

Churt Parish Council

Clerk to the Council
Mrs Dawn Barrow

Minutes of the meeting of Churt Parish Council held on Tuesday 16 September 2025 at 7.30 pm.

Present

Churt Councillors: Julian Spence, Myra Johnson , Roddy Barrow, Lisa Martin, Sally Shorthose, Mike Shorthose, Pippa Harrison, Dominic Raeside

Surrey County Council: 0

Waverley Borough Council: 0

Clerk to the Council: Dawn Barrow

Members of the Public: 5 - Marion Stevens and Nicky Copeland (St John's School), Oli Plaistowe (CHCC), Keith Buchanan and Teresa Meredith-Harvey

25/116 Chairman's Welcome

Cllr S Shorthose welcomed all to the meeting.

25/117 5 minute presentation on road safety by Marion Stevens and Nicky Copeland

School want enhanced road safety and ideally a speed reduction to 20MPH. Happy to carry out a further community speed watch, especially if more volunteers can be found. Donna Selby from SCC met them on site and agreed the school was in a very dangerous location and the zebra crossing installed 20 years ago needs upgrading. Whole class crosses at the zebra crossing when going to the Rec. Glass on lights at crossing needs cleaning. SCC advised that in order for the speed to be reduced to 20MPH the average speed must be less than 26MPH! Barriers near school cannot be replaced. Cllr Spence said Churt is on the list as part of the WBC Improvement Plan. Cllr Johnson advised the traffic survey carried out in the village supported a speed reduction to 20MPH. Cllr Spence advised WBC have CIL funds to help with this sort of improvement. We have been advised SCC will put in £60,000 of a £90,000 project to improve the crossing, its lights and the entrance to Hale House Lane. Discussion as to how we put together the £30,000 shortfall.

Oli Plaistowe (CHCC) gave a comprehensive update on the proposed pavilion refurb project, which includes improved disabled access, 2 new girls changing rooms and the creation of a café. Looked at a provisional cost of £240,000 however following tenders to 7 local firms this cost has been raised to £275,000.

Have applied to Your Fund Surrey, last pot of money available until Dec 2025, CHCC are competing with other cricket clubs. Initial request to YFS increased to £217,000. Indicative decision in October, goes to committee in Dec. If approved will have access to funds Jan/Feb 2026. Are allowing a 5% contingency with contractors. FA may donate towards the irrigation of the pitches. Looking at other ways to pledge money such as 'buy a brick'.

Churt Heritage storage could stay but committee room itself will disappear. Bifold doors looking unlikely.

Cllr Martin asked how the coffee operation would actually work? Who would run it? Would it be operated on a sub lease? Needs to be a community asset. Pipasha have shown an interest in running a café as their staff are available during the day.

Cllr Johnson asked about the impact on the village in terms of parking. CHCC will have a stall at the village cheer event to further raise awareness.

25/118 5 minute presentation by SCC

None

25/119 5 minute presentation by WBC

None

25/120 Apologies for absence

Cllr Harmer (SCC), Cllr Munro (WBC) and Cllr Wright (CPC).

25/121 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.

25/122 Minutes of the meeting of 16 July 2025 (NB there was no meeting in Aug)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2025 were **AGREED** by all. **Proposed** by Cllr Barrow, **seconded** by Cllr Spence.

25/123 Report of the Clerk to the Council

- 1) Defib installed at village hall 23 July, fully registered with SECAM and The Circuit
- 2) New bin installed on Redhearn Green

25/124 Report from the Environment Committee (JS)

Cllr Spence recommended we accept the quote from James Gray for routine safety work in Wicket Wood. He will advise residents.

Apple pressing took place at the recent CHAPS event.

Surrey CC have a consultation on updating climate change access plan, will go to consultation in Nov.

Clerk updated all on the recent fire behind the Sculpture Park and reiterated the need for Clerks to be kept in the loop as to updates.

25/125 Village strategy 2035 (MS)

Focus groups reduced from 6 to 5. Cllr Johnson has made some very helpful comments. Clerk has approached the village hall re film nights. Cllr M Shorthose stated the joining up of different groups within Churt is important to add to cohesion within the community.

Who on the PC will take ownership of other focus groups? Re the housing focus group, Cllr Spence mentioned WBC have to build 1500 homes per year so are calling for sites. Clerk to circulate housing survey from 2016. Cllr Martin asked if we as a Council support development within the settlement area?

Cllr Spence also advised that Cllr Munro has been elected onto the WBC planning committee, he can advocate for us but not vote.

Cllr M Shorthose will convene a strategy meeting for October.

25/126 Village centre (PH)

Honda Garage has a new manager. Cllr Harrison will go in and introduce herself.

John Brain has suggested a variegated holly on Redhearn Green to mask the Gigaclear box when exiting the church. Cllr Johnson to investigate further.

Woodfired pizza has been very successful at the pub.

We need to put something in the newsletter about people keeping their hedges trimmed especially if overhanging roads and pavements.

25/127 Roads and Transport (LM)

Clerk updated on the fallen tree on A287. We have received a complaint about the contractors lorries blocking the end of Green Lane onto A287. Works now completed at the bungalow however so issue has gone away.

25/128 Crime and Disorder (DR)

Nothing to report.

25/129 Financial Matters (RB)

25/129.1 Payments for authorisation – July and Aug 2025

July and Aug's accounts were **proposed** by Cllr M Shorthose, **Seconded** by Cllr S Shorthose and **agreed** by all.

Cllr Barrow reported minimal spend over last few months, cashflow suggests £48,000 at year end.

25/129.2 Budget Update and Income report – July and Aug 2025

Noted

25/129.3 To note individual monthly costs in excess of £500

9 July – HMRC – £1514.86, employer tax and NI

22 July – Dawn Barrow – £1570.92, Clerk's July salary

18 July – WelMedical, – £1434.00, new defib

14 August – Dawn Barrow – £1570.92, Clerk's Aug salary

25/129.4 Clerk's salary to be increased in line with NALC recommendations back dated to April 2025. Hours were increased to reflect additional duties.

Proposed by Cllr S Shorthose, **seconded** by Cllr M Shorthose and **agreed** by all.

25/130-To note and comment on current planning applications (MJ)

Report circulated in advance of meeting by Cllr Johnson.

2 applications since June.

Green Cross Cottage – change of use of eastern end of Bottom Barn to residential ancillary to Green Cross Farm cottage. No comment as long as it remains ancillary and does not become a separate dwelling.

High Jump – replacement of a collection of steel clad outbuildings with a galvanised green steel clad garage. No comment.

25/131 Local Government Reorganisation in Surrey (JS)

Public consultation ended in Aug. Waiting for Government to decide whether there will be 2 or 3 unitary authorities. Personnel changes in Central Government so may be a potential rethink.

Farnham included within pilot area, aiming for 50,000 in each pilot area. Cllr Spence will write to Farnham TC Mayor to see if Churt can join them and have a voice in ongoing discussions/considerations.

25/132 Adoption of CIL policies and CIL project suggestions from councillors (JS)

Cllr Spence circulated draft CIL policy plus a guide to residents and a standard application form.

CIL spend needs to be accounted for to WBC by year end. Cllr S Shorthose **proposed** we adopt the policy, **seconded** by Cllr Johnson and **agreed** by all, subject to inclusion of a sentence clarifying the process for CPC applying for CIL monies to itself.

Other matters

There being no other business the meeting of the Churt Parish Council closed at 9.40pm . There then followed a meeting of the Churt Recreation Ground Trust (See separate Minutes).

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Signed:

Date:

Chairman

The next meetings of the Churt Parish Council and Churt Recreation Ground Trust will be held on **Wednesday 15 October 2025 at 7.30pm in the Churt pavilion.**