

Wanborough Parish Council

DRAFT Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 27TH November 2024 at 7.30pm in Wanborough Village Hall

Meeting started 7.30pm

Those present: James Henry (chairman JH), Matthew Harrison (MH), Robert Drummond (RD), Martin Bramley (MB), Oscar de Chazal (OC), Kim Sweeting (clerk KS)

Apologies: Sallie Barker (SB), Matt Furniss (MF)

Members of the public were present.

1. **D-027 Minutes of the last meeting on Wednesday 25th September 2024 to approve and sign.**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 25th September 2024, were confirmed as accurate. JH signed the minutes accordingly.

2. **D-028 Matters arising**

JH thanked everyone for attending and welcomed RD to his first council meeting. JH thanked KS for arranging the litter pick that took place on the 20th October. KS stated it was well attended with 19 volunteers, who were able to tackle two areas: Westwood Lane and Jacksons Corner.

3. **D-029 Update from SCC and GBC representatives**

GBC update

SB sent her apologies as she is on mayoral duties. JH read out MF's email update (see below):

Planning and enforcement

SB and MF met with the enforcement team leader and Claire UB to discuss the (Wanborough) Fields. They (GBC) are looking at potential direct action to clear the site after the next round of enforcement notices. They (GBC) do not believe they can have a holistic approach to the whole site and will deal with it on a case-by-case basis.

Drainage

SB and MF also met with the GBC engineer and a member of the SCC Flood Team about the water behind the barns affecting people's homes. A letter will be going to the residents, outlining their responsibilities. The soakaway is part of the development and should be cleared regularly. GBC will also contact the landowners up the track to (ensure they) maintain their ditches.

SCC update

Highways

No highways work planned for the area but there is still some small amount of capital funding available for local projects in the community.

4. D-030 Planning and enforcement updates

Status of recent applications

24/P/00441- Solar farm for Surrey University - Approved

JH updated the council on the proceedings of the full Planning Committee meeting held at Millmead on 6th November, at which the application was approved by 9 votes to 4. JH noted that while the Committee recognised the damage that would be caused to the landscape, this was outweighed by the special circumstances and future benefits of the solar farm.

24/P/01588 - Green Lane; small extension to residential property - Pending

It was agreed that WPC should submit a 'no objection' comment; KS to action.

24/P/01411- Change of use of agricultural field for dog walking and associated parking - Pending

JH noted that the GBC portal was showing approximately 15 objections and 3 supportive comments. Both MB and RD expressed concerns about vehicle access to and from the application site opposite the B3000 junction with The Street and the resultant creation of a crossroads. The proposed parking area was considered by JH and OC to be contrary to NPPF policy re an AONB.

JH asked councillors to review the additional comments just submitted by the applicant and provide any feedback to JH, prior to submission of WPC comment.

Status of Enforcement

Wanborough Fields-multiple plots

OC stated that he and many local residents were extremely disappointed at the ongoing lack of enforcement action by GBC. In addition, OC reported that GBC no longer provided any updates to him / WPC regarding the status of any specific enforcement cases; leaving WPC in the dark as to GBC enforcement plans or progress (if any). KS suggested creating an 'enforcement status' page on the WPC website to improve communication with residents, including logged actions and updates. JH supported the idea, subject to an accuracy disclaimer with a link to GBC (as the enforcement authority); KS to action.

MB reported that a local resident had contacted Jeremy Hunt (local MP for Godalming and Ash) to seek help regarding GBC enforcement issues on another site in a neighbouring parish. Councillors agreed with MB's proposal that WPC should also write to the MP; JH to action.

It was further agreed that WPC should consider launching a local resident petition urging GBC to fulfil its enforcement duties; signature gathering should involve both door-to-door engagement and online communication. JH asked KS to find details of the last petition regarding Article IV protection for Wanborough Fields. It was agreed that MB and JH should then prepare some draft wording for review by all councillors.

Open letter of complaint to GBC

WPC members had been circulated with a chain of emails from a local resident to GBC complaining of rubbish dumped by one of the plot owners in Wanborough Fields. While it was agreed that WPC could take no further action,

WPC encourages all residents to continue to log breaches of planning regulations with GBC, in order to maintain the local landscape.

A member of the public, and local resident, asked about preventing rudeness from plot owners. JH clarified that WPC has no authority to intervene in individual disputes between neighbours, but pointed out that in extreme cases residents were able to report threatening or abusive behaviour to the police.

Farnborough Airport impact

Councillors noted the email distributed to them on the 11th of November, with an update re Farnborough Airport noise concerns and a request to contact local MPs to object to the airport's traffic expansion plans.

5. D-031 Traffic and road matters

OC asked if another white gate sign is going to be installed on the other side of the Wanborough Hill road; KS to ask MF.

Member of the public pointed out that a tree is leaning on the overhead cables near the entrance to the Manor Cottages lane. OC said that he had previously reported this to the Scottish & Southern electricity business, but they are not concerned and will take no action. It was agreed that KS (and JH) should contact the landowner, who is known by some local residents.

MH and OC noted that there appears to have been some significant litter picking and clearance on the side of the A31 now awaiting collection.

6. D-032 Finances and cheques

Only two payments made since the last meeting:

SALC	£116.00
Village hall rental x2	£32.00

Precept planning

Prior to the meeting KS had circulated summary financial figures for consideration by WPC councillors; these included 2023-24 actual, 2024-25 forecast and 2025-26 budget and the projected level of cash reserves. Councillors were satisfied with the figures presented and it was unanimously agreed that the precept request to GBC for 2025-26 should remain unchanged at £5500. KS to action and submit precept request form to GBC.

7. D-033 Consultations

Public Consultation Remote Meetings and Proxy Voting

KS explained the proposal. JH left it for individuals to respond if so desired.

8. D-034 Date of next meetings

At the request of RD and JH, KS agreed to look to change the provisional dates of some meetings in 2025 from Wednesday to Thursday, subject to the availability of the GBC and SCC representatives. At the moment the provisional dates for the next two meetings remain:

Wednesday 29th January
Wednesday 6th March

9. D-035 Any other business

MH reported two recent incidents. Firstly, that a stolen car had been driven in the fields (near East Flexford Lane) at night to kill and remove deer. Secondly, that several fields of crops were being damaged by vehicles. JH agreed that the behaviour of those responsible was a disgrace and thanked MH for raising these concerns.

The meeting was closed by JH at 20:43 hours