

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at The Parish Meeting Room on Tuesday 6th September 2022 at 7.30pm

The meeting was held in the Parish Meeting Room, adjacent to Lord Pirbright's Hall, with details available for members of the public in advance.

Those present:	
Councillors	Officers of the Council
Cllr Fidgett (Chair)	Mrs Helen Myers (Clerk/RFO)
	Also in Attendance
Cllr Godfree	Mr Henry Cresser (Shadow Councillor)
Cllr Watson	Three members of the Public representing Gole Road
1. FORMALITIES	
1.1 To Receive Members' Apologies for Abse	ence
	ng. Apologies were received from Cllr Woollett, Cllr Sands,
Mr Graeme Symon and Cllr Witham who were a	
1.2 To Receive Members' Declarations of Inte	erest on any Agenda Item below
	Planning Application 21/P/01820 being a neighbour. Cllr
Watson would not take part in any discussions r	
2. MINUTES	
2.1 To Approve the Minutes of the previous B	Extraordinary Meeting (19/08/2022)
RESOLUTION: The Minutes of the previous ext	traordinary meeting (19/08/2022) were approved and signed
by the Chair.	
At this point in the meeting, the Chair moved to	hear the members of the public who were present to voice
	22/P/01277 & 22/P/01278 (Gole Road). It was agreed by
	ommencing with Application Numbers: 22/P/01277 &
22/P/01278 (Gole Road) at this point in the mee	
	5
2.2 To Receive the Clerk's Report on Matters	Arising
LGS Pay Awards for Clerks – retrospective f	or the Year 2022 – 2023
SALC have informed all Parish Councils that the	ey are aware that some councils are considering making an
up-front payment in lieu of the LGS ('Green Boo	ok') pay award being finalised. SALC state that making local
	he NJC agreement on pay is agreed presents risks under
section 145B of the Trade Union and Labour Re	
	· · · ·
VAT - 1 st Quarter refund	
PPC has received its First Quarter VAT refund ha	aving moved to a quarterly refund system. When the Pavilion
build begins, the Council may move to monthly	
Civility & Respect – SLCC & NALC have aske	d that all parish councils sign up to the charter. A paper
is attached. This forms item 6.3 of the Agend	
	sed by SLCC and NALC. This is a new Dignity at Work policy
	y. The pledge is designed to help define the right behaviours
within parish councils.	
RESOLUTION: It was agreed that PPC support	ed this pledge.

SAAA Central External Auditor Appointment Arrangements

The SAAA is the sector led limited company "specified person" to procure and appoint external auditors to perform the functions set out in the relevant legislation and manage the ongoing audit contracts. The SAAA wrote to Clerks advising them that there is now an option to "opt out" and appoint their own external auditors. Should PCs wish to opt out this must be done in writing to the SAAA by 28th October 2022. If PCs wish to remain in the system, there is no action to be taken.

RESOLUTION: Members agreed it would be prudent to remain within the SAAA allocation.

2021/2022 Annual Governance & Accountability Return

Section 3 of the AGAR as received from PKF Littlejohn LLP on 1st August 2022. PPC's accounts were externally audited without further comment. The fee for this external audit is £480 incl VAT. **RESOLUTION:** The Clerk was congratulated for producing another accurate AGAR.

Boundary Dispute & Fly Tipping at the rear of No 9 Rapleys Field

As per the action at the Parish Meeting on 19th July 2022, the Clerk drafted a letter to the owners of a property in Rapleys Field requesting that the rear fence be reinstated to its original position. The Clerk subsequently received confirmation that the original boundary had been reinstated.

Playground Safety Inspection

The annual safety inspection was carried out by British Engineering Services on Monday 8th August 2022. The Clerk was present with the engineer. The playground passed the safety inspection.

ACTION: Following expert Tax and VAT advice from Mulberry & Co, the Clerk was requested to put in writing to BHIB the statement that PPC is Sole Managing Trustee for LPH and therefore although the equipment is on LPH land, the two bodies are so closely related as to be indistinguishable and therefore PPC will remain the insurer and maintainer of the play equipment, particularly in regards to the Public Liability insurance and their risks contained therein.

Grant Aid suggestions - Item 6.4 on the Agenda

Grant Aid submissions are now open for the period April 2024 – March 2026. The Clerk would suggest resurfacing the area around the Climbing Frame. The quote for works is £4,706.86 excluding VAT.

PPC Part Time Groundsman

The Part Time Groundsman gave notice to resign. The previous Part Time Groundsman was contacted and agreed to return to take on this role with immediate effect.

S106 Grant

The final portion of the S106 fund has been received by the parish council via GBC. These monies were spent on a new 8 seater picnic table which was installed on a concrete plinth in the recreation ground in the Spring of 2022.

3. PUBLIC FORUM & COMMUNICATIONS

3.1 To Receive any Representation from Members of the Public

The members of the public wished to discuss the Gole Road Planning Applications and this was dealt with under Item 7.

3.2 To Consider Recent Communications Sent & Received

3.2.1 The RSPCA were called to the pond by a member of the public with a concern about a Canada goose with a limp. The Clerk met officers on site and the goose was able to eat and fly. The Clerk did direct the officers to the Canada goose with the deformed beak. This goose is slightly underweight. Officers will monitor this goose. The only option open to the RSPA is to euthanise this species of goose.

3.2.2 James Noyce Fun Fair requested to visit Pirbright for the weekend of the 10th & 11th September 2022 with a Junior Fun Fair. The Clerk forwarded the Hiring of the Green Agreement which was completed and returned and the appropriate fee and security deposit were received. A notice was placed in the September PeriNews advertising the event.

ACTION: Ground conditions will be monitored in the days running up to the event.

3.2.3 Farnborough Noise made all Parish Councils aware that on Saturday 30th July at 8am three aircraft circled for some time before the airport opened at 8am. Farnborough Noise are calling for a response to this

emissions violation. Farnborough Noise are also calling for a Noise sub committee to be set up to record these incidents.

3.2.4 The Groundsman alerted the Clerk that the hose anti-splash attachment had been stolen from the outside tap. A new one will be sourced and stored securely from now on.

3.2.5 Vapery Gardening has repaired areas of the Green where dips had appeared as per the Parish Council's Purchase Order. These areas have also been re-seeded.

3.2.6 In the extremely dry weather, the Clerk employed the Groundsman to perform extra duties in regards to watering the very young, newly planted trees.

3.2.7 The Flood & Coastal Management Officer responsible for the Thames Area contacted the Clerk to inform her that new Telemetry equipment has been installed in Pirbright on the Hodge Brook to monitor flooding. A new system of alerting residents to impending flooding is due to be implemented and the Officer will attend the next Flood Forum Meeting in December to update the attendees.

3.2.8 SCC informed PPC of a new Surrey Flood Action Group meeting taking place at the SCC offices in Guildford on 14 September 2022. This information was forwarded to Flood Forum Councillors.

3.2.9 Over 40 objections were filed objecting to 22/P/00687 Lancaster Volvo Garage, Guildford Road, GU24 0LW Erection of workshop / MOT facility and new valet following demolition of existing workshop / MOT facility and valet structures. Refurbishment of existing showroom, new facade and associated external works. PPC objected to this application on 19th May 2022. Cllr Mark Watson attended the Planning Committee Meeting on behalf of PPC. The application was approved subject to conditions put forward by PPC in regards to several of the concerns raised by residents.

3.2.10 The grass verge at the Fox Corner roundabout was missed again this summer. The Clerk contacted GBC who mowed the verge in August.

3.2.11 The Pond level dropped to a very low level at the end of July. The PC instructed the Clerk to employ DS Fisheries to remove the fish at a cost of £350 plus VAT on 22nd August 2022.

In total the following 222 fish were removed. DS Fisheries discovered that there is around 30cms of silt at the bottom of the pond. They have provided a quote to drain the pond, excavate and remove the silt from the centre of the pond and use this silt to build the banks back up, which have been undercut over time. They would install a Nicospan membrane to retain the silt in place around the banks. The quote for this excavation work would be in the region of £14,400.

ACTION: Council members resolved to submit an application for Grant Aid for the Pond works.

3.2.12 An enforcement complaint against the importation of rubbish and soil had been lodged against the owners of the Land adjacent to The Willows, Gole Road. GBC responded to state that they had not found there to be breach of conditions.

3.2.13 St Michael & All Angels have contacted the PC to begin planning for a Summer Fair in 2023. The Church have suggested Saturday 17th June and are looking for support and possible volunteers from the PC. **RESOLUTION**: Unfortunately with an election year approaching, members were unable to commit to roles on the 2023 Fair Committee.

3.2.14 Cllr Godfree reported that the gulley and drain appeared to be blocked with debris. The Contractor lifted the manhole to find the soakaway near full. It was last pumped out in February 2019. Other properties responsible for maintenance of the soakaway are SWT, Bexon and The Old School House. **ACTION:** Cllr Godfree will meet with the contractor to gauge the current level of silt and construction options.

Cllr Godfree will also ask the contractor to guote for maintenance work.

3.2.15 The Clerk was informed by the GBC Environment. Transport & Infrastructure Team that Temporary Traffic lights would be in place, in stages, along School Lane from 30th August 2022 for three months. This is to perform pavement reconstruction works.

	3.2.16 The Clerk was advised that the plan for new Traffic Calming measures in School Lane is now at the consultation phase. Cllr Godfree stated that a consultation by SCC is open on the road table element of the traffic calming and that this should be advertised on the PPC website. ACTION: The Clerk will put details of the consultation on the website.
	3.2.17 A resident of the village has written to Surrey Highways requesting that they improve the pavement surface around the location of Swallow Pond.
	3.2.18 Temporary traffic lights were erected at the Pirbright Arch by Affinity Water. However, no provision was made for Gole Road. This was rectified.
	3.2.19 A local business owner contacted the council in regards to the parking restrictions in the village. The business owner is looking for parking in the village for 3 to 4 members of staff. The business owner has approached PPC to rent parking spaces. However, PPC felt that they did not have spaces available that would not otherwise compromise lettings at LPH.
	3.2.20 Cllr Witham forwarded his monthly update to the Parish Council. The Clerk circulated this newsletter to all members.
	3.2.21 Shere PC have written to the Chief Executive of Guildford & Waverley BCs to highlight the difficulties experienced by their residents when dealing with GBC. Several other PCs have put their names to this letter. Shere states that statutory regulations are not being met in many departments including planning, housing and benefits. They also state that residents cannot get through on the telephone.
	3.2.22 The Parish landline and broadband contract has been renewed with British Telecom for a further 24 months. The BT Anywhere package comes with Halo 3, landline, wifi extenders and fibre broadband which gives good wifi coverage to the Parish Meeting Room, the Committee Room, the Club Room and the main Hall.
4.	HEALTH & SAFETY 4:1 To consider any Health & Safety Issues arising since the last extraordinary Meeting (19/08/2022) There were no new Health & Safety Issues to report.
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5.	 4:1 To consider any Health & Safety Issues arising since the last extraordinary Meeting (19/08/2022) There were no new Health & Safety Issues to report. REPORTS (for information, unless urgent action is required) To Receive Updates on: a) Community Sports Pavilion Clir Fidgett stated that the Bat Survey had been undertaken. One bat roost was observed in the cladding however, the license application can be progressed as a result and issued by Natural England to start demolition as mitigation measures can be put in place. This was likely end September/early October. A Management Plan will be submitted to GBC to discharge conditions which require PPC to put up bird boxes, bat boxes, manage the green east of Avenue De Cagny and install woodland refuges prior to the erection of the super structure. Cllr Fidgett will be meeting with the contractor to discuss timetables in the coming weeks. Residents were continuing to fundraise and a challenge had been set for the cricket and football clubs to raise the final sums. b) Lord Pirbright's Hall Cllr Fidgett stated in the absence f the LPH Chairman that following the meeting with Mulberry & Co, PPC's employment procedures for LPH staff need to be amended so that LPH becomes the employer of LPH staff. Employment contracts will be reissued. Cllr Fidgett also informed members that the Clerk and Secretary had agreed that the Green Hut will become a rentable space and that the LPH Secretary and Parish Clerk will use the LPH committee room as offices from October. FINANCE & GOVERNANCE 6.1 To Discuss & Approve the Receipts & Payments for July 2022 and August 2022

	6.2 To Discuss & Acknowledge receipt of the External Auditors Comments on the 2021/22 AGAR The report from PKF Littlejohn was circulated to members prior to the meeting and discussed. RESOLUTION: Members acknowledged the positive report and successful 2021-22 AGAR submission.
	 6.3 To Discuss & Approve the NALC Civility & Respect Pledge The NALC document was circulated to members prior to the meeting. Members discussed the requirements of the Pledge and consider that PPC is already fulfilling the requirements outlined. ACTION: The Council requested that the Clerk put together a Paper detailing the Training courses that all new Councillors should attend on joining the Parish Council. This document, once approved, will be uploaded onto the PPC website to highlight the training required to be undertaken by new Councillors. The Parish Council could then sign up to the pledge.
	6.4 To Discuss & Agree Grant Aid Projects to be submitted to GBC (Grant Aid 2023/24) Members resolved to submit applications for Grant Aid for further playground resurfacing and pond re- landscaping. Members also requested an application for Grant Aid to provide new blinds and external doors to LPH. ACTION: The Clerk should submit applications for these three projects.
	ACTION: The Clerk should submit applications for these three projects.
	 6.5 To Discuss & Approve the re-priced Playground Resurfacing (Grant Aid 22/23) Resurfacing the area under the baby swings and around the mini roundabout had been agreed through the Grant Aid application for 2022/2023. Prices have increased since the application was submitted and the Clerk sought approval from the Council for the increased quote. RESOLUTION: Members agreed the revised quote and the resurfacing should be installed in the Autumn of 2022 with acknowledgement to GBC for Grant Aid.
7.	PLANNING
	7.1 To Review applications received
	Three Gole Road residents, wished to address the Council in regards to the two new applications which have been filed with GBC; 22/P/01277 and 22/P/01278. They wished to ask whether all previous objectors would be required to re-submit objections to these new applications, having previously done so in the past and stated that they felt the new applications were so similar to previous applications that they should not be considered by GBC. One resident felt that the siting of the proposed stabling was far too close to the adjacent property, that the landowner was wasting GBC's time and that drains which had been installed to the existing stabling had not been done so properly.
	Cllr Fidgett stated that comments would need to be resubmitted by residents. Cllr Fidgett also stated that since he and Cllr Godfree had spoken to landowner, the enforcement appeal had been lost and that buildings and enforcement items would now have to be removed from the site and that there is no further right to appeal. The latest application (22/P/01277) is looking to build the same stables on a different location within the site. The application states that the welfare facilities will not be replaced. Cllr Fidgett suggested that the proposed new location is very close to the boundary closest to the cottages, running north/south. There is limited evidence of the grazing of horses in the past that would justify the proposal. Council members agreed that points of objection would be in regards to the impact on openness of the greenbelt and the impact on the amenities of the neighbours, with the boundary being only meters from the adjacent property. Cllr Fidgett felt that given the history of this site with horses not having been grazed here historically, and given the fact that this application is partly retrospective that the application should be refused by GBC. Access onto the site would be a concern and the sewer connection has not been not referred to within the application. The Parish Council would expect the enforcement notice to be complied with in full and would expect the removal of the foul and fresh water drainage which had been installed on site.
	22/P/01277 (Land adjacent to The Willows, Goal Farm, Gole Road, Pirbright, GU24 0PZ Change of use of land for the grazing of horses. Erection of a stable block and retention of associated drainage works.) PPC's Response : Pirbright Parish Council raise OBJECTION to the application in the strongest possible terms. The proposals are for the erection of stables and associated infrastructure that would have an adverse impact on the character and openness of the Green Belt. It would extend the envelope of build development in a sensitive location where a recent appear found that the erection of new buildings would have a harmful impact on the openness of the Green Belt, contrary to national and local planning policies. In addition, the

proposed stables are too close to the neighbouring residential properties and are likely to give rise to adverse amenity impacts including noise, odour, flies and dust arising from the keeping of horses in close proximity to residential properties and gardens and the activities associated with the stables. The applicant seeks also to retain drainage installed as part of the previous appeal and which is included within the terms of the enforcement notice which has been upheld. This included a foul sewer connection that is understood to have been run across the field roughly north-south from the present welfare block, which should also be removed and the ground reinstated. The existing timber enclosure and gates at the entrance to the site also have an unacceptable impact on the openness of the Green Belt and this, together with the propoed stables have an impact on what was a rural landscape that should be protected.

The applicant has shown scant regard for planning regulations and the Green Belt and the actions to date raise serious concern over the development that has already taken place at this site without planning permission.

As such, they are not appropriate development under the terms of the NPPF. Policy P2 of the GBC Local Plan which seeks to protect the Green Belt from inappropriate development in accordance with the NPPF. Inappropriate development will not be permitted unless very special circumstances can be demonstrated. Very special circumstances will not exist unless the potential harm to the Green Belt by reason of inappropriateness, and any other harm is clearly outweighed by other considerations. In this case, the erection of stables on the site will have a clear and detrimental impact on the openness of the Green Belt both in principle and in its visible impact in increasing built form within the open countryside. The development, together with the largescale tree clearance that preceded it will have a detrimental impact on the landscape. Furthermore, under G1 (3) of the GBC Local Plan, the stables will contravene the protection of amenities enjoyed by the property adjacent. The applicant is seeking to site the stables within 1 meter of the boundary with this neighbour. This would be incredibly unpleasant for this resident and would constitute unneighbourly development in terms of privacy, noise, pollution, dust and smell, particularly in the hotter months of the year, presenting an adverse impact on the amenities and garden of this immediate neighbour. Pirbright Parish Council would urge refusal of the application and strong enforcement action to seek the return of the site to its previously undeveloped condition.

22/P/01278 (Land adjacent to The Willows, Goal Farm, Gole Road, Pirbright, GU24 0PZ Certificate of lawfulness for proposed use to establish the walls, an entrance gate and piers.) **PPC's Response**: No response required as this application was refused by GBC on 31st August 2022.

21/P/01820 (Sunnyside, Rowe Lane, GU24 0LX Front entrance gates and new fencing (retrospective application)). Members agreed to resubmit their objection to this application.

PPC's Response: PPC re-submitted their earlier response of: PPC Object: While PPC seek to balance the freedom of residents to undertake development consistent with the environment of the parish, in this case PPC object to the erection of close boarded timber fencing across the frontage of the property and the corresponding gates, which are both of a height and style that is incompatible with the rural location and nature of Rowe Lane. This is an important and well used pedestrian route linking Fox Corner and Pirbright villages and is well outside the settlement boundaries. The introduction of such a suburban feature has a clear and adverse impact on the openness of the Green Belt and is a clearly visible encroachment of an urban form in a countryside location. The presence of the fence has caused local concern for the last year prior to this retrospective application. Further, the erection of boundary gates and fences of such height and form reduces natural surveillance of Rowe Lane and breaks the connection between people, homes and the wider community. In this location, boundaries are characterised by native hedges and lower rural estate or post and rail fencing and the trend to the introduction of high solid timber fencing is a modern addition that is eroding the traditional character of the village. While outside the conservation area, the importance of turn of the century houses of this nature and their relationship with the countryside context is important in the local character of Pirbright. The subsequent planting of the yew hedging to mask the fence appears a belated response to hide the structure, but its presence and that of the gates is clearly still felt. The fencing is plainly not justified by reference to noise from the road which are issues that all houses within the area are subject to. Similarly, a fence of an appropriate height would be sufficient to contain pets and children. Deer are an issue for gardeners in any rural area but do not necessitate all properties being sealed off behind a perimeter wall of 2m high fencing. Rowe Lane is a quiet, rural lane of particular character and the harm arising from this and the precedent it would set are wholly unwelcome and contrary to Green Belt and design policy. It has an established character that is harmed by the introduction of high boundary fencing of this nature. It is clearly at odds with policies P2 Green Belt, D1 and G5 which require new development to protect the openness of the Green Belt and protect the countryside from encroachment, and to respect the character and appearance of each location and not impose design solutions that are out of keeping and harmful to the street scene. While the applicant's agent claims precedent from other fences in the area (though not on Rowe

	Lane) those that are referenced are the exception and not the rule and do not justify further harm to the character and appearance of the area. While the applicant's agent claims precedent from other fences in the area (though not on Rowe Lane) those that are referenced are the exception and not the rule and do not justify further harm to the character and appearance of the area
	22/P/01223 (Reculver, Chapel Lane, Pirbright, Woking, GU24 0JZ Replacement of existing front porch, erection of a single storey side extension and erection of a part single / two storey rear extension following the demolition of the rear conservatory and side storage. Existing facade to be renovated with a proposed white render finish.)
	PPC's Response : PPC raises no objection. This application appears to raise no issues in relation to Green Belt or neighbour amenity. We would request conditions restricting working on Sundays and bank holidays.
	22/T/00188 (Mill Croft, Mill Lane, Pirbright, GU24 0BN Fell five sycamore trees surrounding paddock in which horses are kept due to toxicity of seeds and seedlings, replant five native trees in garden two blackthorn, two crab-apple one hawthorn (Pirbright Conservation Area).) PPC's Response : PPC would defer to the Tree Officer.
8.	HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT
	8.1 To Receive and Update on Tree Management Cllr Godfree stated that he and the Clerk had visually inspected the remaining trees listed on the Tree Survey as requiring action. These trees had been categorised by location and quotes had been sought to complete the works in the financial year 2022/23. Two anonymous quotes were submitted to the Council. Quote A £7,155.00, Quote B £5,955.00.
	Cllr Godfree also stated that he had spoken to the arboreal specialists who had produced the Parish Tree Survey in 2020 with a view to conducting a further survey in this financial year. The previous surveyor had been unable to survey some trees due to undergrowth and epicormics growth. The cost of a further survey would be approximately £2,250.00. Members discussed whether this was required and agreed that it was prudent to resurvey in the Spring of 2023, within the current financial year. RESOLUTION: Members selected the cheaper of the two quotes and the Clerk will arrange for a Purchase Order to be issued and for tree works to commence in the Autumn of 2022. Members also resolved that the Clerk should issue a Purchase Order to Saplings Arboriculture Ltd to resurvey the trees which fall within the responsibility of the Parish Council at an estimated cost of £2,250.00.
	8.2 To Receive an Update on the Management of the Green Vapery Gardening had been employed to fill holes on the main Green and these had also been seeded. This was at an agreed cost of £335.00.
	8.3 To Receive an Update on any Parking and Traffic issues The parking restrictions consultation has been issued by GBC. Cllr Fidgett stated that he had been contacted by a local business who wished to comment on the restrictions. Members felt that double yellow lines were not needed on junctions or outside the Butchers shop. Members also felt that more parking should be given along Avenue D'Cagny.
	Cllr Godfree stated that a consultation had been opened by SCC on the speed ramp element of the School Lane traffic calming measures. This consultation ends on 23 rd September 2022. Cllr Godfree drew attention to the proposal to raise the curb outside Causeway Farmhouse and a proposed build out of the pavement at this location.
	Cllr Godfree further stated that the speed monitoring on the Guildford Road where it meets the 30mph speed limit at Swallow Pond did not meet the threshold to go onto the SCC Running List. Cllr Godfree will, however, discuss the findings with Cllr Witham to see if there is anything else that can be done. ACTION: PPC will comment on the parking restrictions consultation to request that yellow lines should not be placed outside the Butchers shop, on junctions and that more parking should be given along Avenue D'Cagny. The Clerk should upload the School Lane consultation to the PPC website, and inform local residents of the consultation.
9.	NEWSLETTER
	To Confirm Items for the October 2022 Issue of the PeriNews It was agreed that the October Issue of the PeriNews would contain articles on the forthcoming tree works around the village, a pavilion undate and details of the Guildford food bank with a link to the Just Giving page

It was agreed that the October Issue of the PeriNews would contain articles on the forthcoming tree works around the village, a pavilion update and details of the Guildford food bank with a link to the Just Giving page.

10.	CHAIRMAN'S CONCLUSION
	To Receive Chairman's Notices & Members' Questions
	There were no Notices or Members' questions.

The meeting ended at 9.45pm.

Signed.....

Date.....