

# Godstone Parish Council

(incorporating the Villages of Godstone, South Godstone and Blindley Heath)

## MINUTES OF GODSTONE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT ST STEPHENS CHURCH, SOUTH GODSTONE ON MONDAY 22 MAY 2022 AT 7.30 PM.

**Present:** Parish Councillors  
Cllr J Gardner – Chairman of the Parish Council  
Cllr B Davis – Vice Chairman of the Parish Council  
Cllrs C White, C Farr, S Farr, J Farnaby, M McLoughlin, D Stone and L Case

District Councillor  
Cllr C Farr

Members of the Public who are Electors of the Parish

**In attendance:** S Endersby (Clerk to the Parish council)

### 1. Apologies

1.1 Apologies were received and noted from Godstone Baptist Church.

2. **Welcome** – All attendees welcomed by the Chairman of the Parish council.

### 3. Minutes of the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting

**RESOLVED** - Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 22 May 2019 which were circulated at the meeting were confirmed and signed as a true record.

Meetings in subsequent years of 2020 and 2021 had not taken place due to the disruption caused by the Covid pandemic.

### 4. Chairman's Report

Following the disruption of the last few years due to Covid, it is great that to be at the 2022 Parish Assembly meeting and the council would like to acknowledge the fantastic community spirit during the Covid years shown across all three villages within the Parish, Godstone, South Godstone and Blindley Heath.

The villages continue to have all seats covered by a total of 9 Councillors: 5 for the North Ward and 2 each from the Central and South Wards. The newest Councillor being Louise Case who was co-opted in January 2021. The years fly past and there will be parish council elections in 2023.

North Ward (Godstone Village)	Central Ward (South Godstone)	South Ward (Blindley Heath)
Jim Gardner	Colin White	Sue Farr
Bren Davis	John Farnaby	Chris Farr
Mick McLoughlin		
Dave Stone		
Louise Case		

### District and County Councillors

We would like to thank the district councillors and county councillor for their support throughout the year and keeping us updated on district matters within the Parish.

### A review of the year:

- Jubilee – The council are delighted that they are able to support events in the Parish to mark the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, on Friday 3 June on Godstone Green and Saturday 4 June at South Godstone Sports Club.
- Hilly Fields Car Park – It was with great sadness, frustration and disappointment that the council decided in August 2021 that due to insurmountable issues the car park project be terminated. There is a published statement available on our website that was issued following the decision.

- St Nicholas Church Yard and Burial Ground – As for many years, work continues to maintain the church yard and burial ground, with excellent care taken by the Parish grass cutting contractor and also support of volunteers. The council are also mindful of its long-term commitment to care for the burial ground with consideration being given to plan now for the future too.
- Allotments – We are delighted that there is now an allotment association which will be marking its first year of existence in August. There are some great benefits to being part of the association, who meet monthly, for example a plant exchange scheme, shared deliveries; discounts on seeds via the National Association and the opportunity to chat with other members to ask questions and share knowledge and experience.
- Children's playground – Plans to improve the playground are being worked on with one of the main objectives being to remove the sand and provide a bit more equipment with younger children in mind. Whilst this planning continues, repair work and care remains an ongoing commitment to ensure it is in good condition.
- Neighbourhood Plan Committee – The committee, made up of community volunteers has done an amazing job. The plan is complete and ready to move on to the next stage in preparing it for its referendum.
- Blindley Heath SSSI site – We thank the Surrey Wildlife Trust for the continuing partnership with the council for the management of the Blindley Heath SSSI. The Parish council also wants to thank and recognise others on the Liaison group. The liaison group is made up of committed local residents, Natural England and the Parish council all of whom continue to monitor and care for the area. This year we would like to thank John and Pam Mills, who have been the Graziers working as part of the liaison group for many, many years and have now decided it is time to step back. This does mean that Surrey Wildlife Trust are working to secure another Grazier which is all part of the work done to care and manage the site.
- Tree Care – The care of trees continues to be an area where regular work is carried out across the Parish when it is required, and we value parishioners reporting any issue with trees.
- Local Plan and Garden Village – Godstone Parish council continues to monitor Tandridge District Council activities in relation to the Local Plan.
- Neighbourhood Plan – The Parish council are very grateful for the fantastic effort and work put in by the committee, made up of community volunteers and councillors who prepared the Neighbourhood Plan. The plan is now ready for the next steps to prepare it for its referendum.

I would like to thank the local businesses that work with the Parish council.

I also want to say a big thank you to all the volunteers and local organisations that work within our Parish and add to the quality of village life along with my fellow councillors who are volunteers themselves.

----- Report ended -----

Thanks to the Clerk stated on behalf of Council.

## **5. Presentation of Certificates of Community Awards**

Awards were presented to:

Godstone - Alex Rabbetts for work as Chair of GVA and on Neighbourhood Plan.

South Godstone - Peter Hogg for community support during Covid.

South Godstone - Susan Clark for community support during Covid, including setting up a Community Library with donated books, cd's, dvd's & jigsaws.

Blindley Heath - Pam and John Mill, for commitment and work as part of the Blindley Heath Liaison Group, including John being chairman and as the graziers until they stepped down this year.

## **6. Purchase of the Parish office The Bounty**

The consultation document is available on the Parish website. There were no questions raised by those in attendance.

## **7. Reports from local organisations**

We would like to thank the local organisations who have submitted reports and are in attendance at this evening's meeting. Reports received and published on the council website,

-  Caterham, Oxted and Godstone Lions Club Report 2022
-  Godstone Allotment Association Report 2022
-  1st Godstone Scout Group Report 2022
-  Blindley Heath Liaison Group Chairmans Report 2022
-  Blindley Heath Cricket Club Report 2022

**8. Annual Governance Accountability Return for accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022**

- 8.1 The document is available on the Parish website.
- 8.2 Information in relation to the public right to inspect was duly noted.

**9. Open Forum**

- 9.1 Opportunity to put questions to the Parish council –** Matters raised and noted during the meeting

**Allotments**

The current access was noted and no changes to date. The garage site owner still prepared to give vehicle and water access.

**Blindley Heath**

It was noted that the land next to the SSSI is to be donated to the Parish council.

**Blindley Heath SSSI**

It was noted that the HSL funding is changing so the council wait to see if that will effect the funds for the SSSI.

**Trees**

The planned tree survey was noted.

**Neighbourhood Plan Committee**

It was noted that the Plan will give the community a voice in its future and increase funds received from CIL payments.

**Godstone Green**

Aspirations in relation to Cricket were noted and the Parish councils responsibilities in relation to insurance. I Pavely stated he had a contact from Chaldon that may be able to assist.

The meeting noted the Flower Farm amendment to licence application and the concerns within the village.

- 9.2 Raise matters for the Parish Council to consider priorities for the three villages in the Parish for the coming years**

**Blindley Heath**

The council noted the comments of the Cricket club in relation to the car park and barrier work included in their report.

- 9.3 Godstone Parish Neighbourhood Plan and Tandridge District Local Plan**

----- Meeting ended 8.30pm -----