

## **MINUTES OF THE 2017 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, CRANLEIGH ON SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017 AT 6.00PM.**

### **PRESENT**

Parish Councillors: - Mary Forszewski (Chairman), Rosemary Burbridge (Vice Chairman), Richard Bryant, Patricia Ellis, Brian Freeston, Steve Jeacock, David Harris and Elizabeth Townsend.  
Youth Council Members: - Hannah Lodge, Rebecca White, Thomas Cox and Cameron Sinclair  
There were approximately 17 local electors at the meeting.  
Parish Clerk B Bell FILCM and Assistant Clerk S Simmonds were in attendance.

### **INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES**

The Council Chairman, Mary Forszewski welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting and introduced Councillors.

Apologies were received from Cllr Matt Hayward, Cllr Rowena Tyler and Cllr Kate Fernandas.

### **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2016 were confirmed as a true record, and the Council Chairman signed the Minutes Book.

### **CHAIRMANS ADDRESS**

The Chairman said what a delight the Community Showcase was this year and thanked everyone for attending the Community Showcase and welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

The Parish Council is made up of different, diverse and diligent Parish Councillors which she was glad to say were all here for the right reasons and she asked the Councillor.

The Councillors introduced themselves.

The Chairman congratulated Andrew Povey on his successful election as Surrey County Councillor.

The Chairman gave a heartfelt thanks to an amazing group of people who do an amazing job on the councillor and who are backed up by the amazing staff. It has been a turbulent year with new councillors and new staff. We don't always agree, but we debate and it's all about a healthy debate. We face a lot of challenges ahead and as a Parish Council we are asset rich but cash poor and we need to make sure that our assets work for us.

A special thanks to Patricia Ellis and our condolences for the loss of Brian Ellis.

Thanks to our Vice Chairman, Cllr Rosemary Burbridge, and to our Clerk Beverley Bell and Assistant Clerk Soo Simmonds.

### **Youth Council**

The Chairman excited to say that we now have a Youth Council and four of the members have joined the Councillors on stage today. The Youth Council is run parallel beside us and we are the first Parish Council to do this and the Youth Council members should be extremely proud. The Chairman expressed her thanks to Cllr Liz Townsend for acting as spearhead for the Youth Council.

Handing over her Jewell of Office to Rebecca to wear whilst the youth council members introduced themselves and why they are on the Youth Council.

Hannah Lodge – currently in Year 10 at Glebelands School. As the community develops needs then we need to develop our ideas.

Thomas Cox– currently in Year 10 at Glebelands School. The reason why I joined the Youth Council because I feel that it is a great way for the youth of the village to express themselves.

Rebecca White– currently Year 6 at Park Mead. She believes the Parish Council should be run both by adults and children.

Cameron Sinclair – currently in Year 6 at Cuthbert and Mayne. He believes that the youth of the village should have a say in things.

The Chairman handed over the meeting to the Clerk who provided an informative presentation on the Parish Council and some of their achievements this last year. (See Appendix 1)

The Clerk gave special thanks:

- to Kevin our Sexton who is extremely discreet and is an amazing person and we are lucky to have him tending our cemetery
- to Nick our groundsman who works tirelessly and again, we are lucky to have someone so hardworking and knowledgeable.
- To Jitu who is a real team player
- To Soo, for organising the day.
- To Louise for all her hard work.
- And to the Councillors for their hard work.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for her presentation and hoped everyone enjoyed it, as we are trying to deliver a modern council.

### **QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS**

Members of the public posed questions, spoke and commented on several issues relating to the Parish: -

#### Snoxhall Fields Access Road Closure

Residents raised concerns over the closure on Snoxhall Fields Access road. They felt that the play park was suffering from the closure with parents not using the park because they could not park in the adjacent free carpark.

The Clerk explained that the closure of the road was not a decision that was taken lightly, but due to the road deteriorating and the potholes becoming larger and deeper. It was decided to close the access road on health and safety grounds. The access road experiences large volumes of cars which were causing the potholes to deteriorate.

A resident stated the large volume of traffic showed how many used it for the park and buildings. The Chairman agreed that it was well used but some of the users were working in the village and parking all day for free.

The Parish Council are currently investigating into the cost of repairs and this may require the work going out to tender due to the cost. One section of the road is part of the Downs Link and must be repaired to the specification set out by Surrey County Council. The Downs link Ranger has visited to see the poor state of the road and supported the closure. The aim is to have the road open as soon as possible but it will be closed until further notice.

A resident raised concern regarding children going to the weekend football were walking down Knowle lane. The Clerk advised that the Football Club, along with other users of the grounds and buildings had been given the code.

The Clerk also explained the Parish Council would be considering some sort of parking control and a resident enquired if this would be chargeable. The Clerk confirmed that it would be, and another resident stated it was the result of the parking of inconsiderate drivers.

A resident asked if the road could not be opened until the repairs were done. The Chairman confirmed that it was not a decision that was taken lightly and we are now in a 'claim society' and we hope to have the access road opened as soon as possible.

Finances

A resident queried the 13% increase on this year's Parish Council Precept and asked if this was due to the additional extra member of staff that the parish council was currently recruiting for. The Clerk advised that this was the case.

The resident then advised that money had been earmarked before for the resurfacing of the access road at Snoxhall Fields and this was now not show under earmarked reserves.

The Clerk advised that the figure had been included in the General Reserves.

The resident requested a copy of the Income and Expenditure should be available at the meeting. The Clerk explained the year end had only been completed the day before, and the list of Income and Expenditure would go on the website sometime next week.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 6.30pm.

Signed .....

Date.....

