



## Minutes of the Meeting of Bramley Parish Council

Held at Bramley Village Hall on 21st September 2023, starting at 6:00 pm

### PARTICIPANTS

Mmes F Stern, J Austin, Messrs P Leung, T Coleman, C Marshall, M Vivian, B Stern, T Saunders. Mmes van Rensburg, the Clerk, D Ersser, the RFO and Surrey County Cllr Kevin Deanus were also present.

- 68/23 **To receive apologies for absence**  
a. Cllr Saunders advised he would be late due to travelling from London. He arrived 15 minutes late.
- 69/23 **Declarations of interest**  
None
- 70/23 Minutes of the meeting 15th June 2023  
Minutes of the meeting of the 15th June 2023 were agreed as a true record. These were signed by the chairman.
- 71/23 Matters arising from minutes of the meeting of 15th June 2023  
a. None
- 72/23 **Bramley Neighbourhood Police update**  
A report was received and circulated to councillors. Cllr F Stern expressed dissatisfaction with the police report, noting that it did not mention the incident involving 30 travellers at Select Convenience a few weeks ago, where approximately £200 worth of goods were stolen. She also mentioned an attempted break-in at the Jolly Farmer in July, which may or may not have been reported to the police.
- 73/23 **Correspondence**  
a. The clerk circulated the correspondence report.
- 74/23 **Waverley and Surrey County Councillors Update**  
a. **Cllr K Deanus** reported that Cllr Tom Horwood, the joint CEO of Guildford and Waverley, resigned due to health reasons.  
b. Surrey Police is going to launch a new policing strategy which will deal with minor crimes and anti-social behaviour.  
c. Bramley is set to get an average-speed camera in the next quarter.  
d. **Cllr J Austin** reported that Waverley and Guildford are busy merging. In the past 24 hours, six people in Guildford have become unemployed amid accusations of a multimillion-pound fraud. Details are currently unknown.  
e. The joint interim finance officer, contracted for six months, has resigned. Both Waverley and Guildford are under the threat of bankruptcy, with financial challenges including a £10 million misallocation. The current financial situation makes finding someone willing to take on that role challenging.
- 75/23 **Committee actions:**  
a. Planning Review Committee  
i. Review of Planning report (circulated)  
ii. Waverley's challenges are causing a slowdown in processing planning applications. Insufficient capacity to bring applications to



the committee and produce reports has led to a substantial backlog, causing delays for many applicants, some waiting for years. Additionally, a software problem on the Waverley website is affecting the display of whether planning applications have been approved or denied.

- iii. Cllr F Stern is in correspondence with a Bramley Infant School Governor and the Bowls Club. She is waiting to hear back from the Bowling Club committee to discuss the way forward should the Bowling Club close.
  - iv. The Clerk received a report from the Library Operations team, which was added to the September report pack.
  - v. Students from St. Catherine's school want to volunteer at the library.
- b. Village Hall management committee  
Next meeting 20<sup>th</sup> October.
- c. Highways committee
- i. Wonersh Parish Councils request for a No HGV's sign at the junction of the A281 and Station Road was reconsidered and rejected, as was a sign at bend in Station Road adjacent to the bridge. It was noted that buses are able to use the route satisfactorily.
  - ii. Cllr K Deanus will review the village speed limits and explore the possibility of using CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funds to cover the costs of any proposals. He is aware that some parishes have utilised CIL money for speed limits.
- f. Estate Manager Report
- i. The clerk mentioned visiting the Chestnut Way Play area to inspect the trees and take photos for Surrey. It was suggested that the Estate Manager handle this task in the future.
  - ii. Ownership of the wall bordering Old Rectory Close and Rhens Place is still to be determined. The wall was damaged by a fallen tree. Cllr J Austin will investigate if the wall is in a conservation area.

76/23

#### **Parish updates and actions**

- a. Pavilion and environs (including Gosden Common, Links Road)
  - i. No news
- b. Station Road and environs (including Hall Road, Eastwood, Barton Road, Linersh Wood)
  - i. The clerk was tasked with sending an email to former Cllr Tom Hughes regarding a fallen tree near the Station Road Bridge.
  - ii. He may have been dealing with the matter as Chair of the Resilience Committee.
  - iii. Gerald's Wood is being sold, and there was a consultation in Wonersh regarding this matter. Some councillors expressed interest in attending, but the timing conflicted with the monthly council meeting.
  - iv. Regarding the Eastwood Road Playground, it was noted that if the parish is funding or partially funding the project, three quotes will be needed. The clerk has provided Cllr Austin with the lease for the play area for review. The playground, often called the 'Train Station' by children, is set for an upgrade, most councillors agree with this decision. To gather input from the families who will use the area, a survey is being circulated to better understand their preferences.
- c. High Street and environs (including Windrush Close, Old Rectory Close, Snowdenham Links Road and Lane)

Cllr P Leung reported two incidents this week: one from David Morley regarding properties on the river, where he found a dead, oily-covered trout, and two different people reporting fuel smells



coming from under their stairs in houses near the river. One incident was a few doors down from David Morley, and the other was away from the river area.

- i. Cllr P Leung offered to talk to shop owners about putting CCTV cameras in front of their shops to make the High Street safer.
  - ii. Cllr J Austin reported that she has asked for a report and an update from the Environment Agency and Waverley Borough Council's environmental team regarding the foul smell in the village and the river pollution issue. She has also requested information on the remediation process and will keep the council updated.
  - iii. Cllr Austin met with the PPC of police, Lisa Townsend, to address the recent increase in anti-social behaviour in Bramley— We've had two separate incidents of people being followed within a week in Bramley. First, a man with a black eye followed a woman down Linersh Wood and harassed her. There were five reports that week, and this man behaved disruptively on the High Street. Then, on a different occasion, a man with his hand down his pants followed a mother on the Downs Link. These incidents have caused concern in the community, and we've considered improving safety measures in the area, such as CCTV, lighting, and vegetation trimming. We'll consult with a designing-out-crime officer to assess the situation and explore potential funding options for these improvements.
  - iv. Police have increased patrols to make the village less vulnerable to anti-social behaviour.
  - v. People in Bramley warned each other about these incidents, but not many cases were reported to the police.
  - vi. The need to report each graffiti tagging incident individually was emphasised to ensure that Waverley can take notice and identify any patterns.
- d. Rural Parish (including Thorncombe Street, Birtley Green, Grafham and South)  
. Nothing to report.

#### 78/23 Finance

- a. Payments listed in Appendix B (circulated) Members agreed on payments between 12<sup>th</sup> July and 11th September 2023 to the value of £12,539.39.
- b. The RFO reported that she has received the notice of conclusion of Audit for the 2022/23 financial year from the external auditor. On the basis of their review of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, the information prepared and submitted by the RFO is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to their attention that give cause for concern. The notice of conclusion of the audit and certificate have been published on the Parish Council website as required by the regulations.

#### 79/23 Points of information and any other matters

- a. SALC voting representative- 19 October SALC AGM. Cllr C Marshall will attend.
- b. Digital. Cllr C Marshall will proceed with implementing a more cost effective and appropriate Website solution for the council



- c. Graffiti cleaning
  - i. The clerk reported that Waverley Borough Council had not fulfilled their commitment to clean the graffiti. Terry Puttick from the Justice Department has suggested that offenders could perform this task at no cost, as it is a non-profit organisation. They would only request a donation for petrol and materials.
  - ii. The clerk was directed to contact the Bramley Business Centre and inquire whether they would like their graffiti cleaned, with the option of donating.
- c. Mulberry Council training.
  - i. Cllr C Marshall is interested in attending and asked the clerk to confirm if the payment will be split accordingly. Clerk to contact Womersley PC.

The meeting closed at 19:15

Agreed and signed ..... Chairman, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023