



*representing
the civil parish
of Shalford,
Peasmarsh
and Chilworth*

SHALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES

Shalford Parish Council Meeting on Thursday 24th July 2014 at Shalford Village Hall at 7:30 p.m.

- 1) **Attendance and apologies: Present:** Cllrs. Bill Birkett (Chairman), Mary Phillips (Vice-Chairman), Trevor Lewis, Norah Morden, Mike Parsons, David Thomson, Nick Wiggins and Jackie Young.
In Attendance: Nuala Livesey (Parish Clerk) GBC Cllrs James Palmer and Neil Ward, SCC Cllr George Johnson, PCSO Damon Young, 8 local residents.
Apologies: Cllr Phillip Bawden, SCC Cllr Taylor.
- 2) **Local Code of Conduct – Disclosure of Interests:** None.
- 3) **Minutes: Confirmation:** The Council considered and confirmed the minutes of the last Council meeting held on the 26th June 2014. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman.
- 4) **Police Report:** PCSO Damon Young reported that there had been two instances of non payment at the Peasmarsh Shell garage. There had been one dog attack to a delivery person. Damon added that this is not a crime at the present time but from October the law would change so that this will become a punishable crime. There had been a number of burglaries from sheds and garages, six in Shalford and two in Chilworth. These had stopped once some bikes had been taken so it was believed that the same person was responsible for most of these break-ins. He emphasised that security lighting was very effective particularly when the timer was on a fairly short setting as this was more annoying for intruders. He reminded the meeting that he would continue to be available at Snooty's café on the last Friday of each month. Cllr Young asked is something similar could be done in Chilworth, maybe at the regular Thursday coffee morning at St Thomas Church. PCSO Young agreed to look at some possible dates
- 5) **Councillor Report:** Cllr Palmer reported that the Local Plan consultation was now underway and that a consultation event would take place on 16th Aug in Shalford Village Hall. He reported that there were two major developments within the plan located within the parish. The proposed Broadford Road development of up to 100 homes was on a brownfield site and therefore preferable to any incursion to the Green Belt. The proposed Hornhatch Farm development was in the Green Belt but was located on the edge of the village. He emphasised that Guildford BC was under great pressure to provide 13,000 homes over the next 20 years which would result in building around villages possibly within the Green belt or as a result of amended Settlement Boundaries. With particular pressure on the next five years more sites than necessary had been included in order to allow debate and there was still a view that the total number identified was too high, so no decisions had yet been made. He reminded the meeting that infrastructure, employment and recreational provision were an integral part of the Local Plan and to this end GBC had been allocated £15m of government money, £10m to address transport issues, £2,7m for the gyratory system and the balance for access and

sustainable transport (not cars). While this money was extremely useful it provided only a small fraction of what was needed to meet the borough requirements.

He also reported on the planned rebuilding of the railway bridge on New Pond Road and the proposed closure of the road for three months, which was a big concern for the whole area. Anne Milton and Jeremy Hunt were both involved in trying to organise a meeting with Network Rail as it was important to ensure that the replacement bridge would be suitable for decades to come. The replacement was likely to cost around £1m but definitely needed adequate provision for pedestrians.

Cllr Birkett asked James to comment on the land behind Shalford Village Hall which could be subject to a boundary review. Cllr Palmer commented that the site was not actually identified as a PDA at present although it was in the SHLAA. He felt that changing the settlement Boundary was inappropriate as it contributed to the openness of the Green Belt. Members felt that the updated SHLAA was difficult to access and follow and James reminded the meeting that everyone must be encouraged to write in to GBC as the Council had a statutory duty to consider any sites offered to them. He added that the change to the settlement boundary around Tillingbourne School was in line with all the schools in a similar situation within the borough. Being within the Green Belt often made it difficult for schools to do the things they needed for the good of the school.

Cllr George Johnson elaborated on the New Pond Road bridge explaining that it needed more height and that the gas and electricity services needed to be moved to the side. The closure of the bridge had been refused by Surrey CC so this would allow more time for comprehensive proposals to be considered. He felt this was a great opportunity to improve provision for pedestrians and cyclists while providing a new bridge. He confirmed that the island refuge on the A281 would be provided in this financial year and that he would endeavour to progress the Broadford/Oakford Road traffic issues with the Local Committee at the first opportunity. A member of the public added that she had been in contact with SCC regarding the Christmas Hill Speed Limit and escalated the matter and had been assured it would be given further consideration.

Cllr Palmer added that the Local Committee had set up a new system of Cluster funding, the first meetings of which would be in October and would need input from all the parishes in each cluster. The Clerk confirmed that Shalford and Peasmarsh fell in the Western Cluster while Chilworth was included in the Eastern cluster.

6) Public session: A members of the public raised her concerns about the possible new parish of Chilworth and the effect it could have on the whole of Shalford parish not just Chilworth. Cllr Birkett explained that this proposal was at a very early stage, required a complete boundary review and himself questioned the benefit of it. He added that many of the issues being suggested as being better dealt with by a single parish were beyond the control of a Parish Council. A meeting between Shalford and St Martha parishes had been proposed. However he reminded the meeting that anyone could bring forward such a proposal for consideration by GBC. At the present time the focus was on the Local Plan and therefore not an urgent issue for Shalford Parish Council but it was worth remembering that some outcomes could be negative for Chilworth residents, for example access to Shalford cemetery for burials. A member of the public also reported that the field at Hornhatch had been cut but the edges had been left which she felt made it look untidy particularly as the school holidays had just started. Other reports were that the footpath and cycle path on the A3100 towards Peasmarsh had become overgrown and was not wide enough. Similarly the path at Tilthams Corner also needed some attention. The Clerk agreed to inform the appropriate authorities

7) Planning: Current Planning Applications (Appendix 1): The Council considered the planning applications listed at **Appendix 1** and recorded **No Objection** to any.

8) Community Governance review: The Chairman asked Cllr Palmer to outline the process and what might happen. Cllr Palmer stressed that he was no expert but following discussion with the Borough Solicitor confirmed that a review could be triggered by a petition of 250 signatures. A review would have to be completed within 12 months. GBC would not stand in the way of such a review but would have to consider both parts of the potential new parish. The Chilworth Ward of

Shalford PC would be independently consulted from St Martha parish and consideration should be given to more than one option e.g joint committee of the two existing councils with a pooled budget for specific projects. It was also important to consider whether joining together would actually achieve anything as some of the suggestions mooted at the recent meeting were beyond the control of any Parish Council. He felt the most important thing was that residents should be well informed with a very good and rigorous consultation process, possibly with a referendum at the end. He added that having discussed the proposal with Maggie Scott of Chilworth together he felt that many of the suggested objectives could be met without the complication of a review by making joint bids to GBC and that the merging of St Martha and Shalford parishes could be an option. Cllr Birkett asked if the residents of Shalford and Peasmarsh should be considered. Cllr Ppalmer felt this would be part of the decision that GBC would have to make when setting the terms of reference for a review. Cllr Birkett confirmed that members of Shalford and St Martha PC had agreed to meet in late Aug to discuss the proposal and that it was important that such a change were in the interests of Chilworth village but also Peasmarsh and Shalford villages.

9) GBC Local Plan: A member of the public asked if the PC draft response could be made available. The Chairman replied that this was still a work in progress but assured the meeting that all comments from residents would be taken into consideration. Cllr Phillips suggested that the PC could produce a short resume of the issues affecting the parish to help residents understand the very complicated Local Plan documents, particularly as many continued to be updated after publication. It could also help to highlight the date of the Road Show at the Village Hall. Cllr Palmer confirmed that Guildford BC would be producing flyers publicising the road show to let people know it was taking place. The Council would continue to work on a response over the August break.

10) Shalford Cemetery Chapel: The Clerk confirmed that the work on cleaning all the woodwork in the chapel would be completed ahead of the chapel opening on Sunday 14th September and that the timing of work on the mortuary was currently under consideration.

11) Finance: Finance Report:

11.1) Report for the year up to the end of June 2014 (Appendix 2): This report provided an updated review of the 2014/15 accounts up to 30th June 2014. Income totalled £1067.46 for June being mainly Cemetery income. Expenditure was £4578.99 incl VAT which consisted mainly of regular outgoings and Commemorative Crosses for the start of WW1. The cash balance at the end of June was £88,241.67 compared with £91,773.20 at the start of the month. In comparing actual with budget, expenditure at 23.5% was comfortably within budget for the year.

12) Authorisation of Expenditure: None.

13) Christmas Hill speed limit: It was agreed that progress was currently very slow. The Chairman asked Cllr Wiggin to give his views on more general transport issues. He felt that there were a number of issues that needed addressing. It was agreed that there was no quick fix for the whole parish but that a briefing would be arranged with George Johnston to produce an overview of traffic issues for the next meeting.

14) World War I Commemorations: the Clerk reported that the memorial crosses had arrived and a trial planting had been carried out at the War Memorial. Each cross would carry the name of one of the men lost in the Great War and help was needed to place all 68 in the ground ahead of the service at St Mary's Church on 3rd August. It was agreed that members would meet on Saturday morning the 2nd Aug to place the crosses. A small wreath would also be placed at the memorial in St Thomas Church Chilworth and in the chapel at Peasmarsh. A decision would be taken after the 3rd August about how long the crosses would remain at the memorial after the 3rd August. It was suggested that they could be placed around the windows in the chapel for the Heritage Weekend opening in September.

15) Book Launch for Margaret Dierden: the Vice Chairman reported that Margaret's book was ready for sale and would be available in the Post office at the start of August and at the WW1 service at St Mary's Church on 3rd August. The Clerk had discussed proposals with Margaret and it was agreed that rather than a formal launch as planned previously, Margaret would attend during the Heritage Weekend opening of the Cemetery Chapel and have her books available then. Information would be included in the advertising for the weekend and some information would also be provided about those buried in the cemetery associated with WW1.

16) Nomination for attendance at St Martha PC meetings: the Council agreed that Cllr Parsons would be the nominated representative of the PC to attend St Martha PC meetings.

17) Correspondence: The Clerk agreed to talk to GBC regarding ragwort on the Common and to mention it to the Infant School. She reported that the trench behind Shalford Pond would be cleared during August to prevent access to the island, and that Moira Cash the Parks and Countryside manager at GBC had recently moved on from her job. It was agreed that consideration would be given to projects for the new SCC Cluster Funding initiative ahead of the next meeting

18) Members reports:

The Clerk reported that Cllr Bawden had officially stood down from the Council. The post would now be advertised by Guildford BC and if no election was requested a new member could be co-opted to the Council in due course.

Cllr Young: reported that Mr Crittal, a local landowner and farmer in Chilworth had passed away and that Brookwood Playing field was accessed by crossing the footpath owned by him

Cllr Morden: asked if anything could be done with the phone box on the A281 bridge in Shalford as it was tatty and damaged. The Clerk agreed to speak to the phone operator about it.

Cllr Wiggin: reported that the seat of one of the benches by the Pound Place play area needed some repairs. The Clerk confirmed that this would be picked up under the bench repair programme scheduled for late summer. He added that the lane between the bridge and the Queen Vic pub needed clearing. The Clerk reported that it was hoped this would be carried out under the Love Where You Live Campaign. He asked if Communications and Flooding issues could be raised on the next meeting agenda

Cllr Phillips: added that the phone box at the end of Drogen Close also needed some attention and asked what the timescale for bench improvements on the Green was going to be. The Clerk reported that she would be a meeting a contractor during August.

Meeting closed at 9.35pm

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 11th September 2014, at 7.30.p.m., at Peasmarsh Village Hall.

Signed..... Chairman

Date.....