



Pirbright Parish Council

127TH ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 15th April 2024 at 7.30pm in Lord Pirbright's Hall

In attendance were members of the Parish Council, the Clerk, LPH Trustees, one shadow Councillor, the LPH Secretary and the LPH Caretaker. Also in attendance were the ward member for SCC; Cllr Keith Witham and the ward member for GBC; Cllr David Bilbe. 32 members of the public were in attendance following an Exhibition of local Clubs & Societies.

1-2.	Opening Welcome & Apologies for Absence The Chair of Pirbright Parish Council, Cllr Steven Fidgett introduced himself and members of the Parish Council to the electorate and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Jonathan Lord MP who was attending Parliament and Cllr Mark Watson who was travelling.
3.	Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting (24/04/2023) The Previous Minutes were circulated to all members of the Parish Council prior to the meeting. These were approved and signed by the Chair, Cllr Steven Fidgett.
4.	Report from the Pirbright Parish Chair, Cllr Steven Fidgett Cllr Fidgett gave an overview of the projects and responsibilities which had been carried out by the Parish Council in the year ended 31/03/24. Cllr Fidgett highlighted the objectives which were achieved, explained how the Precept of £77,361, along with additional grants of £4,350 had been spent and went on to highlight key actions of the coming year. Cllr Fidgett expressed his thanks to fellow Councillors who gave their time voluntarily. Cllr Fidgett thanked the Parish Clerk, the LPH Secretary and the PPC and LPH staff for all their work over the previous year. PPC bade farewell to Max Godfree who left during the year and thanked him for his years of service, particularly in regard to the Pirbright and Fox Corner Speedwatch groups who are now in need of a new coordinator to restart the teams. Cllr Fidgett also welcomed Shadow Councillor Keith Rowe who has joined the panel and explained that the Council are always looking to recruit new members as part of the Parish Council's engagement programme. On specific projects, Cllr Fidgett highlighted the completion of the Community Sports Pavilion in the summer of 2023 which replaced the old Cricket Pavilion which was no longer fit for purpose. The new facility will be an asset for the whole parish and with the agreement of the Charities Commission, the Pavilion will be run by Lord Pirbright's Hall and Recreation Ground Charity in a similar way to Lord Pirbright's Hall. Cllr Fidgett closed by inviting members of the public to get involved with their community and consider getting involved with the Parish Council which exists to create a better environment for everyone. Cllr Fidgett also noted that the next community litter pick would take place on 21/04/2024 at 2pm from Lord Pirbright's Hall.
5.	Report on Lord Pirbright's Hall Cllr David Woollett, Chair of the LPH Trustees opened by thanking the various clubs and societies for attending this evening's event in the Hall to promote community membership and hoped that the evening had proved a success for them. Cllr Woollett explained that the primary aim of the Trustees was to continue to provide a community building, available for use by the local community and other hirers at a competitive price. Cllr Woollett acknowledged that there had been challenges throughout the year and, like many others, the increases in energy prices has put pressure on costs. Despite this, the Trustees had continued to invest in the hall and following a request at this meeting last year, a defibrillator had been installed and significant work on updating the electrics had taken place. Plans for the upcoming year include the refit of the kitchen to create a more modern facility and the replacement of the key entry doors. Longer term the Trustees are focused on a program of maintenance to keep the hall functioning and are considering the installation of solar panels on the flat roof to both promote energy efficiency and reduce energy bills.



	<p>Cllr Woollett closed his statement by thanking the LPH Secretary for her efforts over the last year and welcoming Dan Ward as the new LPH Caretaker.</p>
6.	<p>Open Forum: Parishioners Questions Topics raised included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A parishioner wished to question whether PPC was charging the parish church for the use of the village hall and village green for the Summer Fair. Cllr Fidgett confirmed that as the Parish Council were not involved in the 2024 Summer Fair that the Parish Council should at least cover its costs for both facilities. The Parish Council had reduced its usual fee by 80% and that this amount had been agreed with the Church Council.2. The Chair of the Pirbright Tennis Club wished to make the Assembly aware that there was also a defibrillator at the Tennis Club and suggested that the Trustees organise community demonstrations of the equipment. Cllr Woollett thanked the Chair for this recommendation and although the equipment should be self explanatory he agreed that a community demonstration might give members of the public more confidence to use the equipment. Cllr Austin also reminded the Assembly that there was a defibrillator at his property "Wayback" which was adjacent to the Cricketers Pub and that this defibrillator was also open 24/7 for public use.3. A member of the parish asked if the Parish Council were still considering a commercial café to be run inside the new Community Pavilion. Cllr Fidgett stated that the Parish Council and the Trustees of LPH were still open minded about this option and would keep the door open to the right user using the space for a café, running alongside the sports clubs.4. A resident wished to raise the uneven stretch of footpath between the doctor's surgery and Church Lane with Cllr Witham. The resident felt this was particularly important for those with restricted mobility. Cllr Witham responded that this had been reported to Surrey Highways, but that he would escalate the issue.5. A resident wished to highlight the poor state of the verge running along Avenue D'Cagny. Cllr Fidgett explained that the verges are the responsibility of Surrey Highways but that the Parish Council would raise this with the Highways Officer to see how the verges can be reinstated.6. A resident of the village wished to raise the condition of the recreation area which the resident felt could be improved. Cllr Fidgett explained that the area was sadly a target for vandalism and had become somewhat neglected. The Parish Council would welcome the residents' thoughts and would be in contact with them following the meeting.7. Cllr Witham wished to remind members of the Assembly who might be connected to local voluntary groups, that he might be able to help with future funding and for those members to contact him directly.8. The Chair of the Fox Corner Community Wildlife Area addressed the Assembly to encourage members of the community to visit the site.
	<p>The Chairman thanked all those attending for their time and interest in raising local issues for the Council to address in its forthcoming program.</p> <p>Cllr Fidgett closed the meeting at 8.20pm</p>