

CAPEL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13 MARCH 2024 AT 7.30pm

PRESENT: Mrs Dale, Mr Ashwood, Mrs Watson, Mrs Taylor and the Clerk.

IN ATTENDANCE: Surrey County Councillor Helyn Clark, District Councillor Clayton and 12 members of the public.

1. WELCOME:

The Chair Mrs Dale opened the meeting welcoming everyone.

The Chair explained that this meeting was an opportunity to emphasise how the Parish spent the precept it received and to give an indication on what the Council was hoping for in the future.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Mr McLachlan, Mr Ball, Mrs Schryver, Mr Salter and Mr Cox.

3. TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ON 13 MARCH 2023:

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting. All Councillors voted in favour accepting the records and the minutes were signed by the Chair.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT/PRESENTATION:

The Chair explained that due to a gradual increase in precept funding over the past few years the Parish Council has been able to grant funding to groups which enhanced the whole parish and all residents. The Council gained from increased CIL receipts from Mole Valley District Council due to the continuation of the Neighbourhood Development Plan, easements, allotment, hall hire and burial fees.

The Chair explained how the precept for 2023/2024 was spent. Continuing to commission the survey of trees on parish land has limited the costs of emergency works.

5. HENRY SMITH CHARITY REPORT:

The Chair of the Charity Mrs Jenny Richards had forwarded a report for the year 2023/24. 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. It distributes some of its funds through individual parish charities established in areas Henry Smith visited on his travels, one of these is Capel.

The Capel Charity Funds

The Henry Smith Charity expects its parish funds to spend their grants fully within twelve months of receipt; they also require the parish funds to hold less than the annual allocation in reserve in order to be eligible for the annual grants. We are also required to have a Safeguarding Policy. Having complied with all the requirements we were very grateful to receive a grant of £2,700 for the year.

Distribution of Capel Funds

With the grant staying the same as last year we were again able to distribute Vouchers to the elderly and needy of the civil parish to the value of £27.50 for couples and £22.00 for single persons. Of the ninety-one Vouchers distributed, twenty-two were exchanged by couples and forty-five by single persons, a total of sixty seven, a slight increase on last year. The total expenditure was £1,595.00 Beare Green Stores, Capel Newsagents, Carter's of Capel and Village Greens, Ockley accept the Henry Smith Vouchers and their co-operation is greatly appreciated by both the Trustees and the recipients of the Vouchers. Donations were also made to Merebank Over 60's Club, Capel Evergreens and the Coldharbour Coffee Morning to help in the sterling work they do. To date Bank Charges of £65.25 have been incurred. There have been no administration costs thanks to Michelle Watson and Janet Russell delivering all the Vouchers in Beare Green and Capel by hand. In total expenditure to date is £2,560.25.

6. DOT THORPE. STOOLBALL

Dot addressed the meeting, explaining that stoolball is a game which has been played since the 15th century. Stoolball began in Capel but is now played on Beare Green recreation ground. Last year the parish team celebrated its 50th year. Stoolball is a team sport, like Twenty20 cricket. Two teams compete to score the most runs. Just like cricket, batsmen score by hitting the ball into the field and running between the two wickets. They can also hit the ball beyond a boundary line to score 4 or 6. Batsmen can be bowled, caught or run-out, or even body-before-wicket. Dot mentioned that this game is mostly played by women and offered an invitation to anyone to come along and take part. Matches taking place both home and away are advertised in the Capel Parish magazine.

7. PAUL MOTT. BEARE GREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AND VILLAGE HALL.

Paul addressed the meeting, giving an overview of the numerous and varied activities that take place in the village hall. This is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation run by trustees to "provide facilities for recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life".

The rapid changes in the population and demographics of Beare Green created a situation where people didn't know each other; and BGCA aims to address this by making everyone welcome.

There is a variety of regular and one-off hall users, such as yoga, dance, pilates and kick boxing. A bridge club and knitting circle. There is a choir and a big band. Artists use the facility during the winter months. For younger residents there is a stay-and-play toddler group, rainbows and brownies. The hall also accommodates 2 dog training sessions. Since the Covid 19 pandemic the hall has been used as a vaccine centre. A BGCA runs book swap, organises a summer fun day, monthly cinema, jumble sales and a Christmas market. The facilities are very well used and try to offer something for everyone.

8. SURREY COUNTY COUNCILLOR HELYN CLACK.

County Councillor Clack addressed the meeting, giving information on several topical issues. The County Council boundary changes are still waiting for confirmation but can be followed on the following website: <https://lgbce.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/basic/index.html?appid=ff513d041a604f2680be277b50b3214>

The Budget for 2024/2025 was ratified by full Council members on 6 February 2024 outlining £1.2bn of revenue spending. This is an increase of £95m. The biggest pressures come for services for children with additional needs and disabilities and an increasing demand and cost of Adult Social Care services.

Local Issues and Surrey Highways has been given an allocation of £120,000 for the coming year giving local county councillors more opportunities to deliver on highways issues.

Surrey County Council's Grants and Funding opportunities through Your Fund Surrey continues with applications for grants to help transform communities.

The National Planning Inspectorate continue with the enquiry into Gatwick Airport's second northern runway application. Residents are concerned about the impact of increased passenger numbers and the consequent traffic and noise which will bring with more flights over local homes and more traffic on already congested roads.

9. SIMON MARKHAM. CAPEL CRICKET CLUB

Simon addressed the meeting stating that last year was a very good season for the club. The Club has expanded and now has a women's team and a Saturday youth team. There is an Under 17s team and also an Under 9s side. The Club facilities Twenty20 matches mid-week. The facilities are excellent, and the Club now has more than 200 members including social members. The Club is always looking for junior players and all teams are doing well because of the excellent coaching facilities. The Club house has recently been refurbished and upgraded to a very high standard and the offers bar facilities during match days.

10. DAN FORD. CAPEL COMETS

Dan was pleased to address the audience, informing them that the Capel Comets is a football club for children, which began in 2019. Having now outgrown the original facilities in Capel the Comets are now in partnership with The Weald School using their grounds. The Comets have continued to be successful with up to 125 children, boys and girls, now playing and training each week. Dan was pleased to stress that all the Clubs's equipment has been purchased through fund raising and partnerships.

11. VIV TAYLOR. CAPEL WI.

Vic addressed the meeting stressing that the Capel WI was a very go-ahead group. Last year Capel WI celebrated its 100th year centenary with a tea party. The WI has a full programme of events, meeting monthly on every third Tuesday at Capel Memorial Hall. There is either a speaker or an activity at each meeting, with refreshments provided. An open invitation was given for everyone to come along and join any of the meetings.

12. SALLY WYBORN. CAPEL ASSIST.

Sally addressed the meeting advising that this was a volunteer car service for those who did not drive or found it difficult to use public transport. This was mainly for journeys in and around Surrey. This service is only available to those living in Capel. Users of the service made a financial donation toward the cost of petrol, but Sally stressed most drivers do not keep the funds but donate them to Capel Assist.

13. CHRIS ANDERSON. CAPEL FOOTBALL CLUB.

Chris said that this is a thriving football club for adults. There are 60 registered players, and all staff are volunteers. Most of the players are local. In the year 2022/21 the Club won all three league trophies, but the Club is still looking to progress further and welcomes new members.

14. BEN ASHWOOD. CAPEL ALMSHOUSES.

Ben gave a brief history of the almshouses, located on The Street, Capel which is a Grade II listed building. In 1871 Mr. Charles Webb of Clapham was commemorated by his family in building these almshouses for six couples. The original cottages were wooden which were eventually demolished, and the current sandstone cottages built in their place. An extension to this property was built in 1960. Originally the apartments were for residents who were members of the church congregation but now any vacancies are available to older residents of Capel or those who have a relationship with the village. The almshouses are associated with the Almshouses Association, run by Trustees who oversee the maintenance of the gardens and apartments.

15. SUMMARY AND CLOSE

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting and thanked all speakers for giving their time. She hoped everyone enjoyed the programme, listening to all the achievements local groups had made and opportunities they offered, and looked forward to meeting everyone again at future meetings.