

CAPEL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Monday 13 March 2017 at 7.30pm at Beare Green Village Hall

PRESENT: Mrs A Schryver, Chairman, Mr C Ball, Mr L Margetts, Mr K Salter, Mr S McLachlan, Mrs P Dale, and the Clerk.

Also in attendance: County Councillor Helyn Clack, Councillor Michelle Watson, Councillor Mary Huggins, Paul Anderson MVDC and 17 members of the public.

1. **WELCOME:** The Chairman welcomed everyone and explained what the meeting was about. The Chairman then confirmed that notification had been received official notification from Mole Valley as to exactly what it would be.

Q – Are the figures available to view?

A – There is a pie-chart on the website which outlines all the figures and percentages.

Q – How is this found on the Parish Council website?

A – It will be on the home page

Statement from resident – Thank you for the work that has recently been carried out on Vicarage Lane, Capel regarding the flooding.

2. **APOLOGIES:** Mrs L Ford, Mr D Cox.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 14 MARCH 2016:** It was agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting could be signed.

4. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** It has been a busy year for the Council. We are now fully ensconced in the Parish Hall and the Parish Office and archive are both running in a satisfyingly orderly manner. The hall is starting to have a series of regular as well as one-off bookings.

Our Clerk, Lesley Bignell who only joined us in 2015 found the conflict between the heavy work load and grandmother duties were not compatible and so she decided to retired of the end of last summer. She will though be on hand to take up any Assistant Clerk duties as and when we need her.

Lesley was extremely hard working and the Council was very grateful to her for all the extra time she put in when we were moving into the new office and putting together the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

We were extremely fortunate that Jan Russell who was our very able Assistant Clerk at the time agreed to step into Lesley's shoes and she has embraced her new role brilliantly.

The Council has undertaken all its usual housekeeping duties during the year; hedge cutting, ditch clearing, tree work, grass cutting, playground maintenance, allotments and the upkeep of the parish burial ground plus all the extra maintenance jobs that appear during the year.

Sadly the playground in Capel was vandalised yet again last April with £3,000 work of damage being done to the safety surface which will have done little to improve our insurance premiums.

The Council has implements tree cutting and ditch work along the A24 and Newdigate Road this year which will hopefully improve the drainage of the football pitch. Further extensive ditching and pavement works have been undertaken along Seamans Green between Capel and Beare Green.

The Council is very fortunate to have Clay Griffin and Fred Evans who are always willing to deal with parish maintenance emergencies any time of the day or night.

All this work required the administration of a very tight budget which is overseen by the Council's Finance Committee. The Committee meets quarterly and works very hard at balancing and stretching the money available. The Finance Committee is chaired by Ken Salter and we are so grateful for his accounting experience and very level head.

The Planning Committee, expertly chaired by Paul Garber, has had a relatively quiet year with regard to the number of planning applications received which was possibly fortunate given the monumental amount of work Paul and the steering committee have put into the development of the Neighbourhood Development Plan, which is now in the middle of a six-week consultation period prior to referendum. The draft plan can be seen at Capel Parish office or at Mole Valley but I will stress that the Clerk is unable to answer queries which must be directly to Mole Valley District Council.

The Parish Council has had its nomination of The Crown public house as an Asset of Community Value agreed and adopted by Mole Valley District Council and we are currently in the process of nominating The Dukes Head in Beare Green to be a Community Asset as well. This gives the community the ability to respond to any change of use or planning application and gives the community time to bid

on the asset before it can be put on the open market. It even, in extreme cases can be used to compulsorily purchase the building or site.

The Council has employed a consultant to examine some of the traffic issues in the three Wards with a view to slowing through traffic via visual means. We have had some initial designs done for Capel and are currently in talks with Surrey County Council Highways Department who seem very supportive of our aims.

We were very sorry to lose our excellent PCSO Pat Booker recently who has been moved to other duties. I would like to thank her for her endless support around the Parish. She was always accessible which was frankly very comforting.

I am delighted to report that finally after five years of pleading, the appalling flooding situation in Vicarage Lane in Capel has finally been dealt with. Many thanks to Paul Manwaring of Surrey Highways for pressing our case. That said, the condition of the remainder of the road is extremely poor and we are hoping that it will be on the list for resurfacing in the very near future.

On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to thank our County Councillors and District Councillors for the help and support they give us.

I would also like to thank all members of the Parish Council who give their time so generously in support of their communities.

5. **SMITH CHARITY REPORT:** The Chairman then read the 2016-17 report prepared by Jenny Richards, Chair of the Trustees of the Henry Smith's Charity (Warbleton Estate), Capel Parish.

The Henry Smith Grant. Four hundred years after his death, The Henry Smith Charity is one of the largest independent grant-making charitable foundations in Britain distributing in excess of £25m per annum to a wide range of UK charities. Four hundred years after his death, The Henry Smith CHARITY is one of the largest independent grant-making charitable foundations in Britain distributing in excess of £25m per annum to a wide range of UK charities.

The Capel Charity Funds. Having sufficient in our reserves (£2,411 in August 2016) to meet the level of funds we have distributed in recent years, The Henry Smith's Charity decided that we should use these rather than give us a grant this year.

The Distribution of Capel Parish Funds: With the funds we had, we were able to maintain the value of our Christmas Vouchers for the elderly and needy of the civil parish the same as last year - £25 for couples and £20 for single persons. 30 vouchers at £25 were exchanged by couples and 47 vouchers at £20 by single persons, giving a total expenditure of £1,690. The cooperation of the four stores - Beare Green Stores, Capel Newsagents, Carter's of Capel and Village Greens, Ockley - is greatly appreciated by both the Trustees and the recipients of the vouchers. The Trustees are very grateful to Jean Pearson who completes and delivers the vouchers by hand in Capel. The Chair would like to thank fellow trustee Jackie Coke for printing the vouchers and fellow trustee Elizabeth Green for her invaluable support to the Chair and for the distribution of vouchers in Beare Green. Donations were also made to Merebank Over 60's Club and Capel Evergreens, of £150 each. The total expenditure for the year was £1,990.

6. **Proposed Parking Enforcements in Beare Green. County Councillor Helyn Clack.** Councillor Clack began by expressing her thanks to Capel Parish Council for all the hard work it does and said that the parish was getting value for money on the Council Tax precept increase. The Parish Council handled parish business in a very hand-on way. Councillor Clack also thanked the District Councillors for their contributions to the parish. Councillor Clack confirmed that residents in Beare Green were very unhappy about the parking in their village. It was apparent that outsiders were using Holmwood railway station and leaving their cars parking in the roads whilst they commuted. This resulted in obstruction to driveways and local shops. Mole Valley District Council has plans to address these problems and proposals are out for consultation now. Mole Valley's website can be accessed to review the proposals. Proposals include the introduction of double and single yellow lines, which will eliminate parking in essential areas, especially over driveways, by the local shops and on corners. Councillor Clack circulated plans showing where the restrictions are proposed and the Parish Council will display these at the Parish Office until after the consultation period.

Q – Who will enforce the yellow lines?

A – There is a parking enforcement team. Not adhering to these restrictions is a serious offence and vehicles can be towed away. The Police can be informed of illegal parking

Q – Is there any liaison between Surrey County Council (SCC) and West Sussex County Council (WSCC)? There are new housing developments in Horsham which indirectly promotes parking in this area?

A – There is a Local Enterprise Project (LEP) which discusses the impact of housing growth. There is also an impact on schools, jobs and travel into London. Dorking is the end of the line for many trains, not Horsham, so there is a demand for more trains to continue travelling onwards.

Q – What is the timescale for the consultation?

A – It opened on the 2 March and is still open for comments.

Q – National Rail should be directly responsible for parking. There is not sufficient parking at station.

A – The LEP is the appointed body to discuss this. There are proposals for park and ride and a possible new station at the brickworks site in Horsham. This will be paid for by the growth of housing at WSCC. Surrey is now the most congested county outside of London. It is important residents are happy with proposed parking restrictions and SCC will not impose anything the village does not want.

7. **Coldharbour Update. Councillor Stuart McLachlan.** Councillor McLachlan gave a brief overview of the happenings around Bury Hill Wood. He confirmed that it had been eight years since Europa Oil and Gas had started working on the site. Some victories had been won and it was hoped that the result would be the cancellation of the project. Recently three more planning applications had been put forward but there had been a very important ruling by the Secretary of State overturning the original application. Ihag and the Parish Council continue to scrutinise all applications. There are still protectors on the site. The Sports Pavilion has suffered a breaking and as a result shutters have been installed to the generator room. There is now a motion sensor in the building which was developed by a Coldharbour resident. There continues to be abuse of the byways by 4 x 4s. Surrey County Council are dealing with repairs which are proving to be very expensive. It is hoped that byways might be gated and locked. The Parish Council will lobby Mole Valley to start the process. Broadband has still not been commission in the area. The refurbishment of The Plough public house had been completed to a very high standard and is now the true hub of the village. The village shop has opened – the first in the village for 40 years. It is very popular with villagers and visitors.

8. **Beare Green Update. Councillor Chris Ball.** Councillor Ball gave an outline of Beare Green. It is an eclectic mix of people and properties. There is a large elderly population, many families and some residential care facilities. A quarter of the residents live in mobile homes. There is no GP surgery, no church, a lack of facilities for children and parking continues to be problem. A vast amount of work and maintenance is undertaken to ensure the village is preserved and it is hoped that with future funding allocations, some new ideas can be put into action.

9. **Space Hopper Parking Programme. Paul Anderson, Mole Valley District Council.** There are big problems in Beare Green with commuter parking around the railway station area. Space Hopper are promoting parking spaces which allows residents and businesses to sell parking spaces to commuters. It is thought that this programme might be of interest to Beare Green residents. If residents or business have unused space during the day for cars, such as drive ways, etc. they could promote it through Space Hopper. The outcome would be money for residents and guaranteed spaces for commuters. The resident would outline the area available, the time scale and the price. This will then be promoted onto Space Hopper's website and the booking is made. The resident will be informed when the space is sold. There is no financial benefit to Mole Valley.

Q – How does the resident get paid?

A – The commuter pays by card to Space Hooper and they in turn pay the seller into a bank account.

Q – There could be a risk of increased traffic in the area?

A – There is always a risk.

Q – Are there any insurance issues?

A – Not that MVDC is aware of as this does not breach planning rules. It is legal to each £1,200 tax free per annum.

Q – What if someone wanted to promote a big area like a field?

A – Planning permission would be needed as this would be change of use.

10. **Junior Sport in the Parish. Councillor Luke Margetts.** Councillor Margetts began by saying that he had an active interest in sport, especially cricket. Junior sports were thriving in Capel, especially football and cricket. Kick Boxing sessions are organised and are using the facilities. There are senior football matches in Capel. Beare Green has its own football pitch and has a very active and popular stoolball team. The tennis club is currently having a big push to encourage more junior members. Sport for juniors is significantly better now than it was a few years ago. A planning application to extend the sports pavilion is fully supported by the Parish Council. This will incorporate changing facilities for disabled players, ladies and referees and extend the club house.

Q – I have heard that some young players are exceptionally talented.

A – Definitely. One young lady now plays for Surrey Under 17s and another plays for the Under 13s. Three girls and a number of boys now play for the county.

County Councillor Clack said this was very encouraging to hear. She mentioned the new pavilion at Charlwood and said that all monies for this building were raised through various sports grants. She said that she might be able to assist to obtain funding for the new pavilion in Capel as it was Government policy to encourage everyone to be more active.

The Chairman asked if there were any other questions.

Q – Is there any more information available on Adult Social Care?

A – County Councillor Clack said that there had been lobbying for extra money from Surrey County Council which had been successful. Extra funding was not just limited to Surrey but was now available nation-wide. Surrey Heartlands had made a bid for pooling resources and introducing integrated health and social care. This would mean more people getting back to their homes quicker and spending less time in hospital.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and formally closed the meeting.