

**Godstone Parish Council**  
**Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on**  
**Monday 20 May 2019**

As you know Godstone Parish is made up from Godstone, South Godstone and Blindley Heath villages. We have a total of 9 Councillors; 5 for the North Ward and 2 each from the Central and South Wards.

Since the last annual meeting and following the May 2019 local elections the Parish Councillors for Godstone Parish Council are:

<b>North Ward (Godstone Village)</b>	<b>Central Ward (South Godstone)</b>	<b>South Ward (Blindley Heath)</b>
Mr J Gardner	Mr C White	Mrs S Farr
Mr B Davis	Mr J Farnaby	Mr C Farr
Mr M McLoughlin		
Mrs R Johnson		
Mr D Stone		

There are 8 Parish councillors who have been re-elected and we welcome Mrs Sue Farr who is a new councillor for the South Ward.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Councillor Mick Gillman who was a Parish councillor between April 2014 and May 2019, for his commitment and hard work during his time as a Parish Councillor.

We would like to congratulate Colin White one of our parish councillors who has been elected as a District councillor for Burstow, Horne and Outwood.

Important to our Parish we would like to congratulate Charlotte Swann the Parish Council's endorsed independent candidate for Godstone on her victory to become a district councillor.

**A review of the year:**

- Hilly Fields Car Park - The much-needed car for Godstone village has proved to be a nightmare for the Parish council. We have dealt with all the planning issues raised by the authorities involved and carried out the necessary surveys involved in the process. However, we still have not built the car park because we have discovered many cables buried, including UKPN high voltage cables, close to the surface where we were proposing to put the crossover access from the main road into the car park. To move these cables is proving to be extremely expensive and difficult as there are stringent regulations which impact the work. We haven't given up and will endeavor to have one last attempt to secure a future for the project.
- St Nicholas Church Yard and Burial Ground – Work continues to maintain the church yard and burial ground. During the year our grass cutting contractor has done an excellent job and a number of parishioners have told us it has never looked better. We hope to make further improvements in the next year to help ensure burial plots for parishioners in the future.
- Allotments – Work continues to work with allotment holders to look after the Salisbury Road allotment site and there has been a compost area created. We have reviewed the terms for leasing an allotment which allow allotment holders to erect small sheds, keep chickens and have small bonfires on their plots. The Hilly Fields Allotment site has now closed as of the 16 May 2019 and we have cleared years of rubbish in readiness to hand it back to the landowner who has leased the land to the council for many years.
- Children's playground – The playground is monitored regularly to ensure it is in good condition and work to repair the embankment slide has been carried out. Following feedback from the last annual meeting the Parish council are currently investigating installing some new equipment to try and cater for younger children;

- Grants – A number of grants have been given to local community organisations, including Godstone Baptist Church; St Stephens Church, South Godstone; the Citizens Advice Bureau; St Catherine Hospice; and St John's Church, Blindley Heath
- Neighbourhood Plan Committee – The volunteers have continued to work hard on the Parish Neighbourhood Plan and the emerging plan was submitted to Tandridge District Council (TDC). We have now received a response from the consultant appointed by TDC. The submitted plan got good comments for being labelled as an emerging plan which is considered good practice and the layout and length were said to be good and attractive. However, there is a lot of detailed comment on points we have missed out and how we can improve on issues that have been included which the committee will be addressing. I would like to thank the working groups of the committee who have done such a lot of hard work and particularly Alex Rabbetts who has been driving the plan in his capacity as Chairman of the Committee.
- HGVs – Thanks again to the hard work of Alex Rabbetts, the GVA along with some of the councillors who's campaigning has seen the licensing authority change and enforce a new licence agreement for Blockade and the stream of their lorries through Godstone Village has now virtually ceased.
- Litter Pick and Litter Angels – Thank you to everyone that took part in our Litter Pick that took place on Saturday 24 March. It was our aim to get volunteers involved to keep our community clean and tidy and make a difference which was successful.
- Protection of Godstone Green – Due to previous Traveller invasions to both Godstone Green and Blindley Heath common the council have taken action to hopefully stop this happening again. We were very grateful to those in the village who donated money towards the work. The general feedback we have received is that the posts we have installed have not in any way detracted from the beauty of the two green spaces.
- Surrey Wildlife Trust – We thank the Trust for the continuing partnership with the council for the management of the Blindley Heath SSSI site. We would also like to take this opportunity to extend particular thanks to Paul Newdick who has been the Chairman of the Blindley Heath Liaison group who is leaving this year.
- Tree Care – The Parish council has undertaken a tree survey for Godstone Green and the Burial Ground and will arrange for the recommended works to be completed, there are two trees that need to be felled. The remaining trees in the Parish will be surveyed in July 2019, this will cover the Enterdent, Blindley Heath Common and Hilly Fields.
- Garden Village – Godstone Parish council continues to scrutinise Tandridge District Council in relation to the Local Plan and Garden Village plans. The parish council will continue to fight the local plan with the support of legal advice to make the councils views known to the inspector including why we believe the TDC local plan is not legal. The parish council believe the concept of a enormous Garden Village is wrong, not just because it is proposed to be in South Godstone, but the view is that it is much better to build small quantities of houses on infill or Brown field sights for example The William way sight in Godstone village.

#### The Coming Year:

- Try and find a solution to build the car park
- Supporting the committee working on the Neighbourhood Plan
- Monitor HGV traffic
- Continue to scrutinise Tandridge District Councils Local Plan and Garden Village plans during the inspection stage
- Consider any local organisations grants submission.

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

Thank you to Fran Pavely who has been present at almost every Parish Council meeting to ensure that

the work of GPC is reported accurately and fairly in the Surrey mirror.

Thanks to our contractor Garry Dicks and his crew from GardenWise Services for their work in keeping the Parish areas mown and in good condition as well as carrying out other maintenance work within the Parish.

I would like to thank all the volunteer organisations working within our Parish and adding to the quality of village life along with my fellow councillors who are volunteers themselves.

I will take the opportunity to thank Sergeant Lydnsey Whatley for attending this meeting this evening and we also want to take the opportunity during this meeting for you all to have the opportunity to speak on matters affecting the Parish.

Thank you

**B Davis - Vice Chairman, Godstone Parish Council**