



DRAFT Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, hosted by Limpsfield Parish Council held on 20th April 2023 at St Andrew's Hall.

Attending: Cllrs John Thompson, Bob Harvey, Jenny Williams, Laila Turner, Ann Osborn, Mark Wilson, Thomas Briggs, Philip Harvey

Parish Clerk: Sophie Martin

Surrey County Councillor, Cameron McIntosh

Limpsfield Ranger for National Trust, Jeremy Saunders

Parishioners in attendance (excluding councillors and speakers) = 44

1. Apologies for absence.

District Councillors, Claire Blackwell and Ian Booth (attending TDC Meeting)

2. Minutes from the last meeting

Approved as circulated (and previously published on website)

3. Introduction by the Chair, John Thompson.

Thank you to all those who have come and to the councillors and co-optees for all their hard work. He also thanks outgoing Councillors, Philip Bailey and Laila Turner who are not re-standing in the upcoming elections, for their commitment and valuable contribution over the years they have been involved with the Parish Council.

4. Presentation by Jeremy Saunders, NT

Jeremy Saunders, the Ranger for Limpsfield gives an overview of his first 18 months as Ranger and projects that have been undertaken on Limpsfield Common and Limpsfield Chart.

Questions:

- MW asks how many volunteers are now on the NT Taskforce. JS says that the Limpsfield taskforce is the largest group on the Surrey Hills area. There are 50+ members at the moment with regular 20-30 working each week. There is a waiting list but the NT always needs new volunteers.
- Helen Dixon asks about the village Viewpoint clearance as per the CAAMP. JS responds that the invasive trees have been cleared from the viewpoint area.
- Tom Briggs would like to know if there is currently a deer problem in terms of over-population or Lyme disease? JS responds that at the moment, while the population has definitely increased in certain areas, it is not too much of a problem in Limpsfield. However, there has not been any new tree planting in recent months.
- Jo Menichinelli asks about chemicals used to control bracken growth in certain areas and if they are safe for pets. JS responds that the chemicals used are widely used and designed to be sympathetic to other flora and fauna. Animals could be used to graze away the bracken, but on the Chart and Common, there are too many dogs in a small area, and this would be a problem. JS also gives a brief additional information about the damage dog poo can cause to the local environment and need to make sure it is cleared up.

5. Planning Update – Jenny Williams

- Jenny Williams presents overview of planning applications over the year.
- Gaywood Solar Farm – We are still awaiting a date for the application to go to Committee where the Parish Council will also have the ability to put forward concerns on behalf of parishioners regarding the size of the development and effect on infrastructure and the local environment.

- JW also highlights the Parish Council's satisfaction that the Hillview Farm application to build residential units on this rural business site was refused (although it has gone to appeal). Small rural economy sites should be encouraged and supported where possible.
- Mark Wilson presents overview of the Surrey AONB Boundary Review and Local Listings project. Both of which are to be concluded in the coming months.

6. Neighbourhood Plan Update - Ann Osborn

Ann Osborn presents overview of LNP projects and achievements for the year, including CAAMP, Footpaths and The Limpsfield Way.

7. Finance Update – Mark Wilson

- Mark Wilson presents overview of our budgeting and accounting processes, plus overview of the year's income and expenditure FY22/23 and budget overview for FY 23/24.
- Overall, we are in a very good position financially and have robust processes to ensure sensible spending and accountability. We expect another good internal/external audit this year.
- Budgets, expenditure and AGAR statements can be found on our website.

8. Questions

- David Bell would just like to draw attention to the fact that Memorial Stores is suffering at the moment (along with all retail) in terms of footfall. This community asset should be supported and would like the PC to help spread the word to encourage local people to use the shop and post office. John Tolley (former postmaster) would like to remind everyone that the post office does get remunerated for use and this is therefore a large part of keeping the stores going. It is also just £10 to become a member of the stores, so please consider joining.
- Mark Richards raises the issue of potholes in the area. This is not something the Parish Council has control over, but does report and pass on residents' concerns. Bob Harvey reiterates importance of reporting potholes which are generally dealt with quite speedily. Cllr Cameron McIntosh gives overview as to how the highways system works with regards to potholes and other carriageway repairs, and talks about his hopes that Lane Rental scheme (and making utilities companies and contractors accountable for road works and repairs) may help the situation. SCC is now a Lane Rental authority.
- Michael Rainbird would like to know if there is anything that can be done with regards to poor mobile coverage in the area. This is not something the PC has influence over, but we can look into potential improvements that may be made with the telecoms companies. However this may mean additional masts which are not always popular.
- Bernie de Haldevang asks Cameron McIntosh if there is any update on the ULEZ expansion. SCC, as part of a coalition of five councils has launched a Judicial Review to challenge Transport for London (TfL) and the Mayor of London's decision to expand the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) to outer London boroughs. There are no further updates, but SCC is determined to minimise the negative impact on impact on Surrey residents and businesses. Cameron says he is happy to continue the conversation and answer any questions afterwards / outside of the meeting.

John Thompson closes the meeting.

Meeting ends. 8.45PM.