

# Godstone Parish Council

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

## MINUTES OF GODSTONE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD AT ST STEPHENS CHURCH, SOUTH GODSTONE ON MONDAY 22 MAY 2023 AT 7.30 PM.

### Present:

#### Parish Councillors

Cllr J Gardner – Chairman of the Parish Council

Cllr L Case – Vice Chairman of the Parish Council

Cllrs C White, C Farr, S Farr, P Ryan, I Smith, K Ward, C Edwards

#### District Councillor

Cllr C Farr

Members of the Public who are Electors of the Parish

### 1. Apologies

1.1 Apologies were received and noted from S Endersby, Clerk to the Parish council.

2. **Welcome** – All attendees welcomed by the Chairman of the Parish council.

### 3. Minutes of the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting

**RESOLVED** - Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 30 May 2022 which were circulated at the meeting were confirmed and signed as a true record.

### 4. Chairman's Report

The villages continue to have all seats covered by a total of 9 Councillors: 5 for the North Ward and 2 each from the Central and South Wards. We thank councillors who stood down at the May elections, Bren Davis, John Farnaby, Dave Stone and Mick McLoughlin and recognise their valuable contribution to their local community. We welcome the new councillors Keith Ward, Ian Smith, Candy Edwards and Paul Ryan as they start their four year terms as parish councillors.

As ever the council is grateful to those past and present in the community who are willing to contribute and give up their time as volunteers and stand as Parish councillors.

North Ward (Godstone Village)	Central Ward (South Godstone)	South Ward (Blindley Heath)
Jim Gardner	Colin White	Sue Farr
Paul Ryan	Candy Edwards	Chris Farr
Ian Smith		
Keith Ward		
Louise Case		

### District and County Councillors

We would like to thank the district councillors and county councillor for their support throughout the year and keeping us updated on district matters within the Parish.

### A review of the year:

- Jubilee – The tree to mark the Queens Jubilee and commemorate her reign has been planted on Godstone Green.
- Hilly Fields Car Park – Although the council decided in August 2021 that due to insurmountable issues the car park project be terminated, the same area has now been included in the planning application by Ashill for the site.
- St Nicholas Church Yard and Burial Ground – As for many years, work continues to maintain the church yard and burial ground, with excellent care taken by the Parish grass cutting contractor and also support of volunteers. The council are also mindful of its long-term commitment to care for the burial ground with consideration being given to plan now for the future too.

- Allotments – The allotment association continues to flourish and will be 2 years old in August, and the council continue to enjoy working with the association.
- Children’s playground – The council are delighted with the refurbishment of the Playground, with several new pieces of equipment and the fantastic new surface.
- New path -- The application for the required permission to put a path across to the playground has been made and we now await a reply from the Commons Team of The Planning Inspectorate.
- Neighbourhood Plan Committee – The committee, made up of community volunteers has done an amazing job. The Parish council would like to thank Alex and all others involved for their continued determination and work to get the plan to its referendum.
- Blindley Heath SSSI site – We thank the Surrey Wildlife Trust for the continuing partnership with the council for the management of the Blindley Heath SSSI. The Parish council also wants to thank and recognise the work and support of the Liaison group. The liaison group is made up of committed local residents, Natural England and the Parish council all of whom continue to monitor and care for the area.
- Tree Care – The care of trees continues to be an area where regular work is carried out across the Parish when it is required, and we value parishioners reporting any issue with trees.
- Local Plan and Garden Village – Godstone Parish council continues to monitor Tandridge District Council activities in relation to the Local Plan.

I would like to thank the local businesses that work with the Parish council.

I also want to say a big thank you to all the volunteers and local organisations that work within our Parish and add to the quality of village life along with my fellow councillors who are volunteers themselves.

----- Report ended -----

Thanks to the Clerk stated on behalf of Council.

## 5. Presentation of Certificates of Community Awards

Awards were presented to:

Godstone – Jo Yardley, Godstone Litter Angels, for her work organising events which brings volunteers together to collect litter around Godstone Village.

South Godstone - Julie Hogg for community support during Covid.

## 6. Reports from local organisations

We would like to thank the local organisations who have submitted reports and are in attendance at this evening’s meeting. Reports received and published on the council website.

-  **Blindley Heath Cricket Club Report 2023**
-  **Godstone Allotment Association Report 2023**
-  **South Godstone Residents Association Report 2023**

## 8. Annual Governance Accountability Return for accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023

- 8.1 The document is available on the Parish website.
- 8.2 Information in relation to the public right to inspect was duly noted.

## 9. Open Forum

- 9.1 **Opportunity to put questions to the Parish council** – Matters raised and noted during the meeting

**Neighbourhood Plan Committee** – Update provided by Alex Rabbetts

- 9.2 Raise matters for the Parish Council to consider priorities for the three villages in the Parish for the coming years**
- 9.3 Godstone Parish Neighbourhood Plan and Tandridge District Local Plan**

----- Meeting ended 8.30pm -----