

## Churt Parish Council

Clerk to the Council

Mrs Dawn Barrow

### Minutes of the meeting of Churt Parish Council held on Wednesday 19 November 2025 at 7.30 pm.

#### Present

Churt Councillors: Julian Spence, Myra Johnson, Lisa Martin, Pippa Harrison, Roddy Barrow

Surrey County Council: 1 (part)

Waverley Borough Council: 1 (part)

Clerk to the Council: Dawn Barrow

Members of the Public: 2- Keith Buchanan, Jason Finbow

#### 25/148 Acting Chairman's Welcome

Cllr Martin welcomed all to the meeting and invited the guests to speak.

Jason Finbow is the Symondstone Action Group Chair and lives opposite the Furze Hill redevelopment. He stated the developers are in breach of a number of planning conditions in relation to the development of the third property 'La Terre'. What has been built has changed materially from the approved plans and the planning department at WBC gave the developers 90 days to rectify breaches. The developers have responded with a NMA and the owners of Furze Hill have contacted Jason asking him to withdraw his objection. The developers have reduced the screening by 95% and Jason will likely withdraw his objection if all the screening is reinstated. Hedges could be planted at 7-8 feet but then maintained at 14 feet high. Others may not withdraw their objections however. Jason also asked that the fascias are reduced to their original size plus the lighting is reduced, currently looks like a supermarket!!

David Munro thanked Jason for his persistence and noted there were 19 objections on the WBC portal. 10 or more objections trigger a referral to Committee, however does this apply to a NMA?

#### 25/150 5 minute presentation by SCC

Cllr Harmer confirmed there was nothing in legislative form yet re LGR so what will become statutory? The benefit of having a shadow authority for a year is they can pick the brains of those in office and learn who will give the best advise etc. Should be up and running by May 2027. Central Government is providing half a billion pounds to cover part of Woking's debt. The rest of the balance will hopefully be paid off by selling some properties. Focus of SCC at the moment is how can they best ensure the east and west of Surrey stay funded.

Cllr Spence stated that Farnham is a NAC of 50,000 people but Churt is not able to join. Clerk will write to Cllr Follows at WBC who seemed sympathetic to the plight of rural villages at the recent WBC LGR forum.

Cllr Johnson asked if Cllr Harmer could help expedite the upgrade to the zebra crossing. CPC has been offered £60,000 but need to find a further £15,000 by applying to the WBC Strategic CIL fund plus using £15,000 from our CIL monies. The application to WBC needs to be in the joint names of Churt PC and SCC.

#### 25/151 5 minute presentation by WBC

Cllr Munro confirmed officers at WBC are trying to work up a new Local Plan and are looking at policies and options. Nothing is set in stone yet and hasn't gone through Parliament. Elections for the shadow authority will be the first Thursday of May in 2026. Churt will remain as part of the

Western Commons with 2 councillors. After May 2027 there will be no more elections for 5 years. Need to focus on the large services and how they will operate.

#### **25/152 Apologies for absence**

Cllrs S Shorthose, M Shorthose, D Raeside, S Wright. All councillors wished Cllr Wright a speedy recovery.

#### **25/153 Disclosure of Pecuniary and other Interests**

Cllr Spence confirmed he sits on the WBC planning committee and therefore has to remain neutral when discussing Churt's planning applications, including Furze Hill (above).

#### **25/154 Minutes of the meeting of 15 Oct 2025**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 Oct 2025 were **AGREED** by all. **Proposed** by Cllr Barrow, **seconded** by Cllr Harrison.

#### **25/155 Report of the Clerk to the Council**

- 1) Mark Lawson has mended broken war memorial steps on Redhearn Green
- 2) Insurance renewed for 2025/6
- 3) CPR and defib training carried out 30 Oct, attended by 35 people
- 4) Newcomers to the village invited to the Village Cheer event
- 5) £10,000 transferred back to deposit account 27 Oct to gain additional interest
- 6) Budget meeting held 5 Nov, budget to be signed off at December's meeting

#### **25/156 Report from the Environment Committee (JS)**

Cllr Spence confirmed that works to Wicket Wood would take place in the first week of December by James Gray and he would advise local residents. Tilford PC are meeting Cllrs Spence and Johnson next week to discuss Churt's management of Wicket Wood as they too have some underutilised woodland.

#### **25/157 Village strategy 2035**

Cllr M Shorthose has circulated the most recent edition of the village strategy and will prepare a display board for the Village Cheer event on 6 Dec.

Cllr Martin to prepare a flyer relating to the strategy and village cheer event to put in parish magazines early December. Clerk to ask See Signs to print.

#### **25/158 Village centre incl. possible zebra crossing upgrade (PH)**

Xmas tree for Redhearn Green to be collected on 29 November and will be put up close to the war memorial. Xmas lights in the village will be put up on 22 November. Agreed to give Gary at the Garden Machinery shop £50 towards the electricity used for the lights, which he will pass on to charity.

Cllr Barrow asked if next year we should put more Remembrance poppies up around the village. Clerk to speak to Sarah Bourne who liaises with the RBL.

Cllr Johnson will copy Cllr Munro in on our application for CIL monies towards the zebra crossing upgrade.

#### **25/159 Roads and Transport (LM)**

Cllr Martin attended the Sustainable Transport Forum and has various ideas to work on. It is essential that any new authority is aware of these.

#### **25/160 Crime and Disorder (DR)**

Nothing to report.

**25/161 Financial Matters (RB)**

**25/161.1 Payments for authorisation - Oct 2025**

Oct's accounts were **proposed** by Cllr Spence, **Seconded** by Cllr Martin and **agreed** by all.

**25/161.2 Budget Update and Income report - Oct 2025**

Noted

**25/161.3 To note individual monthly costs in excess of £500**

4 Oct, Dawn Barrow, £2987.59 Sept salary plus backdated increase from April

16 Oct, Arthur J Gallagher, £3028.46, insurance renewal

31 Oct, Dawn Barrow £1807.03, October salary

31 Oct, HMRC £2394.73 employer's tax and NI

31 Oct, Surrey Pension Fund £954.38 Sept pension plus backdated amount

**25/161.4 Adoption of interim internal audit report dated 23/10/2025**

**Proposed** by Cllr Spence, **seconded** by Cllr Barrow and **agreed** by all

**25/162 To note and comment on current planning applications (MJ)**

Report circulated in advance of meeting by Cllr Johnson.

**La Terre, Furze Hill Farm** See above (25/148) Should we add in about the excessive lighting?

Agreed that CPC will object to some elements covered in the NMA.

**WA/2025/02030 2 Moorside Cottages**, resubmitted their planning application incorporating a smaller garage. Our comments already submitted supporting the revised application.

**Green Lane PIP**, on appeal.

There are 70 questions to respond to relating to the new WBC local Plan. Cllr Martin suggested we should agree principles. Where should new housing be located? Must come with infrastructure. Cllr Spence reiterated the need for affordable homes. Is there an opportunity for a new housing association development? Cllr Spence has prepared some draft responses. Cllr Barrow to set up a google document to allow other councillors to add to this document before submission.

**25/163 Adoption of standing orders, financial regulations, scheme of delegation and risk assessments for Nov 2025/2026 as being fit for purpose (sent in advance of meeting)**

**Proposed** by Cllr Spence, **seconded** by Cllr Johnson and **agreed** by all.

**25/164 Village Cheer 6 December**

Invites have gone out to all newcomers to the village and people have been made aware via Vizz Network and FB page. Clerk has invited Greg Stafford MP.

**Other matters**

None.

There being no other business the meeting of the Churt Parish Council closed at 9.20pm . There then followed a meeting of the Churt Recreation Ground Trust (See separate Minutes).

Signed:

Date:

Chairman

The next meetings of the Churt Parish Council and Churt Recreation Ground Trust will be held on **Wednesday 17 December 2025 at 7.30pm in the Churt pavilion**.