

ST MARTHA PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of St Martha Parish Council held on 5 September 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in Chilworth Village Hall

23/136 Present:

Councillors:

Cllr Mrs. P Allen (Vice Chairman) Cllr J Peake, Cllr Mrs. Price (Chairman), Cllr J-P Pugh

One member of the public

Shalford Peasmarsh and Chilworth Community Councillor Adrian Cansell

Guildford Borough Councillor Danielle Newson

Surrey County Councillor and Guildford Borough Councillor Bob Hughes – arrived a 19:30 as attending a meeting at Guildford Borough Council

In attendance: Parish Clerk - Anne Tait

23/137 To accept apologies and reason for absence in accordance with the LGA 1972, Sch 1 para 40.

None

23/138 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.

23/139 Declaration of Non-Pecuniary Interests

None were given.

23/140 Register of Interests – no amendments from Members were given. However, it was noted that Cllrs Mrs Allen and Price had updated their Register at point number nine. The Clerk to upload the revised form and forward the originals to John Armstrong (Guildford Borough Council Democratic Services and Elections Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer).

23/141 Minutes of previous meetings:

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr J Peake, seconded by Cllr Mrs Allen that the minutes of the meeting held on 25th July 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Price, seconded by Cllr Peake that Minute number 23/87 of the Extra-Ordinary Meeting held on 02 May 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman of that meeting as a true record.

23/142 Public Participation Session

Rosemary Lemon asked that thanks should be given to the efficiency of the Borough Council's grass cutting team on the triangle in front of Chilworth Station.

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23/143 Reports Communications and Updates:

Parish Clerk:

- **SCC Tree Planting Offer** – at the request of Cllr Peake, 6 feather trees have been ordered for planting around Halfpenny Close, Chilworth. There are additional trees on offer – if required.
- **Surrey ALC Chairs Forum** – to note this event will be held by Zoom on Wednesday 13th September at 7:30 p.m.
- **Co-option of three Parish members to the Borough Council's Corporate Governance & Standards Committee for the period 2023- 2027.** GBC has agreed to appoint Julia Osborn, Tim Wolfenden, and Simon Schofield as the three co-opted members of the Corporate Governance & Standards Committee.

Shalford Community Councillor's Report

Cllr Cansell reported that tenders had been received for re-surfacing the track and play area at the Brookwood Sports Field.

Parish Councillors:

- Cllr Peake had spoken to Surrey Choices who were recently undertaking clearing work in the Gunpowder Mills Estate. He suggested that we could ask Surrey Choices to clear other bridleways/pathways in the Parish.
- Cllr Mrs Allen reported that the D of E volunteers will soon be working on the bus shelter opposite Lockner Farm.
- Cllr Mrs Price AGREED to approach the residents Dorking Road where the school sign is significantly obscured by overhanging vegetation.
- Cllr Mrs Price AGREED to walk the footpath through the field the other side of the railway bridge where it has been reported that nettles and brambles are becoming an issue for pedestrians.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to request that John Baker, West Surrey Countryside Access Officer reviews both the Bridleway 258 that carries the Downs Link and the adjacent footpath 257. Both paths have exposed cast iron pipes from the reservoir which create difficulties for maintenance and use by walers and horse riders.

- Cllrs Mrs Allen reported that she attended a site meeting at Chilworth Station with the Community Rail Partnership, GWR, North Downs Line Manager and Melissa – a resident from The Station House.

The following were discussed - platform planters (which are still to be replaced), notices to advertise the Gunpowder Mills, including a QR code to help people find it from the station, a water butt (sustainable way of watering the planters) and the Gatekeeper's Hut (briefly).

Network Rail is considering erecting a sign on the green, an alternative simpler way was suggested to put a large notice on the back of the noticeboard of the bus shelter. This could even be put in a locked cabinet in the centre of the board - half the size of the double one the PC has in the bus shelter facing the Percy Arms. As the notice board and shelter are owned by the Parish Council - approval from Councillors for alterations to the shelter would need to sought.

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There would be another notice on the platform (Dorking to Guildford side) to catch people alighting from the train on that side of the track.

RESOLVED: Cllr Mrs Allen to progress the proposal of the Parish Council Notice Board being used for this purpose.

23/144 Chilworth

The Clerk reported that there had been a query regarding who is responsible for the defibrillator outside Chilworth Village Hall. The Clerk confirmed that when Chilworth2gether ended, St Martha Parish Council was gifted the defibrillator outside the Percy Arms.

Shalford Community Council confirmed they are responsible for one at Peasmarsh Village Hall and one in Snooty's Café in Shalford.

23/145 Policies, Financial and Regulation Approvals

RESOLVED: To defer the re-drafting of the Personnel Committee's Terms of Reference.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to inform John Armstrong, GBC Democratic Services and Elections Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer, that it is not the intention, or wish, that this Parish Council pay either the chairman, or any of the elected/co-opted parish councillors, a parish basic allowance.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Pugh, seconded by Cllr Peake to approve the schedule of payments presented by the Clerk. Shown as Appendix 1 of these Minutes.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Pugh, seconded by Cllr Mrs Allen to approve and sign the bank reconciliation for period ended 30/07/23.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Pugh, seconded by Cllr Peake to approve Cllr Mrs Allen's attendance fee at the Surrey ALC Conference on 19/10/2023.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Pugh, seconded by Cllr Peake that Cllr Mrs Price should be an additional signatory for the Nat West Current account.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Pugh, seconded by Cllr Peake to postpone/defer an application to Surrey County Council for a grit/salt bin on Blacksmith Lane until evidence that this resource is required.

RESOLVED: Subject to the St Martha Parish Council policy on Grants and Donations, it was proposed by Cllr Mrs Price, seconded by Cllr Mrs Allen to donate £250.00 to 'Zero Carbon Guildford' to assist in finding alternative premises. A vote was taken on the proposal, three Cllrs were in favour with one abstention.

23/146 Planning

To discuss and agree a response to GBC on the following applications:

Planning Application 23/P/01266: [Lake House, Mill Lane, Chilworth GU4 8RP.](#)

Proposed construction of an outbuilding, relocating of outbuilding approved on 23/P/00523.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council recommend approval of this planning application as submitted.

Planning Application 23/P/01353: [Milestones, 2 Roseacre Gardens, Chilworth GU4 8RQ](#)

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Proposed: single storey rear ground floor and roof extension along with changes to fenestration.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council recommend approval of this planning application as submitted.

Planning Application 23/P/01388: 21 Dorking Road, Chilworth, GU4 8NW

Proposed single storey rear extension.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council recommend approval of this planning application as submitted.

Planning Application SCC/2021/0150 and WA/2020/0997 importation, deposit and engineering of inert waste to stabilize sandpit faces with restoration to forestry, former Woodhill Sandpit, Farley Heath Road, Albury.

RESOLVED: St Martha Parish Council **OPPOSE** this application as submitted, for the following reasons:

- The site is in a remote, tranquil area in the Surrey Hills AONB and only accessible by narrow lanes entirely unsuitable for the proposed 44 HGV visits each day (22 in and 22 out) over at least a 4-year period.
- As well as the HGVs there would also be ancillary vehicles accessing the site which have not been accounted for in the application.
- The country lanes along which the HGVs are proposing to travel are too narrow in places even for cars to pass – often only single track with passing places.
- The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) underestimates the impact the HGVs will have.
- Furthermore, the lanes are well used by cyclist, walkers and riders and the whole area is enjoyed by locals and visitors alike and unsuitable for the proposed number of lorries.
- The route would involve crossing a narrow railway level crossing at Brook which requires drivers of heavy/long vehicles to call ahead. The road and level crossing are not wide enough for a lorry and car to pass.
- Any other access roads to the site are also completely unsuitable should HGVs use alternative routes other than the A25 and New Road. We refer to, access from Shamley Green; the A248 from the Chilworth direction coming through Albury Village, Shere; and Shophouse and Row Lanes from the Cranleigh direction.
- The entrance to the site is situated on a steep hill and bend with a nearby well used bridleway and a livery yard which would all be impacted.
- A Romano-Celtic Temple, also nearby, which is a Scheduled 1 Asset, might suffer some damage. Something acknowledged in the EIA and highlighted as possible ‘minor to moderate damage’.
- As the former sandpit hasn’t been used for many years this has allowed nature to thrive and it should be left for nature to recover naturally rather than disturbed and infilled
- The EIA mentions erosion of the faces of the pit, but the sandpit faces do not appear to have suffered erosion over the last 23 years, and doesn’t warrant commercial tipping of inert material and HGV movements along unsuitable country lanes in the Surrey Hills
- NPPF paragraph 176 and local plan policies mention conserving and enhancing the landscape and scenic beauty of an AONB - which together with National Parks, have the highest status of protected landscapes. This application wouldn’t comply with these policies and there doesn’t appear to be exceptional circumstances put forward to undermine the protection of this AONB.
- It is difficult to see how this development can be justified and how it would carry greater weight than the protection of this beautiful AONB landscape.

Planning Application 23/T/00224 Wedgewood, Blacksmith Lane, Chilworth, GU4 8NF

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Proposal: T1 Sycamore - fell to ground level, T2 Amelanchier lamarkii - fell to ground level (Chilworth Gunpowder Mills Conservation Area) .

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council leave the recommendation (to approve or oppose), to Tim Holman regarding this planning application.

(b) To receive and note any outcomes of applications previously reported:

- **Planning Application: 23/P/00286 - Lockner Farm, Dorking Road, Chilworth, GU4 8RH** - Conversion of stable building to form a single storey dwelling.
GBC APPROVED on 28/06/23
- **Planning Application: 23/P/00287 - Lockner Farm, Dorking Road, Chilworth, GU4 8RH** - Conversion of stable building to form a single storey dwelling.
APPLICATION WITHDRAWN
- **Planning Application: 23/P/00884 162 Dorking Road, Chilworth, GU4 8RL**- Proposed front basement extension with balcony above, ground floor rear extension, first floor extension with front Juliet balcony and minor fenestration changes.
GBC APPROVED on 19/07/23
- **Planning Application No: 23/P/00866 Lockner Holt House, Lockner Holt, Chilworth GU4 8RG.**
Proposed new Swimming Pool
GBC APPROVED on 15/08/23
- **Planning Application No: 23/P00873 - Lockner Holt House, Lockner Holt, Chilworth GU4 8RG.**
Erection of a new Pool Building
GBC APPROVED on 15/08/23
- **Planning Application No: 23/P/00698 - 4 Powder Mills Place, Blacksmith Lane, Chilworth GU4 8BF.**
Erection of a garden room/office.
GBC APPROVED on 19/07/23
- **Planning Application 23/P/01116: Merrydown, White Lane, GU4 8PS.**
Proposed installation of 1 x no. 9.15-metre-high composite telegraph pole mounted with 1 No. antenna, the installation of 3 No. equipment cabinets and ancillary development thereto; removal of the existing telegraph pole.
GBC APPROVED on 30/08/23

23/147 Climate Change

Cllr Mrs Allen reported that Andi McCann (Albury Parish Council) has AGREED to progress negotiations with The Percy Arms re installing an electric car park charging unit.

23/148 Correspondence

Peter Burt's Steps – The Clerk reported on the following email from Helen McIntyre's dated 30/08/23:

"I have spoken to a number of people who regularly use the steps to access the field and the response has been that the steps are invaluable for gaining access to and from the field. It was pointed out that the steps are necessary due to the relatively steep slope up to the field from the bridleway/footpath, and that it would be difficult, if not hazardous, for less nimble and elderly people to access the field without the steps,

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It was also pointed out that without the steps there would be erosion of the route and in time the formation of a gully due to the effects of rain and footfall. It would most likely become dangerously slippery and muddy, especially in wet and wintery conditions”.

A discussion took place on whether to repair or remove the steps and to install a handrail.

RESOLVED: Councillors AGREED to review the situation in twelve months’ time.

Hedgehog Highway Project – information received from Linda Cook, Founder of Hedgehogs R Us.

RESOLVED: It was AGREED not to progress this project as a Parish Council, but to forward it to the editor of the Chilworth Village Magazine for parishioners’ attention.

The Parish Council website – It was AGREED to invite Emma Hosking (Cow-Shed website designer and developer) to the October meeting to discuss and review the website in the light of a change to the Perch operating system.

23/149 The Gunpowder Mills and West Lodge

RESOLVED: Following the email from Jacqueline Stewart dated 09/08/23, it was AGREED that a reply should be sent to Ms Stewart, GBC Asset & Property Manager; with copies to: Mark Appleton – GBC Property & Asset Manager (Operational); Cllr Robert Hughes – Surrey County and Guildford Borough Council; Cllr Danielle Newson - Guildford Borough Council and Members of Shalford Community Council.

RESOLVED: Cllrs Mrs Allen and Price AGREED to draft a letter which would be circulated to all Cllrs by the Clerk for comments before sending.

As Cllr Mrs Allen is due to attend the next Shalford Community Council meeting on 21/09/23 it was suggested that Cllr Mrs Allen should elicit Members views and also consider respond to Guildford Borough Council expressing disappointment at the sale.

23/150 Items for the next meeting

Councillors requested the following items are discussed at the next meeting:

- War Memorial
- West Lodge
- Climate Change

Date of next full Council meeting: Tuesday 24 October 2023