

# Normandy Parish Council

Serving Our Community through working in Partnership

Minutes of a **MEETING** of **NORMANDY PARISH COUNCIL** held at **NORMANDY CRICKET CLUB** on **THURSDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2021** at 7.40 pm.

**Members present** Amy McLeod (Chairman), Tony Coomber, Paul Howarth, Bob Hutton, Philippa Mitchell, Ben Pryke and Pat Tugwell

**Non-members present** Keith Witham (SCCC Councillor), Andy Beams (Locum Clerk), 2 members of the public

**C-120 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Mark Galloway.

**C-121 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**C-122 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the Council meeting held on 28 October were approved as a true record.

**C-123 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

**C-124 REPORTS FROM OTHER AUTHORITIES**

**(a) Surrey County Council**

Cllr Keith Witham sent a written report to the Locum Clerk which was circulated to Members in advance of the meeting (appended to minutes). He added that the bollard work at Westwood Lane will now be delayed until the footpath work in 2022. Cllr Witham also reported on a site meeting held with regard to possible traffic calming at the other end of Westwood Lane. The site has been added to the list, which is determined by priority in terms of safety and available funding. The Parish Council can write to SCC Highways with any views. Cllr Witham reported that the Normandy Shop and Café grant application was at the final stage with a decision due on Tuesday next week.

**(b) Guildford Borough Council**

There was no report from Guildford Borough Council.

**C-125 COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP UPDATES**

**(a) Estates & Facilities Committee**

Cllr Mitchell reported

**(b) Finance & Governance Committee**

Cllr Coomber reported

**(c) Human Resources Committee**

Cllr Hutton reported

**(d) Communications Working Group**

**(e) Events Working Group**

**(f) Manor Fruit Farm Working Group**

Covered in the update under Estates & Facilities Committee

**(g) Highways**

In Cllr Galloway's absence, there was no update.

**C-126 SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN**

The information had been circulated by the Locum Clerk in advance of the meeting. It was agreed that it should be shared with the wider community via Nextdoor Normandy, Facebook and the Parish Council website to encourage people to share their view.

Cllr Mitchell offered to review the documents for the Parish Council and present her findings at the January council meeting to agree a Parish Council response.

**C-127 PARKING IN THE VILLAGE**

Cllr Mitchell reminded Members of a meeting held in 2019 which included the Parish Council, Surrey County Council and the church, and which led to the agreement for eight bollards to be placed in Westwood Lane. This would not solve the ongoing problems, and Cllr Witham agreed to raise any additional concerns if sent to him.

Cllr Witham pointed out that it is not illegal to park on the pavements, although if an obstruction occurs, this is then a police matter.

Cllr McLeod summarised that thought needs to be given to the wider parking problems across the village, and some education over parking considerably could be circulated via social media platforms. It would also be useful to know more about the HGV Watch and to work closely with the local Speedwatch group.

Cllr Witham stated that if there were any locations that the Parish Council would like to put forward for yellow lines, these should be sent to Guildford Borough Council.

**C-128 TREES**

Members considered the letter circulated by the Locum Clerk in advance of the meeting, and other options for sourcing trees for the village.

**C-129 COUNCILLOR VACANCY**

**C-130 FINANCE**

**RESOLVED:** The schedule of payments was approved:

Payee	Purpose	Amount
Staff salaries	October 2021	£238.60
Councillor expenses	Reimburse – Legionella testing kit	£52.50
	Legionella Training Course	£36.00
Councillor expenses	Reimburse – Card readers	£115.20
Councillor expenses	Reimburse – Poppy wreath	£25.00
Nurture Landscapes	Grounds Maintenance - Sep 21	£976.91
Normandy Cricket Club	Room hire – 14 Oct	£54.00
Rialtas Business Solutions	RBS accounting package & licence	£772.80
Steve Nevin	Litter picking June – Sep 21	£720.00
R Cunningham	Fuel costs for mowing	£6.70
A Beams	Locum Clerk – Oct 21	£1,983.50
Mulberry & Co	Group training 14 Oct	£360.00
	Chairman training 22 Nov	£42.00
St Marks Church	Agreed grant/donation	£1,320.00
Community Bus	Agreed grant/donation	£1,000.00
Surrey Community Action	Agreed grant/donation	£150.00
CPRE	Agreed grant/donation	£36.00

CAB	Agreed grant/donation	£500.00
Wyke School	Agreed grant/donation	£660.00
SCC Playing Fields Association	Agreed grant/donation	£35.00
Surrey Crimestoppers	Agreed grant/donation	£50.00
Surrey Air Ambulance	Agreed grant/donation	£250.00
St John Ambulance	Agreed grant/donation	£500.00

#### **C-131 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:** That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

#### **C-132 HR AND STAFFING**

- (a) To receive an update from the HR Committee on staff and contractual matters
- (b) To discuss internal communication methods

#### **C-133 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND/OR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.48 pm.

### **Appendix – Surrey County Councillor Keith Witham - Report to Normandy Parish Council October 2021 \***

#### **1. COVID19 Coronavirus- how has Guildford been affected ...**

*During last year I was issuing almost weekly updates on the local arrangements to combat Coronavirus. It's some while since I reported in this newsletter about COVID19 - mainly because I don't want to replicate what we can all see on TV or in the national media. But I thought it worthwhile giving you this update on how Guildford specifically has been affected by the pandemic (information correct as at mid-September):*

- *The number of cases has fallen across Surrey.*
- *The rate per 100,000 in Guildford is 230.8, this is slightly higher than the Surrey average which is 216.4 per 100,000 but less than the average for England which is 256.8.*
- *Cases are highest among the 10-19 year olds in the Borough*
- *There were 51 new hospital admissions in the week of 6th September to 12th September in the Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust and 10 new admissions in the Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust in the same period.*

- There has been 1 death recorded in the week up to 19 September taking the total to 251 in Guildford Borough.
- 82% of the eligible population in Guildford have received their first vaccination and 75% of the population have received both doses.

Surrey County Council Public Health Department continues to issue daily updates and works in very close cooperation with Surrey NHS.

On a very personal note, COVID19 Caronavirus has not gone away. My wife tested positive for COVID19 a couple of weeks ago so we have both been self isolating. During that time we had four very helpful and supportive phone calls from NHS Test and Trace to check how she was doing and offer help; support from NHS 111, and a visit from an ambulance paramedic crew. All of which was very helpful and reassuring. She is still quite poorly, but hopefully on the road to recovery.

## 2. SCC local community grants ...

I publicised this in my August and September newsletters - but at the time of writing there are **still some funds available**, so if any local voluntary group or organisation has a project that could be helped with funding (usually up to £250) please let me know. Because as your County Councillor, I can sponsor grants for local projects, and so I am always keen to hear about potential local projects.

**Applications are still open, but when the available funding for this year have been used, that's it, until 2022. So this is the "Last Call"!**

So if you are involved in a local group which could do with financial help, please email me. The project will usually be for either equipment, or a "one off" expense, it can't normally be for routine running costs. **PLEASE ASK ME!** Email: [keithwitham1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:keithwitham1@hotmail.co.uk) Let me know what the project is, and £how much.

## 3. Severe Planning and Enforcement delays at Guildford Borough Council ...

**Everything to do with local Planning, and in particular Planning Enforcement at Guildford Borough Council is in a real mess.**

There are over 750 planning applications that haven't been either decided - or even looked at (double the pre-Covid average). And there are over 300 outstanding Planning Enforcement cases at GBC. It even now takes up to a month for a new planning application to even be acknowledged with a reference number.

Planning Authorities such as GBC are slow and beaucratic, working as they do, lawfully within the rules, and following "due process ", but always running to catch up with deliberate perpetrators who flout planning laws.

Most planning applicants are ordinary people, who just want to do the right thing, apply for approval for the changes they want, and they become frustrated with the delays and bureaucracy.

But a small number of perpetrators are in reality professional or near professional criminals who know the planning laws backwards, and deliberately out manoeuvre councils because of the money they are making.

But I attended a very interesting meeting recently with Ben Spencer MP , the MP for Runnymede and Weybridge, where he spoke about a Private Members Bill (PMB) is introducing to Parliament.

**The essence of it is to:**

- **create a national database of Planning Enforcement cases (currently records are only kept Borough by Borough);**
- **to require any applicant for a Retrospective planning application to declare any previous retrospective applications;**
- **to make it legally possible for a Council to reject a retrospective application based on the applicants "previous form",**
- **AND to make such applications a CRIMINAL offence (as opposed to Civil) and give councils power to prosecute those persistent offenders under criminal law.**

If the Private Members Bill does not get into law by itself, it may be possible to incorporate the above into other Planning legislation. So I have asked our local MP's, Jonathan Lord (Woking) and Angela Richardson (Guildford) to support that Bill, and if it doesn't become law in itself , to support its provisions being incorporated into other current draft legislation.

I am also pressing for the "Leadership" at GBC, which is the Guildford Residents Party ("R4GV") and Lib Dem Coalition, to take this issue seriously.

## 4. The M25 roads protests ... and home insulation...

**Many people, myself included, were very pleased to see firm police action by Surrey Police to deal with this disruptive, anti social and selfish rabble, with dozens of arrests and forced removals from the motorway.**

Our Surrey Police Commissioner, Lisa Townsend, also gave her full support, and has pressed the Government to take out injunctions, giving the police extra power in such circumstances. <https://www.surrey-pcc.gov.uk/commissioner-praises-surrey-police-response-as-arrests-made-in-new-m25-protest/>

To find out more about the Office of the Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner and the role that Lisa Townsend has, and her contact details see: <https://www.surrey-pcc.gov.uk/contact/>

**The irony of the main demand of these so called “climate warriors” - that there should be more home insulation, is that under the Green Jump scheme (I circulated details of that to residents last year) many local homes have already been fully insulated, saving energy and costs.**

And only last week, SCC approved a further £3 million from the Government for low-income households and residents in fuel poverty for improvements. As before that funding will help to save carbon and reduce residents' fuel bills, while ensuring we tackle health inequalities and climate change. You can read more on this important grant funding here <https://bit.ly/3ieELtm>

#### **5. SCC to provide extra places for 290 Surrey children with special needs ...**

Surrey County Council is committed to our children and young people living, learning and growing up locally. That's why SCC have created 220 new specialist school places and an additional 70 temporary places for this year - 2021/22. More info can be found here <https://bit.ly/3ENiVGP>

#### **6. Surrey Fire and Rescue ... more new trainee recruits...**

More new recruits welcomed to their training with the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service. The Surrey Chief Fire Officer, Steve Owen-Hughes, welcomed 10 new wholetime firefighters who started training with SF&RS in September. We look forward to celebrating at their pass out parade in December!

#### **7. Surrey Police welcome new Police Constables at Parade ...**

What a glorious day in early September for a passing out parade

Surrey Police were incredibly proud to celebrate three intakes of police constables who have achieved independent patrol status. The Chief Constable was delighted to be able to welcome not only the officers but also their families, and celebrate together “in person” for the first time in a long time!

Huge congratulations to all of them ... very best wishes for all that you do for us, and well done on parading in a heatwave.

#### **8. The current fuel situation...**

At the time of writing, I only know what you do! But I saw this really helpful explanation, which I paste below for your interest.

##### **Fuel Situation**

This self-inflicted ‘fuel crisis’ has echoes of 2020’s toilet roll shortage - a misplaced sense of panic leading to shortages of a commodity which ought to have remained available to all, if only people had kept to usual purchasing habits. Then, as now, this is a ‘crisis’ which could be ended overnight with cooperation from the public. Where this situation differs from the toilet roll drought of 2020, is that where the latter situation was a mild inconvenience, perhaps even slightly amusing as fodder for cartoonists, THIS shortage is doing considerable harm to many people who rely on their vehicles either for access to work or even as a tool for doing their work.

It cannot be stressed enough that there is plenty of fuel in the refineries and in storage across the country. Over recent days, a significant spike in demand has caused temporary shortages at some petrol stations. Ministers are monitoring this situation extremely closely, but – given that overall fuel supplies within the country are fine – the best way to resolve this situation will be for people to only buy petrol when they need it, as they normally would.

Much of our area is made up primarily of rural and semi-rural areas. By their very nature these areas will have sparse or non-existent public transport facilities. Where possible many people, have left our cars sitting at home with near empty fuel tanks. We have turned to public transport, walking and cycling as the primary means of getting around. It may be my imagination - but the numbers using the early morning rush hour SWR train with me seem to have risen considerably.

I can only hope that the people who have been selfishly topping up their cars and filling extra cans unnecessarily are embarrassed at the difficulties they are inflicting onto others. The ‘others’ that I am most concerned about are of course hospital workers, ambulance drivers, shop staff, Police Officers and others, all of whom may need their cars to get to work and provide the valuable services we rely on. It may also be that some HGV Drivers are unable to report for work because of lack of fuel, thereby creating a self-perpetuating crisis – for every driver not on duty, one less tanker of fuel can be delivered to the pumps.

*It is very important to emphasise that the current shortage of HGV drivers is not restricted to the UK. Much of Europe and North America is currently experiencing the same issue. Many months without training and testing of new drivers due to COVID has created something of a perfect storm. The Government is taking action to address this issue, and while we cannot solve the problem overnight, an impressive range of measures has been proposed; for example, £10 million will be invested to create new skills bootcamps and train up to 3,000 HGV drivers – with an additional 1,000 to be trained through local courses. The Government are also making available 5,000 visas for HGV drivers for a three-month period, to provide short-term relief for the haulage industry in the build up to Christmas.*

*Of course, those with electric vehicles will be enjoying a little schadenfreude as they drive home to recharge their engines overnight!*

#### **9. Resurfacing of part of Westwood Lane...**

*The condition of the road along Westwood Lane has been of concern to residents, so I'm pleased to have had confirmation from Surrey Highways that the area from the junction with Guildford Road is to be resurfacing on 12th October. This will necessitate the closure of the road for a day.*

*The works are scheduled to start on 12/10/21. But do be aware that sometimes plans have to change, often due to bad weather or problems on other works in the same programme which can have a knock on effect.*

*Residents can also find up to date details of the works on [www.surreycc.gov.uk/roadworks](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roadworks)*

*If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact SCC Highways on 0300 200 1003 or email [works.communication@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:works.communication@surreycc.gov.uk)*

**\* Any opinions contained within the report are those of Cllr Witham and not of Normandy Parish Council**