

Godstone Parish Council

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

Clerk to the Parish Council

J Coulthard

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MINUTES

of the meeting of Godstone Parish Council held on **Monday 5th January 2026 at 7.30pm** at St Stephens Church, South Godstone

Chair: Cllr S Beagley

Vice Chair: Cllr L Case

Present: Cllr D Christmas, Cllr C Farr, Cllr S Farr, Cllr J Gardner, and Cllr C White

In attendance: D Cllr M Crane, Secretary of the South Godstone Sports and Social Club, Mr I Smith, Mr J Goodan, 4 x Residents and J Coulthard (Clerk)

142/25	1 CO-OPTION FOR COUNCILLOR VACANCY	
	<p>1.1 Candidate representations: Mr Ian Smith presented his reasons for wanting to join the Parish Council (PC) and briefed the Parish Council on what he would do to support residents and the PC. Mr Smith confirmed he was a resident of Godstone. Mr Jon Goodman presented his reasons for wanting to join the PC and briefed the PC about what he would do to support residents and the PC as well as giving a brief overview of the skills and experience he had to offer. Mr Goodman confirmed he was a resident of South Godstone.</p> <p>1.2 To consider and agree which candidate to co-opt: The Parish Council took a vote as to which candidate they wish to coopt to fill the Parish Councillor vacancy in South Godstone Ward. Mr Goodman received an absolute majority of the vote and IT WAS THEREFORE AGREED to coopt Mr Goodman as to fill the vacancy.</p> <p>1.3 Co-opted candidate to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office: Mr Goodman the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.</p> <p>1.4 Chair to invite the new Cllr to join the meeting: Cllr Beagley invited Cllr Goodman to join the meeting and Cllr Goodman joined the other Cllrs at the meeting table.</p>	
143/25	2 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC	
	<p>2.1 A member of staff at Pond Tail surgery emailed to ask what plans the Parish Council had for improving the lighting in the car park near the Surgery. The car park can be very dark in the winter late afternoons and evening and the surface has lots of little potholes with one massive pothole in the area used by pedestrians. Residents with late appointments have complained to the Surgery that this is dangerous. – The PC advised that it did not have any plans to improve the lighting in the car park. The main reasons being that the car park was meant for use by visitors to the Green and these visits generally happened during daylight hours and the cost to provide lighting was very expensive and outside of the PC's budget. In addition, improving the lighting would require permission to tap into the SCC streetlamp electricity supply which would be unlikely to be given and if given would add to the cost. IT WAS AGREED to repair the pothole(s) in the car park to make it safer for pedestrians and that the Asst. Clerk would obtain quotes.</p> <p>2.2 A resident visited the office and brought one of the Common Land By-Law signs from Green View that had fallen off its post and asked for the PC to arrange for it to be reinstated. – Cllr Gardner advised that he would arrange for the sign to be reinstated.</p> <p>2.3 A resident attended the meeting on behalf of the Pale Park Protest group. He reminded the PC that the group wanted to stop overdevelopment of South Godstone. He advised that the group had been formed too late to object to the c. 200 house development on the land Southwest of Godstone Station.</p>	<p>GM</p> <p>JGar</p>

	<p>He reported that membership of the group was growing. Although the planning application for Pale Park had not yet been submitted to TDC yet, there was an active steering group researching and pulling together the paperwork for their objection. The group had been low profile so far and were planning an awareness campaign and would therefore become more visible in the coming weeks.</p> <p>2.4 The Secretary of the South Godstone Sports and Social Club briefed the PC that the Club had still not decided whether it wished to proceed with taking over the Club under the Tandridge District Council (TDC) Asset Transfer initiative. She advised that they had experienced difficulties obtaining costs and information from TDC. She also advised that the Club's Management Committee wanted a full building survey done before deciding and that an Extraordinary General Meeting was scheduled for the 23rd of January. IT WAS AGREED that the Clerk would obtain a ballpark figure for renting the Club. IT WAS ALSO AGREED that the Secretary of the Club would let the Clerk have the status of their communications with TDC.</p>	JC SR
144/25	3 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE (LGA 1972 s85)	
	Apologies received and accepted for Cllr K Ward.	
145/25	4 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS	
	Cllr White declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 16.2 on the agenda, the nature of the interest being he could potentially be a neighbour.	
146/25	5 COUNTY AND DISTRICT CLLRS – Brief report on matters affecting the Parish.	
	<p>Cllr C Farr in his capacity as SC Cllr reported that Surrey County Council's main focus was on the Local Government Reorganisation. Timetables had been issued and they were working to those. Cllr Christmas asked if Cllr C Farr could he confirm that it would be 2 Cllrs per division for the new Unitary Authority, Cllr C Farr advised it would be 2 Cllrs per Division.</p> <p>D Cllr Crane advised he had nothing to report.</p> <p>Cllr Gardner asked whether TDC or SCC were responsible for street cleaning. He reported that there was a small, corrugated iron shed at the roundabout for the M25 at the point where the A22 joined it heading North. A huge pile of rubbish was building up at the shed and causing an eyesore. In his capacity as SC Cllr, Cllr Farr agreed that he would try to get SCC to remove it. Cllr Case mentioned that the five bar gate at the entrance to Bay Path near the St Nicholas Youth Centre had fallen over as a post had rotted and broken. Some young residents were now riding e-bikes and e-scooters along the path at speed making it dangerous and disconcerting for Cllr Case advised that she and the Chair of the Godstone Village Association had reported the problem to Surrey Countryside Access Management (Surrey CAM), but nothing had been done. Cllr C Farr agreed to try to get Surrey CAM to get it fixed.</p>	CF CF
147/25	6 MINUTES	
	MINUTES of the full Parish Council meetings held on the 1 st December 2025, the Finance Committee meeting on the 8 th December 2025, and the Planning Committee meeting held on the 17 th December 2025 were agreed and signed as true record. (LGA 1972 Sch.12 s41)	
148/25	7 REPORTS	
	<p>7.1 Clerk's Report – Matters to bring to the Council's attention</p> <p>7.1.1 Crab Apple Tree on Godstone Green – to note that the work was completed on the Monday 8th December. NOTED</p> <p>7.1.2 Tree Survey – to note that the letters requesting quotes have gone out and four contractors have been asked to provide quotes. NOTED</p> <p>7.1.3 CPRE – To consider and agree whether the PC would like to renew its membership of the CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England). Membership lapsed in 2024. Renewal fee £60. – IT WAS AGREED not to renew the Parish Council's membership.</p> <p>7.1.4 Mercedes car in Blindley Heath car park – to note that the car has been removed after being reported to TDC by the Asst. Clerk. NOTED</p> <p>7.2 Chairperson's Report – (for noting) information only.</p> <p>Cllr Beagley advised he had nothing to report.</p>	

	<p>7.3 Reports (for noting) from representatives on outside bodies etc. Cllr Beagley reported that he and Cllr Case had attended the GVA meeting. They reported that the GVA had raised £1,855 towards the purchase of trees to be planted on the Green. Cllr Gardner asked if a study had been carried out as to where to plant the trees and what types of trees could be planted. Cllr Beagley mentioned that there were three or four spaces already identified some spaces were where trees had already been lost i.e. opposite the Forge Café, next to the Pavilion and at the edge of the car park. Cllr Case advised she had a list of the species of tree appropriate for the Green. Cllr S Farr reported that she had attended the Blindley Heath Liaison Group meeting and that the Asst. Clerk had attended to and had circulated comprehensive notes from the meeting leaving nothing for her to add. IT WAS AGREED to accept the donation for the trees and put it in an earmarked reserved.</p> <p>7.2 Reports from Committees – Cllr Case reported that she had attended a meeting of the Godstone Preservation Society (GPS). She advised that the Chair of the GPS had lots of ideas on what can be done for Godstone.</p>	
149/25	8 GREENS, COMMONS AND LAND	
	<p>8.1 Godstone – Godstone Green; Greenview; Playground, Allotment and Hilly Fields</p> <p>8.1.1 Godstone Green – 8.1.1.1 To consider and agree whether to approve the replacement of the broken Christmas lights on the third tree on Godstone Green for 2026. Cost £2,753 (in budget work up for 2026/27) – IT WAS AGREED to defer this item for discussion to the next Green Space Committee meeting.</p> <p>8.1.2 Greenview – Cllr Gardner raised the issue of the skip on Greenview. The Clerk advised that the skip had gone and the ground had been made good.</p> <p>8.1.3 Playground 8.1.3.1 To consider and agree or otherwise whether to approve the cost and installation of the replacement equipment for the broken roundabout. (Tippee Carousel and Play Panel) £11,959 ex. VAT. IT WAS AGREED to approve the cost of the replacement and installation of the equipment, including the installation of an outdoor Tennis Table.</p> <p>8.1.4 Allotments – Nothing to report.</p> <p>8.1.5 Hilly Fields – Nothing to report.</p> <p>8.2 Tilburstow Hill and The Enterdent</p> <p>8.2.1 Tilburstow Hill Tree 8.2.1.1 To retrospectively approve the cost of the Openreach Survey on the line that needs to be dropped to enable safe removal of the tree. £1,583.64 ex. VAT. - Cllr Ward asked who had approved the spend. Cllr Beagley advised he had approved the spend which was within his remit as Chair and in accordance with the PC's Financial Regulations. APPROVED</p> <p>8.2.1.2 To consider and agree next steps after receiving the post survey quote from Openreach for the work to drop the telephone line that could be damaged by the removal a tree. £5,151.80 ex. VAT. – IT WAS AGREED that the Clerk would write to Openreach to request a copy of the Wayleave agreement as Cllrs believed there would be a clause covering this type of work and thought it might state that it was Openreach's responsibility to cover the costs. The Clerk would report back at the next meeting.</p> <p>8.3 South Godstone - Cllr White advised that work to refurbish Hunters Chase Playground would starting shortly. The Clerk advised that she needed to make the payment of the PC's £17,000 contribution to the refurbishment and as the amount had already been approved would make the payment with the other payments approved for January. APPROVED. The Clerk also reported that she was still trying to organise a meeting with St Stephens School to discuss the transfer of Hunters Chase Playground from TDC.</p> <p>8.4 Blindley Heath 8.4.1 To consider and agree or otherwise whether to assist TDC to fund a Basketball court at Featherstone playground by applying for a grant from Sports England - IT WAS AGREED that the Clerk could apply for a grant from Sports England.</p>	<p>JC</p> <p>JC</p>

	<p>8.4.2 To consider and agree or otherwise whether to accept the TDC Tree Officers offer to plant more trees on Featherstone playing field. – The Parish Council advised that they did not want to accept that offer of trees for Featherstone playing field. The reason being that the trees would generate additional costs and liabilities.</p> <p>8.4.3 To consider and agree or otherwise whether the Clerk can sign the Heads of Terms for the transfer of Featherstone Playground and Featherstone Playing Field from TDC. – The Parish Council wanted clarification of the 'Buy Back Provision' clause mentioned in the Heads of Terms before agreeing that the Clerk could sign it. IT WAS AGREED that the Clerk would ask the TDC Asset Transfer team for clarification. .</p> <p>8.5 Burial Ground - Exclusive Rights of Burial Applications and Memorial Applications</p> <p>8.5.1 To consider and agree or otherwise whether to approve the wording for a plaque on a memorial bench for the green. APPROVED</p> <p>8.5.2 Exhumation – update. – The Clerk reported that the exhumation of ashes was successfully completed</p>	JC
150/25	9 FINANCE	
	<p>9.1 Accounts for Payment - Approve JANUARY accounts for payment. - APPROVED.</p> <p>9.2 Finance Papers up to 30TH NOVEMBER 2025 - Bank Reconciliation and Accounts Reports – Income & Expenditure; Reserves, Balance Sheet and Summary of Funds). – Cllrs acknowledged receipt of the reports. - The Clerk gave a brief overview of the reports including financial status against budget and status of earmarked and general reserves. NOTED</p> <p>9.3 To approve the Precept for 2026/27 – The Clerk briefed the Parish Council on the revised budget and Precept amount that was needed because of the changes requested at the Finance Committee meeting of the 8th of December 2025. The revised version of the budget showed that the Precept for 2026/27 would need to increase by 50%. Much of the increase was driven by the need for the tree work across the Parish, costs budgeted for the maintenance of existing assets and any new assets transferred from TDC and inflation. Cllr C Farr expressed his concern at the percentage increase and the impact this would have residents Council Tax bill. The Parish Council agreed with Cllr C Farr however, agreed that the Parish Council did not have a choice otherwise it would not be able to fulfil its obligations and responsibilities. IT WAS AGREED to approve the Precept for 2026/27.</p> <p>9.4 To consider and agree the Budget for 2026/27. As a result of the briefing and discussions at 9.3 IT WAS AGREED to approve the Budget for 2026/27.</p>	JC JC
151/25	10 TDC ASSET TRANSFER	
	<p>10.1 The Parish Council asked whether there was an update on obtaining an idea of the costs associated with maintaining and cleaning the Public Toilets. Cllr Case advised she had spoken to Molly Maid but had not pursued the cost. Cllr C Farr asked the Clerk to check with the TDC Asset Transfer regarding whether the land under and at the back of the toilets was included in the transfer. IT WAS AGREED the Clerk would check.</p>	
152/25	11 GOVERNANCE	
	Nothing to report.	
153/25	12 POLICES & PROCEDURES	
	<p>12.1 IT Policy – to agree to adopt the draft IT Policy – IT WAS AGREED to adopt the draft IT Policy, and the Clerk would review it against the new NALC IT Policy template when the Clerk had more time.</p>	JC
154/25	13 SALC/NALC	
	Nothing to report.	
155/25	14 CORRESPONDENCE	
	Nothing to report.	
156/25	15 MATTERS FOR REPORTING OR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT Policy • 2026/27 Budget 	
157/25	16 AOB	
	Cllr C Farr raised the issue of the benches that needed renovating/replacing at Blindley Heath. IT WAS AGREED to order recycled plastic benches to replace the benches for Blindley Heath and for the Asst. Clerk to arrange.	JC
140/25	17 CURRENT PLANNING ISSUES (Applications with a comment deadline prior to the next Planning Committee Meeting).	
	<p>17.1 2025/1392 – 48 Dewlands, Godstone, Surrey, RH9 8BS – Demolition of existing detached garage and erection of a single storey rear and front porch extensions. RESOLVED - NO OBJECTION</p> <p>17.2 2025/1431 – 33 Lagham Park, South Godstone, Godstone, Surrey, RH9 8EW – Erection of ground floor rear extension. RESOLVED - NO OBJECTION.</p> <p>17.3 2025/1454- 52 Easter Way, South Godstone, Godstone, Surrey, RH9 8HQ – Erection of two storey side/rear extension, garage conversion, loft conversion with hip to gable conversion, rear dormer roof lights to front slope. RESOLVED – NO OBJECTION.</p> <p>17.4 2025/1467/NH – The Haven, Godstone Hill, Godstone, Surrey, RH9 8HQ – Erection of single storey rear extension which would extend beyond the rear wall of the original house by 8 metres, for which maximum height of the eaves would be 3 metres. (Notification of Proposed Larger Home extension). – RESOLVED – NO OBJECTION.</p> <p>17.5 Any Other Planning Matters</p> <p>17.5.1 IT WAS AGREED that the Clerk would contact TDC regarding the offer of an alternative community space to replace the community room at Lindley Road for which TDC had submitted a planning application to turn into a bungalow.</p>	JC
141/25	18 DATES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Committee Meeting – Wednesday, 21st January 2025 6:30pm at the Bounty, Godstone Green • Greenspaces Committee Meeting – Monday, 26th January 2026 10am at the Bounty. Godstone Green • Full Parish Council Meeting – Monday, 2nd February 2026 at 7:30pm at St Stephens Church, South Godstone <p>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.</p> <p>There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting at 22:06</p>	

Signed
Chairperson

Print Name

Date