

### Minutes of the Meeting held at Lord Pirbright's Hall on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7.30pm

The meeting was held in the Club Room of Lord Pirbright's Hall and simultaneously using the video conferencing platform Microsoft TEAMS, with details available for members of the public in advance.

Those present:

#### Councillors

Cllr Fidgett (Chairman) Cllr Godfree via Teams Cllr Richmond Cllr Eason Cllr Watson *Officers of the Council* Mrs Helen Myers (Clerk/RFO) Mrs Lindsay Graham (LPH Secretary)

#### Also in attendance

Cllr Keith Witham (SCC/GBC) One resident of the Parish via teams Mr Simon Carpenter (Pirbright Institute)

	FORMALITIES
1.	1.1 To Receive Members' Apologies for Absence
	The Chairman welcomed council members, Cllr Witham and members of the public attending in person and
	virtually to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Woollett and it was noted that Cllr
	Godfree was joining the meeting via TEAMS.
	The Chairman acknowledged the resignation which had been formally received on Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> July 2021
	from Cllr Hallam who has moved out of the Parish. The Chairman wished to thank Cllr Hallam for his many
	years of service to the Parish Council.
	1.2 To Receive Members' Declarations of Interest on Any Agenda Item below
	There were no declarations of Interest.
2.	MINUTES
	2.1 To Approve the Minutes of the Previous Meetings (08/06/2021)
	<b>RESOLUTION:</b> The Minutes of the previous meeting (08/06/21) were approved by all members present and
	signed by the Chairman.
	At this point in the meeting, the Chairman suggested that Item 6.2 on the Agenda should be brought forward.
	This motion was approved by all members present and Item 6.2: To Consider whether the Council should
	Co-opt one new Member / Appoint any Associate members was dealt with at this time.
	6.2 To Consider whether the Council should Co-opt one new Member/Appoint any associate members
	This Item on the Agenda was discussed following Item 2.1.
	Cllr Fidgett addressed the candidates both in the room and dialling in using Microsoft TEAMS. Cllr Fidgett
	acknowledged that the candidates had attended previous meetings and had all provided statements about
	themselves which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. Cllr Fidgett offered the candidates
	the opportunity to address the Council to state why they wished to joined the Council and members listened
	to these addresses. Cllr Fidgett announced that the Council would seek to fill the seat, made vacant by the
	resignation of Cllr Swinney in May 2021 and following due process, members present were handed ballot
	papers to complete in confidence. These papers were collected and shuffled and handed to the Clerk for
	reading. The Clerk announced that Mr Watson had received two votes, and Mr Austin had received one vote.
	Mr Watson was therefore invited to accept the position and duly agreed to join the Parish Council as a co-
	opted member. Mr Watson signed the Declaration of Acceptance which had been prepared, in the presence
	of the Council, and this was received by the Clerk. Mr Watson was welcomed to the Parish Council by other
	members present.

# 2.2 To Receive the Clerk's Report and matters arising Parish Bench, Bus and Car Park Inspection

A full bench, bus shelter and car park inspection was performed by the Groundsman on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021. Bench No 22 needs repairing and a local carpenter has been contacted to quote for this work. The main Green has developed some low patches and the Clerk has requested a quote from a local gardening firm to fill and repair them.

### <u>Playground</u>

The Playground Volunteers recommenced refurbishments on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

#### Lloyds Business Banking Complaint

The Clerk set out a full complaint and received a total of £632.32 in compensation for time spent submitting Bank Mandates which would not succeed.

#### Pirbright Institute (Community Environmental Benefits Scheme)

It would appear that this condition of the PI's master plan was discharged on 27/07/16. The Clerk has queried this with GBC Planning and is awaiting further clarification.

#### Armed Forces Week

The newly acquired Armed Forces Flag was flown from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June in appreciation of all members of the Armed Forces.

#### **Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme**

The Clerk was approached by a local teenager who would like to complete her three Months' Volunteering Section by carrying out voluntary tasks for the Parish Council. The Clerk sought the permission of the Council via email who were happy for the Clerk agree to this request. The various tasks will include litter picking, batching up the PeriNews, war memorial weeding, and helping at the Summer Fair.

#### War Memorial – Misspelling of a name on the Portland Stone Slab

The Clerk lodged an application with the War Memorials Trust to fund the correction of the spelling on one of the slabs laid at the foot of the Memorial.

**ACTION:** The Clerk will seek further advice with a view to erecting a small sign to acknowledge the correct spelling. The Clerk will report back to the Council at the next meeting.

### Pirbright Horticultural Society

Having received approval from the Parish Council, the Pirbright Horticultural Society are able to request any species of tree for planting in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and would like the Council to choose a species of tree.

**ACTION**: The Clerk will contact SWT and seek their advice on a species that will be wildlife friendly and climate resistant. The Clerk will report back to the Council at the next meeting.

### 3. PUBLIC FORUM & COMMUNICATIONS

### 3.1 To Receive any Representation from Members of the Public

3.1.1. Mr Simon Carpenter of the Pirbright Institute introduced himself to the Parish Council. Mr Carpenter has been working in parallel with Mr Michael Johnson and is an entomologist. Mr Carpenter was appointed in February 2021 and has a particular interest in virus infrastructure. Mr Carpenter confirmed that the Brooksby building was set for completion in the summer of 2022 and that further development at the Institute would be around insect breeding and on improving the look of the site as legacy issues remain.

The Chairman thanked Mr Carpenter for attending and expressed the Parish Council's wish to continue the positive dialogue which exists between the Council and the Pirbright Institute. The Chairman also wished to send the Parish Council's thanks to Mr Johnson for liaising with the Council during his time at the Institute.

#### 3.2 Recent Communications Sent & Received

3.2.1 A resident of the village contacted the Clerk to ask that the overhanging branches be cut back outside the Vicarage. The Clerk contacted the Guildford Diocese to ask that this maintenance work be carried out as soon as possible.

3.2.2 A resident of the Long Houses in Mill Lane contacted the Clerk to make the Council aware that road works carried out by the DIO (Defence Infrastructure Organisation) to the narrow roadway past their houses

has caused some flooding issues. The resident would also like to see a highways engineer look at the road, which has been widened in places during lockdown to determine whether it should now be upgraded into a two way road with kerbs or a single road way with passing places. The Clerk responded to inform the resident that the Parish Council have contacted SCC in the past where issues have arisen with adopted highways but that PPC has no influence on private land or the DIO estates. The Clerk suggested that the resident raise the issues directly with the DIO as the resident should have some rights over the road being located where they are.

3.2.3 A resident of the Gardens emailed the Clerk to request that the verge vegetation be cut back on the junction of the Gardens with Dawney Hill. The Clerk gave the resident the link to the Surrey CC website to report it. The growth was cut back by SCC on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

3.2.4 Two residents of School Lane informed the Clerk that they would be holding a second hand uniform sale in their front garden. They alerted the Council as this would be close to the Sandpits car park. The Clerk thanked the members of the FOPS (Friends of Pirbright School) for letting her know. As the sale was on private property this did not raise any conflict.

3.2.5 The locum Clerk at Normandy PC contacted the Clerk to inform her that Normandy PC would like to re-start the Flood Forum meetings. After confirmation from Council members by email exchange, the Clerk suggested that PPC would be in agreement to this and also suggested that the meetings be held virtually to increase attendance. The Clerk is awaiting further details from the Clerk at Normandy PC.

3.2.6 A resident of Law Meadows contacted the Clerk to follow up on the letter the residents had delivered to the Parish Office on 27/05/21 in regard to the flooding which had occurred on the pavement outside the development. The Clerk forwarded a copy of the email that had been sent on 28/05/21 giving the residents the link to the SCC Highways "Report a Problem" website. The resident thanked the Clerk.

3.2.7 A resident of School Lane contacted the Clerk after heavy rain to state that the culvert in the Sandpits car park was not emptying and that pot holes had formed at the entrance to the car park that needed remedial work. The Clerk contacted a local road maintenance company who inspected the culvert in the presence of Cllr Godfree. Cllr Godfree confirmed the culvert was found to be in fairly good condition and did not warrant cleaning out with industrial machinery at this time. The surface of the car park was also assessed by Cllr Godfree and it was concluded that the small amount of pot holing did not warrant remedial work at this time.

3.2.8 A resident of the village contacted the Clerk to say that the tree on the northern corner of Avenue De Cagny, adjacent to the dropped curb was obscuring the view of oncoming traffic, making crossing Avenue De Cagny on foot very difficult. The Clerk considered this a health and safety concern and some of the foliage was cut.

3.2.9 The Pirbright Junior football coach contacted the Clerk to let the Council know that organised football was being held on the Green on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021. The Clerk could not establish who the organisers were. Council members were consulted and suggested that organised groups should liaise with the Council to avoid clashes with the established clubs and overuse of the playing surface. The Council suggested that fees might be introduced in the future to offset the increased costs of maintenance to this particular area of the Green.

3.2.10 Residents of Gole Road contacted the Clerk to inform the Parish Council that some earth moving works had taken place on a plot of land between the traffic lights at the Brookwood Tunnel and the cottages. The Clerk informed the GBC Enforcement Team. The Chairman suggested that Article 4 could be used on this new plot.

3.2.11 A resident of the Ash Road contacted the Council to say that he believed that Knaphill had weight restricted its roads to 7.5 tonnes and that signage was visible to that effect on junctions. The resident questioned whether this could be applied to roads around Pirbright to restrict HGVs. The Chairman noted that Pirbright has A roads running through the village and that SCC had previously advised that weight restrictions and other speed reduction measures were not possible. The Chairman would consider raising this again with SCC Highways.

3.2.12 A resident of Chapel Lane contacted the Clerk to raise his concerns about the proposed traffic restrictions, suggesting that this would result in visitors parking in Chapel Lane. The clerk created a FAQs

	page on the PPC website answering the residents' queries and informing him that a full consultation on the proposals would be held in the Autumn.
	3.2.13 Jim Noyce Funfair contacted the Clerk for permission to return to the village the second week of August 2021 (week commencing 9 <sup>th</sup> August 2021). The Clerk sought approval for this request via email and this approval was given by all Council members.
4.	<b>HEALTH &amp; SAFETY</b> <b>4:1 To consider any Health &amp; Safety Issues arising since the last Meeting.</b> In light of Government easing of all restrictions on Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2021 the Council should call a meeting with the LPH Trustees to discuss what provisions both the Trustees and the Parish Council are comfortable with going forward. Meetings would likely remain in the LPH Clubroom to allow social distancing to off set the fact that Councillors should not wear face coverings. Cllr Fidgett recommended continuing with the existing levels of caution where possible and to receive advice from ACRE as soon as it becomes available.
5.	REPORTS (for information, unless urgent action is required)
	To Receive Updates on:
	a) Community Sports Pavilion Cllr Fidgett reported that the Pavilion Project had been invited to submit a full bid to SCC. Various documents were now required and Cllr Fidgett, along with members of the Cricket Club Board, were pulling together the required paperwork, including a full business plan and budget projections. Cllr Fidgett announced that an emergency meeting of the Parish Council will be required in the coming weeks to discuss and approve a working draft of the full bid. If successful, it is thought that construction could start as early as Autumn 2021.
	b) Lord Pirbright's Hall The LPH Secretary announced that there is a need for the Trustees to meet to discuss various projects to be undertaken at LPH and it was agreed that a meeting should be organised before the end of July. The LPH Secretary also submitted a statement outlining current hall hirings, an update on the recycling area which continues to be well used and gave advance notice of a project to extend the electrical supply to the far side of the car park.
	c) Pirbright Summer Fair Cllr Fidgett informed the council that as the country was moving towards a more open state, the Committee were continuing to plan for the Summer Fair on the revised date of Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2021. It was anticipated that there would be fewer stalls than in previous years but that a full programme of events for the arena had been schedule and over 20 stalls had so far committed to the event. Brass bands and various other events were scheduled for the day which will run from 11.00am to 5pm. Sponsorship for the event was going well and the overall budget for the Fair was positive. A decision had been taken not to close Avenue De Cagny this year as the event would be focused on the main Green. The Summer Fair Committee was looking for volunteers to help on the day.
	<ul> <li>d) To Receive a Report from the District / County Councillor (for information only) Cllr Witham began by congratulating Mr Mark Watson on his appointment as Councillor to the Parish Council. Cllr Witham went on to state that enforcement action was currently underway at the site at Stoney Castle, which has been the subject of illegal waste burning and dumping. Cllr Witham announced that SCC are preparing to establish a Community HGV Watch scheme and that he had met with the Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner to raise the lack of speeding enforcement and the need for further support for local speedwatch campaigns. Cllr Witham stated that Surrey had planted 229,739 new trees and that SCC have announced they are focusing on climate change with an ambition of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030. Linked to this is a new transport strategy for the whole of Surrey. There will also be a review into mental health provisions, particularly for young people and an initiative to improve river safety.</li> <li>Cllr Witham is still extending an invitation to local groups and organisations to apply for financial support and those who have not contacted him before will be prioritised.</li> <li>Cllr Fidgett thanked Cllr Witham for the Report and also for the grant funding which had been approved for the project to extend the electrical supply at LPH.</li> </ul>

	Cllr Fidgett asked that the Parish Council be kept informed of the progress at Stoney Castle and also requested information from Cllr Witham about possible grants to provide EV Charging points in the Parish's public car parks.
6.	FINANCE & GOVERNANCE6.1 To Approve the Receipts & Payments for June 2021 and First Quarter AccountsA list of receipts and payments and bank reconciliation for the month of June 2021 was circulated to allmembers. A spreadsheet giving a breakdown of the Parish Council's finances for the first quarter, and aspreadsheet giving a breakdown of the first quarter against the budgeted year was also circulated to allmembers.RESOLUTION: Members unanimously approved the schedules and the June 2021 Payments & ReceiptsSchedule was duly signed by Cllr Fidgett.
	6.2 To Consider whether the Council should Co-opt one new Member/Appoint any associate members This Item on the Agenda was discussed following Item 2.1 above.
	<b>6.3 To Discuss the Provision to be made for the 2022 Twinning Event (27<sup>th</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup> May 2022)</b> The Twinning Association contacted the Clerk to announce the dates for the 2022 visit. The guests will arrive on Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2022, departing on Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2022. The guests usually attend a vin d'honneur at LPH on the Friday evening however the hall is booked for other events. It was therefore suggested that the Parish Council host a Farewell event on the Sunday morning. PPC would be expected to host between 60 – 100 guests and serve Pimms, soft drinks, crisps, nuts etc. PPC would also be expected to cover the cost of the wine at the vin d'honneur on the Friday evening. <b>RESOLUTION:</b> The Council agreed to contribute the sum total of £200 to the Twinning Event in 2022 and the PPC budget to be set later in the year for the financial year 2022/2023 should reflect this.
	<ul> <li>6.4 To Approve drainage works, playground resurfacing and seating set out in the S106 Application GBC approved the application submitted by the Clerk. The works consist of the following: <ol> <li>Drainage to the football pitches. (<i>A comparative quote is not necessary for the drainage works under PPC Financial Regulations, Sections 14, 39(d)</i>)</li> <li>Resurfacing around 3 items of play equipment. (Comparative quotes attached)</li> <li>Seating for the Recreational area. (Trustee approval required) (Comparative quotes attached)</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
	<b>RESOLUTION:</b> These works were unanimously approved by all members present and the Clerk should now schedule the drainage and playground resurfacing. The Clerk, on approval by the LPH Trustees, should now procure the seating for the recreation ground.
	<b>6.5 To Approve the Blind Lane, Grant Aid Project works</b> Complaints were received by the Parish Council from residents, as to the condition of Footpath No. 397 (Blind Lane). Cllr Swinney raised the improvements as a grant aid project, which was approved by GBC. <b>RESOLUTION</b> : The surface has been improved by the laying of scalpings and subject to further dialogue as to the extent of the works, the Parish Council will take a view to make sure the works meet the brief of the Grant Aid Application.
	<b>6.6 To Approve and Adopt the updated Statement of Internal Control</b> This policy is required to be updated annually, following the Internal Audit. Directions were received from Maxwell & Co in regards to improvements to the existing payment controls. These suggested methods of working have been adopted and amendments made to the PPC Policy to reflect these additions. These amendments were discussed and approved. <i>RESOLUTION: The updated PPC Statement of Internal Control was unanimously approved and should be adopted with immediate effect.</i>
	6.7 To Approve and Adopt the updated PPC Complaints Policy The current PPC Complaints Policy was due to be updated. This has been replaced with the policy document recommended by SALC. <b>RESOLUTION</b> : The Policy was unanimously adopted by all members with the proviso that the "As an employee" section is clarified with SALC before adoption.

#### 7. PLANNING

# 7.1 To Review applications received and agree comments under Delegated Powers unless Members request consideration of any Item

21/P/01099 (The Cricketers, The Green, GU24 0JT Creation of additional parking spaces and resurfacing of existing car park with introduction of new kerb around the Horse Chestnut to the north of the site (retrospective application)

**PPC Response:** Whilst supportive of the pubs within the Parish in what are very difficult times, Pirbright Parish Council feel we must object and raise concern at the retrospective nature of the application given the protected nature of the Horse Chestnut tree which is an important feature within the Pirbright Conservation Area and the lack of apparent consideration to the previously approved servicing arrangements for the pub shown in this application. The Arboricultural report submitted by Maydencroft as part of the application acknowledges the high likelihood of damage to the root system and likelihood of an adverse impact on its long term health. This is very regrettable. Its recommendation that the area around the tree is given over to mulch and decompaction to try to redress some of the damage caused does not appear to be shown on the plans. The rationale for the works in the design statement is stated to be the creation of additional car parking spaces and disabled parking. However, the approved car park and general layout plan 1833 010H under permission 18/P/01219 shows 23 car parking spaces including a disabled space and a loading and unloading space for deliveries and refuse. This is controlled by condition 4. In contrast, the layout proposed only includes the same number of spaces, does not show any disabled parking and shows no loading or servicing area for refuse and deliveries. Several of the spaces in the south eastern corner where servicing was located conflict with one another. It is not clear how the Proposed Plan relates to neighbouring property and it appears the spaces west of the tree reduce the available access width, increasing the potential conflict with pedestrians and cars accessing the adjacent shop and terrace. Servicing location and timing is a matter that has caused significant local concern with night and early morning collections from the adjacent lane and the Parish Council are concerned to ensure that all servicing continues to be from the delivery zone within the car park at the front of the property and within daytime hours, to minimise disturbance to nearby residential properties. The 'Existing Site Plan' is also incorrect. It should be based on the consented layout as above. It incorrectly shows the previous extent of the grassed area flanking the Horse Chestnut Tree and hence understates the extent of loss compared to the 'As Proposed' Plan. We further note the proposed layout shows additional sheds and an external bar to the rear, which were not part of the application and also shows the bin store to be relocated adjacent to the southern boundary when actually its approved location is adjacent to the pub itself, to protect residential amenities.

21/T/00176 (Pirbright Tennis Association, School Lane, GU24. T1 Oak Fell, not necessary to replant due to surrounding heavily wooded area.)

PPC Response: Pirbright Parish Council would defer to the views of the tree officer and raise no objection

**21/P/01172 (7 Pirbright Terrace, Pirbright, GU24 0LR** Two storey front extension, single storey rear extension, conversion of loft into bedroom and WC together with a single storey garage to rear garden following demolition of a small front and rear porch.)

**PPC Response:** PPC raised no objection subject to conditions that withdraw PD rights and a condition that there be no rooflights or dormers in the front elevation. All materials to match existing. No working on Sundays and bank holidays. Although this is something the conservation officer may wish to consider, it is perhaps regrettable that the character of Pirbright Terrace has been gradually eroded with a number of frontage extensions and it is important therefore, that the extensions proposed to the properties are proportionate and subservient to the original dwellings in order to maintain and enhance their contribution to the conservation area. The front extension perhaps could be set slightly behind the building line of the main façade to reflect its original form.

21/P/01367 (Norfolk House, Fox Corner, GU3 3PP Ground floor single storey rear extension. New Porch to the front façade.)

PPC Response: Pirbright Parish Council will submit a suitable response in due course.

21/P/01371 (Vines Farm, Mill Lane, GU24 0BS *Certificate of Lawfulness* for an existing development to establish whether a two storey front extension commenced in March 2015 is lawful.)

**PPC Response:** Following discussions by Council members, it was agreed that PPC would raise an objection on the basis that the interpretation of the relevant works and regulations did not appear to accord with a normal application.

	It was suggested that further legal advice was needed to form a view on the application and that PPC would urge GBC to give the application its closest scrutiny. Any normal application for such a scale of development would be clearly objectionable in Green Belt policy terms and could not be within the intent of the regulations.
8.	HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT 8.1 To Receive and Update on Tree Management
	Cllr Godfree stated that no major tree works were required at this time. Cllr Godfree agreed to walk the Parish with Cllr Fidgett in August to agree areas of work to be prioritised and undertaken in the Autumn.
	<ul> <li>8.2 To Discuss the Management of the Green Cllr Godfree informed the Council that he, and Cllr Fidgett would be meeting a representative of the Football/Cricket Clubs with a view to maintenance of the sports pitches in 2022. Cllr Godfree will circulate a meeting note to members in due course. Cllr Fidgett informed the Council that a constructive meeting with SWT had taken place (Meeting Note circulated to members prior to the Parish Meeting) and that ideas had been suggested for PPC as landowners. This included managing land in a way that benefitted wildlife; leaving certain areas unmown to encourage biodiversity, enlisting help from Piribright School and Knowl Hill School to incorporate portions of land, eg the woodland edge, to be part of various wildlife initiatives. The building of hedgehog, reptile and insect houses by school children, were possibilities. It was suggested that PPC, with assistance from SWT might build relevant contacts with each school to encourage involvement. PPC is now also hosting a page on its website, devoted to SWT advice. ACTION: PPC, with support from SWT, to forge relevant contacts at Pirbright and Knowl Hill Schools with a view to starting wildlife projects next year. PPC to liaise with the grass contractor to look at leaving designated areas unmown next year.</li></ul>
	8.3 To Receive an Update on the Parking and Traffic issues ClIr Fidgett suggested that the SCC's HGV Watch scheme should take issue with HGVs ignoring restrictions in the Parish. ClIr Witham explained that SCC Highways had previously considered the A roads around the Parish were deemed suitable for HGVs but that the HGV Watch Scheme will want to identify routes with weight restrictions and where that is being ignored the vehicles will be reported. That information will be fed back to police and will help form a view as to where weight restrictions might be added. However, it should be noted that even where weight restrictions exist, HGVs are permitted to use that road if the premises it is delivery to, are on that road. CIIr Fidgett stated that HGVs are an increasing issue within the parish and that emphasis should be placed on them obeying restrictions and being considerate to other road users. CIIr Godfree stated that he will follow up on the loan of the VAS unit and also informed the Council that a CSW session stationed just past the chicane on School Lane at 7am on 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2021 had yielded over 40 offenders. ClIr Godfree stated he would repeat the session again at this hour to build a picture for Surrey Highways and Surrey Police.
9.	NEWSLETTER To Confirm Items for the July 2021 Issue of the PeriNews It was agreed that the August Issue of the PeriNews should recognise the contribution made by Jon Hallam over the last six years he has served the Parish Council. The article should congratulate and welcome Cllr Mark Watson to the Parish Council and should also inform residents of the various capital projects to be undertaken over the next few months throughout the village.
10.	CHAIRMAN'S CONCLUSION To Receive Chairman's Notices & Members' Questions There were no further questions.

The meeting ended at 21.55

Signed.....

Date.....