that from 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023 he would become the SCC cabinet member for transport with responsibility for Surrey highways; he is confident that SCC has the authority, and established procedures, to reduce the speed limit on this section of Westwood Lane to 30mph within months.

OC asked if the road resurfacing work had been finished. MF stated that the Highways works team will be back next year to finish off. OC asked that the 'Slow' sign and some speed limit repeater signs also needed to be repaired.

All those present at the meeting acknowledged the tremendous efforts of the local volunteer who cycles around the Parish picking up litter. Everyone was agreed that this individual should be formally recognised and thanked in some way.

## **6. C-031 Finances and cheques**

Payments made since last meeting:

- Clerk (Q3 salary)                      £897.75
- ICO data protection sub              £35.00

KS highlighted to councillors that at the next meeting we will be discussing the WPC precept request for 2024-25 and any projects, works or purchases should be considered in advance. MF noted that given GBC's current precarious financial position it was unlikely that any grants would be available for the next financial year.

## **7. C-031 Consultations**

Farnborough Airport update

JH noted that MF had covered this subject. KS stated that not all residents had received the literature from the airport. It was agreed that KS should include the relevant information in her next mailshot planned for 4<sup>th</sup> October.

Walkways and path consultation

JH drew attention to the information available online. MF confirmed that this was a new SCC led initiative with the objective for every district and borough in Surrey to have a formal walkways and paths plan. It should enable SCC to bid for central government funding to improve and upgrade specific walking routes and pathways in the county.

"Hedgehogs R Us"

KS shared the premise of this initiative. JH said that he would like the councillors to review this suggestion in detail, including a check on the supplier company, before making any purchase on behalf of residents.

## **8. C-032 Date of next meetings**

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024

Review of meeting dates for 2024. At JH request all councillors agreed to change the May meeting to 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024.

#### **9. C-033 Any other business**

KS stated that a local resident has been in contact with her regarding the possible upkeep of an old wall on which some SOE names were engraved. JH asked that he, and any other councillors who were unaware of this, be shown the location.

\*MB noted a recent application on Green Lane East for twelve new dwellings just on the border of Wanborough Parish and asked that it be considered for comment by WPC.

#### **Meeting finished at 8:40pm**

\* MB raised at the meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> November that this point was not noted in the original minutes. KS has retrospectively included to the minutes.