

Wonersh Parish Council

BLACKHEATH • SHAMLEY GREEN • WONERSH

www.wonershparish.org



Minutes of the meeting of Wonersh Parish Council held on Thursday 8 October 2020 at 7.30 pm, online

Present: Councillors Mike Band, Chris Crouch, Chris Howard, Ben Knight, Stephen Lavender, Anthony Shutes, Nathalie Walmsley-Beveridge and Rod Weale (Chair).

In attendance: Lisa Davison, Borough Councillor Michael Goodridge.

MINUTES

20/21 164 To consider and approve apologies for absence.

There were no apologies to approve..

20/21 165 Wonersh Parish Code of Conduct – Declarations of disclosable interests

There were no disclosable interests to declare.

0/21 166 Open meeting for members of the public to raise matters with the Council.

Borough Councillor Michael Goodridge raised the issue of the uncut grass in Wonersh. The Clerk advised that their contractor had been instructed to cut this and this was due imminently.

20/21 167 Briefing by the Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team on issues of local interest and concern.

The Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team were not able to join via Zoom but may be able to phone in for future meetings.

20/21 168 To consider and approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 10 September 2020.

These were approved (proposed by Cllr Lavender), Cllr Weale will sign the minutes in due course.

20/21 169 To receive progress reports about matters previously considered and approved by the Council.

Cllr Crouch noted that the residents were informed of the Surrey County Council consultative phase of the Waverley Parking Review, which included double yellow lines on Barnett Lane, towards the junction with The Street and along Wonersh Common Road near the entrance for the Memorial Hall. There was a general discussion whereby Councillors noted support for the Barnett Lane yellow lines, in the absence of other effective options for the location but held reservations regarding the use of parking restrictions on Wonersh Common Road. This primarily related to concerns regarding the speed of vehicles, which could increase, should less cars be parked along the stretch of road. The view was held that, should double yellow lines be introduced, they should be accompanied by other measures to reduce the speed at which vehicles travelled. It was agreed that the full response to Surrey County Council be delegated to the Planning Committee to meet the 30 October 2020 deadline.

Action: Clerk to include the double yellow lines on the Planning Committee Agenda for 15 October 2020

It was noted that SSALC would be providing training for the visioning exercise later in the month and that Councillors welcomed the role this would have in ascertaining

20/21 170 To receive the approved minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on 3 September 2020.

These were received.

20/21 171 Finance – to consider and approve the following:

- (a) the list of receipt and payment vouchers in August 2020;**

These were deferred.

- (b) the end-August 2020 financial statement;**

These were deferred.

- (c) up to £350 per month for the routine maintenance contract, awarded to CATH Services (three-month trial);**

It was noted that an amount had already been approved (20/21 135 (e)) and this was within the limit. The award of the contract was noted.

- (d) to add CATH Services to the he schedule of due payments as authorised under the Council's Financial Regulations (Section 5.6);**

The Council resolved to approve this (proposed by Cllr Shutes).

- (e) the refund of £80 for the return of allotment 10a;**

The Council resolved to approve this, subject to satisfactory inspections by Cllr Lavender and the Clerk (proposed by Cllr Shutes).

- (f) Consider and approve a budget of up to £3,000 for works on / bordering Wonersh Parish registered common land.**

It was noted that quotes were yet to be received for this work, so the full amount could not be approved. Approval for up to £500 was requested to cover the costs of the cutting the hedge at the appropriate time of year. The Council resolved to accept this (proposed by Cllr Shutes).

- (g) Consider and approve a budget of up to £150 for wild flower planting trial.**

It was noted that, as this was on the bunds, it was within the preapproved budget under (20/21 135 (c)). It was also noted that sponsorship had been sought for this.

- (h) Consider and approve a budget of up to £150 for hawthorn hedge.**

The Council resolved to approve this (proposed by Cllr Knight), should resources not be available through, e.g., the Woodland Trust or other sponsorship.

- (i) Consider and approve a budget of £100 for wheelie bin signs.**

The Council resolved not to approve this on the basis of the advice from Surrey County Council and the Police.

20/21 172 To elect Cllr Ben Knight to the Risk and Audit Committee.

The Council elected Cllr Knight to the Risk and Audit Committee (proposed by Cllr Band).

20/21 173 To approve the updated Standing Orders, permitting deputisation on committees.

The Council resolved to approve this (proposed by Cllr Howard).

20/21 174 To consider the impact of the proposed changing to planning practice on the Parish Council and approve next steps, including responses to open consultations.

The Council welcomed recent SLCC minutes and presentations on these matters. It was noted that this was a planning matter for consideration at the next planning meeting.

20/21 175 To receive the letter from the Head of Housing at Waverley Borough Council and further updates on the lease of the community room and approve next steps.

The Council welcomed the letter from the Head of Housing and sought reassurance that the rates were to be paid by Waverley Borough Council for the next five years.

Action: Clerk to follow up with Waverley Borough Council.

20/21 176 To consider further the lease of the land from Waverley Borough Council and approve next steps.

The Council noted the advice from the solicitor regarding the contract being ready to sign from a legal perspective but noted that some concerns remained from a business perspective regarding the condition of what was being handed over in terms of maintenance and liabilities and the knowledge of, e.g., underground infrastructure. It was agreed that this would be delegated to the Commons Leases Working Party to review the contracts fully and discuss further with Waverley Borough Council.

Action: Commons Leases Working Party to review contracts and progress.

20/21 177 To consider the tender and award for the drainage, ditch clearance, hedge-cutting and related works in the Parish and approve next steps.

In relation to Womersley Parish registered Common Land Cllr Shutes updated the Council as to requests of the contractor for quotes. These were as yet outstanding but as detailed above an amount has been approved for the work to the hedge near Blackheath Lane.

Regarding the tender for Waverley Borough Council registered Common Land this links into item 20/21 181 also. The Clerk noted that she was drafting tender for consideration by the Commons Working Party and it is intention for responses to this to be considered at the November meeting.

Action: Clerk to follow up on the quote for works on Womersley Parish Common registered common land and to tender for works on Waverley Borough Council registered common land.

20/21 178 To review the development of the bunds on Womersley common and approve next steps.

Cllr Shutes updated the Council as to the completion of the bunds and noted that the works were under budget given the choice of materials used. The reasons for selecting just grass for the majority of the bunds at this time was explained but the idea of a trial wildflower planting

area was presented by Cllr Knight. The Commons Working Party requested an amount to purchase native wildflower seeds but noted that they were also seeking funding for this. They were mindful of concerns regarding the appearance of the flowers throughout the year and had selected species considerate of this and would look to maintain this through existing contracts. Subject to Council approval, the planting would take place during half term. The Council approved this proposal unanimously and welcomed similar plans to encourage biodiversity across the Parish and would consider how this would fit within budgets for grass cutting and commons maintenance.

Action: Commons Working Party to work with the Clerk to inform houses near the Wildflower trial.

Wonersh Environmental Advisory Group to complete planting.

Environmental Advisory Groups to consider future areas for wildflower planting and the Council to budget accordingly.

20/21 179 To consider the tender for the biennial tree survey for Spring 2021, and the trees to be included in this, and approve next steps.

At this stage the Council agreed that looking at the Council's processes for completion of the biennial tree survey was important generally and with consideration for taking responsibility for further WBC-registered grassed common land, with trees, imminently. The Clerk reported that the most recent tree survey, completed March 2011 recommended:

“Re-inspection frequency: It is recommended that trees at the site are inspected on an approximate three-year cycle, alternating by an appropriate margin in order to ensure, across several surveys, trees are surveyed in all seasons. The next survey following this one should be conducted in spring/summer to allow a more detailed view of crown vitality.” (page 13)

This would mean, reinspection next spring or summer to be within that timeframe and to consider the Council's commitment to surveying every two years. In discussion with Waverley Borough Council, it was noted that they used a slightly different approach, scheduling inspections in accordance with a risk assessment of the target areas and completing the work with in-house expertise and, in accordance with the requirements of their insurers. This generally leads to trees on grassed common land being surveyed every three years.

The Council discussed, briefly, the options available to them and agreed that the next step is to review the previous Wonersh Parish Council Tree Surveys and the approach used by Waverley Parish Council, with follow up steps likely to be greater discussion with Waverley Borough Council to inform a preferred approach, which may need to be confirmed with the Council's insurers.

A further matter for discussion is surveying of trees on 'Section 9' land in the Parish. The role of trees in our Climate Action Plan was also noted.

Action: Clerk to circulate recent tree surveys and the details of the approach used by WBC to the Commons Working Party for review.

Clerk to work with Cllr Band on clarifications from Waverley Borough Council in the first instance.

20/21 180 To consider the existing and planned planting of trees and vegetation on common land and approve next steps.

Cllr Shutes confirmed that three trees would be planted alongside the edge of the common to replace the recently felled cherry tree and three donations were confirmed.

Further to the works proposed by SGN to screen the black box from the common the Wonersh Environmental Advisory Group are keen to plant further native trees along exposed areas of the ditch bordering the playground, being mindful not to obscure anyone's view of the common and for this plant to form part of the planting for biodiversity for the area of Wonersh Common nearest Barnett Lane.

20/21 181 To receive updated maps designed to clarify and support Service Level Agreements between Waverley Borough Council and Wonersh Parish Council and approve next steps.

The Council welcomed the updated maps of drainage ditches on Waverley Borough Council registered common land in advance of going to tender and reported on a productive meeting with Officers from Waverley Borough Council, which resulted in clearing of the ditches, including under easements, and further investigatory work in Shamley Green, near the shop. Councillors noted how knowledgeable the contractors doing these works were and requested that they be included in future tenders. It was also noted that householders with easements over drainage ditches are generally responsible for rodding this section of the drain

20/21 182 To note concerns regarding speed through the parish and approve next steps.

Discussion first focused upon the wheelie bin notices reminding drivers to consider their speed whilst driving through the parish. The Clerk reported that, whilst little action was taken should a resident choose to use them, neither the County Council nor Police are in support of them locally and each highlighted concern regarding driver distraction and permitted road signage. They recommended community speed watch as a more acceptable alternative, one which is established in Shamley Green and being developed in Wonersh, in manner which seemed designed to cascade the training to further volunteers. Councillors were disappointed with this response, being keen to find straightforward ways to reduce the negative impact and build upon existing measures to help but noted that this meant they could not invest in this measure.

Other measures were discussed including the scarecrows in Hambleton and replacing the vehicle activated sign in Shamley Green were discussed. It was noted that Working Party members were in touch with Surrey County Council Officers and Councillor Victoria Young to explore options for designs to reduce traffic speed and corresponding funding options, including but not restricted to the Community Infrastructure Levy.

Action: Council to continue to explore, with the Councils and Police, options for reducing speed through the Parish.

20/21 183 To consider Wonersh Parish Council's response to Climate Change, including the Waverley Borough Council consultation, and approve next steps.

Cllr Ben Knight reported back to the Council on Climate Change Event organised by Cranleigh Parish Council and delivered by the Centre for Sustainable Energy involving local stakeholders from all tiers of Government, with an emphasis upon the role of Parish and Town Councils in enabling purchasing and behaviour change, drawing upon sustainable development goals.

There was discussion as to whether a Climate Change working party was required and that the Parish Council's focus upon responding to the threat of climate change should be explicit, or whether it is already implicit in current and planned actions, with input from the recently formed Environmental Action Groups, and discussion whether the local environment can develop in a manner which includes global considerations at the local level. It was noted that these elements will be explored further at visioning exercise and that the Council looks forward to receiving the full report in due course.

The Council noted the open consultation to Waverley Borough Council and that Councillors and residents are being encouraged to respond.

20/21 184 To consider Womersley Parish Council's response, if any, to current consultations to changes on the planning system and approve next steps.

This was delegated to the Planning Committee.

Action: Clerk to include this on the Planning Committee Agenda.

20/21 185 To note receipt of the Section 38 application from the Blackheath Village Society regarding restricted work on land registered as common land and to approve the Council response, if any, due 30 October 2020.

The Council noted receipt of a copy of the application and expressed general concerns regarding the enclosure of common land. They deferred the final decision to the Planning Committee and noted that representatives of the Blackheath Village Society, as applicants, should be invited to share the Society's views at the Planning Committee.

Action: Clerk to include on the Planning Committee Agenda and inform Blackheath Village Society.

20/21 186 To consider briefly funding options available for development of strategic priorities and approve next steps, including a response to [Surrey Community Projects Fund](#).

Councillors noted that whilst a number of the traditional funding sources was currently prioritised on responding to COVID-related needs and sociodemographic groups with greater needs, there sources of funding for public sector decarbonisation and there is potential for linking this to plans in the Parish. The Council noted the Surrey Community Projects Fund and decided not to respond to the consultation but were interested in the outcomes in due course.

The Council agreed that Cllr Scott would work with the Clerk to research funding options for the Pepperpot, in particular, and that all Councillors would update them as to potential sources and consider applications suited to other priorities.

Action: Cllr Scott and the Clerk to explore future funding options.

20/21 187 To agree the date, time and place and confirm attendance of the Budget Review Meeting and approve next steps.

A series of dates were agreed for budget working party and whole council discussion of the budget for the next financial year, with a view to confirming this at the November meeting and finalising this in January.

20/21 188 To receive reports by Members and the Clerk.

Cllr Howard noted that fires along Northcote Lane had been reported to Waverley Borough Council, these were linked to a possible charcoal business.

20/21 189 Members' business and correspondence for noting or including on a future agenda.

At this point the budget was noted for discussion in November and the outcomes of the Visioning Exercise.

20/21 190 Dates of future meetings:

Council: 12 November 2020

Planning Committee: 15 October, 5 November 2020

These were confirmed.

clerk@wonershparish.org

The Parish Office, Wonersh Sports Pavilion, The Common, Wonersh, GU5 0PJ

Tel: 01483 892601