

## CAPEL PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 10 MARCH 2025 AT 7.30pm IN CAPEL PARISH HALL

**PRESENT:** Mrs Dale, Mrs Schryver, Mr Salter, Mrs Watson, Mr Palmer, Mr Ransome and the Clerk.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Surrey County Councillor Helyn Clark, and 19 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 from Mole Valley District council and to outline what the Council was hoping to achieve in the future.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mr Ball, Mr McLachlan, Mr Cox and Mrs Taylor.

**3. TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ON 11 MARCH 2024:**

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 2024/2025 was spent.

Mrs Dale thanked her fellow Councillors for all their support over the past year and confirmed that after serving on the Council for the past eight years, she would be stepping down as Chair and a Councillor in May.

**5. HENRY SMITH CHARITY REPORT 2024-2025:**

The Chair of the Charity Mrs Jenny Richards gave some background to the Charity.

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 being 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. The Henry Smith Charity have decided to align the parish grant period with their other grant programmes to span the calendar year. To cover the change-over period – May 2024 to December 2025 (20 months for funding instead of the usual 12) the total allocation will be increased to £4,500. Having complied with all the requirements we were pleased to receive a grant of £2,200 as a first allocation.

**Distribution of Capel Funds**

We were pleased to be able to increase the value of the single person's voucher to £25 and that for couples to £30. Eighteen were exchanged by couples and forty-five by single persons. The total expenditure was £1,665.00. Ninety-one vouchers were distributed to the elderly and needy of the civil parish – Beare Green, Capel and Coldharbour. 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 Nicki Taylor and Janet Russell delivering all the vouchers in Beare Green and Capel by hand. In total expenditure to date is £2,733.25. Having Nicki Taylor's knowledge and help in Beare Green is very much appreciated.

**6. SURREY DEVOLUTION, SURREY COUNTY COUNCILLOR HELYN CLACK:**

Surrey County Councillor Helyn Clack, addressed the meeting, thanking Mrs Dale for her valued service to the Parish Council as both Councillor and Chair. She hoped that Mrs Dale would continue to advise the Parish Council in her capacity as Special Advisor on matters relating to Footpaths, Bridleway and Byways.

As Member for Dorking Rural Division addressed the meeting, Councillor Clack spoke to the meeting regarding Surrey's proposal for unification which has now been submitted to government. Leaders of all 12 Surrey councils have outlined a shared vision for Surrey, with options to split Surrey into two or three unitary councils following reorganisation. This is an important step in government's timeline, working towards elections in May 2026.

She made reference to the [publication of an Interim Plan for Local Government Reorganisation in Surrey](#). The Plan sets out both Surrey County Council's reorganisation proposal which explores options for both two and three unitary authorities, concluding a two-unitary model is their preferred choice, in addition to the District and Borough's proposal, which explores options for both two and three unitary authorities. Among those District and Boroughs that have expressed a preference, the three-unitary model is favoured. Mole Valley District Council will discuss proposals at at Extraordinary Cabinet meeting next week and an update will be issued on next steps keeping residents informed of decisions.

Mole Valley has recommended that Surrey's 12 councils are replaced with two new unitary councils. Backed by supporting evidence, two councils would create simpler, more effective, sustainable and cheaper local government for Surrey.

Councillor Clack emphasised that although District and Borough Councillors will no longer be in existence once the unification takes place, all services will continue to be carried out seamlessly.

**7. DIK HOODMEAD, CAPEL SHOW:**

Dik addressed the meeting, sharing some history of this annual show. The first "Flower Show" began in 1893 and since 2007 the Capel Horticultural Show has combined with the Classic Car Show making it the friendliest show in the Southeast. This year will be the 130<sup>th</sup> Horticultural Show and 25<sup>th</sup> Classic Car and Bike Show. Each show records approximately 5,000 visitors and has generated £21,000 for good causes. Each show includes flower and allotment awards and baking competitions of various classes. The dog show has 7 classes and is always well supported.

The Show Committee starts work a year in advance, and comprises a committee, show leads and over 100 volunteers.

Parking is always a problem with over 1,680 cars arriving the village and being parked in adjacent fields. This does not include the arrival and parking of up to 720 classic car exhibits.

It is hoped this year's show will continue to grow year on year.

**8. PETER BARCLAY – GATWICK AIRPORT GROWTH PLAN:**

Peter the local representative for Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign (GACC') addressed the meeting, outlining the latest information available now. Peter stated the Secretary of State for Transport has made a decision stating that she is "minded to grant consent" for the development of Gatwick Airport based on an amended plan. The Planning Inspectorate had recommended against the expansion plan. However, the Secretary of State's office suggested that if Gatwick complies with revised conditions relating to Surface Transport Access and Noise Mitigation, they will reconsider the application favourably.

GACC will consider to campaign against the development of the airport, as the increase in air traffic will impact unfavourably on the local villages, increasing noise and traffic through rural lanes.

Details of the Secretary of State's statement can be viewed at hyperlink -

[TR020005-003951-Gatwick Airport Northern Runway Project - Minded to Letter.pdf](#)

Details of the Planning Inspectors' Report can be viewed at hyperlink -

[TR020005-003943-Gatwick Airport Recommendation Report - FINAL.pdf](#)

**9. PAT MORGAN, EVERGREENS:**

Pat addressed the meeting, stating that the Evergreens Club is a weekly gathering for the over 65s. The group meet on Monday afternoons in Capel Memorial Hall and this is an opportunity for older residents throughout the parish and adjoining village to come together socially.

Social events, including bingo and teas, are held in the hall and subsidised coach trips organised visiting a variety of locations including the South Coast, Royal Hospital Chelsea, The Imperial War Museum, Covent Garden and London theatres. Short break coach trips are also organised and enjoyed by many.

Pat mentioned that because of ill health she has had to step down from his long-term role as Chairperson. She has not stepped away from the Club and now undertakes duties as secretary.

#### **10. ANDREW DAVIDSON, CAPEL MILITARY SHOW**

Mr Davidson addressed the meeting sharing information on the annual three-day event that is the Capel Military Show. Mr Davidson said that the Military Show had similar logistical problems to the Capel Show, with traffic being the overall struggle. This event takes place over a weekend, Friday to Sunday. As the name suggests, this is a showcase to display vintage military vehicles, helicopters and military armoury collection. Mr Davidson acknowledged that the show does have an impact on the village when vehicles were being driven to the event, but as the show has progressed, improvements have been made to keep the village traffic as free flowing as possible. The show has been running for the past 13 years.

Mr Davidson said the event was always well attended and was proud to confirm that so far, the event has been able to donate £165,000 to military charities.

#### **11. CAPEL ASSIST.**

Mrs Sally Wyborn addressed the meeting, highlighting the origins of Capel Assist. She said that this is a voluntary service, which has been in operation for the past 9 years. Car drivers give up their time to ensure residents can attend hospital and GP appointments when other means of transport is not an option. All drivers give their time and use of their vehicles free, but those who benefit from the service do make voluntary financial contributions.

Mr David Silliman, Capel Assist Treasurer said that through generous financial donations, Capel Assist holds a small credit balance and has made financial donations to the local GP surgery, Capel Memorial Hall and Capel Alms Houses in the past.

This service is only available to Capel residents and unfortunately there are no similar services serving neighbouring villages.

#### **12. 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.