



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WONERSH PARISH COUNCIL

held on Thursday 10 February 2011, at 7.30pm at Wonersh Sports Pavilion

PRESENT

Cllr M Band, Cllr R Bawden, Cllr G Grant, Cllr M Harding (in the chair for items 11/019 – 11/021), Cllr N Morris, Cllr A Powell-Evans (present and in the chair for items 11/022 – 11/037), Cllr A Shareef

Six other local electors and Mr A Golden, Surrey Advertiser

In attendance: Mr K Garvey, Clerk to the Council

11/019 APOLOGIES

The Council received apologies for absence from Cllrs L Healy, C Howard and Borough Cllr M Goodridge.

11/020 CODE OF CONDUCT

No Members declared any personal or prejudicial interests.

11/021 OPEN MEETING FOR ELECTORS TO RAISE MATTERS WITH THE COUNCIL ON LOCAL ISSUES

Mrs Paula Elms, speaking on behalf of the Wonersh and Shamley Green Voluntary Playground Committee (WSGVPC), requested the Council's support and approval for a "Royal Wedding" fete to be held on Wonersh Common on 29 April as a fund-raising event for new play equipment at the Wonersh Common Playground. Mrs Elms also requested the financial support of the Council to meet the installation costs of early-new play equipment that had been offered to the playground by Waverley Borough Council (WBC) and the removal of redundant equipment from the site.

The Chairman thanked the representatives of WSGVPC for their presentation and assured them that their requests would be carefully considered at agenda items 11/029 & 030 below.

11/022 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13 JANUARY 2011

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

11/023 MATTERS ARISING:

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

10/103: Drainage across Wonersh Common Memorial Playing Field. Cllr Bawden explained that Wonersh Cricket Club (WCC) was taking forward new works at its own cost close to the Sports Pavilion. However, he and the Clerk would also be consulting about other potential drainage improvements to which the Council could be asked to contribute in due course.

10/196: Annual Parish Assembly 2011. Members of the Assembly Working Party undertook to take forward preparations urgently.

Action: Clerk to revise the matters arising update ahead of the next meeting of the Council.

11/024 MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 6 AND 20 JANUARY 2011

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

11/029 CONSIDERATION OF WBC's OFFER OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT FOR RE-SITING AT THE WONERSH COMMON PLAYGROUND AND AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO COSTS BY THE COUNCIL

Members agreed that in view of the representations made under item 11/021 above that this agenda item should be brought forward.

The Chairman expressed thanks to Borough Cllr Goodridge for contacting WBC officials to check on the status of playground equipment that had been installed at a WBC-owned property in Barnett Lane in 2007. WBC officials had responded by confirming that a recent decision to change the use of the property for emergency housing meant that it was no longer appropriate to maintain the play equipment there. WBC had therefore offered this nearly-new equipment (worth more than £20,000 to buy new) as a gift to the Wonersh Common playground providing the Council and the WSGVPC could meet the removal and reinstatement costs. The Chairman, Cllr Healy and the Clerk together with Mrs Elms had inspected the play equipment and agreed that all of it would enhance the play experience for children at the playground. In the light of the present swings for older and younger children coming to the end of their useful life (after nearly forty years), the offer of nearly-new replacements (similar in design/manufacture to the pair of brand-new cradle swings recently installed at the Shamley Green (Lords Hill) playground) was particularly fortuitous. WBC had provided an indicative quotation of just over £6,600 to carry out the works, but this did not include provision for removing any redundant equipment from Wonersh Common playground. The WSGVPC had so far raised £1,900 in renewed fund-raising activities since 2010 and was seeking other donor funding. The question for the Council to consider was whether or not it could meet the funding gap to receive the gift.

Members agreed that the equipment would be excellent community assets and offer good value for money. However, they noted that neither the proposed gift nor associated costs could have been foreseen when the Council had set its budget for the present year or for

2011/12. The Council thanked the WSGVPC for continuing to take the lead for this project and in seeking additional donor funding, including from County Cllr Andrew Povey. The WSGVPC would also commission three competitive quotations for the necessary works. Cllr Band asked that both he and Mr Goodridge (the local Borough Cllrs) should be kept informed of developments. Cllr Band also suggested that WBC be asked to contribute some additional funding towards the identified costs.

The Council RESOLVED unanimously that in principle it should contribute to the costs of installing the gifted play equipment at Wonersh Common playground, subject to detailed consideration of a formal project proposal as an agenda item at a future meeting of the Council (proposed by Cllr Harding, seconded by Cllr Shareef).

Action: WSGPVC to submit a project proposal for approval by the Council in due course.

**11/030 CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR A
LICENCE TO HOLD A ROYAL WEDDING FETE ON WONERSH COMMON
ON 29 APRIL 2011**

Members agreed that in view of the representations made under item 11/021 above that this agenda item should also be brought forward.

Members noted that it had been several years since a fete had been held on Wonersh Common and that therefore it had not updated its policy and rules, including the provision of public liability insurance by event organisers. The Council accepted the Clerk's recommendation that it follow the principles and rules adopted by WBC. These were clear and comprehensive. By adopting the WBC approach this would also provide consistency within the parish because WBC was already responsible for licensing events that took place on WBC-owned common land, eg the annual Shamley Green summer fete. The Clerk had provided a copy of the WBC guidance *Organising Safe Events in Waverley* to the WSGVPC and had informed Mrs Elms of the requirement to name a responsible event organiser and to take out public liability insurance.

In response to the request by the WSGVPC to use the Platt for car-parking the Council concluded that it must refuse because of the time of year at which the fete was due to take place. The Platt was a protected meadow/wild-flower habitat. It would not have been mown by the end of April and could be somewhat boggy then. The potential damage from vehicles to the Platt and to vehicles from unseen hazards hidden in long grass was too much of a risk. The Council invited the WSGVPC to seek permission for parking from other local organisations that provided near-by off-street parking.

The Council RESOLVED unanimously that, subject to compliance with the rules and bye-laws for organising public events on the Commons and the commitment to make good any damage caused to the Commons, approval be given for a licence to hold a Royal Wedding fete on 29 April 2011 on Wonersh Common (proposed by Cllr Morris, seconded by Cllr Harding).

Action: Clerk to inform the WSGVPC of the decision of the Council and to liaise with them about preparations for the proposed fete.

11/025 FINANCE:

(a) **The Council RESOLVED** unanimously that the list of Payment and Receipt vouchers in January 2011 be approved (proposed by Cllr Bawden, seconded by Cllr Shareef);

(b) **The Council RESOLVED** unanimously that the end-January 2011 financial statement be approved (proposed by Cllr Band, seconded by Cllr Morris);

11/026 COMPLIANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURES

The Chairman reminded Members of the importance of abiding by the Council's Standing Orders to ensure that its business was conducted in a timely and orderly way. In particular, Members accepted that they should observe the discipline of not entering into detailed or prolonged discussion about subjects raised at the "open meeting for electors" agenda item. If a subject required detailed discussion or debate then this should be only undertaken following public notice and inclusion as a future agenda item in its own right.

11/027 CONSIDERATION OF WBC'S CONSULTATION ON THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (LDF)

The Council agreed on the importance of it responding to this consultation about the Waverley Draft Core Strategy for the years 2012 – 27 and to seek the urgent views of electors. It also noted the request made by Borough Cllr Goodridge that Blackheath residents be given the opportunity to consider the pros and cons of requesting a change in the village's present status as a *settlement without boundaries*.

Action: Available Members to meet as a Working Party on Thursday 17 February to discuss in details the draft documents and proposed comments. Other Members unavailable to participate in the Working Party meeting invited to circulate their written comments to colleagues. Clerk to advertise the consultation to electors in Blackheath, Shamley Green and Womersley, seeking their views.

11/028 CONSIDERATION OF SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S (SCC)'S CONSULTATION ON THE PROVISION OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

The Chairman noted that the Council had agreed at its last meeting on the importance of contributing to this consultation and thanked Cllr Healy for volunteering to collate the views of Members and to prepare the Council's formal response ahead of the deadline. Cllr Band confirmed that WBC had already submitted its critical comments and had passed a copy to Cllr Healy. Members spoke of their serious concerns about the proposed reductions in the fire service available to households by day and night and to deal with other emergencies such as heath-fires and serious road accidents. They doubted that the target 9 minute response times would be achievable.

Action: Cllr Healy to draft the Council's response and Clerk to submit it to SCC.

11/031 CONSIDERATION OF THE FUTURE OF BRAMLEY LIBRARY

The Clerk informed the Council of County Cllr Povey's letter of 10 February explaining SCC's approach to potential changes in local library provision. Members spoke of the value to residents of Blackheath, Shamley Green and Womersley of the Bramley library. They noted that Bramley Parish Council (BPC) would be discussing this issue at its own

next meeting on 17 February and agreed that the Council should accept the invitation to attend that meeting.

Action: Cllrs Bawden and Powell-Evans to attend the BPC meeting on 17 February and revert.

11/032 CONSIDERATION OF THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE CLOSED WONERSH BURIAL GROUND

The Clerk informed the Council of his contacts with the Wonersh with Blackheath Parochial Church Council to discuss issues of public liability insurance within the closed burial ground and the maintenance of the surrounding wall. He assured Members that there was no increased risk of exposure to a public liability claim because both the Council and the PCC had appropriate insurance cover. However, it was apparent that institutional memory on both sides had diminished since the two parties had made an agreement in 1985 about maintenance responsibilities for the burial ground and wall. The agreement itself was out-of-date and required re-examining. The Council agreed that the Chairman and Clerk should seek a meeting with the Wonersh Churchwardens to discuss the options for updating the terms of the present agreement.

Action: Chairman and Clerk to seek a meeting with the Churchwardens and revert.

11/033 CONSIDERATION OF THE COUNCIL'S POLICY FOR ACCEPTING AND CHARGING FOR SPONSORSHIP/DEDICATION OF NEWLY-PLANTED TREES ON COUNCIL-OWNED LAND

Cllr Bawden presented a paper outlining the options for responding to requests by individuals to sponsor and dedicate trees on the Commons, in many cases in memory of loved-ones. Members agreed that in all cases the trees would remain the property and responsibility of the Council but having such a dedication scheme would help to accelerate the Council's planned planting schedule (an important component of its agreed Commons Enhancement and Management Plan) and stimulate community involvement. They further agreed that the Council should permit discreet memorial plaques on the strict understanding that the Council could not accept any responsibility for the purchase or future maintenance of such plaques. They agreed that it was reasonable to ask dedicators to meet the full purchase cost of new trees, rounded up to the nearest five pounds while the Council should continue to meet any planting costs.

The Council RESOLVED unanimously to approve the policy that dedicators be invited to donate the equivalent of the purchase cost of trees to the Council, rounded up to a sum that is a multiple of five pounds, with the Council covering planting costs (proposed by Cllr Morris, seconded by Cllr Grant).

11/034 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

(a) WBC Town and Parish Council's Meeting

The Council received a written report from Cllr Harding of the meeting held on 24 January 2011.

(b) Shamley Green Traffic Calming

Cllrs Grant and Shareef reported on their participation at a meeting with the Shamley Green Village Association and the intention of the Traffic-Calming Working Party to organise a community consultation (a questionnaire to all households followed by a public meeting) and to submit a project proposal for consideration by the Council.

Action: Council to consider the project proposal as an agenda item in due course.

(c) Encouraging New Councillors

Cllr Shareef reported that the Working Party had prepared notices for the February and March editions of the Shamley Green and Wonersh with Blackheath parish magazines. Members were encouraged to accept the invitation to attend the Shamley Green newcomers' party on 8 March 2011 in order to brief residents about the role of the Council in serving the community.

(d) Allotments

The Clerk reported on his well-attended meeting with allotment holders (14), prospective allotment holders (2) and Councillors (4) held on 3 February 2011. The agenda had covered a review of 2010/11, the proposed budget for 2011/12, the revival of plot 1A, a volunteer clear-up day in March/April and ongoing concerns over the upkeep of plots. Allotment holders had helpfully suggested that the Clerk write to them by the end of December each year to enquire about the commitment of allotment holders to renew or relinquish their plots so that individuals on the waiting list could be given an early opportunity to take over any to-be-vacated plots. The Chairman had also informed allotment holders about the desire of the owner of the allotment site to discuss the future use of the land with the Council and that they would be kept informed of developments.

11/035 CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Invitation for the Council to be represented at a meeting with the Bishop of Guildford and representatives of Cranleigh Deanery to discuss rural housing on 2 March 2011.

Members regretted that no-one was available to attend.

- (b) The Clerk informed the Council of a request for an easement by a property owner on Wonersh Common Road.

Action: Council to consider the formal easement request as an agenda item at its next meeting.

- (c) Invitation for the Council to be represented at the Surrey Assembly Day on 22 March 2011.

Members agreed on the importance of the Council being represented at this event.

Action: Clerk to inform the Assembly Day organisers of the Council's representatives in due course.

11/036 COUNCILLORS' BUSINESS FOR NOTING OR INCLUDING ON A FUTURE AGENDA.

Cllr Harding noted that 6 February 2011 had marked the 59th anniversary of the accession of HM The Queen. He suggested that the Council would shortly want to begin to consider how the Diamond Jubilee should be marked by the Parish in 2012.

11/037 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Council noted the dates for the following future meetings:

Council:	10 March, 14 April 2011.
Planning Committee:	17 February, 3 March 2011.
Parish Annual Assembly	17 March 2011.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 pm.