

## **Churt Parish Council**

*Clerk to the Council*  
Mrs Dawn Barrow

### **Minutes of the meeting of Churt Parish Council held on Wednesday 26 March 2025 at 7.30 pm.**

#### **Present**

Churt Councillors: Sally Shorthose, Mike Shorthose, Stephen Wright, Julian Spence, Pippa Harrison, Roddy Barrow, Lisa Martin

Surrey County Council: 0  
Waverley Borough Council: 1 (David Munro, part)  
Clerk to the Council: Dawn Barrow  
Members of the Public: 1 - Jennet Eyre, CPRE

#### **25/34 Chairman's Welcome**

Cllr S Shorthose welcomed all to the meeting.

#### **25/35 Presentation from Jennet Eyre, CPRE (Council for the Protection of Rural England)**

Jennet has been a trustee for the last 2 years. CPRE are a charity who work to protect the Green Belt, AONB and National Landscape. They are independent of Natural England. Look at planning lists every Monday. 9 trustees in Surrey incl. ex City lawyers and 3 ex planning officers. Consider any planning issues and how to object. Variety of applications considered including disused buildings, solar farms and the visitor centre at Thursley.

Received notification on 25 March from Natural England that SSSI's will become National Nature Reserves. Useful to know what other local parishes are doing to enhance connectivity and similar thinking. CPRE are able to provide free written support on

- 1) How will 'grey belt' be interpreted?
- 2) How does sustainability come into play re planning applications?
- 3) Where can infill take place in villages on brown field sites? WBC committed to building 1480 houses per year.

Clerk to send Jennet our Village Design Statement.

Cllr Martin to respond to gentleman who offered to help us draw up a Neighbourhood Plan saying something for the future once we are clearer regarding devolution.

#### **25/36 5 minute presentation by SCC**

Nothing to report.

#### **25/37 5 minute presentation by WBC**

Cllr Munro reported that Surrey CC and the Boroughs and Districts have put in their submissions regarding devolution. SCC want 2 unitary authorities, Districts want 3 with an overarching Mayor. Current system felt to be outdated. No elections in May 2025.

New planning application about to be submitted re: Crossways Close.

Layby near Edwin Abbot Cottages is hardstanding but breaking up. It is Highways land. Could SCC smarten it up? Currently used for construction vehicle parking relating to the redevelopment of Furze Hill Stud.

A287 has very bad potholes near Woodbury House, Clerk has reported on Fix My Street.

#### **25/38 Apologies for absence**

Cllr Johnson

#### **25/39 Disclosure of Pecuniary and other Interests**

Cllr Spence confirmed he must stay neutral when discussing planning applications as he sits on the WBC planning committee.

#### **25/40 Minutes of the meeting of 19 February 2025**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2025 were **AGREED** by all. **Proposed** by Cllr Harrison, **seconded** by Cllr Barrow.

#### **25/41 Report of the Clerk to the Council**

- 1) Roddy Barrow attended new councillor course on March 20
- 2) Application submitted for new free defib from BHF, sadly unsuccessful
- 3) Grasstex to fertilise and overseed worn patches on Redhearn Green w/c 24 March
- 4) VAT return submitted in sum of £11,171.85, received 12 March.

#### **25/42 Report from the Environment Committee incl. grant from Surrey Wildlife Trust (JS)**

SWT has kindly given a grant in the sum of £3794, £794 towards tools and £3000 for tree works which will take place in the Autumn.

Cllr Spence will formally acknowledge the grant and thank SWT.

#### **25/43 Village strategy 2035 (MS)**

Cllr M Shorthose has now processed all the material and thoughts submitted with key input from Cllr Wright. How do we now plan the rollout? Present at Annual Assembly (but at what level, just highlight aims and objectives?) Then launch formally at the fete in June. Pavilion project a good first example. Underpinning everything is that we want a thriving community in 2035.

Cllr Martin asked if we should have a position statement as well as an action plan?

Could different groups lead on different projects?

Cllr Barrow asked if CPC should take the lead on all projects as we are representing the electors? and does any political vision come into play?

Clerk to book projector and screen for presentation at AA.

#### **25/44 Village centre incl. fete (PH)**

Massive issue re parking, pedestrians and traffic control for the fete. Cllr Harrison to contact the Police to see if they can help.

#### **25/45 Roads and Transport**

Cllr Martin received a complaint that there was no cycle parking at the Bel and Dragon or around Churt for people coming on bikes from further afield.

#### **25/46 Crime and Disorder (DR)**

Nothing to report.

#### **25/47 Financial Matters (RB)**

##### **25/47.1 Payments for authorisation – Feb 2025**

Feb's accounts were **proposed** by Cllr Spence, **Seconded** by Cllr Wright and **agreed** by all.

##### **25/47.2 Budget Update and Income report – Feb 2025**

Approaching year end, we will be very close to budget.

##### **25/47.3 To note individual monthly costs in excess of £500**

**28 Feb 2025- Dawn Barrow -£1571.12, Clerk's salary**

**25/47.4 Approval of Assets Register**

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

Cllr Spence asked what changes will need to be made to the assets register post pavilion refurb? It was noted that the pavilion itself sits under the assets register for the RGT.

**25/47.5 Approve and accept interim audit report for Oct 2024 to Feb 2025**

(sent in advance of meeting)

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

**25/48 -To note and comment on current planning applications (SW)**

**Report circulated in advance of meeting by Cllr Johnson.**

**WA/2025/00357 Corries, Green Lane**

Erection of outbuilding, no comment

**PRE/2025/00020 Cedar Croft, Hale House Lane**, original application refused, owners have appealed. They have asked for a consultation with WBC as to whether a smaller house might be considered appropriate? CPC would support this.

**WA/2025/00453 High Pines, Jumps Road**, replacement of outbuilding with a modern one of smaller size. No comment.

**Smiles Cottage**, looking at large (60%) extension under permitted development. Consider at April's meeting.

**25/49 Annual Assembly**

All invites sent out, good response from clubs and societies. Clerk to get 2 banners made up to advertise in village. Should we also get leaflets made up and circulate widely? Cllr S Shorthose and Harrison to action.

Cllr Wright passed on his apologies for the AA.

**Other matters**

There being no other business the meeting of the Churt Parish Council closed at 9.10pm . 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 9 April 2025 at 7.30pm in the Churt pavilion.****