

CAPEL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD REMOTELY ON MONDAY 08 MARCH 2021 AT 7.30pm

PRESENT: Mr Ball, Mr McLachlan, Mrs Dale, Mrs Schryver, Mr Salter, Mrs Ryan and the Clerk.

IN ATTENDANCE: District Councillors Mary Huggins, Lesley Bushnell and Caroline Salmon. Surrey County Councillor Helyn Clack.

Michelle Watson, Corinna Osborne-Patterson, Jackie and Chris Coke, Christine Baty, Emma Jaques, Dot Thorpe, David Silliman, Sally Wyborn, Phil Partridge, Peter Sowinski, Stan Venitt, Richard Rudd, Tim Brooks, Rosemary Hedgecock and Carol Cobb.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mr Garber, Mr Cox and Mr Ashwood.

2. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT/PRESENTATION:**

- **EXPLANATION: PARISH, DISTRICT AND COUNTY**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to Annual Parish meeting, the first conducted using the zoom platform. He began by explaining the difference between the three levels of councils in Surrey and what their responsibilities are.

- **PLANNING, NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND MOLE VALLEY LOCAL PLAN**

The Chairman explained that every planning application in the parish is considered and a recommendation made to Mole Valley who are the determining body. Each application must be considered against a set of policies. Policies are set by the Parish NDP, MVDC Local Plan, at County level and by the NPPF

- **CAPEL PARISH COUNCIL'S STRATEGY**

The Council has to tackle tough issues as well as support local good projects making sure decisions are in the best interests of the local population.

- **BUDGET AND PRECEPT**

In 2013 the Council had a budget of around £25,000. In 2020 this increased to around £90,000 but in addition to the precept income is received from easements. The precept is the amount requested from Mole Valley just to run the Council. As the Council has a Neighbourhood Development plan it is entitled to 25% of all the CIL charged on development in the parish. This enables the Council to spend more than is charged by way of the precept. In 2020/2021 the Council spent £230,000 against a precept of £95,000. The precept is spent on grounds maintenance, staff costs, legal, professional and insurance costs, rates and running costs, community projects and Mole Valley Local Plan and legislation.

- **MAJOR PROJECTS**

The Council is proud to have completed over 40 community projects over the last year all of which enhance the parish and benefit the residents.

Stuart McLachlan, Vice Chairman, addressed the meeting, outlining the projects that had been undertaken this year, and the giving details of the costs involved. Mr McLachlan also mentioned the damage prevention works undertaken on Coldharbour byways, especially along Wolvens Lane, to stop 4x4s and scramble bikes destroying the environment. Mr McLachlan thanked Councillor Hazel Watson for her commitment to the cause.

- **BEHIND THE SCENES**

The Chairman thanked all 9 councillors who give up their time and expertise for free. The clerk's CiLCA qualification will allow the Council to apply to become a Quality Council. The Council is actively investigating what benefits would be.

- **SUPPORTING AND FUNDING LOCAL GROUPS**

The Chairman mentioned local groups the Parish Council had supported through funding. Surrey County Councillor Helyn Clack, addressed the meeting, giving an overview of the work she carries out and the support she gives to all Parish Councils in her division. County Councillor Clack mentioned Your Fund Surrey, a community projects fund, and the benefits this scheme has. She recommended that local groups discuss ways to improve their environment and make application for funding.

The Chairman invited District Councillor Caroline Salmon to discuss the work the Parish Angels had undertaken during lockdown. The Parish Angels assist residents who were shielding from Covid-19. She also mentioned the work undertaken by the Community Fridge. Councillor Salmon was proud to mention that at its peak 130 bags of groceries were delivered to residents in Capel, Beare Green, Coldharbour and South Holmwood residents each week. More recently residents in Ockley and Newdigate have also been included. Councillor Salmon congratulated the team. On Friday 5th March, the 5,000th food parcel since lockdown began was made up.

- **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Mrs Watson asked for confirmation that a survey that might have been taken regarding road safety at Beare Green roundabout. The Chairman said that this was not a survey, regarding road safety, but a feasibility study to reduce the traffic to one lane on the roundabout to reduce the speed. Mrs Watson also mentioned the trees that had been cut down due to Ash dieback. She said it had been mentioned that Surrey County Council wanted the residents to take responsibility for the cleared areas. The Chairman said the parish council did have funds for planting, but the continuing maintenance could be the problem.

Mr Peter Sowinski said a big thank-you to the Parish Council for installing the pathway around Capel recreation ground. The Chairman thanked him for his comments and mentioned the path outside Rose Cottages, Capel which is being upgraded and extended.

Mr Sowinski also mentioned the recently upgraded parish magazine which is now being delivered free-of-charge. He congratulated the parish and the new editor on this achievement. Mr Stan Venitt was congratulated on the photographs that were being published on the front page of the magazine.

Potholes in The Street, Capel were also mentioned. The Chairman said that highway problems should be reported to Surrey County Council for them to deal with. It was mentioned that an area of the A24 south of Capel would be undergoing extensive road repairs because of pressure from residents and the District Council.

Mr Stan Venitt congratulated the parish for the zoom meeting. The Chairman said the Council should be moving back to face-to-face meetings soon, but hybrid meetings would be promoted.

Mr Tim Brooks mentioned tree planting and rewilding in areas around the parish. The Chairman said he was sure the Council would back tree planting projects and Mr Partridge said he would be pleased to offer assistance on any future project.

Mr Partridge asked if the Parish had a policy on passive new build – houses that produced twice the electricity they need and had their own electric car charging points. Mention was made of the proposed new houses to be built on the land along Vicarage Lane, Capel, and the hope that the Council could encourage the developers to include these measures.

3. CLOSE

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and that all had enjoyed the meeting. He hoped future hybrid meetings would encourage everyone to join in again.