

Godstone Parish Council

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

Clerk to the Parish Council

S Endersby

The Bounty
Godstone Green
Godstone, Surrey, RH9 8DY

Admin Assistant to the Parish Council

Telephone/Fax: 01883 744209

NOTES

for the meeting of Godstone Parish Council to be held on **Monday 6 January 2025 at 7.30pm**

1. **Questions from Members of the Public**
2. **Apologies and reasons for absence**
3. **Declarations of Interest** [Register of Interests](#)
4. **County and District Councillors** – Brief report on matters affecting the Parish.
5. **Minutes** of the previous meetings held – 2 December 2024

6. **Godstone Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan** - Acknowledgement of the Consultation and Public meeting to be held on Thursday 16 January 2025 at 7pm - [Printed copies of plan in the office and posters available to be put up around parish. Would Councillors confirm if they will attend public meeting?](#)

7. **Reports**
 - 7.1 **Clerks Report** - Matters to bring to the Councils attention
 - 7.1.1 South Godstone (Central Ward) - Cllr Vacancy (Deadline - Request for Bi-election 3 January 2025) - [Clerk to confirm following confirmation of outcome of notice from TDC.](#)
 - 7.1.2 Aims and Objectives – For review and consideration - [Document previously circulated and reattached.](#)
 - 7.1.3 Bounty Electrical Work extension – Fuse Box Consumer Unit and EICR - [Quotes provided \(Commercially sensitive\).](#)
 - 7.1.4 New Parish Car Park (Godstone Quarry development - 2022/1523) – Update in relation to the execution of the: Works Licence Deed of Easement and Detailed Specification - [All documentation now agreed and ready to proceed to signing. Council standing orders require a resolution to sign the documents when they are received.](#)
 - 7.2 **Chairperson's Report** – (for noting) information only.
 - 7.2.1 Report on Informal meeting with the GSA on Monday 16 December 2024 and subsequent information received from the GSA.
 - 8.3 **Reports (for noting) from representatives on outside bodies etc.**
 - 8.4 **Reports from Committees**
 - 8.4.1 Planning Committee of 18 December 2024 – [Minutes Previously Circulated](#)
 - 8.4.2 Finance Committee of 18 December 2024 - [Minutes Previously Circulated](#)
 - i. Report of the meeting on 18 December 2024
 - ii. Review and consider the draft 2025-2026 Budget - [Previously circulated and reattached](#)
 - iii. Review and consider the Finance Committee Recommendation in relation the 2025-2026 Precept in preparation for Item 12.1. – [Stated in budget paperwork.](#)
 - iv. Recommendation in relation to the updated Finance Regulations – [Clean version of document to be circulated.](#)
 - v. Report on Virements and allocation of Reserves – [As detailed in the committee minutes.](#)

8. **Greens, Commons and Land**
 - 8.1 **Godstone** – Godstone Green; Greenview; Playground, Salisbury Road Allotments and Hilly Fields
 - 8.1.1 Playground – Review and consider any recommendations of External Inspection Report - [Circulated separately, 30 December 2024.](#)
 - 8.1.2 Grass Cutting – Review and Agree Tender document - [Circulated separately, 30 December 2024](#)
 - 8.2 **Tilburstow Hill and The Enterdent**
 - 8.2.1 Consideration of report on Scot Pine Tree – [Information by email circulated in December](#)
 - 8.2.2 Notification of Sale of 2 Brook Bank in relation to Wayleave Arrangement
 - 8.3 **South Godstone**
 - 8.4 **Blindley Heath**
 - 8.4.1 Elmshade Cottages and Two Hoots – Correspondence - Consent for works to track
Details from Resident – Thank you for detailed response and providing context regarding the council's position and considerations. I would like to respectfully address the points raised:

1. **Use of Hard/Tarmac Surfaces** While I understand the council's preference to avoid nonporous surfaces to protect the SSSI and Common Land and to mitigate flooding concerns, I seek clarification on why a hard or tarmac surface is categorically excluded.
 - For context, the road leading to the Kennels (off the A22 left after the roundabout lane when travelling north to south on the A22) and the front portion of the Parish's lane directly in front of #1 and #2 Elmshades are already tarmac. These areas have demonstrated excellent durability and have required no maintenance for a significant number of years.
 - In contrast, the Type 1 aggregate surface currently in use has necessitated frequent repairs, typically at least once per annum. This recurring maintenance introduces foreign materials into the area, potentially undermining the very environmental protections the council seeks to uphold.
2. **Environmental and Practical Considerations**
 - **Flooding Risks:** While a porous surface is often recommended to address flooding, the repeated degradation of such surfaces can lead to sediment and debris entering drainage systems or nearby natural habitats. Additionally, the porosity of the surface is a moot point as the area is a floodplain, and the water has nowhere to go.
 - **Durability and Cost:** The current road condition has deteriorated to such an extent that it risks becoming impassable. This poses significant challenges and risks for vehicles accessing the road and may lead to increased wear and tear on private vehicles, further escalating costs and environmental impact. We have also had a number of vehicles slide off the side of the lane whilst trying to avoid the large potholes.
 - **Reduction in Long-Term Costs:** We believe that although the initial cost is significant, there will ultimately be a cost saving over many years, which will help reduce the burden on the residents to maintain the road belonging to the Parish.
3. **Proposed Solution as a Long-Term Improvement** The initial proposed solution—a more robust material with a longer lifespan—was designed to improve upon the Type 1 aggregate. While adhering to environmental requirements, this approach could greatly reduce the need for frequent repairs, thereby minimizing environmental disruption and ensuring sustainability in the long term.
4. **Next Steps** I appreciate your offer to assist with the consent process through Natural England. Once the material concerns are clarified, we are more than happy to proceed with the necessary application. The goal is to find a balanced and pragmatic solution that meets both the council's environmental objectives and the practical needs of the community.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I look forward to your feedback and any further guidance on how to proceed.

8.5 **Burial Ground** - Exclusive Rights of Burial Applications and Memorial Applications

9. **Finance**

- 9.1 Accounts for Payment - Approve **DECEMBER** accounts for payment – [To be circulated](#).
- 9.2 Finance Papers up to **31 October 2024** - Bank Reconciliation and Accounts Reports – Income & Expenditure; Reserves, Balance Sheet and Summary of Funds - [Circulated 30 December 2024](#)

[Notes from Clerk - Basketball balance paid using CIL and highlight Bounty electrics spend.](#)

- 9.3 Agree the Budget for the year 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026
- 9.4 Agree the Precept for the year 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026

10. **Planning**

Ref	Address	Application
2024/1327/ NH	Bramble Hatch, Carlton Road, South Godstone, Godstone, Surrey, RH9 8LE	Erection of first floor extension (Notification of enlargement of a dwelling house by construction of additional storey under Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) - Schedule 2, Part 1, Class AA)

11. **Correspondence and matters for reporting or inclusion on future agendas**

- 11.1 [Press release: Council refers itself to social housing regulator](#)
- 11.2 [Surrey Highways: TRO Godstone By-Pass Proposals](#)
- 11.3 [Chief executive's bulletin - 19 December 2024](#)
- 11.4 [News: Tandridge Leader speaks about devolution proposals](#)
- 11.5 [Rural Housing Newsletter](#)
- 11.6 [Affordable Housing for Rural Communities Webinar](#)
- 11.7 [SALC - Devolution Update, New Consultations and New NPPF](#)

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.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled to be held on **Monday 3 February 2025** at **7.30pm**, at St Stephens.