Godstone Parish Council

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

Clerk to the Parish Council
J Coulthard

The Bounty
Godstone Green
Godstone, Surrey, RH9 8DY

Admin Assistant to the Parish Council
G McPartlin

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MINUTES

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

Chair: Cllr S Beagley
Vice Chair: Cllr L Case
Present: Cllr Digby Christmas, Cllr Jim Gardner, Cllr C Farr, Cllr S Farr, Cllr Colin White

In attendance: J Coulthard (Clerk), 3 x Residents

87/26	**1 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**	
	1.1 Questions and requests from residents in attendance • A representative from the South Godstone Village Action Group attended the meeting to the update the Parish Council (PC) on their activities. The representative reported that they were currently focused on the appeal for the planning application for 200 houses proposed for the land north of Godstone Station. He explained the group had obtained Rul 6 status allowing them to make a representation at the appeal hearing and the group were putting together a statement for the hearing. He reported that they were lining up beside Tandridge District Council (TDC). The representative reported that a case management conference was coming up for the application for the 500 houses in South Godstone advising that the application was still being considered by TDC and the planning officer was waiting for the response from National Highways. The decision on the application is delayed until November. • A resident mentioned the 'Meet the Beat' event held by the pond on Godstone Green and asked if the police had obtained permission to use this area for their event. – The Clerk advised that permission was not requested but she had written to the Borough Commander and Safer Neighbourhoods Team to advise that permission needed to be sought in future. The Borough Commander had responded saying that they had not asked permission as it was a public space and they used it because of the cost of hiring an indoor venue. The Clerk in turn had responded reiterating the need to request permission and offering to try to find free indoor spaces in the future. She had not received any response to the offer. 1.2 A resident has written to the Clerk asking if the Parish Council (PC) will consider nominating a bench on Godstone Green to be part of Claire Coutinho's, MP friendship scheme which involves having a plaque welcoming people to sit down & talk to someone if they are feeling lonely (Claire Coutinho supplies the plaque) – The PC advised that many of the benches on Godstone Green were memorial benches donated by residents with memorial plaques on them. For this reason, they did not agree to the request for a nominating a bench for the friendship scheme and plaque.	
88/26	**2 APOLOGIES**	
	Apologies were received and accepted for Cllr Goodman.	
89/26	**3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**	
	None.	

90/26	**4 COUNTY AND DISTRICT CLLRS** – Brief report on matters affecting the Parish.	
	Nothing to report.	
91/26	**5 MINUTES**	
	MINUTES of the Planning Committee Meeting of the 2nd of September and the full Parish Council (PC) meeting held on the 7th September 2026, and the Green Spaces Committee of the 7th September 2026 were agreed and signed as a true record true record of the meetings. (LGA 1972 Sch.12 s41)	
92/26	**6 REPORTS**	
	6.1 Clerks Report - Matters to bring to the Councils attention. **6.1.1 Adult Outdoor Gym –** Application to the Secretary of State for permission for the surface submitted 25th September, all notices and advert place and consultees letters sent 25th September. CIL Fund agreement and documents completed and sent to TDC 17th September and subsequent questions answered. (Approx 15 – 20 hours of work). **NOTED.** **6.1.2 The Bounty –** the annual air-conditioning service was completed on the 1st October (£135.00 excl. VAT). The school have arranged for the tree growing into the external air source heat pump for the air-conditioning to be pollarded tomorrow. A date still needs to be agreed to dig the trench at the back of the bounty to stop water getting into the walls. The Godstone Sports Association (GSA) advised they can move the goal posts at any time. The PC just needs to tell them when. **IT WAS AGREED** to ask the GSA to move the posts from next Monday. **6.1.3 Blindley Heath Pond accident –** The Assistant Clerk received everything required to submit the insurance claim for the damage caused by the car the entered the pond and has submitted the claim. **NOTED.** **6.2 Chairperson's Report** (for noting) information only Nothing of note to report. **6.3 Reports (for noting) from representative on outside bodies etc.** Cllr S Farr mentioned she had not been able to attend the Blindley Heath Liaison Group's walk around the Blindley Heath SSSI, although the Asst. Clerk had attended. Cllr S Farr reported that Surrey Wildlife had reintroduced cows on the SSSI and they were doing a good job in keeping down the unwanted vegetation. Cllr Case reported she had attended the TDC Parish Assembly with the Clerk. The Clerk reported that TDC had presented on the progress of the Community Asset Transfer programme, progress on the Local Government reorganisation and what would happen after the vesting day for the new East Surrey Unitary Authority and gave an update on the pilot Neighbourhood Area Committees (NACs). The Clerk had asked TDC about the roll out of the NACs and TDC's view was that they would not be rolled out as the NACs were unfunded. The Clerk also mentioned to TDC that their rigid process for the Asset Transfers was leading to Parish Councils incurring unnecessary legal costs and probably leading to unnecessary costs for TDC as well. **6.4 Reports from Committees** Reports from Committees were submitted via the minutes for each Committee meeting which were circulated prior to the meeting.	**JC**

93/26	**7 GREENS, COMMONS AND LAND**	
	7.1 Godstone – Godstone Green; Greenview; Playground, Allotment and Hilly Fields **7.1.1 Godstone Green** **7.1.1.1** No Horse riding or cycling sign for Surgery entrance requires a new post as the old one is too short. Contractor a) quote received £335.04 excl. VAT for post and installation. To consider and agree or otherwise whether to proceed and which contractor to go with. – The Clerk mentioned that a quote from contractor b) was pending and would be approx. half the cost of contractor a). **IT WAS AGREED** to choose contractor b) and the Asst. Clerk would inform the contractor. **7.1.2 Greenview** Nothing to report. **7.1.3 Playground** **7.1.3.1** To review and consider and agree or otherwise which contractor to choose for the post installation inspection for the Playground. Contractor a) £725 – includes 1 x Annual & 3 quarterly operational inspections (1 operational inspection would be a post installation inspection b) Post installation inspection and 1 x Annual inspection £350.00 extra operational inspections £100 (current lead time Jan 2027). c) 3 x safety inspections p/a £479.88 excl. VAT. To consider and agree or otherwise which contractor to go with. **IT WAS AGREED** to go with the PC's current contractor b) and review when the PC is responsible for other playgrounds. **IT WAS ALSO AGREED** to ask for a firm date for the inspection to allow a Cllr to be present during the inspection**.** The Asst. Clerk to liaise with the contractor. **7.1.4 Allotments** Cllr Ward reported that he was waiting to find out who were the new members of the Allotment Associations Committee. He reported that Asst. Clerk had sent the new layout plan of the Allotments, but he had noticed some things that were not quite accurate and would liaise with the Asst. Clerk to finalise the layout. The Clerk mentioned the additional wording that had been added to the Allotment Boundary Agreement to limit the liability of the Trustees. The PC confirmed that they were happy with the additional wording. **IT WAS AGREED** that the Clerk could sign the agreement with the additional wording included **7.1.5 Hilly Fields** The Clerk mentioned that the Chair of the GVA had requested the key to the gate to allow him to access the field with his ride on mower to cut the grass. **IT WAS AGREED** that the Chair of the GVA could be a keyholder and retain a key so he could cut the grass as when required. **7.1.6 St Nicholas Church** Cllr Beagley requested that the Clerk contact Surrey Countryside Access Management to request a footpath sign for the path through the Churchyard. **IT WAS AGREED** the Clerk would ask. **7.2 Tilburstow Hill and The Enterdent** The Clerk reported that the Asst. Clerk had arranged for two lots of fly tipping to be removed from the Enterdent. This included two fridges. She warned there could be more fridges in future because TDC were no longer collecting them as part of their large item collection scheme. Cllr Christmas reported that he had visited Fairalls (Taylor's Yard) with the chair of the Godstone Preservation Society to assess whether access could be gained through the yard to some areas of Japanese Knotweed that were difficult to reach. **7.3 South Godstone** Nothing to report. **7.4 Blindley Heath** **7.4.1** Dredging of the Pond - Cllr Farr advised SCC and a Blindley Heath resident that the PC would dredge the pond. Timing not discussed. PC does not have	**GM** **GM** **JC** **GM** **JC**

a budget to cover the cost of dredging in 2026/27. To consider and agree or otherwise whether the PC wishes to dredge the pond and if so timing. **IT WAS AGREED** that the Clerk should obtain quotes for dredging the pond and creating a 4-inch channel to the brook to alleviate flooding. **JC**

7.5 Wayleaves & Garden Plots

7.5.1 Maynards - A person representing the owner of Maynards has written to the Clerk in association with the Wayleave for Maynards which they state we do not have the authority to charge as they believe the PC does not own the land. To consider and agree how to respond. **IT WAS AGREED** that the Clerk should send a holding message and consult the PCs solicitor. **JC** **IT WAS ALSO AGREED** that the Clerk would contact Land Registry to find out what needed to be done to register the PCs ownership of the land. **JC**

Cllr Beagley mentioned that a wayleave was required for the car business that were using the track at Heathview commercial purposes.

7.6 Burial Ground - Exclusive Burial Ground - Exclusive Rights of Burial Applications and Memorial Applications

7.6.1 Family refused permission for kerbing around a grave but has complained as other graves have kerbing, some without PC permission. To consider and agree or otherwise whether to allow families to have kerbing around the graves and if yes, what type of kerbing. **IT WAS AGREED** to allow the family to install kerbing and the Clerk would set criteria for what would be allowed in terms of design and materials, but the kerbing should be no more than 4-inches in height and the same length as the grave. **JC**

The Clerk mentioned that two headstones had been removed for second inscriptions, but they had been left in full view of visitors. She reported she had asked the stonemasons to remove them as there was nowhere to store them. The stonemasons had responded advising they had nowhere to store them either. **IT WAS AGREED** the Clerk would write to the families to ask them to remove them for safe storage. **JC**

The Clerk also reported that a resident had asked if he could inter two cups of ashes in an existing family grave in the burial ground. **IT WAS AGREED** that the resident could inter the ashes in the family grave and that the Clerk would inform the resident. **JC**

7.7 Tree works

7.7.1 To consider and agree or otherwise which contractor to choose for the tree survey work.

Area	Contractor A	Contractor B	Contractor C
Godstone Green	8165	9400	7868
The Enterdent	11050	6075*	9196
BH Common	2885	1200	1300
BH SSSI	0	650	180
BH Total	2885	1850	1480
Burial Grounds		1850	1720
Total	26685	21285	20,264

The PC discussed the options and felt it was important to spread the work between contractors to be able to gain comparisons of the quality of the work and ensure value for money as well as to ensure the contractors would continue to quote for work in the future. **IT WAS AGREED** to choose contractor A for Godstone Green, contractor B for the Enterdent and Blindley Heath Common and contractor C for the Blindley Heath SSSI and that the Asst. Clerk would inform the contractors. **GM**

94/26 **8 FINANCE MATTERS**

8.1 Accounts for Payment - Approve OCTOBER accounts for payment. **APPROVED.**

8.2 Budget – To consider budget requirements for areas of responsibility and how Cllrs will feed in budget requirements for 2027/2028 to the Clerk by the

	16th of October. **IT WAS AGREED** that Cllrs would send their requirements to the Clerk by the 16th October. The Clerk mentioned that the PC still needed to add Cllr Beagley as a signatory on the bank account. The previous attempt had failed due to technical issues. She advised she would try again this week and would let the relevant Cllrs know so they could take the appropriate actions.	**ALL**
95/26	**9 TDC ASSET TRANSFER**	
	9.1 Featherstone Playground and Playing Field Update (Clerk**)** – The Clerk provided and update stating that the PCs solicitor was now progressing the agreement.	
96/26	**10 GOVERNANCE**	
	Nothing to report.	
97/26	**11 POLICIES & PROCEDURES**	
	Nothing to report.	
98/26	**12 SALC/NALC**	
	Nothing to report.	
99/26	**13 CORRESPONDENCE**	
	Nothing to report not already covered.	
100/26	**14 MATTERS FOR REPORTING OR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS**	
	Wayleaves Community Asset Transfer	
102/26	**15 AOB**	
	15.1 To consider and agree or otherwise whether to nominate a Cllr to attend the South Tandridge Health & Wellbeing Meeting on 27 October , beginning at 9:45am at Godstone Baptist Church. – Cllr Case volunteered to attend the meeting. **15.2** To consider and agree whether the PC Office can buy a new laminator as the existing one has broken and would not have passed a PAT test. Preapprove cost of up to £50. **IT WAS AGREED** to purchase a new laminator the Asst. Clerk to place the order.	**GM**
103/26	**16 DATES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**	
	• Planning Committee Meeting – Wednesday 15th October 2026, 6:30pm at the Bounty, Godstone Green • Greenspaces Committee Meeting – Monday 26th October 2026, 10am at the Bounty, Godstone Green • Full Council Meeting – Monday 2nd November 2026, 7:30pm at 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. A resolution was not required. There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting to the public at 9:32pm.	

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Signed Print Name Date

Chairperson

APPENDIX A

To be processed from 5th October 2026 under delegated authority from Godstone Parish Council - SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER PAYMENTS

Clerk/Office Use			4. Finance - Accounts for payment - to approve SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER accounts for payment								
Rialtas	**USE EMR or CIL**	**Paid on**	**GPC Ref.**	**Business**	**Invoice**	**Invoice Date**	**Payment For**	**Net amount**	**VAT**	**Invoice Total**	**Information**
			Salary Payments								
			G2019 - G2022	Salaries	SEPTEMBER		Salary	£ 3,316.39	£ -	£ 3,316.39	Within Budget
				HMRC			NI and Income tax				
				NEST Pension			Pension contribution				
			Direct Debits								
			G2024	SES		05/10/2026	Water	£ 35.07	£ -	£ 35.07	Est
			G2025	Lloyds Bank		22/10/2026	Service Charge	£ 4.25	£ -	£ 4.25	Est
4085			G2026	BT	M148PR	28/10/2026	Telephone and Internet	£ 49.95	£ 9.99	£ 59.94	Actual
			G2027	Smartestenergy	FH88Z6BBE/008	28/10/2026	Electricity	£ 15.77	£ 0.79	£ 16.56	Est
			G2017	ICO		28/10/2026	Annual Subscription	£ 47.00	£ -	£ 47.00	
			Total					**£ 105.04**	**£ 10.78**	**£ 115.82**	
			Invoices for Payment								
			G2014	One to One	GODS01	30/06/2026	Envelopes, Paperclips & Laminating Pouches	£ 43.09	£ 8.62	£ 51.71	*Paid 15/09/26*
			G2015	Countrywide Grounds Maintenance	710237	13/08/2026	Area G3 - Blindley Heath grass cut	£ 252.00	£ 50.40	£ 302.40	

			G2018	Janette Coulthard/Reach Plc	902530167	21/09/2026	Advert in the Surrey Advertiser - Statutory Notice of application to Secretary of State for Outdoor Gym	£ 800.40	£ 160.08	£ 960.48	
			G2023	Pear Technology	26090176	30/09/2026	Combine Technical support Package / 1-year MapInk/ PT Mapper Pro	£ 250.00	£ 50.00	£ 300.00	
			G2028	PKF Littlejohn	SB20262159	14/09/2026	External Audit	£ 420.00	£ 84.00	£ 504.00	
			Total					**£ 1,765.49**	**£ 353.10**	**£ 1,614.59**	

Rialtas Month: 7 OCTOBER

*Salaries paid in accordance with 7. Payment of Salaries of the Parish Council Financial Regulations.
**Employee/Employers total payment paid by GPC.

£5,186.92	**£363.88**	**£5,046.80**