

**MINUTES OF THE PLANNING MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 02 MARCH 2026
AT CAPEL PARISH HALL**

PRESENT: Mr Ball, Mrs Schryver, Mr Cox, Mrs Taylor, Mr Palmer and the Clerk.

IN ATTENDANCE: Surrey County Councillor, Helyn Clack and 18 members of the public

WELCOME

The Chair, Mr Ball opened the meeting welcoming everyone and thanking them for coming. The Chair explained that this meeting was an opportunity to emphasise how the Parish spent the precept it received from Mole Valley District Council

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Mr McLachlan, Mr Salter and Mrs Watson.

TO APPROVE THE ACCURACY OF MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 10 MARCH

2025: To sign off a definitive copy for publication on the website. All Councillors unanimously approved the Minutes which were signed by the Chair.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT/ PRESENTATION: The Chair explained how our precept for 2025/2026 was spent. How we have been able to grant funding for a number of projects around the villages and grants to groups who enhanced the whole parish and all its residents. We will keep looking forward we want to continue being a "get things done" council, working together to enhance the parish. The Chair thanked his fellow Councillors for all their help and support.

**County Councillor Helyn Clack, Dorking Rural Division, Surrey County Council
Annual report 2025/2026**

In my 25th year of service to residents across the villages of Dorking Rural, this last year has continued to see productive working with our dedicated parish councillors, the parish clerks, residents and volunteers across my division of Dorking Rural.

By the time this report is circulated it is expected that the Government's Statutory Instrument changing the face of Surrey Local Government from 12 County and District authorities to 2 unitary authorities will have been passed by the House of Commons.

There are now confirmed elections for the newly established East Surrey Unitary Authority on May 7th, 2026, I have been nominated by the Conservative Party to serve as a candidate for the new council. I will be joined by my colleague, Marc Hanson, a recently retired professional with prior experience as a London Borough councillor. Between us I believe we offer the residents of Dorking Rural knowledge and experience to guide residents through to the new authority. Rightly, the voters will decide as always.

Once May's elections are over the county and district councils will continue with their business and services until 31st March 2027, when they will complete the handover to the new authorities. East Surrey council will act as 'shadow' authority until this date setting up governance and regulatory

controls for itself, the new administration will be setting policies within the local government framework and preparing to deliver statutory services.

It will be my role and responsibility to ensure that residents continue to be served by the county council and in my role as Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Life Long Learning to continue to oversee the improvement plan and transformation of the service as well as ensure a smooth transition of these vital services to the new Surrey authorities. Should I also be elected to the new unitary authority, I will use my experience to affect a smooth transition overall whilst also working for the opportunities the new authority may wish to take.

The county council Leader C. Cllr. Tim Oliver invited me to leave the back benches and join the county council cabinet last autumn in a Deputy Cabinet Member role and in February 2026 I stepped up to the full Cabinet role for Children, Families and Lifelong Services. This is a challenging service, and I am grateful to be supported by two experienced Deputies as we move through this final year of the council. I remain the county council nominated member and Vice Chair of GATCOM (Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee), a member of the Gatwick NMB (noise management board) and member of the Gatwick Greenspace Board.

BUDGET FOR 2026/2027

The County Council administration set the proposed budget for the year ahead (2026 to 2027), and this was approved by Full Council on Tuesday 3 February.

- support residents who need us most
- protect essential services across Surrey
- enhance our communities and improve daily life
- prepare for the transition to two new unitary councils in April 2027

The national government made an overall reduction of over £50 million in government funding to Surrey County Council next year – this is the largest reduction faced by any council under the national Fair Funding Review – combined with rising costs and increased demand for essential services, this has meant difficult decisions were required.

To close the financial gap, the approved budget includes a 4.99% Council Tax increase (including the 2% Adult Social Care Precept), a programme of efficiencies, a continued focus on prevention to reduce future demand, and rephasing of some capital investment to lower borrowing costs. For a Band D household, this increase is equivalent to £1.77 per week.

We know many households are under financial pressure, and we do not take decisions to increase Council Tax lightly. During our consultation, residents told us they were concerned about the impact on household budgets but also recognised the importance of protecting vital frontline services.

The County Council will spend more than a billion pounds on essential services in 2026 to 2027. Over 67% of this will support adults' and children's services – including care for older residents, support for those with disabilities or complex needs, and services for children and families.

Essential day-to-day services such as road maintenance, libraries, countryside management, recycling centres, and protection services like Surrey Fire and Rescue all continue to play a vital role in keeping people safe and supporting daily life.

The budget also includes a £297 million capital investment programme for 2026 to 2027. This will fund:

- new special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) units in mainstream schools and expanded school places
- improved and modernised care accommodation
- a new short breaks centre for adults with additional needs
- ongoing library refurbishments
- upgrades to buildings and fire stations
- an enhanced programme of highways maintenance and flood alleviation
- and much more

This is the final budget before Surrey moves to two new unitary councils in April 2027.

LOCAL ISSUES AND SURREY HIGHWAYS

The council leadership repeated the budget for councillors in 2024/2025 and for 2025/2026 with a highway's allocation to £120,000 each year over and above the central highways and environment budget, giving local county councillors more opportunities to deliver on highways issues most important to local people.

I have continued to focus on road safety and maintenance and there have been some key works delivered locally include the A25 Dorking to Reigate road safety project which has seen average speed cameras (ASC) installed. Residents living along the A25 in my division tell me that there is a marked improvement and change in driving behaviour both day and night time. The A24 scheme from Dorking to Beare Green has also been installed and has met similar favourable comments from local residents. The county council is now preparing to install further speed reduction measures with average speed cameras from Capel Village, Clark's Green roundabout to the border with West Sussex. Residents again tell me that this is a much-welcomed scheme.

Residents in Betchworth had the opportunity to comment on a speed reduction scheme for Pebble Hill, and the results of the consultation which went out to residents and the public at large have shown strong support. I have confirmed with Surrey Highways that following this positive support, works have already started to improve pedestrian access for residents to cross the road at Betchworth roundabout and I expect the rest of the scheme to proceed as soon as possible subject to road licences etc.

Dorking Rural is made up of very distinct parish and communities and so my priorities are varied across my division. Speeding and road safety continues to be a big issue in the villages but so does road maintenance and pedestrian access. I have been working with the County Council's spring maintenance team to line up pavements across the area which need tidying up, cutting back overgrowth and clearing debris. I have also been supporting drainage projects – this winter has

been particularly wet and road side gullies get blocked up with debris and litter. It is important to report these quickly so they can be cleared to keep the water off the roads as much as possible. Several 'wets-spots' have surfaced for attention this year and these are being investigated by the highways drainage teams.

Residents can report faults and damage through the Surrey link to Fix My Street, Roadworks - Surrey County Council

A severely wet and cold winter has seen a marked deterioration in our busy road surfaces, Surrey County Council is responsible for all local and rural roads and most A roads in the county apart from the A3. This comes under the national highways authorities as does the M roads, the motorways. Naturally, people ask me what the County Council is doing - there are now 50 crews active including repairs at night, 1500 fixes a week. As of the beginning of March, the backlog was around 3,000 so if that rate continues, it should be resolved in the next couple of weeks if the weather stays mild. But of course, the best solution is prevention and the County Council has resurfaced 454 miles of road in the last year.

I have been busy requesting roads and pavements to be added to the Project Horizon if the parish councils have suggestions – which I am sure you do have – please let me know!

GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Your Fund Surrey and its two local community Funds – Local County Councillors were allocated £50,000 capital spend over the last year and £5,000 annual revenue spend. I am pleased to say that my allocation is mostly spent, this has been a very successful local grant programme, and I am hoping this will be continued in the new East Surrey Unitary Authority.

Here's a list of some of the great projects put together by local communities and volunteers I have been able to fund over the last year with my allocations.

- Brockham Village Hall – Air Conditioning £6000
- Charlwood Village Primary School – School Trim Trail £7500
- Mynthurst Cricket Club – Cricket Community Seating area £6212
- Leigh Apple Group – John Motion Community Orchard Shelter £17980
- Newdigate Cricket Club – Energy Sufficiency £1800
- Surrey Outdoor Learning – Off Road Wheelchair £4460
- Community Shop at Strood Green – New refrigeration £2000
- Buckland Parish Council – New Defibrillator £500
- Mogeral Tani Judo Club – Leigh – Finding your Feet £500
- 4Bs Bio Diversity Initiative £750
- Sensory Services from Sight for Surrey £946
- Surrey Ethnic Minority Forum – Community Meals for the district £1000

GATWICK

The hard work of local authorities including Surrey County Council, parish councils, local activists such as GACC and residents saw the completion of the hearing by Government Inspectors for plans for a second runway at Gatwick Airport. The Inspectors' report, initially published privately for the Government,

recommended refusing Gatwick's expansion unless the owners agree to specific noise and transport controls. However, the Government ordered the plans to proceed with certain caveats. This has resulted in a legal challenge in the High Court and the outcome of this is expected soon

CHRIS ANDERSON – FOOTBALL CLUB: Chris addressed the meeting giving a brief background into the club, how it formed in 1906 and continued to build. In 2021 they won their league and in 2022 won the Southern Combination league, and at the weekend they held their cup semifinal. They have formed a development team this year to try to encourage younger players and grow the team, but they had lost a number of players over the year and it is becoming harder to keep putting a team together.

HENRY SMITHS CHARITY REPORT 2025/2026: The report was read out by Mrs Schryver. 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.

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 the first part of our allocation in September 2025 - £2,250.

Distribution of Capel Funds

We were pleased to be keep the value of the vouchers as the same as 2025 – the single person's voucher at £25 and that for couples at £30. Eighteen were exchanged by couples and forty-five by single persons. The total expenditure was £2,105.

One hundred and twelve vouchers were distributed to the elderly and needy of the civil parish – Beare Green, Capel and Coldharbour. This was twenty-one more than last year. 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.

A donation has been made to Merebank Over 60's Club.

To date Bank Charges of £65 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 £2,670.

Having Nicki Taylor's knowledge and help in Beare Green is very much appreciated. Once again Janet Russell's support and help to the Chair has been invaluable.

GACC: Update on Court Hearings and other activities

The Judicial Review against the decision by the Secretary of State for Transport to approve the development of the Emergency (Northern) Runway was heard in the Royal Courts of Justice on the 20-23 January this year. Justice Mould indicated he hoped to pass down his decision by the end of February however in late February the Department of Transport submitted a set of corrections to some data they had originally provided. Whilst relatively minor this has delayed the decision and Justice Mould has issued a statement indicating the judgement will be issued before the Easter recess, 1st April.

Route 4

Noise Preferential Route

For many residents, particularly those living north of Gatwick, the saga of Route 4 has dragged on for far too long. Some aspects go back to the last century but more recent activity goes back to 2013. Finally a series of proposals have been whittled down to four suggested revisions to the route that residents can consult on. Gatwick has opened a consultation on revised options for Route 4 and residents who are impacted by this departure route from Gatwick are urged to respond to the consultation. Gatwick are holding a series of webinars and live exhibitions explaining the proposals and we urge residents to engage in these events.

More information here : <https://routefourairspacechange.co.uk>

Events

As part of our fund raising programme we held a Sunday Lunch with Jazz at Gildings Barn in Partridge Lane. Some 50 odd supporters enjoyed a wonderful lunch accompanied by a fine jazz quartet and raised over £1600 !

Our next planned event is a sponsored walk around Gatwick (13.5m) planned for 16/17th May. More details to follow.

Meanwhile in GACC's regular activities in the past few months have included responding to 4 Department for Transport Consultations and 2 Civil Aviation Authority consultations.

these included an important consultation on the review of the Air Navigation Orders – this is the rule book for management of aviation policies in the UK.

The DfT are attempting to recommend that noise disturbance only be considered for aircraft below 4000ft (currently 7000ft) This would exclude a huge number of people under flight paths away from the airport boundaries. The DfT also wanted to exclude any discussion on compensation for people under flight paths outside airport contours – in many cases the noise has been imposed on people without any prior notice or consultation. Perfect example of where the argument 'if you knew there was an airport nearby you shouldn't have moved there' holds no water ! Next meeting is 24th March at Denbies, 2pm – 4pm. We have been asked to put the links on our website.

PAUL KENNEDY – GOOD SHEPHERD TRUST:

Thank you for your continued patience as we waited for a final decision from the Department for Education (DfE) on the proposed amalgamation of Scott Broadwood CofE Infant and The Weald CofE Primary Schools. As you know, we have received a decision from the DfE approving the amalgamation of the two schools.

We will continue to work with parents, carers, school staff, and other community members to ensure a smooth and effective transition. We are working towards Scott Broadwood officially closing on 31st August 2026 and the new arrangements for the Weald commencing formally on 1st September 2026. There is legal work to be done, but we do not foresee any complications. The school remains legally open until that day, and we will continue to operate the two schools as normal.

If all goes to plan, any children at Scott Broadwood Infant, and those who will be offered a place for September 2026, will be offered a place at Weald Primary School. Children who already attend The Weald, or who are offered a place in year 3 for September 2026, will continue as planned.

The use of the Scott Broadwood Infant school site is the responsibility of the site trustees and the Diocesan Board of Education, who will be working closely with the Department for Education (DfE) to determine the future of the school site. There are discussions already taking place and there is potential, but nothing concrete, for the site to be used by another educational provider. This is not in our control.

To ensure clarity for all stakeholders, we want to outline the key steps involved.

1. Scott Broadwood Infant School will formally close on 31 August 2026.
2. The Weald Primary School will reopen its infant phase on 1 September 2026.
3. All current Scott Broadwood pupils, including those due to start Reception next year, will be offered places at The Weald Primary School.

The combined school will continue under the name “The Weald Church of England Primary School.”

Mr Baguley and the schools’ leadership will now start to plan the move and how we can best transition everyone to the combined school in September. I know there are many mixed emotions around this change, but we are pleased to have a decision.

Paul Mott – Beare Green Community Association: is a Charitable Organisation run by trustees aiming to provide facilities with the objective of improving life. A variety of regular and one-off hall users, in the past year they have had the Summer Fun Day, Monthly Cinema, 2 x Jumble sales, Monthly litter pick, Christmas Market, and run the bar for both the Milestone Big Band concerts and anyone booking the hall if wanted.

Topical issues – McDonalds proposal – some support, so BGCA is neutral as don’t want to divide the village there will be no submission from the BGCA, however most trustees are personally opposing in writing.

Catapults – we’ve had a broken main hall window, and 2 ducks killed. If you see a young/teenage person with a catapult around the pond and they are not fishing, call 999 or 101 or call the **bailiff Steve 07876 610787**

Mike Reeves: – Temple Lane Allotments An area in Temple Lane owned by John Dale. A small friendly society who currently have 24 plots, all occupied. Very sociable, with 2 working days throughout the year, the Horticultural Society visit once a year and committee meetings are held in the Crown PH. Mike thanked the Council and Capel Show for the grants towards the fencing which was put up last year.

Ben Ashwood - Alms Houses: Ben Ashwood thanked the Parish Council and many of the other local groups for their donations and support. Sadly they have just lost Joyce, and out of the six apartments, hers is the last to refurbish. Now that they are a “proper” organisation they are in a better place to finance the last of the refurbishments. For fund raising Ben will be cycling from Lands End to John O’Groats.

Frances – Capel WI. Our image is that of Ladies of a certain age! We are part of a national group, supporting many campaigns such as the decline of bee’s and eliminating female genital mutation in women. Over the past year visited the National Rose Garden and went on the Oxford River Cruse. We support other local groups such as Knit and Natter, Crafty Goddesses, Open Gardens and Open Space. Twice a year we have a jumble sale and although we have regular visitors, anything left over we try to recycle. We support inclusivity and would embrace anyone – meeting in this hall on 3rd Tuesday in every month.

Sally Wyborn – Capel Assist. This is Capel Assist’s 10th year, recently recruited 5 new drivers and office helpers, bringing our number of willing volunteers to 25.

As it is almost impossible to get hospital transport now, we are pleased to have been able to transport 3088 folk to hospitals, surgeries, and vets.

Due to the generosity of our drivers and clients, we have a healthy bank balance, therefore, as on previous occasions we are able to offer some money to local surgeries for much appreciated equipment. It has been a pleasure to be a part of this great team, many thanks to them all.

Jane Major and Jo Collinson – Horticultural Society: Founded in 1893 in Newdigate, Capel and Oakwood Hill. There are currently !12 volunteers organising events such as Spring and Summer Shows, Quiz nights, Plant Sales, Litter picking twice a year and the Pumpkin Pageant for Primary school age children. Currently they have 122 individual members and 52 family members.

Last years Summer Show had the highest number of entries and not just from a few entrants, it was great to see that the village had “got behind it and had a go!” There is something for everyone so please join us.

Chair: Closed the meeting by thanking everyone for coming and the speakers for giving up their time, and hoped that everyone had enjoyed the evening. We are a small representation of the villages and the Parish Council wishes to continue to show support to everyone. He went on to thank everyone for such a fantastic community.