

MINUTES OF THE MEETING FORTY SEVENTH PARISH MEETING OF WEST END PAROCHIAL ELECTORS HELD ON TUESDAY 17TH MARCH 2015 AT 19:30 IN THE SPORTS PAVILION, BENNER LANE, WEST END, WOKING, SURREY, GU24 9JP

Present: There were 63 electors present (incomplete list of names attached) together with Parish Councillors Cllr. D Gubbins (Chair) Cllr. G. Alleway, Cllr. D. Elliott, Cllr. J. Medhurst, Cllr A Page, Cllr I Roth and Mrs S Price (Clerk for the Council)

The Chairman, Cllr D Gubbins, opened the meeting by welcoming and thanking everyone for attending.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Cllr Gubbins announced Joyce Cadwallader as the winner of the Citizen of the Year Award.

Joyce had lived in the village for over 25 years and quietly volunteered her time in West End and neighbouring villages over many years.

She had helped for approximately 10 years at Holy Trinity School, predominantly in Year 3, listening to readers, helping with sewing, cooking and arts and crafts. Not only did Joyce go in two mornings a week but it wasn't unusual for her to take things home to prepare for future activities including binding wool and cutting wood for the Gods Eyes, for which Joyce was known as the resident expert. Joyce was always thinking of the school and how she could help, and the staff and pupils at Holy Trinity really couldn't be without her.

She was a founder member of the 'Teas on the Rec' committee and was always the first one to arrive, setting up the tables and just quietly 'getting on with it' together with helping serve coffee at Church.

Joyce had been a member of the Bisley, Knaphill & West End Branch of the Royal British Legion since 2005 and was now the official Poppy Appeal Organiser since the former Chairman Bernard Wright passed away.

Organising the annual Poppy Appeal for a RBL Branch was an extremely onerous and complicated task which Joyce carried out very efficiently and without fuss. She had to order all the supplies for the Poppy Appeal (poppies, badges, trays etc) months before Remembrance Day and organised the distribution and subsequent retrieval of over 100 collecting tins. All this stock was held, under Joyce's control, at the premises at Knaphill Stores. Joyce arranged with Sainsburys and Waitrose for RBL volunteers to have a stand there and to collect from the public and sets up the roster of the volunteer collectors. At the end of the Appeal, Joyce organises retrieval of all the tins, carries out counting sessions with RBL helpers at the counting machine at Knaphill. She completes the huge amount of paperwork involved, collates it with the RBL Treasurer and other RBL members and sends the returns etc off to RBL's County HQ. The work as Poppy Appeal Organiser occupies Joyce's time from September until mid-December.

In addition to this, Joyce was also the RBL Branch Social Secretary which entails her organising all RBL social events, particularly the Armistice Day dinner and the Armed Forces Day dinner, as well as arranging the catering for the Branch's quarterly meetings. Joyce also distributes the quarterly RBL Branch Newsletters.

Joyce was a deserved winner of the award, giving up her time freely to help the community of West End and other local villages and just quietly getting jobs done. The Chairman congratulated Joyce on receiving the Citizen of the Year award for 2015.

MINUTES

The minutes of the forty sixth Parish Meeting held on 29th April 2014 were available for the electors to read. Mr Bain asked if further details were available regarding Cllr Bush's response to questions 1. Further details were not available. The minutes were agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman Cllr D Gubbins.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr D Gubbins summarised the work of the Parish Council during the past year. The following projects/aims were highlighted at the Annual Parish Meeting last year and had either been completed or were continuing projects

- Continued removal of Japanese Knotweed on an area of parish land (A319 opposite recycle bins). This was still ongoing and would be a long process and the parish council was working with the Borough Council on this.
- The parish council continued to monitor its ditches and had recently had them all cleared. There was one outstanding issue on the ditch opposite the church, which overflowed during heavy rain. The parish council was still working with Highways to rectify this problem.
- The improved road signage on the approach to Gordons Roundabout from Bagshot was completed in September 2014. This was the responsibility of Surrey County Council however the Parish Council liaised with County to ensure this problem was rectified.
- The Horse Chestnuts on the recreation ground, where there was concern of bleeding canker, appeared to be surviving therefore no works have been carried out. This situation would continue to be monitored
- The Boule pistes had been installed on the recreation ground. Even during the winter the pistes were used by some locals for a friendly competition. A set of boule was available in the parish office for loan and the rules of the game on the parish council website.

The chairman detailed additional work which had been carried out by the parish council for 2014/15

- The parish council had replaced two seats by the pond replacing those which had either been vandalised or damaged due to age. The other new oak seat by the pond had been given by the daughter of late residents Mr & Mrs Rapley.
- The pond had recently received a light dredge, with logs and other debris being taken out, together with 10% of the rushes.
- For the Centenary of the commencement WWI and in line with other councils, the Parish Council had displayed poppies along the A322. This would be done each year from the end of October to December until 2018.
- The tired looking West End Village signs had been replaced and could be seen on entering the village from the Red Road, Bisley and A319
- The parish council had taken responsibility for roundabout sponsorship on both the Fellow Green Roundabout and Gordons Roundabout. Two local businesses, West End Garage and The Inn @ West End had sponsored these roundabouts for the first year.
- There had been much talk and concern from residents about the potential developments targeted for West End in Beldam Bridge Road, 84 in Rose Meadow off Kings Road and Malthouse Farm. Two of the developers had held public consultations and the parish council had received outline planning for access only for the Beldam Bridge Road and Rose Meadow site. The parish council had objected to both of these applications. As yet full plans had not been received on any of the proposed sites.
- The biggest achievement this year had been the installation of fitness and play equipment. At the meeting last year the Parish Council advised it had been unsuccessful in obtaining funding however on the second secured £30,000 from the Surrey County Council Community Improvement Fund together with parish council funds and some \$106 money from Borough Council. The commitment of providing dynamic play equipment to suit older children, upgrade the infant play area and install fitness equipment suitable for all ages from 12+ had now been achieved. The playground would be officially opened on 20th March.

With parish elections ahead the existing parish council could not confirm what projects would be carried out next year.

The Chairman welcomed the Guest Speaker Gerry Price from The Inn @ West End

GUEST SPEAKER

Gerry Price gave a very informative and often amusing talk about The Inn @ West End, detailing changes since 2011 including the introduction of the wine shop, how increased local competition had affected his business together with the progress on 12 boutique rooms which were soon to be open. Mr Price informed the audience that he wanted the Inn to be a focus for people to meet and eat and was proud to be a part of the village.

The Chairman thanked Gerry Price for being the Guest Speak and invited Councillor Adrian Page to give an update from Surrey County Council.

Surrey County Council update from Cllr Adrian Page

Cllr Page gave an overview on the following

- Council Tax
- County Council Priorities/Budget Issues
- Transport & Highways – local roads
- SCC Member Allocation & Community Grants

Surrey Heath Borough Council update from Cllr Keith Bush

Cllr Bush gave an overview on the following

- Surrey Heath Mitigation Strategy
- Previous flooding problems in West End
- Grant maintained key services
- Reduced costs and quicker decisions as a result of the strong leader model adopted 4 years ago
- Involvement with South East England Councils
- Overseeing of consultation replies on air, rail and bus reviews including Farnborough flight paths
- Plan for M3 J2a at Longcross and liaison with Runnymede Borough Council to support this to reduce traffic through West End and Windlesham
- Troubled families support
- The business investment in Surrey Heath including Frimley Park Hospital, Bank of America, Eli Lilly, Fraser Nash and Siemens
- The overuse of Brentmoor Heath and actions being taken
- SANGS including renting sites from Yateley, Blackwater Valley and Chobham Place woods.
- Memorandum with Bracknell Forest to use Shepherds Meadow as a SANGS allowing 500 new homes to be built in the Camberley area and town centre.
- 5 Year Housing Supply
- Acknowledgement that West End did not want more development than envisaged by the Surrey Heath Local Plan.

In summary Cllr Bush reported that Surrey Heath was recognised as one of the best places to live in the country and West End was in the top four desirable wards. Surrey Heath was top in the country for dry recyclables and the top council tax collector at over 99.95%, which was a benefit to all residents.

The Chairman thanked both Cllr Page and Cllr Bush for their updates and invited questions from the audience.

OPEN FORUM

- Q.1. Guy Consterdine thanked Cllr Page and Cllr Bush on their reports. Mr Consterdine raised the topic of housing developments, which he felt was of most concern in the village, given the evidence from the exit polls carried out by the WEAG after recent consultations on proposed developments. Cllr Keith Bush was asked in view of the SANGS announced in Bracknell and the Borough report re 5 year housing, what was the attitude to the proposal of building the developments in the village? Cllr Bush responded that any applications that came in were outside his remit. As a Councillor he would act on behalf of all the residents on the night the plans were considered. He did not discuss individual cases with officers as this was on the policy side. The Planning Inspector had put the West End reserve sites, including Malthouse Farm, back into the planning policy as countryside beyond the green belt.
- Q.2 Edmund Bain asked Cllr Bush how confident was he that 400 would be built at Deepcut? Cllr Bush said that it was progressing to the general plan.
- Q.3. Edmund Bain asked Cllr Bush why the council delayed the publication of site allocation survey which was promised in Spring 2014. Cllr Bush explained it was due to volume of work.
- Q.4. Geoff Llewellyn noted that Cllr Page had stated that 13,000 more school places would be required in Surrey over the next 5 years. Were any of the places likely to come to West End? Cllr Page responded that it was more likely that Bisley would become a 3 form entry together with places at Pirbright due to the army coming back
- Q.5. Geoff Llewellyn stated that with the prospect of developments in the village this would put pressure on the schools. Cllr Page agreed that it may do.
- Q.6. Edmund Bain mentioned that the only contact with County Council may be on planning applications, which doesn't always perceive what the locals think. Cllr Page agreed with this point and referred to Snowdrop Way, Bisley.
- Q7. Unknown resident – Agreed with the above using Dykemore as an example where Surrey County Council were not listening to concerns about the verge on Streets Heath should the nursing home development go ahead. Cllr Bush clarified that if Borough Council were to go against what Highways had recommended there was still no certainty, as the planning inspectors could overturn.
- Q.8. Beulah Kingston commented on the land south of Kings Road and Rose Meadow and that no extension had been given to the other developments. Cllr Bush clarified that everything was clear and transparent on the Surrey Heath Borough Council website.
- Q.9. Edmund Bain asked if Purdoh prevented Councillors making a planning decision. Cllr Bush confirmed it did not as planning was not political.
- Q.10 Diane Doney wanted to clarify that a Neighbourhood Plan was not to just increase development but it could be used to keep development the same. Cllr Bush confirmed that a Neighbourhood Plan would also need to keep with the Surrey Heath Borough Council Core Strategy.

There were no further questions from the residents therefore the Chairman thanked everyone for coming and welcomed all to stay for refreshments.

The meeting closed at 20:55

Signed Chairman Date