

ST MARTHA PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of St Martha Parish Council held on 22nd November 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in Chilworth Village Hall

22/140 Present:

Councillors:

Cllr Mrs. P Allen, Cllr Mrs. C Price (Vice-Chairman), Cllr J Peake, Cllr J-P Pugh (Chairman) and
Cllr Mrs. Tantram
Shalford Parish Cllr A Cansell
Surrey County Cllr Bob Hughes
Guildford Borough Cllrs D. Jones and R. Morris

Two members of the Public

In attendance: Parish Clerk - Anne Tait

PART I

22/141 To accept apologies and reason for absence in accordance with the LGA 1972, Sch 1 para 40.

There were no apologies for absence.

22/142 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs) - by Councillors on any of the agenda items below in accordance with The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012. (SI 2012 No. 1464)

None were given.

22/143 Declaration of Non-Pecuniary Interests

None were given.

22/144 Minutes of the Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Tantram, seconded by Cllr Mrs Price, and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 11th September 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

22/145 Public Participation Session

Clarification was requested from a Parishioner regarding large groups of speeding cyclists on bridleways and footpaths, a potential danger for pedestrians. A discussion took place as to whether these groups are taking part in an organised cycling event, or a club practise event. Cllr Bob Hughes will investigate if the Surrey County Council Code of Practice for cycling events has been published.

It was noted that Surrey Hills have written an 'Off Road Cycling Code of Conduct'

<https://www.surreyhills.org/discover/safety-cycling/>

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RESOLVED:

Cllr Pugh to draft a letter for the Clerk to send to neighbouring Parish Councils regarding the hazards of cycling events taking place on public footpaths – with a request highlight this issue in their newsletter.

22/146 Reports Communications and Updates:

Parish Clerk:

There was no update from the fencing contractor regarding a possible increase in the quote for the defective posts to be treated before being replacing around the War Memorial perimeter.

The defective stone has now been replaced in the War Memorial step, at no cost to the Parish Council. Cllr Mrs Allen reported that the Masons advised to clean the moss that will accumulate during the winter on the stone – this will help to preserve the stone.

Cllr Mrs Tantram gave an update on the pavement at the entrance to the staff car park at Chilworth Infant School. Although it is acknowledged that there are two dropped kerbs near Chilworth Infant School, many vehicles park in the lay-by. This results in forcing anyone needing to use the dropped kerbs to get from one pavement to the other, must go into the road and be in the highway for a considerable distance as well as being in the way of traffic turning in or out of the school.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to forward the photographs and request to SCC.

Parish Councillors:

Cllr Mrs Tantram reported that two of the statutory policies: (1) Dignity at Work and (2) Equality and Diversity are now completed. The task now is to adjust the wording on the other statutory policies that have reference to these newly created policies.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to upload the completed Policies onto the website.

RESOLVED: Cllrs Mrs Tantram and Pugh to decide in order of priority a list of statutory policies that this Council need to adopt.

RESOLVED: Cllr Mrs Tantram to research a new logo for SMPC – to include the Chilworth Millstones.

Cllr Peake reported on his telephone conversation with John Andrews (GBC Countryside Warden) re the increased water flow near to the restored swing bridge in the Gunpowder Mills Estate. GBC feel this is caused by drainage from the field and no further recommendation for action will be taken.

Guildford Borough Councillors' Report:

A welcome was given to Cllr Richard Morris the newly elected member for the Tillingbourne Ward.

- Cllr Diana Jones reported that a recent test for phosphate levels was carried out in Albury on the Tillingbourne River. The results were 0.79 and the recommended level is 0.5. Further tests are planned in different areas of the river and an update will be given when known.
- Cllr Jones reported the many staff changes / recruitment at Guildford Borough Council and the Clerk confirmed that the changes had been disseminated to Clerks from the Comms team.

Surrey County Councillor's (SCC) Report:

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- Cllr Bob Hughes reported on the Thames Water roadworks in Halfpenny Lane and his attempt to determine the timescale of the works. He will speak to the Cabinet Member and request that in future it would be helpful for Thames Water to notify Parish Councils who could then disseminate the information to residents.
- SCC School Transport for disabled children and parents is not working as well as it should. It is increasingly difficult for SCC to recruit vehicles and drivers. Solutions are being found at a high level.
- A great deal of Members' time is being taken up with determining the budget for next year. Cllr Hughes advised that no services currently offered by SCC will be cut.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to publish the SCC Bus Consultation on the website and the notice boards

Shalford Peasmarsh and Chilworth Community Council:

Cllr Mrs Price reported on a message from Cllr Fiona Davidson regarding the 20mph issue. SCC has recently implemented a 20mph pilot on a number of roads to the east of St Martha Parish. The official rationale for this pilot follows.

- *"Lower speed limits will be implemented on rural roads in the south of Surrey to tackle speeds and improve road safety. Evidence suggests that implementing lower speed limits on 60mph roads should reduce the number and severity of road collisions, whilst also helping to support our active travel programme, improve air quality, and address concerns about excessive vehicle noise. This first phase considers an area bounded by the A25 in the north, the A24 in the east, the county boundary in the south and a line roughly between Cranleigh and Shere in the west. The most appropriate speed limit will be applied to each road, with some reduced to 20mph."*
- Cllr Cansell reported the second meeting of the Action Group had been run as a workshop by two members of the group to identify the key areas that residents would like to see action. Four broad themes were discussed, Energy, Transport, Finance and Land, Water and Food so by the end of the session there were clear directions for each of these groups. Individuals signed up to support the area they were most interested in, and this would be discussed in more detail at the next meeting, so a plan was beginning to take shape. Date of the next meeting is Thursday 8th December at 7.30pm in Shalford Village Hall Upper Hall.
- Cllr Mrs Allen gave a report on the Inter Parish Climate Change Meeting by Zoom held on 17/11/22 and AGREED to circulate the notes from the meeting. Cllr Mrs Allen reported that she would contact Cllr Sue Dunford from Shalford PC regarding any initiatives that involve Chilworth to report at the next meeting in January 2023.
- Cllr Mrs Price gave an update on the HGV watch campaign in Halfpenny Lane. A HGV Watch co-ordinator has been appointed by Surrey County Council, and Cllr Mrs Price outlined how the campaign will operate. The group are now waiting to learn in what capacity Surrey Police can support the initiative.

22/147 Dates of Meetings in 2023

Following a discussion, it was **AGREED** that Cllrs would send their preferred dates to the Clerk for the 2023 meetings. An agreement is needed for The Annual Assembly incorporating the POSTPONED Gunpowder Mills Meeting on 15/11/22 and The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May.

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22/148 The Gunpowder Mills and West Lodge

West Lodge Councillor Diana Jones reported that a second catering business has expressed an interest in opening a café. The surveyor's report indicated that it was in good enough order for a conversion into a café and the repair work needed would be £50,000. GBC have pledged £25,000. The deadline given to finalise plans by GBC is the end of December 2022.

22/149 Planning

a) Councillors discussed the following applications:

- **22/P/01688: 5 Halfpenny Close, Chilworth GU4 8NJ.** Erection of a rear extension, conversion of loft to habitable accommodation including the erection of a rear dormer and erection of front porch following demolition of existing single storey rear extension. Leave to planners.
NOTED: No recommendation was sent from the Parish Council.
- **22/P/01686: 2A Roseacre Gardens, Chilworth, GU4 8RQ.** Removal of existing conservatory, construction of a new double storey rear extension, alterations to the fenestration and new raised patio. Leave to planners.
NOTED: No recommendation was sent from the Parish Council.
- **22/P/01746: Sample Oak, Sample Oak Lane, Chilworth, GU4 8Q.** Installation of new doors and windows in existing openings. Parish Councillors recommend APPROVE
- **22/T/00268: 5 Postford Mill Cottages, Mill Lane, Chilworth GU4 8RP.** T1 and T2 (2 x English Oaks forming one crown) - raise the canopies to create 3.5m ground to canopy clearance and remove the broken top from T1. T3 (English Oak) - raise the canopies to create 3.5m ground to canopy clearance. G1 (4 x Common Ash with ash die back) - fell/remove. T4 (Failed fallen Alder) - cut up and clear. T5 (English Oak) - raise the canopy to 5m by removing epicormic growth and secondary growth only. Chilworth Gunpowder Mills Conservation Area.
GBC APPROVED 25/11/22
- **22/T/00265: The Charcoal House, Blacksmith Lane, Chilworth, GU4 8NQ.** T1 (Ash) - Remove. Chilworth Gunpowder Mills Conservation Area.
GBC APPROVED 23/11/22

(b) Cllrs to receive and note the outcome of applications previously reported:

- **22/P/01491: Middle House, Lockner Holt, Chilworth, GU4 8RG.** Installation of solar panels and a balcony window to existing garage roof.
GBC APPROVED 02/11/22

(c) **Planning Committee Terms of Reference** – adopted on 22/02/22 – Minute number: 22/34 (c). Cllrs AGREED to defer the review until the December 2022 meeting.

22/150 Highways and Rights of Way

Cllr Peake reported that Mr Peter Burt has given the Parish Council permission to apply to Surrey County Council for the creation of a new public footpath from Footpath 257 adjacent to Chilworth Manor land, to Footpath 258 which is part of the Downs Link. Presently this is an existing well used Permissive Right of Way by the public.

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RESOLVED: The Clerk to contact Daniel Williams Senior Countryside Access Officer (Legal Definition) for information on the procedure for this request.

22/151 Correspondence

Cllrs received and noted the briefing paper (October 2022) by Mike Dent on Fracking and the risk that fracking will be brought to our community. It was noted the Government have now placed a moratorium on fracking in England (dated 26/10/22).

Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Review – Cllrs **noted** that the date to provide views on new constituency boundaries is 05/12/22.

22/152 Financial Matters

(a) The schedule of payments were presented by the Clerk.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Peake and seconded by Cllr Mrs Allen that the schedule of payments presented by the Clerk be APPROVED. Shown as Appendix One of these Minutes.

(b) **RESOLVED:** It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Allen, seconded by Cllr Mrs Price that the bank reconciliation and statements for period ended 30/10/22 be APPROVED.

(c) Cllrs received and discussed the two estimates to fell the dead Ash tree behind the War Memorial.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to request a revised quote from Charterhouse to include the removal of all arisings. And to ask Simon Johnstone to send his quotation.

(d) The Clerk reminded Members that a financial update on budget heads had been sent in advance of the meeting.

22/153 Items for the next meeting

No requests were given.

Date of the Next Council Meeting: 13th December 2022 in Chilworth Village Hall at 7 p.m.