



Pirbright Parish Council

128TH ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 30th April 2025 at 7.30pm in the Community Sports Pavilion

In attendance were members of the Parish Council, the Clerk, LPH Trustees, and the LPH Secretary. Also in attendance were the ward member for SCC; Cllr Keith Witham and the ward member for GBC; Cllr David Bilbe. 5 members of the public were in attendance.

	<p>The evening opened with informative talks from Dementia UK and the Thames Basin Heaths Partnership. Both presentations were warmly received and links with more information were uploaded to the PPC website.</p>
1-2.	<p>Opening Welcome & Apologies for Absence The Chair of the Parish Council, Cllr David Woollett introduced himself and members of the Parish Council to the electorate and welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Al Pinkerton MP who was attending Parliament and Cllr Sarah Small who was travelling.</p>
3.	<p>Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting (15/04/2024) 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 David Woollett.</p>
4.	<p>Report from the Pirbright Parish Chair, Cllr David Woollett Cllr Woollett gave an overview of the projects and responsibilities which had been carried out by the Parish Council in the year ended 31/03/25. Cllr Woollett highlighted the objectives which were achieved, explained how the Precept of £84,835, along with additional grants had been spent and went on to highlight key actions of the coming year.</p> <p>Cllr Woollett expressed his thanks to fellow Councillors who gave their time voluntarily. Cllr Woollett thanked the Parish Clerk, the LPH Secretary and the PPC and LPH staff for all their work over the previous year.</p>
5.	<p>Report on Lord Pirbright's Hall 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 an affordable price. Cllr Woollett acknowledged that there had been challenges throughout the year with the boilers having failed in the Autumn of 2024. With this and other unplanned maintenance, the hall had largely broken even. A new cooker has been installed as part of the ongoing kitchen refurbishment and plans to replace the existing wooden side door and rear metal door with modern doors is ongoing. Strip lights in the hall have been replaced with LEDs although this has identified that the wiring in the hall needs updating. With this in mind, the Trustees will be developing a fund raising programme for the hall. Lord Pirbright's Hall & Recreation Ground now has the pavilion as part of its estate,</p> <p>Plans for the upcoming year include the continued 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 will be looking to start a fundraising scheme to ensure the Hall continues to provide a comfortable space for hirers.</p>



6.	<p>Report from Borough & County Councillor, Cllr Keith Witham</p> <p>Cllr Witham introduced himself and let those present know that he put out a monthly round-up via email and that details of how to receive this email could be given via the Clerk. Cllr Witham gave an overview on the forthcoming Unitary Authority reorganization and how district and borough councils will be abolished and a Unitary Authority will take over. The Government has asked councils for their suggestions on the division of the county and some would prefer a 3 area split and some a 2 area split. Surrey County Councils preference is for a 2 area split, into east and west Surrey. These Unitary Authorities will have an elected Mayor. 12 months from now the new councils will be elected to form shadow councils and will be given 12 months to organize.</p>
7.	<p>Report from Borough Councillor, Cllr David Bilbe</p> <p>Cllr Bilbe introduced himself to those present and stated that he welcomed the unification process but gave a statement that he felt that the Government is determined to reform planning and planning law with the new National Planning Policy Framework which was introduced in December 2024. Cllr Bilbe stated that the Government is determined to build more housing which will have implications for every local council and that residents needs to be vigilant to planning applications.</p>
8.	<p>Open Forum: Parishioners Questions</p> <p>Topics raised included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Whether the Tennis Court car park would benefit from white lines to encourage better parking. This is not on PPC's programme of works for the coming year.2. Whether there is the possibility that the Pirbright Players could have more storage than their existing area under stage. This is a question that will be addressed at the next Trustees meeting. The LPH Secretary will then communicate the outcome to the Players.3. Whether the asbestos had been removed. Cllr Woollett stated that the firm who had surveyed the under stage area had stopped responding and that the LPH Secretary was following up with another firm to have it removed.4. Another resident wished to complain about the amount of foliage dropped on Dawney Hill pavements from the property; Hill Brow. This complaint will be passed to Surrey Highways by the Clerk for them to consider. The resident was asked to provide photos if possible.5. The resident also said that the signage at the bottom of Dawney Hill was being obscured by tree foliage. The Clerk will look at this and if necessary, report to Surrey Highways.6. The resident also wanted to raise a concern about the state of the railings at LPH and suggested a community action group could be put together to rub them down and repaint them. Cllr Woollett explained that the Trustees need to prioritise the needs of the hall and that there were other items higher on the list. Cllr Sands also pointed out that the railing were, in many places, very fragile and simply rubbing down and repainting was not the answer.
	<p>Cllr Woollett 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 Woollett closed the meeting at 8.50pm</p>