

ST MARTHA PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Extra-Ordinary Meeting of St Martha Parish Council held on 11th January 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in Chilworth Village Hall

22/01 Present:

Parish Councillors:

Cllr Mrs Allen (Vice Chairman)

Cllr J. Peake

Cllr Mrs. C. Price

Shalford Parish Council – Cllr A. Cansell

Clerk to the Council: Anne Tait

Members of the public:

Mrs Helen McIntyre

Rosemary Lemon

On the proposition of Cllr Mrs Price, seconded by Cllr Peake it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Mrs Allen chair this meeting.

22/02 Apologies for Absence

Guildford Borough Councillors Diana Jones and Richard Billington, Surrey County Councillor Bob Hughes, Parish Councillors Brown, Pugh, and Mrs Tantram.

22/03 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs) by councillors in accordance with The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012. (SI 2012 No. 1464).

No declarations were made.

22/04 Declaration of non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Parish Council's Code of Conduct. No declarations were made.

22/05 Public participation Session

Helen McIntyre suggested that the hedges between the War Memorial and the entrance to Lockner Farm be cut back before the bird nesting period.

22/06 Reports

Parish Clerk:

- a) **The Kissing Gate at the East end of 'Peter Burts' field.** A report has been received that the gate is no longer attached to the post and lying on the bank on the left-hand side as you enter the field. Cllr Peake reported that the gate at west end of the field is used and questioned whether we need to keep both gates in working order. Cllr Peake AGREED to discuss this with the owner of the field. The Clerk reminded those present that the kissing gate is included in the Parish Councils' Asset Register and asked that the owner write to confirm that the East end gate is no longer required.

RESOLVED: Cllr Peake AGREED to speak to Peter Burt.

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b) The Clerk reported that four messages had been received from residents in Roseacre Gardens regarding the narrowness of the pavement between Lockner Farm and Mill Reach in Chilworth. All correspondents reported that the pavement is narrow; the road is on a narrow bend; and cars invariably travel in excess of the speed limit. There have been witnesses of three accidents where vehicles are having to mount the pavement to avoid a head-on collision.

c) **Parish Council's reference number: 2093779** - A message had been received from Bahram Assadi: *"There is no funding available, within the current financial year, for putting up any vehicle activated signs along the Dorking Road in Chilworth. We do not know how much funding we will receive for 2022/23 financial year"*.

The Clerk subsequently asked Mr Assadi if the Parish Council were allowed to contribute financially to two illuminated flashing signs. Mr Assadi replied: *"Yes, in principle the Parish Council can fully pay for the permanent vehicle activated signs. Currently, the cost of a vehicle activated sign (mains powered) with a 600mm sign is £2,750. There will be an additional £1,155 for a solar powered VAS"*.

RESOLVED: To research into a 'slow road narrows' sign.

d) **Footpath 252a and Bridleway 252** - A message has now been received from Tom Jenkins SCC Countryside Access Officer: *"I have looked through our historic files/documents relating to FP252a, and the adjacent public bridleway, BW252 and I can find almost nothing regarding the public footpath, and nothing as to why the footpath and bridleway have been separated by a fence and run alongside each other at this location."*

The public footpath is recorded as being separate to the public bridleway on all of the historic definitive map sheets, the earliest being published in 1952 (the Definitive Map & Statement make up the legal record of public rights of way). Presumably there must have been a reason for this, but I have not been able to find any evidence in our files.

Regarding the old post and wire fencing that separates the footpath and bridleway, unfortunately I have not been able to find anything on file about this either. My colleague has been out on site to inspect the fence and agrees that it is in a state of disrepair. We will look into the possibility of removing the damaged posts and wire when time and resources allow, and in line with the County Council's Priority Statement".

Parish Councillors:

Traffic in Blacksmith's Lane: Cllr Mrs Price reported on progress - there has been a meeting arranged to discuss HGV signs with a Landslips Engineer from SCC, Cllr Fiona Davidson, SCC Traffic Engineer Bahram Assadi and SCC Cllr Bob Hughes. Cllr Mrs Price will report further at the February meeting. It was AGREED that a width restriction sign is required to deter HGVs from entering the Lane.

Chilworth Station enhancement: Cllr Mrs Allen reported on the recent improvement works. The replacement metal fencing is due to be white powder coated to match in with the existing picket fencing. We would like to thank the Southeast Communities Rail Partnership (SCRP) and Surrey Hills AONB who have worked with us for nearly four years on this project. Another initiative is also underway, due to GWR funding and help from SCRPP. Art Work produced by the children of Tillingbourne School and Chilworth Church of England Infant School is to be displayed in the platform shelters.

The Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB Boundary Changes: Cllr Mrs Allen reported that there has been a desire locally over many years for a review to decide whether areas adjacent to the existing AONB boundary should also be designated. One of these areas under consideration abuts Chilworth and is currently locally designated an Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV). AGLVs are areas of

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high landscape quality with strong distinctive characteristics which make them particularly sensitive to development, but which don't have the same protection as areas in the AONB. A review is already currently underway, led by Natural England, and the first phase is to gather evidence about the natural beauty of the areas under consideration, currently outside the AONB, and views have been sought from people living in, around, and visiting the Surrey Hills, to help inform the decision. (The evidence gathering period ends on 31st January 2022.)

RESOLVED: That Cllr Mrs Allen will send a response with photographs from St Martha Parish Council on the AONB Boundary Review 2022 (Area EA3)

22/07 Planning

Councillors discussed and agreed a response to GBC on the following applications:

- **21/P/02448 The Bungalow, Blacksmith Lane, Chilworth, GU4 8NQ** Erection of a new four-bedroom dwelling following demolition of two existing outbuildings.
RESOLVED: *The Parish Council recommend that GBC Planning Officers REFUSE this application as submitted:* This is a very small plot and building in the green belt requires very special circumstances. Councillors agree with the comments made from SCC Highways. Attached is an Historical Assessment.
- **21/P/02415 Chilworth Manor, Halfpenny Lane, Chilworth, GU4 8NN** Proposed construction of new detached building comprising of wine cellar and tasting room with associated landscaping and car parking.
RESOLVED: *The Parish Council recommend that GBC Planning Officers APPROVE the plans as submitted. Councillors accept that the proposal presents 'very special circumstances' relating to sustainable rural tourism and increased employment that outweigh harm to the Green Belt.*

To DISCUSS AND NOTE the correspondence regarding application:

21/P/02378 1 Haywards Corner, Dorking Road, Chilworth, GU4 8B Retention of outdoor kitchen (retrospective application).

Following receipt of additional information which was not available at the time of our original approval, it was AGREED to rescind our recommendation to approve and recommend that GBC REFUSE this retrospective application.

For information:

21/P/01423 14 Mill Reach, Mill Lane, Chilworth GU5 9BA Certificate of Lawfulness for a proposed development to establish whether a single-storey rear extension and associated works would be lawful. **GBC REFUSED 17/12/21**

22/08 Surrey County Council Treescape Fund

RESOLVED: That the Clerk sign the Grant Agreement on behalf of the Parish Council.

NOTED: Cllr Peake confirmed that both Blacksmith Lane and Chilworth Infant School have confirmed that they will plant some of the Parish Council's allocation.

22/09 Financial Matters

(a) **RESOLVED:** It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Allen and seconded by Cllr Mrs Price to APPROVE the schedule of cheques presented for payment by the Clerk.

(b) **RESOLVED:** Cllrs APPROVED the monthly bank reconciliation ended 31st December 2021.

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(c) **RESOLVED:** Cllrs RECEIVED and APPROVED the figures under each expenditure heading as detailed in the budget for the financial year ending 31/03/22.

RESOLVED: Following a revised review of the current and projected budget head figures for the year ending 31/03/2022, it was proposed by Cllr Mrs Allen, seconded by Cllr Mrs Price to request a precept from Guildford Borough Council of £15,070 for the financial year ending 31/03/23.

(d) **RESOLVED:** It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Allen and seconded by Cllr Peake to donate £50.00 towards the printing costs of the Chilworth Village Magazine.

22/10 Items for the next Meeting

Councillors agreed the following items for discussion at the next meeting:

Surrey Hills AONB

Treescaping

Chilworth Railway Station

Signs for Dorking Road

West Lodge

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 1st February 2022