

Churt Parish Council

Clerk to the Council
Mrs Dawn Barrow

Minutes of the meeting of Churt Parish Council held on Wednesday 16 July 2025 at 7.30 pm.

Present

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

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

25/100 Chairman's Welcome

Cllr S Shorthose welcomed all to the meeting.

25/101 5 minute presentation by SCC

None

25/102 5 minute presentation by WBC

WBC have set up an independent review board to look at the legal situation re CIL. If someone makes a mistake asking for exemption from CIL they need to repay. WBC charges CIL as part of its planning authority role. Designed to provide financial recompense for extra onus on transport and infrastructure.

Cllr Munro advised that Surrey Community Action will do a Housing Needs survey if we want one.

25/103 Apologies for absence

Cllr Harmer (SCC) and Cllr Raeside (CPC).

25/104 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.

25/105 Minutes of the annual meeting of 21 May 2025 (NB there was no meeting in June)

The Minutes of the annual meeting held on 21 May 2025 were **AGREED** by all. **Proposed** by Cllr Barrow, **seconded** by Cllr Johnson.

25/106 Report of the Clerk to the Council

- 1) Grant received from David Harmer's YCCF in sum of £717 for replacement defib, ordered 16/7
- 2) AGAR papers sent to external auditor 16 June
- 3) Cllr S Shorthose added as third Lloyds signatory
- 4) Bin arrived for Redhearn Green

25/107 Report from the Environment Committee (JS)

Part of Green Farm will be restored under Heathland Connection. Cllr Spence attended the opening of the Wealden Heath Nature Reserve up at the Punchbowl.

Pavilion planning approval stipulated there needs to be biodiversity net gain. Should we employ a biodiversity consultant? Not too costly but CHCC should bear the cost.

The heathland restoration glade has been marked out in Wicket Wood so that quotes for the work can be obtained.

Should we have a fire protocol following the recent fire at Hankley?

25/108 Village strategy 2035 (MS)

Good presence at the fete but not too many responses. Gus Desbarats keen to help with the housing element.

Owner of Pipasha suggested he would like to open a café, possibly in the Property Partnership premises should it become vacant.

Clerk to check Trust Deed re possibility of running a café from the refurbished pavilion. Cllr M Shorthose to go back to the clubs and societies with a view to their involvement in taking the strategy forward.

Clerk to speak to village hall committee re possibility of running film nights in the village hall.

Cllr M Shorthose to provide updated synopsis for website and Sept newsletter.

Cllr Johnson attended a recent planning seminar, commented that there was good alignment with many of our priorities.

Cllr Martin suggesting sending out leaflets ahead of December's village cheer.

25/109 Village centre (PH)

Nothing to report.

25/110 Roads and Transport (LM)

Cllr Martin reported there is now a limited bus service in the village on a Sunday.

It was noted that Beacon Hill is now a 20mph zone and was there a likelihood of this happening in Churt? Cllr Martin has been in touch with Thomas Lancaster SCC's sustainable transport officer.

Mobile speed camera van occasionally based outside Quinettes.

25/111 Crime and Disorder (DR)

New PCSO's have been designated for Churt, we should invite them to a future meeting. There have been some reported thefts from sheds and garages.

25/112 Financial Matters (RB)

25/112.1 Payments for authorisation – May and June 2025

May and June's accounts were **proposed** by Cllr S Shorthose, **Seconded** by Cllr Wright and **agreed** by all.

Cllr Barrow provided a report that we currently have £92,000 in cash, the recent CIL monies have been a bonus and looking at current forecast we could have about £50,000 at the end of the year.

Should we revisit the idea of outside gym equipment of the Rec? Clerk to get updated quotes.

Also ask Mark Lawson to quote to install some steps from Redhearn Green across to Churt Club.

Cllr Spence to source a standard form for CIL applications.

25/112.2 Budget Update and Income report – May and June 2025

Noted

25/112.3 To note individual monthly costs in excess of £500

23 May – Dawn Barrow – £1570.92, Clerk's May salary

9 June – RGT – £5000, transfer to RGT account

20 June - PWLB - £2038.74, repayment to PWLB
23 June - Dawn Barrow - £1570.92, Clerk's June salary

25/113-To note and comment on current planning applications (MJ)

Report circulated in advance of meeting by Cllr Johnson.

WA/202/01205, Harolds Hill , extension to garage to provide ancillary accommodation for a future carer. Provision that it should stay as one dwelling, takes full extension to 45%.

Ecological recommendations to be made a condition.

Suggestion that although it is SCC involved and not WBC, as a mitigation measure for proximity of extension to the public footpath at the top, the applicant should remove the fence outside the southeast end of the site so that the fenced off land is restored to public access.

PIP/2025/00207 Green Lane PIP, didn't appear on agenda for 9 July WBC planning meeting.

Green Cross Farm, reduced height of gates and extension has been approved

Cedar Croft, applicants looking at back up position if their appeal fails

2 Moorside Cottages, application for double garage and home office with an internal staircase, felt to be out of keeping with size of property.

25/114 Adoption of IT Policy as requested by internal auditor (sent in advance of meeting)

Proposed by Cllr Wright, seconded by Cllr Johnson and agreed by all. Clerk to send to internal auditor and upload to website.

25/115 Local Government Reorganisation in Surrey: Discussion on CPC's response to Government consultation (JS)

There are different papers relating to the suggestion of 2 or 3 unitaries. Should we put in our own consultation response? How will villages be represented and how will their views be heard?

How will debt be handled? How big are the areas? Has there been community engagement?

Cllr M Shorthose asked if we should be happier dealing with only one authority above us?

A very large council could lead to voids of information and half of Surrey is not parished.

How will essential services be covered? how will funding be sorted?

Government wants Mayors to cover each county.

Cllr S Shorthose suggested we put in a response based on Cllr Spence's very thorough report.

Other matters

There being no other business the meeting of the Churt Parish Council closed at 9.30pm . 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 **Tuesday 16 September 2025 at 7.30pm in the Churt pavilion.**