

Godstone Parish Council

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

Clerk to the Parish Council

J Coulthard

Admin Assistant to the Parish Council

G McPartlin

The Bounty
Godstone Green
Godstone, Surrey, RH9 8DY

Telephone/Fax: 01883 744209

MINUTES

of the meeting of Godstone Parish Council held on **Monday 1ST September 2025 at 7.30pm** at St Stephens Church, South Godstone

Present: S Beagley (Chair), L Case (Vice Chair), D Christmas, C Farr, S Farr, J Gardner, K Ward and C White

In attendance: 5 x Residents, J Coulthard (Clerk),

76/25	1 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC	
	Due to the attendance of Cllrs Chris and Sue Farr, Cllr Beagley with the agreement of all Cllrs present, moved agenda item 7. Planning to the end of the meeting. Also, with the agreement of all Cllrs present Cllr Beagley moved agenda item 8.5.1 for discussion under agenda item 1. Questions from Members of the Public to allow family members present to speak and answer questions. 8.5.1 Exhumation – To consider and agree or otherwise whether the Parish Council (PC) will pay for the exhumation of ashes from Grave 458. Cost £850 ex VAT. Includes professional fees and digging - The Clerk briefed the Parish Council advising that ashes needed to be exhumed from the grave space to allow future burials. The family stated that they had not been informed that if ashes were interred in the grave space future burials would not be allowed. The Clerk advised that the interment had taken place over 20 years ago and she could not find any evidence to contradict the family's assertions. The PC asked who would have been responsible for informing the family. The Clerk advised that it would have been the responsibility of the Clerk at the time. After an in-depth discussion IT WAS AGREED that its decision would not set a precedence, however, the PC would fund the cost of the exhumation and for the Clerk to make the arrangements. 1.1 A resident has written to the Clerk to ask if the Parish Council (PC) is going to cut back overhanging trees at the Track Leading to Little Mead, The Common, Blindley Heath this autumn – IT WAS AGREED that the Clerk would obtain quotes to cut back the trees. 1.2 A resident has written to the Clerk asking if the PC could put a sign up at the Horse Pond like the one at the seating area on the path by Bay Pond advising people not to feed bread to the Ducks – The PC decided to defer the decision to the next meeting and IT WAS AGREED that the Clerk would obtain quotes for a sign that would contain historical information about the Pond and information about the danger of feeding bread to the ducks. IT WAS ALSO AGREED that the Clerk provide the PC with information about the danger of feed bread to ducks and whether it could cause Angel Wing. 1.3 A resident has written to the Clerk asking about the path running along Ivy Mill Lane, and whether the PC can put in a proper path as it is well used as there is a worn in track already there – The PC advised that there was not supposed to be a path there because it is Common Land. The PC also advised that there is big pipe that runs under the bund which would prevent the installation of a hard surfaced path.	JC JC JC JC

	1.4 A resident has written to the Clerk regarding bigger children racing around the playground on their bikes (5 bikes and 1 scooter) to ask if anything can be done to prevent this. They noted there were no signs stating it was not allowed – The Parish Council agreed that riding bikes and scooters in the playground was dangerous and already not allowed and IT WAS AGREED that the Clerk would obtain quotes for signs to be made and installed. 1.5 A resident attended the meeting to speak about item 8.5.1 on the agenda. Cllr Beagley with the agreement of the other Cllrs, agreed to bring item 8.5.1 forward for discussion. 8.5.1 Exhumation: To consider and agree or otherwise whether the PC will pay for the exhumation from Grave 458, cost £850 ex VAT. Includes professional fees and digging – The resident reported that that in 2004 when interring her mother's ashes in grave 458, she had not been told that this would mean that burials would not be allowed in the grave. The Clerk confirmed there were no records of the resident having been told. IT WAS AGREED without setting a precedence, that the PC would fund the cost of the exhumation and the Clerk would instruct the funeral director. 1.6 John Farnaby attended the meeting to give a brief update on the progress of the Godstone Neighbourhood Plan. He advised that there had been a delay in it going out to Consultees, but it would be going out for comments next week. It would then go to the Planning Inspector and be assessed in May 2026.	JC JC
77/25	2 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE (LGA 1972 s85)	
	Apologies received from Cllrs K D'Mello, C White and D Cllr M Crane	
78/25	3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS	
	None	
79/25	4 COUNTY AND DISTRICT CLLRS – Brief report on matters affecting the Parish.	
	Cllr C Farr in his capacity as SC Cllr reported that now there was no overall control at SCC by supporters of one political party. He advised that SCC were very focussed on the Local Government reorganisation. Cllr Gardner asked who was responsible for tidying the litter'/rubbish along the A22 between the Oxted roundabout and the Eastbourne Road roundabout. The Clerk that rubbish was the responsibility of TDC and road signs were the responsibility of SCC. IT WAS AGREED that the Clerk would report the litter and the road work signs that had been left after road works had been completed.	
80/25	5 MINUTES	
	Minutes of the full Parish Council (PC) meeting held on the 7 th of July 2025, minutes of the Extra Ordinary meeting of the 13 th of August 2025 and the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 20 th of August 2025 were agreed and signed as a true record (LGA 1972 Sch. 12 s41) and will be uploaded to the website.	
81/25	6 REPORTS	
	6.1 Clerk's Report – Matters to bring to the Council's attention 6.1.1 Issue with trees not owned by the PC - To note that a resident emailed the Clerk requesting the trees overhanging the path at the Priory be cut back – this was reported to SCC Highways for action. 6.1.2 TDC Climate Awareness event - To consider and agree or otherwise whether the PC would like to take part in TDC's Climate Awareness event on Wednesday 12th November. IT WAS AGREED that the PC would not take part. 6.1.3 Dormansland Neighbourhood Plan – To consider and agree or otherwise whether the PC wants to comment on the plan and if so, agree the process for collating comments and who will submit them. IT WAS AGREED not to comment. 6.1.4 Facebook Page – the Clerk would like to propose setting up a PC or Parish Clerk Facebook profile to join the community Facebook group to allow easier notification of important information to residents. To consider and agree or otherwise. IT WAS AGREED that the Clerk would set up a Facebook page	JC

	and trial it for 3 months, that Messenger would not be used as a communication channel and commenting on posts would be switched off. 6.2 Chairperson's Report – (for noting) information only. Cllr Beagley advised he had nothing to report but expressed his thank to Cllr Case for fabulous job she and the Godstone Fete Committee did in putting on this year's Godstone Fete. 6.3 Reports (for noting) from representatives on outside bodies Cllr Case reported she had attended the Godstone Preservation Society meeting. 6.4 Reports from Committees Nothing to report. At Cllr C & S Farr's request and with the agreement of the other members of the Parish Council Cllr Beagley moved item 7. Current Planning Issues to the end of the meeting.	
82/25	8 GREENS, COMMONS AND LAND	
	8.1. Godstone – Godstone Green, Greenview, Playground, Allotment and Hilly Fields 8.2.1 Godstone Green (i) Advertising: To consider and agree whether to implement the advertising guidelines for events on Godstone Green prepared by the Asst. Clerk. IT WAS AGREED to implement the guidelines with some minor amendments. (ii) Benches: To consider and agree or otherwise to proceed with the quote to replace the bench near the carpark facing the pond. £666 excl. VAT and not including cost of new bench. Bench £380 excl. VAT style as previous. IT WAS AGREED to replace the bench however, the Clerk to hold placing the order until Cllr Beagley had spoken to the resident who wanted to purchase a memorial bench for a friend. (iii) Carparks: To consider and agree whether the PC would like the Clerk/Asst. Clerk to look at potential solutions to the parking problems in the PC carparks. IT WAS AGREED that the Clerk and Asst. Clerk would do spot checks once per month for a trial period of 3 months starting in October. (iv) Events: To consider and agree or otherwise whether to allow the Fun Fair (Mr Russell) to have two slots for the Fun Fair for next year i.e. first visit 17th April to 19th April, second visit 17th July to 19th July. APPROVED and IT WAS AGREED that the Assistant Clerk would notify Mr Russell. (v) Godstone Green By-laws: Riding horses and driving carts/traps and horses on the green - The Clerk has ascertained that the PC has a right to fine people breaching the by-laws for the use of the green. To consider and agree or otherwise whether PC wishes the Clerk to pursue and investigate further with a view to preparing a proposal of how this would operate. IT WAS AGREED that the Clerk would obtain quotes for signs advising that fines would be given to anyone caught riding horses and driving carts/traps and horses on the green. 8.1.2 Greenview Nothing to report. 8.1.3 Playground Cllr Gardner advised he would arrange for the broken roundabout to be removed. Cllr Case advised she was talking to a contractor to find a suitable piece of play equipment to replace it. 8.3 Allotments 8.3.1 Dead of Easement for allotment access way - Update – <i>(As a note on our last discussion- we agreed to revert to a 'fair and reasonable' share of costs. Essentially if maintenance works are required it would need to be agreed with all parties prior to doing the work).</i> NOTED 8.3.2 It was also NOTED that there was a new Chair of the Allotment Association, Dr Steve Dobson. 8.1.5 Hillyfields Cllr Gardner reported that the tree at Hillyfields had been pollarded and the resident's contractor had done a good job. Cllr Case reported she had spoken to the person who had mowed Hillyfields without the PCs permission. IT WAS AGREED the Clerk would ask Surrey Wildlife for advice about mowing Hillyfields with a view to protecting the wildlife.	GM SB/GM GM/JC GM JC JC

	8.4 Tilburstow Hill and the Enterdent 8.4.1 Tilburstow Hill Road – dangerous tree update. (Broadleaf cannot attend until 16th September to view tree, Ben Nicols said he would take a look could do in September still waiting quote) IT WAS AGREED to allow Broadleaf to quote. 8.5 South Godstone It was noted that the bus stop outside the pub was smashed. 8.6 Blindley Heath 8.6.1 Carpark repairs – update from Cllrs Case & Christmas’s visit to assess work required. Cllrs Case & Christmas reported that they had visited the carpark although repairs were needed, they were not urgent. In addition, they advised that there was no point making repairs until a way could be found to stop the car park from flooding during heavy rain. 8.6.2 Blindley Heath Liaison Group – meeting to organise are we supposed to arrange date, invite attendees etc. and does Chris Farr book at room for the meeting. – IT WAS AGREED that the Assistant Clerk would arrange a meeting, and the Cllr C Farr would book a room at TDC’s offices. 8.7 Burial Ground 8.7.1 Exhumation: To consider and agree or otherwise whether PC will pay for the exhumation of ashes from Grave 458, Cost £850 ex VAT. Includes Professional fees and digging - Dealt with under item 1. Questions From Members of the Public. 8.7.2 Refurbishment of benches – the Asst. Clerk is waiting for the number of benches needing attention – Cllr Beagley agreed to take a look.	GM GM SB																																																																																														
83/25	9 FINANCE 9.1 Accounts for Payment - Approve SEPTEBER accounts for payment. APPROVED 9.2 Finance Papers up to 31st AUGUST 2025 - Bank Reconciliation and Accounts Reports – Income & Expenditure; Reserves, Balance Sheet and Summary of Funds. The Clerk reported that she had lost access to Rialtas and was unable to produce any reports for the meeting and was currently working with the Rialtas support desk to regain access. NOTED. <table><thead><tr><th>Business</th><th>Invoice</th><th>Invoice Date</th><th>Payment For</th><th>Net amount</th><th>VAT</th><th>Invoice Total</th><th>Information</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td colspan="8">Salary Payments</td></tr><tr><td>Salaries</td><td rowspan="3">August</td><td></td><td>Salary</td><td rowspan="3">£ 2,687.83</td><td rowspan="3"></td><td rowspan="3">£2,687.83</td><td rowspan="3">Within budget available</td></tr><tr><td>HMRC</td><td></td><td>NI and Income tax</td></tr><tr><td>NEST Pension</td><td></td><td>Pension contribution</td></tr><tr><td colspan="8">Direct Debits</td></tr><tr><td>SES</td><td></td><td>01/09/2025</td><td>Water</td><td>£ 33.42</td><td></td><td>£ 33.42</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Lloyds Bank</td><td></td><td>22/09/2025</td><td>Service Charge</td><td>£ 4.25</td><td>£ -</td><td>£ 4.25</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>BT</td><td>M148PR</td><td>28/09/2025</td><td>Telephone and Internet</td><td>£ 49.95</td><td>£ 9.99</td><td>£ 59.94</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Smartestenergy</td><td>FH88Z6BBE/002</td><td>05/08/2025</td><td>Electricity</td><td>£ 38.70</td><td>£ 1.94</td><td>£ 40.64</td><td>Contacted Colin WTH</td></tr><tr><td colspan="8">Invoices for Payment</td></tr><tr><td>Countrywide Grds Mtnc</td><td>647275</td><td>12/08/2025</td><td>Grass Cutting G3 Blindley Heath</td><td>£ 240.00</td><td>£ 48.00</td><td>£ 288.00</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Countrywide Grds Mtnc</td><td>647276</td><td>12/08/2025</td><td>Grass Cutting - G2 St Nicholas Churchyard</td><td>£ 450.00</td><td>£ 90.00</td><td>£ 450.00</td><td></td></tr></tbody></table>	Business	Invoice	Invoice Date	Payment For	Net amount	VAT	Invoice Total	Information	Salary Payments								Salaries	August		Salary	£ 2,687.83		£2,687.83	Within budget available	HMRC		NI and Income tax	NEST Pension		Pension contribution	Direct Debits								SES		01/09/2025	Water	£ 33.42		£ 33.42		Lloyds Bank		22/09/2025	Service Charge	£ 4.25	£ -	£ 4.25		BT	M148PR	28/09/2025	Telephone and Internet	£ 49.95	£ 9.99	£ 59.94		Smartestenergy	FH88Z6BBE/002	05/08/2025	Electricity	£ 38.70	£ 1.94	£ 40.64	Contacted Colin WTH	Invoices for Payment								Countrywide Grds Mtnc	647275	12/08/2025	Grass Cutting G3 Blindley Heath	£ 240.00	£ 48.00	£ 288.00		Countrywide Grds Mtnc	647276	12/08/2025	Grass Cutting - G2 St Nicholas Churchyard	£ 450.00	£ 90.00	£ 450.00		
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	Countrywide Grds Mtnce	647277	12/08/20 25	Grass Cutting - G1 Godstone Green	£ 640.00	£ 128.00	£ 768.00		
	£4,144.15 £277.93 £4,332.08								
84/25	10 GOVERNANCE								
	10.1 To consider and agree or otherwise whether to have an interim internal audit for 2025/2 – IT WAS AGREED to have an interim audit, the Clerk to arrange. 10.2 To consider and agree or otherwise to the Clerk proposal for Councillors to use their.gov.uk email addresses to receive and send all emails relating to PC business from the 30th September 2025 in order to comply with the new Assertion 10 regulation relating to transparency and GDPR requirements – IT WAS AGREED to implement the deadline and that the Clerk would send Cllrs C and S Farr contact details for the PC's IT support desk.								JC
85/25	11 POLICES & PROCEDURES								
	Nothing to report.								
86/25	12 SALC/NALC								
	Nothing to report.								
87/25	13 CORRESPONDENCE								
	13.1 CPRE email regarding writing to our MP to ensure local voices are heard in the planning process. To consider and agree or otherwise whether the PC would like to write to our MP. IT WAS AGREED that the Clerk should write to the local MP. 13.2 TDC inviting Parish Council to comment on the schedule for forthcoming Parish Council elections. To consider and agree or otherwise whether to comment and if so what comment. The PC discussed and agreed they would not comment. 13.3 Street trading licence application renewal for Lucian Foods outside the Forman Institute at Blindley Heath and if so what comment to submit. The PC discussed and agreed that they did not feel it necessary to comment.								
88/25	14 MATTERS FOR REPORTING OR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS								
	None								
89/25	15 AOB								
	It was mentioned that Love Lane was being used as a 'rat run' by lorries. The PC acknowledged that this was SCC's responsibility. The issue of the proposed closure of Tilburstow Hill by SGN was discussed and the PC acknowledged that there was nothing they could do about it, despite concerns. 15.1 Cricket Agreement – IT WAS AGREED to increase the term of the agreement with Merstham Cricket Club from 2 to 5 years and that the Cricket Agreement could be signed. 15.2 GSA Football Grass Seeding the green- IT WAS AGREED that the grass seeding of the green could go ahead. 15.3 GSA Football feeding grass with fertiliser (next option) – the PC felt this needed further discussion. 15.4 GSA Football Verti-draining the Green (spiking) – IT WAS AGREED that the Verti-draining could go ahead. 15.5 GSA Cricket – pitch for children's cricket on northern side of the green - the PC felt this needed further discussion. 15.6 1 x Tree down blocking access at Little Mead off the Eastbourne Road Blindley Heath (Madgewicks attending) – The Clerk explained that she had authorised emergency works to clear the tree and asked for retrospective approval from the PC. APPROVED 15.7 1 x Tree Branch down blocking access way to Two Hoots, Blindley Heath (Madgewicks Attending) – The Clerk explained that she had authorised emergency works to clear the tree and asked for retrospective approval from the PC. APPROVED								GM/JC
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	15.8 Tree on Godstone Green behind Pavilion next to Pétanque Court - £80 ex. VAT to pollard it to make it grow straight and like a tree instead of a bush. Will need pruning every year. Approved 15.9 Godstone Fitness – the Clerk briefed the PC on the offer to pay a year's worth of fees up front. APPROVED. 15.10 Cllr Beagley asked the Clerk to start looking at the work to get the Christmas Lights ready to be switched on.	GM/JC
90/25	7 CURRENT PLANNING ISSUES (moved by Cllr Beagley to this point in the meeting after agreement with Cllrs)	
	7.1.1 2025/465 – 128 High Street, Godstone, Surrey, RH9 8DX – Erection of a Stretched Tent Structure over the External Area to the Rear of the property. – RESOLVED - No Comment 7.1.2 2025/671 – Buttons Mead Farm Livery, Buttons Mead Farm, Tandridge Lane, Lingfield, Surrey, RH7 6LW – Retrospective application for the Resurfacing of Field Tracks. – RESOLVED – No Comment 7.1.3 2025/769 – Bay Pond, High Street, Godstone, Surrey, RH9 8DU – Partial demolition of existing boundary wall to reduce the height, replacement of dangerous section of wall to central length of wall. – RESOLVED – No Objection 7.1.4 2025/797 – 2 The Villas, Eastbourne Road, Blindley Heath, Lingfield, Surrey, RH7 6JN – Loft conversion with front roof lights and with rear L shaped dormer. – RESOLVED - No Comment 7.1.5 2025/815 – Land West of Eastbourne Road, South Godstone, Surrey, RH9 8JY – Outline planning application with all matters reserved except means of access for residential development of up to 200 dwellings (Use Class C3), a commercial or community unit (Use Class E or F2), landscaping, public open space, and all associated infrastructure. (Outline). – comment deferred. 7.1.6 2025/824 – The Folly, Eastbourne Road, Blindley Heath, Lingfield, Surrey, RH7 6JX – Variation of condition 2 (Approved plans) and 3 (Materials) of planning permission 2021/1941 dated 13/02/2023 (Raising the roof height for additional bedrooms and other useable spaces on the 1st floor. Creating new link on the 1st floor level. Extension of lounge area on ground floor. Erection of 1st floor extension above ground floor bedroom and ensuite.) The proposal seeks to alter the first-floor finish from brick cladding to a dark brown composite timber cladding. – RESOLVED – No Comment 7.1.7 2025/853 – 65 Hickmans Close, Godstone, Surrey, RH9 8EB – proposed dormer within roof to side elevation. (Certificate of lawfulness for Proposed use or development.) – RESOLVED – No Comment. 7.1.8 2025/711 – Land at Ivy Mill Lane, Godstone, RH9 8NR – Formation of travellers site with 2 pitches for Caravans (Outline planning permission with all matters reserved except layout and scale.) – RESOLVED - OBJECTION on the following basis: • This site is on green belt land. • On the site of the application there was a mill pond that was filled in the 1960s and this area is likely to be heavily contaminated. The contamination survey is an entry level survey with very little detail and importantly does not deal with gases. • The road access to the site is narrow and not suitable for large or heavy vehicles it is prone to flooding and the site itself is also prone to flooding. • Local amenities are only accessible via a reasonable walk, and some amenities are only accessible by car or bus travel e.g. hospital • The application itself reserves most matters and lacks sufficient detail of scale and design. • Tandridge District Council's document HELAA 2016 Appendix 7 – Traveller Sites which shows the site GOD 014 with a boundary going up to the Stratton Brook which is different to the boundary shown on the applicant's documents. The Stratton Brook is a key resource for the	

	local wildlife and Parish Council also has concerns as residents have reported observing water voles on the site. Water voles are protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981. Priority Species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. Water voles are listed as endangered on both the Great Britain and the England Red List for Mammals. The Parish Council noted that Tandridge District Council's Gypsy, Travellers, and Travelling Show people - Update - June 2025 adopted at the Planning Policy Committee of Thursday, 19 June 2025 stated 32 travellers' plots have been approved this year and question whether additional sites are now necessary in Tandridge 7.2 Any other planning matters 7.2.1 To note the appeal for 2025/418 – Gardenia, Tandridge Lane, Lingfield, Surrey, RH7 6LL – Demolition of dwelling. Erection of replacement dwelling. NOTED. 7.2.2 To note the appeal for 2025/384 – 9 Lagham Park, South Godstone, Godstone, Surrey, RH9 8EW – Retention of boundary fence. NOTED. 7.2.3 The developers proposing the development of the land west of Godstone near the haul road have asked for a meeting with the PC. To consider and agree or otherwise whether the PC would like to meet with them. IT WAS AGREED that the Parish Council would meet with the developers, and the Clerk would arrange a meeting date and time.	JC
91/25	16 DATES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS	
	- Planning Committee Meeting – Wednesday 17th September 2025, 6:30pm at the Bounty, Godstone Green - Full Council Meeting – 6th October 2025, 7:30pm, St Stephens Church, South Godstone. Part 2 – To consider passing a resolution that pursuant to Section 1 part 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any business on the grounds that it is likely if the public were to remain, there would be a disclosure of exempt information. – Motion not required. There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting at 22:00	

Signed
Chairperson

Print Name

Date