

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

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MINUTES

of the meeting of Godstone Parish Council held on **Tuesday 7th April 2026 at 7.30pm** at St Stephens Church, South Godstone

Chair: Cllr S Beagley

Vice Chair: Cllr L Case

Present: Cllr J Gardner, Cllr Jon Goodman, Cllr C Farr, Cllr S Farr, Cllr K Ward

In attendance: J Coulthard (Clerk), 7 x Residents

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| 194/25 | <p>1 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC</p> | |
| | <p>1.1 Godstone Sports Pavilion – Two Trustees of the Godstone Sports Association (GSA) attended the meeting to provide an update on what was happening with the Godstone Sports Pavilion which they lease from the Parish Council. The Chair of the GSA reported the Tennis Club now had record numbers of members, they were working on building relationships with other local organisations and had invested in a new court. The GSA had worked to get Football back on the Green and were collecting match fees. They had attracted £2.5K of local funding and had been awarded a grant of £30K by Football Foundation to invest in the Green. The Cricket Club were now looking at the Pavilion with a view to doing some refurbishment and maintenance works. Plumbing and roofing work had already been completed. Cllr Beagley acknowledged that there had been some progress over the last couple of years. The Chair of the GSA mentioned that he had been speaking with Cllr Christmas and that Cllr Christmas wanted to set up a committee to manage the Pavilion.</p> <p>Cllr Gardner asked if the GSA could ensure that the room containing the electric meters was kept clear so that the PC Office Staff could access the meters to take meter readings. The Chair of the GSA noted the request. Cllr Case acknowledge the GSA’s commitment but mentioned she had some concerns regarding whether PAT testing, Legionnaire inspections and Fire inspections were being carried out. The Chair of the GSA confirmed that PAT testing would be carried out next week and that Fire Inspections had already been done.</p> <p>Cllr Gardner advised that the drainage system needs regular maintenance to ensure that that blockages did not occur due to matter solidifying as a result of the infrequent use of the toilets. He advised that the toilets needed to be flushed regularly to prevent this.</p> <p>The Chair of GSA also reported that they had appointed two new Trustees. The Trustees were now Alex Hooper-Greenhill, Tom Dean and Helen Bailey-Johnson.</p> <p>1.2 Allotments – The Chair of the Allotment Association attended and reported there were still issues with non-tenants parking at the allotments and wanted to remind the PC about the agreement to put up a chain. Cllr Beagley advised that he thought the Association previously was asking for permission to put up a chain and not for the PC to purchase and install the chain. The Chair of the Association advised that a post would be needed along with a chain and a padlock and possibly a no entry sign. IT WAS AGREED that Cllr Beagley would measure up for a chain and price it up and that the Clerk would obtain quotes for a sign and padlock.</p> <p>1.3 South Godstone Village Action (SGVA) – A resident attended to give an update on the activities of the SGVA. He advised that the planning application</p> | <p>SB/JC</p> |

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| | for 250 houses in South Godstone was still not determined and an expected application for 500 houses had not yet been submitted. He advised that the SGVA now had a constitution which means they can apply for Rule 6 status if needed. The resident also mentioned that the group were trying to raise funds for the group to fight appeals. | |
| 195/25 | 2 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE (LGA 1972 s85) | |
| | Apologies received and accepted for Cllrs D Christmas and C White. | |
| 196/25 | 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS | |
| | None. | |
| 197/25 | 4 COUNTY AND DISTRICT CLLRS – Brief report on matters affecting the Parish. | |
| | In his capacity as District Cllr, Cllr C Farr reported that District Cllrs were having meetings about the land that comes forward from the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA). In his capacity as Surrey County Cllr, he reported that the focus was on progressing the Local Government Reorganisation. | |
| 198/25 | 5 MINUTES | |
| | MINUTES of the full Parish Council meeting of the 2 nd March 2026 and the Planning Committee meeting held on the 18 th of March 2026 were agreed and signed as true record. (LGA 1972 Sch.12 s41) | |
| 199/25 | 6 REPORTS | |
| | <p>6.1 Clerks Report - Matters to bring to the Councils attention</p> <p>6.1.1 Internal Auditor – To consider and agree whether to remain with our Internal Auditor. IT WAS AGREED to remain with the current Internal Auditor.</p> <p>6.1.2 Internal Auditor – To consider and agree whether to take a 1- or 3-year contract. Current price = £75 p/hr, new price £80 p/hr. IT WAS AGREED to take a 3-year contract the Clerk to inform the Internal Auditor.</p> <p>6.1.3 TDC Off Street Parking Places Order – To consider and agree or otherwise whether the PC wishes to comment on the Parking Order. IT WAS AGREED not to comment on the Parking Order.</p> <p>6.1.4 Redhill Aerodrome CC (RACC) – To consider and agree which Cllr will be the PC representative on the RACC. IT WAS AGREED that Cllr C Farr would be the representative.</p> <p>6.1.5 Community Emergency Information Hubs - To consider and agree or otherwise whether the PC want to get involved in this SCC initiative and if so, which Cllr will hold responsibility. – IT WAS AGREED that the PC would like to get involved however, no Cllr was nominated to be responsible. The Clerk to inform SCC.</p> <p>6.1.6 Pavilion lease – To note that there are two new trustees of the GSA – NOTED.</p> <p>6.3 Chairperson’s Report – (for noting) information only. Nothing to report.</p> <p>6.4 Reports (for noting) from representatives on outside bodies etc. Cllr Goodman reported that he had attended the opening of the refurbished Hunter’s Chase Playground with Cllr White. He reported that it was well attended and an Easter Egg hunt had been organised for the children.</p> <p>6.5 Reports from Committees The Clerk mentioned the two articles about planning reforms and changes to the appeals process that she had emailed to Cllrs and that the Cllrs needed to be aware that initial comments on planning applications needed to contain everything that the PC wanted to say because no further submissions would be allowed at the appeal stage of a planning application. Cllr Gardner was concerned that the PC would need to use a Planning Expert to assist with every planning application that the PC wanted to object to. The Clerk explained this would not be necessary if Cllrs familiarised themselves with the relevant planning policies.</p> | <p>JC</p> <p>JC</p> |

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| 200/25 | 7 GREENS, COMMONS AND LAND | |
| | <p>7.1 Godstone – Godstone Green; Greenview; Playground, Allotment and Hilly Fields</p> <p>7.1.1 Godstone Green –</p> <p>7.1.1.1 Cricket Club Update – The Clerk confirmed that the Cricket Club were happy to have a key for the gate by the Drs Surgery and do not require a key for any other gate. They will collect a key from the office and will be invoiced for the cost of the key. They have requested grass on the cricket outfield be cut every 2 weeks during the Cricket season. The Asst. Clerk has asked our grass cutting contractor for quote so we can provide the potential cost to the Cricket Club as the PC's contractor only cuts the grass once a month at present.</p> <p>7.1.1.2 Benches – Four new benches delivered to the installation contractor. These will be installed after Easter. Two will be installed at Blindley Heath and two at Godstone Green. A third bench at Godstone Green is now damaged beyond repair. The estimated cost of removing this and replacing it with the install of a concrete base is £900. It may be less if we order the bench and get it installed by the contractor at the same time as the other benches. Age Concern would like another bench but did not have enough funds to cover the cost of the bench and it's installation. IT WAS AGREED that Cllr Case would speak to Age Concern. Another bench near the playground is damaged and the contractor is going to provide a cost of potential repairs.</p> <p>7.1.2 Greenview – Nothing to report.</p> <p>7.1.3 Playground</p> <p>7.1.1.3 Cllr Case reported that the wooden bench between the swings and the see-saw in the playground is splintering and needs removing. IT WAS AGREED that Cllr Beagley would inspect the bench with the contractor and assess the work. Cllr Case also reported that the two new pieces of equipment had been installed in the playground, but the play equipment contractor had installed the wrong Wetpour which was black and should be black and green speckled.</p> <p>7.1.4 Allotments – Cllr Gardner reported that the Allotments were doing brilliantly. He queried why the Allotment Association were not sending out the invoices for the rent of the allotments. It was confirmed that the Association dealt with disputes, showing new tenants around and agreeing who could rent but the PC Office still issued the invoices as per the original agreement with the Association.</p> <p>7.1.5 Hilly Fields – Cllr Gardner mentioned that there were some dead Elm trees that needed work. Cllr Beagley advised that any work needed would come up on the Tree Survey and be dealt with as part of the work reported as being required.</p> <p>7.1.6 St Nicholas Church</p> <p>7.1.6.1 Pollarding of Lime Trees Update – requires planning permission due to it be a conservation area – permission expected to be received end of April work cannot proceed until then. NOTED.</p> <p>7.1.7 The Enterdent (Cllr Christmas)</p> <p>7.1.1.1 Garden Plots & Sheds - As Cllr Christmas was not in attendance, the Clerk briefed the PC that some tenants had put sheds on their Garden Plots despite the rental agreement stating that this was not allowed. This had only come to light due to a dispute between neighbours regarding a new shed. Cllr Christmas also wanted to advise the PC that he would be working with the Admin Asst. to map the plots more accurately. IT WAS AGREED that no action would be taken against tenants regarding the sheds already in situ however, it should be made clear that no new sheds were allowed to be sited on the Garden Plots.</p> <p>7.2 Tilburstow Hill and The Enterdent</p> <p>7.2.1 Tilburstow Hill Tree update – The Clerk reported that the work to take down the tree would start tomorrow.</p> <p>7.2.2 Japanese Knotweed – To consider and agree or otherwise to proceed with the eradication plan for the Knotweed. 2 treatments per year £600, for 5 x years. IT WAS AGREED to ask the contractor to complete 1 year of the plan for now</p> | <p>LC</p> <p>SB</p> <p>JC</p> <p>JC</p> |

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| | <p>until the PC knew what would be happening with Taylor's Yard when the lease expires in 2027. The Clerk to inform the contractor.</p> <p>7.3 South Godstone</p> <p>7.3.1 – Solar Christmas Lights Update – The Asst. Clerk has been advised that Solar Lighting is not a viable option in November and December.</p> <p>7.3.2 – To consider and agree or otherwise whether to investigate SCC PAT testing of lights on the tree or investigate options for a different tree in South Godstone – IT WAS AGREED that neither action was required.</p> <p>7.4 Blindley Heath</p> <p>7.4.1 Benches update – covered under 7.1.1.2.</p> <p>7.4.2 The Weeping Willow Tree update – The Asst. Clerk has received a report from our Arboriculturist who carried out the tree survey for us. He has provided some additional information and recommendations following a site visit to review the tree. We have responded to the Highways Maintenance Team to ask if they can share their engineer's report or further information. IT WAS AGREED to leave the tree standing for the time being.</p> <p>7.5 Burial Ground - Exclusive Rights of Burial Applications and Memorial Nothing to report.</p> <p>7.6 All Areas – Tree Survey – To note the survey work has been completed and the reports are pending. NOTED.</p> | |
| 201/25 | 8 FINANCE | |
| | <p>8.1 Accounts for Payment - Approve APRIL accounts for payment. APPROVED (see appendix A for details).</p> <p>8.2 Finance Papers up to 31st MARCH 2026 - Bank Reconciliation and Accounts Reports – Income & Expenditure; Reserves, Balance Sheet and Summary of Funds). To note these are being worked on. NOTED.</p> | |
| 202/25 | 9 TDC ASSET TRANSFER | |
| | <p>9.1 Featherstone Playground and Playing Field</p> <p>9.1.1 The Clerk reported that she and Cllr White had met with TDC's Surveyor and Lawyer onsite and clearly shown which areas of the Playing Field the PC were expecting to be transferred. It was noted that some of the land may no longer be available due to TDC building development that encroached on the Playing Field.</p> <p>The Clerk also reported that the Godstone Village Association had surveyed it's members for their views on whether the Public Conveniences were of value to the community. Cllr Gardner advised that he was not happy with the results of the Survey as the information sent out with the Survey did not state that there would be costs associated with the upkeep and maintenance. The Clerk advised that the GVA Survey was more of a 'toe in the water' survey and an additional survey could be done that included information about costs. IT WAS AGREED that an additional survey would be done.</p> <p>Cllr Case & Cllr Beagley volunteered to speak to Cllrs from other Parishes considering taking over their Public Conveniences to assess interest in trying to have a group contract for maintenance and cleaning of Public Conveniences.</p> | LC/SB |
| 203/25 | 10 GOVERNANCE | |
| | <p>10.1 Asset Register – To approve the Asset Register – APPROVED subject to the amendment of the custodian of the Blindley Heath Cricket Pavilion to the Blindley Heath Cricket Club and the Clerk would make the amendment.</p> <p>10.2 Risk Register – To note the Rosk Register is still under review. NOTED.</p> <p>10.3 Privacy Statement – To note that the website needs a Privacy Statement and that the Clerk would prepare one. NOTED.</p> | JC JC |
| 204/25 | 11 POLICES & PROCEDURES | |
| | Nothing to report | |
| 205/25 | 12 SALC/NALC | |
| | 12.1 To retrospectively approve the purchase of a ticket for Cllr Case for the Planning Reform Unpacked event - £35 excl. VAT. APPROVED. | |

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| 206/25 | 13 CORRESPONDENCE | |
| | Nothing additional to report. | |
| 207/25 | 14 MATTERS FOR REPORTING OR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS | |
| | None | |
| 208/25 | 15 AOB | |
| | 15.1 Annual Parish Meeting – The Clerk reported that the Annual Parish Meeting will be St Stephens Church Hall as no other venues were available on the 18 th May. | |
| 209/25 | 16 CURRENT PLANNING ISSUES (Applications with a comment deadline prior to the next Planning Committee Meeting). | |
| | <p>16.1 2026/168 – Old willow Farm, Byers Lane, South Godstone, Godstone, Surrey, RH9 8JL - Variation of Condition 2 (plans) of planning permission ref: 2025/26 dated 07/03/2025 (Redevelopment of site to provide 1x single dwelling and dog-kennels with associated landscaping and other works) to allow the substitution of approved plans rotating the building for better enjoyment of the property. The bedrooms would be the furthest part away from the kennels and the front door placed at the front of the property. The current proposal seeks to refine the internal floor area and building envelope by realigning the courtyard walls to sit closer to the roof eaves. (Amended description). RESOLVED - NO OBJECTION</p> <p>16.2 2026/201 – 11 Bell Meadow, Godstone, Surrey, RH9 8ED – Erection of a single store side extension. RESOLVED - NO OBJECTION.</p> <p>16.3 2026/252 – South House, 2 Ivy Mill Lane, Godstone, Surrey, RH9 8NH – Erection of side and front dormer windows to roof. RESOLVED – NO OBJECTION.</p> <p>16.4 2026/294 - Whyteacre, Eastbourne Road, South Godstone, Godstone, Surrey, RH9 8JQ – Erection of a single storey extension. RESOLVED -NO OBJECTION.</p> <p>16.5 2026/328/TCA – Church of St Nicholas, Church Lane, Godstone, Surrey, RH9 8BW - G1) - 9 x Limes - To re pollard adjacent to the path. To continue ongoing management of the trees and maintain trees crowns within proximity to surroundings. T1)- Holly - To fell single dead Holly (exempt). RESOLVED – NO OBJECTION.</p> <p>16.6 2026/271 - Heath Lodge, Tandridge Lane, Lingfield, Surrey, RH7 6LL – Erection of first floor rear extension. RESOLVED – NO OBJECTION.</p> <p>16.7 Any Other Planning Matters</p> <p>16.7.1 Dippen Hall, Eastbourne Road, Blindley Heath, Lingfield, Surrey, RH7 6JX – To note the appeal for the Erection of 7 dwellings, car parking and associated landscaping to the rear of Dippen Hall. NOTED.</p> <p>16.7.2 Land Adjacent to Heathview, Eastbourne Road, Blindley Heath, Lingfield, Surrey, RH7 6LG – To note the appeal for the use as a traveller/gypsy caravan site for 3 mobile homes and play area (Part Retrospective). NOTED.</p> | |
| 210/25 | 17 DATES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Committee Meeting – Wednesday, 15th April 2026, 6:30pm at the Bounty, Godstone Green • Annual Full Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday, 5th May 2026, 7:30pm at St Stephens Church, South Godstone • Annual Parish/Village Meeting – Monday, 18th May 2026, 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> | |

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| | There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting at 21:50 | |
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Signed
Chairperson

Print Name

Date