

Godstone Parish Council

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

Clerk to the Parish Council

S Endersby

Admin Assistant

W Dennis

The Bounty
Godstone Green
Godstone, Surrey
RH9 8DY

Telephone/Fax: 01883 744209

MINUTES

of the Godstone Parish Council Greenspaces Committee meeting
held on **Monday 14 October 2024** at **9.30am** at **The Bounty, Godstone Green**

Members: Cllrs C Farr, S Beagley, S Farr, L Case and D Christmas

Present: S Endersby (Clerk) and W Dennis (Admin Assistant)

1. Questions from Members of the Public

1.1 No members of public present.

2. Apologies and reasons for absence

2.1 There were no apologies.

RESOLVED – The meeting was deemed quorate.

3. Declarations of Interest - [Register of Interests](#)

3.1 No declarations in relation to Pecuniary or Other interest in relation to items on the agenda.

4. Minutes of the last meetings held on 15 July 2024

4.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2024 were considered.

RESOLVED – The committee approved the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting held and agreed that they be signed by the Chairperson.

Cllr D Christmas had not been at the previous meeting, so did not vote.

5. Review of Actions from the previous meeting – The committee reviewed actions of the previous meeting

Action	Committee noted:
GS7/24–1 Clerk to prepare a purchase order for the Tree works at Blindley Heath and instruct the tree contractor to proceed with the work.	Completed
GS7/24–2 Clerk to investigate potential cost of Tree management systems and provide further information to the committee.	Information provided to committee
GS7/24–3 Clerk to proceed with purchasing a kart, hand shovel and topsoil.	Completed
GS7/24–4 Clerk to include Grass cutting on the next full council agenda.	Completed
GS7/24–5 Cllr S Farr to attempt to get a picture of the bench and Clerk to follow up with Horne Parish.	Established bench not in Parish area
GS7/24–6a Clerk to include a notice in the next Parish magazine for any maintenance contractors (with Public Liability Insurance) to contact the office.	Completed
GS7/24–6b Clerk to follow up with old contractor on completion of jobs it was agreed would still be undertaken. No further jobs would be taken on.	

Details	Committee Discussion
Burial Ground Notice board	Not completed. Chase up
Burial Ground Benches	Never completed. Install recycled benches as per councils' recent decision and stipulate type of bench for any new applications. Proposed that people could apply to put plaques on the bench's that will be installed by the parish council, i.e. for a fee and a set period. Noted budget of £1k for benches/memorials at Burial Ground. It was noted that the cost of the new benches could be more expensive in the short term, but long term would be more reasonable due to the reduction in the amount of maintenance required. Current benches with plaques on would require the parish office to attempt to contact the families before they are removed.

Action–GS10/24–1a– Check number of benches that are in bad state of repair and in need of replacing to ensure seating at the burial ground (one has already been removed this year).

Action–GS10/24–1b– Request Finance Committee consider charges for plaques and time frames if council want to proceed.		
Benches (Godstone Green)	Never completed.	Noted full council have agreed how to deal with benches.
Playground Long Bench.	Never completed.	Propose it is removed and replaced, consideration for budget discussions.
Action–GS10/24–2– Make a note for Finance Committee discussions on budget plans.		
Flat Swing (sanding of splits)	Never completed.	Action removed, to await annual external inspection report.
Clear tree from public footpath (BHC) and check fence.	Never completed.	Location information and pictures provided for information.
Action–GS10/24–3– Cllr D Christmas will visit site and clear tree. CF and SF will assist with location if required.		
Sth Godstone Metal Bus Stop	Never completed.	Parish office to find a new contractor.
Action–GS10/24–4– Parish office to continue to look for contractor. Committee noted that other matters are higher priority currently.		
Dead Tree Godstone Green	Never completed by contractor.	Clerk completed this. Action closed.

6. Consider questions and comments from members of the council

- 6.1 Cllr Case raised that she had be given feedback of criticism which challenged what does the Parish council achieve. The committee noted its disappointment as council has achieved some positive things during this financial year, including the new path and basketball hoop.
- 6.2 The importance of the Planning Committee commenting on planning applications was noted.
- 6.3 The committee discussed some councillor's disappointment in relation to the approach to the pole for Christmas lights (ref: Full council's unanimous decision on Christmas lights, item 10 of the Full council meeting on 7 October 2024), noting that worst case scenario it could have to be taken down. The committee noted that a retrospective application could be made but was not at all ideal.

7. Trees - Status of tree survey works and any outstanding items

- 7.1 The committee noted that the Clerk has followed up with the contractor for large tree works on 24 June and 7 October (email and phoned) without success, in relation to the remaining work at Enterdent included in the original quote and works.
- 7.2 The committee noted that the Clerk has followed up on 24 June and 7 October (email and phoned) without success, in relation to the following additional tree works detailed below.

Tag No.	Inspection Date	Species	Qty	Defect	Recommended work	Timescale	
0552	02.03.24	Sycamore	1	Leaning and root movement	Fell	3 months	Gi
0555	02.03.24	Sycamore	1	Leaning	Fell	3 months	Gi
0557	02.03.24	Sycamore	3	Dead wood	Remove dead wood over road	3 months	Gi
0556	02.03.24	Oak	1	Bank degrading	Reduce by 30%	3 months	Gi
0558	02.03.24	Sycamore	1	Decay at base	Fell	3 months	Gi
0559	02.03.24	Sycamore	1	Decay at base	Fell	3 months	Gi
0560	02.03.24	Beech	1	Excessive weight over road	Reduce by 30%	3 months	Gi
0561	02.03.24	Beech	1	Excessive weight	Fell	3 months	Gi
0562	02.03.24	Beech	1	Major decay	Fell	3 months	Gi
0563	02.03.24	Oak	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	Gi
0564	02.03.24	Hazel 3 stools	1		Coppice	6 months	Gi

- 7.3 The committee noted the concerns that the contractor in questions is a specialist in relation to the scale of the tree works, with the necessary equipment, so it could be a struggle to find someone else able to complete the work.

- 7.4 The tree at the top of the bank with exposed roots, which has had work completed on it to reduce the weight roadside, to ensure it would fall into the common was noted, but the committee would still like to try and fell the tree as the bank is likely to continue to erode.

Action–GS10/24–5a– The Committee requested that another local contractor be approached to see if it is feasible that they could carry out the work listed.

Action–GS10/24–5b– The Committee requested that another local contractor be approached to see if it is feasible that they pull the large tree on the bank into the common to bring it down.

Cllr D Christmas will also investigate if there is a contractor who would be able to work on the tree/trees.

- 7.5 The committee discussed the area of trees and vegetation between White Cottage, The Enterdent and Fairalls Taylors Hill Yard on the Eastbourne Road. It was noted that there was some work carried out on the Eastbourne Road following the tree survey. No further specific action was agreed for this area.

Action–GS10/24–5c– The committee wished to consider a long-term plan for trees in the future.

8. Greens, Commons and Land - Matters for reporting to the committee

- 8.1 South Godstone/Blindley Heath – Caring for the Anglefield Corner bus stop was raised.

Action–GS10/24–6– The Committee agreed that in the spring the bus stop should be re-stained, and any maintenance completed.

8.2 Burial Ground – There are more mole hills again at the burial ground.

Action–GS10/24–7– The Committee requested that the matter be considered when the new budget is prepared.

9. Long Term Planning - Consideration of plans for greenspaces and council property

9.1 The Committee considered what matters it would like to concentrate on in to the future and the following matters were agreed as long term objectives:

- 9.1.1 Long Term plan for Trees and Tree care and management
- 9.1.2 Enterdent/Tilburstow Hill long term plan to deal with potential areas of land erosion, noting that there is a public highway at the bottom of some areas of concern.
- 9.1.3 Pond care.
- 9.1.4 Godstone Green and review of defences.

Action–GS10/24–8– The Risk Assessment of Godstone Green to be provided to the Committee.

- 9.1.5 Hilly Fields, long term review following the development of nearby areas and monitoring impact on the area.
- 9.1.6 Noting recent correspondence from Tandridge District Council (TDC) the committee noted that consideration of the three TDC playgrounds and South Godstone Sports Club were TDC assets in the Parish.

Action–GS10/24–9- Cllr C Farr will prepare a summary for full council of the matters discussed for long term planning.

10. Pavilion – Discuss proposals for recommendations to put forward to full Council

10.1 The committee discussed the dilapidation list previously provided to the GSA and that a number of issues on the list still remain. Concerns noted that the Pavilion could just continue in to a state of disrepair as it is not currently used by a regular football team. Committee questioned if Council would consider the buildings deterioration be considered a breach of the lease agreement.

10.2 Clerk confirmed that there had been some brief correspondence from a member of what is to be the newly formed GSA noting the following:

- 10.2.1 The Pavilion lease – Request to see a copy of the Parish Council copy and it is noted that the lease details 4 individuals who ran the GSA at the time but are no longer involved with the GSA or have passed away.

Cllr S Beagley reported that his brother who was one of the original trustees on the lease had been contacted by someone to sign documentation to confirm the transfer to new trustees. The Clerk confirmed she had not received any paperwork confirming any changes, although it was noted that updating the lease had been a matter discussed by the GSA and Parish council as something to be completed.

- 10.2.2 GSA support of the pavilion short and long term and charges for the building
- 10.2.3 Putting forward that all parties have a preliminary meeting very soon to assess the current situation and discuss options going forward.
- 10.2.4 Other sports clubs use of the pavilion.
- 10.3 The Greenspace committee noted that the roof was repaired but has been vandalised again.
- 10.4 Consider the potential of making the pavilion more multi-functional for the good of the community. The potential for the toilets to be useable at a charge to assist with upkeep.
- 10.5 Other roofing options to eradicate or reduce the constant need for repair and its vulnerability.
- 10.6 Ensuring the pavilion remains available to any future Godstone Football teams, with them having priority.
- 10.7 The committee discussed if the Parish council should consider offering to take on the pavilion, noting that full council would need to consider the matter. If this was the case how would the action be completed.
- 10.8 Cllr D Christmas stated that any plans for the Pavilion should be carefully considered and detailed to establish how any refurbishments could be financed and how it could be self-sufficient.
- 10.9 The committee noted that there could be grants available, such as Your Fund or CIL money.

Action–GS10/24–10a- Clerk to check date of correspondence on dilapidations.

Action–GS10/24–10b- Cllr C Farr will prepare and circulate to the committee a written proposal for a motion to full council and recommendations from the committee in relation to the Pavilion.

11. Correspondence – No further correspondence reported other than that referred to during the meeting.

12. Matters for inclusion on future agendas – No matters raised.

13. Date of the next meeting – Tentative date of Monday 25 November 2024 at 10am is in the diary.

Part 2 – None

----- Meeting ended -----

Signed
Chairperson

Print Name
Chairperson

Dated