

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT 7.15PM* ON THURSDAY 18TH JUNE 2009
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, VILLAGE WAY, CRANLEIGH

* The Parish Council meeting started fifteen minutes late due to interviews being conducted for the Parish Councillor vacancy.

During the first fifteen minutes of the meeting members of the public with a legitimate interest in the parish were able to ask questions relevant to the work of the council. There were three members of the public and the Surrey County Councillor Cllr J Lord present. There were no members of the press in attendance. The Clerk, Pauline Whitehead and Assistant Clerk Mrs Anne Scully were also present.

Cllr BA Ellis * (Chairman of the Council)
Cllr BH Cheesman* (Vice Chairman of the Council)
Cllr B Arendell*
Cllr C Baily
Cllr J Bainbridge
Cllr Mrs JE Dodd*
Cllr Mrs P Ellis*
Cllr Mrs M Foryszewski*
Cllr D Gallacher*(arrived late and tendered apologies)
Cllr Mrs R Hurtle*
Cllr K Reed*

PRESENT*

1. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 21ST MAY 2009

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st May 2009 were AGREED and signed by the Chairman as a true record subject to two amendments: - Page 4069, Item 15, first sentence, delete 'had ceased' and add 'will cease from October 2009'; Page 4070, Item 15, insert 'proposed' before 'new hospital' on the penultimate sentence.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

The Council accepted apologies and reasons for absence from Cllr C Baily and Cllr J Bainbridge.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that any changes in member's interests should be notified to the Clerk so that appropriate action can be taken. There were no declarations of interest.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman expressed his pride in representing Cranleigh at the round of Civic Services that are held in May and June. He had attended the Waverley Civic Service on 31st May, and the Godalming, Haslemere and Farnham Civic Services on the first three Sundays in June. Congratulations were extended to the respective four new Mayors, Cllr Mrs P Frost, Mayor of Waverley, Cllr Mrs L Fleming, Mayor of Farnham, Cllr Mrs J Poulter, Mayor of Godalming and Cllr Mrs M Odell Mayor of Haslemere.

On May 26th he had attended a meeting to plan celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the opening of Cranleigh Village Hospital later in the year. On Saturday 10th October there will be a Thanksgiving Service in St Nicolas Church at 3.30pm followed by refreshments in the Church Rooms. There will be an exhibition of

surgical instruments at the Arts Centre starting from 14th October with a relevant film showing at the Arts Centre on 15th October. An exhibition is scheduled in the Village Hall on 17th October organised by the History Society.

The Chairman expressed his disappointment that less than 25 of the electorate had attended the Annual Parish Meeting this year. Most of the concerns related to activities over which the Parish Council has no immediate control. The issue of Elmbridge canal bridge and the disappointment with the County Council's decision not to install traffic lights was of major concern to all who attended and it was hoped that the newly elected County Councillor could exert some pressure over this.

The SCAPT General Meeting took place at East Horsley on 30th May 2009, with presentations including 'Rural Neighbourhood Policing' from Sergeant S Juleff of Surrey Police and 'Green Lanes – RUPPs, (Roads Used mainly as Public Paths) and BOATs, (/Byways open to all traffic) from Mr J Storrar Countryside Ranger of Surrey Wildlife Trust.

The Chairman and Director of SCAPT had attended a meeting at Surrey County Council to discuss the possibility of Parish Councils in Surrey taking over grass cutting services with the appropriate financial support and the Lengthsman Scheme which allows Parish Councils to pay for additional grass cutting by the County Council. The possibility of using local contractors for minor road surface repairs was also discussed. but this cannot be progressed as the Ringway contract for Highways runs until 2013. There may be an opportunity for local grass cutting which will be taken up with Waverley and their grounds maintenance contractors in the near future.

Cllrs Mr and Mrs Ellis had attended a presentation on Transition Towns given by Finn Jackson of Farnham Transition movement, similar to one given at a recent Town and Parishes Meeting. The key message from the presentation was that interest and initiative to instigate a scheme of this nature has to come from the community and cannot be imposed by local authorities.

Several Councillors had attended a meeting at Cranleigh Leisure Centre to hear details of the proposals to improve the Leisure Centre as part of a £9.1million proposal to enhance leisure facilities in Waverley. The work at Cranleigh will start in early July.

The public notice board in Fountain Square was unveiled on 10th June by Cllr Mrs P Frost, Mayor of Waverley, and the Chairman expressed his thanks to Cranleigh School for their generous donation of the Notice Board and to Cllr Mrs Frost for attending.

Sir Ray Tindle, the proprietor of Tindle Newspapers Ltd had hosted a meeting of key people to hear the issues surrounding a Government decision to cap the precept set by Surrey Police Authority this year. Local Government Minister John Healey confirmed earlier this month that the Surrey Police Authority (SPA) will have to set a lower council tax in 2009-10, forcing the chief constable Mark Rowley to cut 50 frontline operational posts and forcing a re-billing of Surrey residents, despite a cost of £1.2million. The proposed reduction to the SPA precept would be £1.6 million which equates to just six pence a week for the average Band D property.

5. QUESTIONS

There were no questions from members of the public living or working in the Parish.

6. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

The Chairman of the Committee presented the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 1st June 2009, these were RECEIVED. The Committee Chairman asked for questions but none were posed.

7. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING

The Chairman of the Committee presented the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 10th June 2009, these were RECEIVED. The Committee Chairman asked for questions but none were posed.

7a. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Chairman presented the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 27th May 2009, these were RECEIVED. The Minutes will be approved at the next Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for May 2010.

8. FINANCIAL MATTERS

The final expenditure list for May 2009 of £48,671.33 and the expenditure list for June 2009 amounting to £59,921.39 was presented to the Council by the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and AGREED.

The Committee Chairman noted that the list contained expenditure for equipment at Snoxhall Play Park and for CCTV at Snoxhall pavilion.

The Financial Report to 31st May 2009 was not available due to time constraints on the Clerk.

9. CAB LEASE

The Council AGREED that the rent currently charged by Waverley to Citizens Advice, apportioned according to the exclusive space occupied by the CAB and the Cranfold Job Seekers Club, would be an acceptable basis on which to progress discussions to secure a direct lease between the Parish Council, the CAB, and the Job Seekers Club, while ensuring security of tenure for the Job Seekers Club.

10. YEAR END ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL RETURN

The Council AGREED the Statement of Accounts to year ending 31st May 2009.

The significant differences in the balances brought forward were noted as being due to expenditure during 2008/9 on projects which had been saved for over a period of years, the most significant of which was the internal decoration and a roof repair on the Village Hall, Cemetery storage and Recreation machinery all of which reduced cash in the bank.

The difference in the 'Total Other Receipts' and 'Total Other Payments' was due to the Big Lottery Grant of £50,000 in respect of Snoxhall Play Park and the expenditure associated with it.

The Council APPROVED the Annual Return and the Annual Governance Statement for 2008/9.

11. STANDING ORDERS

The Council AGREED the Standing Orders circulated with the agenda. The changes were marked on the copies and were to bring Standing Orders into line with changes made during the year.

12. LIGHT NEAR SEXTON'S SHED AT CEMETERY

Members CONFIRMED that both the light and store at the Cemetery are necessary for the Sexton to undertake his duties in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and that it is reasonable for the light to be on during the winter hours from 3.30pm to 5.30pm.

The Council acknowledged that reasonable steps should be taken to conserve energy where ever possible and AGREED that ways to reduce the usage of electricity should be looked at for weekends and that this should be considered at the next Cemetery meeting.

The Council also AGREED that provision of some sort of shielding should be explored to reduce the light being cast into neighbouring property and that should also be considered at the next Cemetery Meeting.

13. CALENDER OF MEETINGS

Members RECEIVED an updated calendar of meetings for 2009/10 which took into account changes to the dates of Finance and General Purposes meetings to avoid clashes with Waverley Borough Council meetings.

14. RECREATION REPORT

Members noted the Recreation Report circulated with the agenda. This included updates regarding potential funding for the practice cricket nets, emergency clearance of a culvert adjacent to the Paddock Field under the Land Drainage Act 1991, recycling materials at Snoxhall, Snoxhall Play Park, an e-mail of thanks from Cranleigh Football Club and potential projects for Sport England Funding.

The Parish Council heard that Greenways Nursery had secured £19,530 from Surrey County Council Surestart Fund, £13,500 of which is for a container with an internal light, an area for outside play which consists of a fenced tarmac area with drainage and shading. It was AGREED that work could commence on alterations to Snoxhall Pavilion as soon as possible.

The Clerk had received an invoice from Stennetts for £1,800 in respect of the hire of a storage container for 75 weeks at £20 per week. However, the Managing Director, Mr Stennett indicated that he would like to donate the value of the hire to the project. The Council were very grateful for this generous donation and AGREED that the Clerk should write and thank Mr Stennett.

15. DISCIPLINARY AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES POLICY 2009

Members AGREED the Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures Policy circulated with the agenda. The aim of the document was to bring the Parish Council day-to-day management in line with normal business practice.

The Grievance procedure gives a template of what action should be taken should a member of staff complain about a Councillor, however, the procedure cannot address every eventuality and therefore the action taken should be appropriate to the situation.

16. PARISH BUSINESS

Cllr Mrs Hurtley is working with a Community Safety Consultant to forward the 'Cranleigh Code', an initiative to improve community cohesion and behaviour in Cranleigh. An opportunity to apply for grant funding to the Towns 4 Towns fund has been shelved as the funding was only 40% of the project and it is unlikely that the remaining 60% could be found in this economic climate, plus the fact that the Community Safety Consultant currently has limited time resources. Cllr Mrs Hurtley is working with the Cranleigh Co-ordinator to pare down the project and to adapt it to fit in with intergenerational initiatives for which funding is more freely available.

The Village Hall meeting scheduled for 25th June has been cancelled due to lack of business. Cllr Mrs Dodd informed Members that a request had been received to hold youth meetings on Friday evenings. The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Village Hall had agreed that should they wish to avail of this, they would be charged a normal evening rate rather than the higher rate charged on a Friday evening.

17. CORRESPONDENCE

The Parish Council RECEIVED Correspondence List A to 14th March 2008 and List B to 20th March 2008.
List A Item 5 Snoxhall Bar. - The Clerk reported positive working between Cranleigh Football Club and Cranleigh St Andrews Cricket Club.

List A Item 8 Visioning – The Clerk noted that the Visioning document from Anne Bott of SCAPT had been returned and that she was working on the recommendations to present at the July meeting.

18. REPORTS

The Chairman advised all Councillors that Waverley Borough Council's list of meetings and Surrey County Council's Environmental Update were available on their respective websites.

18th June 2009

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19. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was resolved that the Press & Public be excluded from the Meeting during items 20, 21 and 22 in accordance with section 100A (2) and (4) of the L.G.A. 1972 and Standing Orders 55(c) and 55(d).

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 16th July 2009 at 7pm.