

## Churt Parish Council

Clerk to the Council  
Mrs Dawn Barrow

### Minutes of the meeting of Churt Parish Council held on Wednesday 15 January 2025 at 7.30 pm.

#### Present

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

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

#### 25/1 Chairman's Welcome

Cllr S Shorthose welcomed all to the meeting and mentioned the huge contribution made by Simon Fraser as a Parish Councillor and Chair, Chair of the village hall committee and committee member of the sports clubs. Simon sadly passed away just prior to Christmas and our deepest sympathy to his widow Sally and family.

#### 25/2 5 minute presentation by SCC

Cllr Harmer mentioned the ongoing discussions regarding Local Government reorganisation. What will central government do with local government and what powers will pass to town and parish councils?

City mayor model deemed to work well. 2025 SCC elections could be postponed for a year. Current Boroughs and Districts set up in 1972. How quickly would new authorities become competent and should they operate a shadow system?

Some Boroughs in debt so how would this be managed under a unitary system eg Waverley not in debt. Need a policy to manage larger debts. Leader of SCC also Chair of County Councils Association.

Target date not known yet. Nationwide problem. How will Sec. of State react to input from all over the country?

Cllr Spence reiterated this is a very complicated process with many issues to think about. Government White Paper has 3 mentions of parishes but it is not yet known what powers they would have. Will parishes be consulted?

15 years ago SCC looked at unitarization. Would Surrey have 2 or 3 unitaries? as one single unitary felt not to be an option.

Cllr Martin mentioned the SALC zoom meeting the following Weds. First agenda item is devolution. She believes there are benefits to this as local committees were successful years ago.

Cllr Harmer needs to submit his budget for the upcoming year in relation to the Western Villages. Meeting 23 Jan with Highways and Countryside departments plus local Clerks. Clerk raised the point of small villages not being able to compete against larger villages and town councils for monies.

#### 25/3 5 minute presentation by WBC

Cllr Spence mentioned the problem of keeping staff at WBC.

#### **25/4 Apologies for absence**

Cllr Munro (WBC)

#### **25/5 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.

#### **25/6 Minutes of the meeting of 18 December 2024**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2024 were **AGREED** by all. **Proposed** by Cllr Spence, **seconded** by Cllr Harrison.

#### **25/7 Report of the Clerk to the Council**

##### **1) Co-option of new councillor.**

Cllr Raeside proposed that Roddy Barrow be co-opted onto the Council, seconded by Cllr Harrison and agreed by all

##### **2) Xmas lights taken down 6 January 2025**

Thanks to Tim Harrison and Mike Shorthose

#### **25/8 Report from the Environment Committee (JS/MJ)**

Cllr Spence will attend the Farnborough meeting to be held in Guildford on 16 January.

Nature News for Winter done by Cllr Johnson.

2 'No Fire' signs to be erected in Wicket Wood.

#### **25/9 Village strategy 2035 (MS)**

Productive meeting held. Need to formally report back to respondees of survey. Present strategy as series of topics. Define what CPC can influence and what is outside our remit, i.e. manage expectations. Cllr Wright stated we are custodians for our parish so should try and facilitate matters.

Should we work more closely with other parishes?

Agreed we should do a presentation at the annual assembly. Should cricket and football clubs also present their vision for the pavilion at the same time?

#### **25/10 Village centre (PH)**

Most businesses have still not responded to the strategy questionnaire. Cllr Harrison has visited all shops. Complaint that there appears to be no parking enforcement.

Spar have said they will not empty any new bin installed outside their premises. Clerk to speak to WBC to see if we can relocate the underused bin near Quinettes and ask WBC to continue to empty it, albeit in a different location.

#### **25/11 Roads and Transport (LM)**

Cllr Spence reported works to Footpath 29. Has been flattened but sand will be washed away with the first heavy rain. Appears that gas pipes are being installed so concern is the surface will erode above the pipes.

Clerk to send Cllr Spence's report and photos to SCC Countryside Department ahead of the Western Villages meeting on 23 Jan.

Cllr S Shorthose to write to owner of Harolds Hill about perceived land grabbing issue on Crosswater Lane.

Surrey Connect bus service, £6 for up to 10 mile journey, £2 for up to 5 miles, £1 if under 20. We will advertise on the website.

Cllr Martin has emailed Tom Lankaster to see if there is any progress with a suggested 20MPH zone through the village but no reply. She also mentioned the very poor lighting at the bus stops. What is best practise and what is lighting like in other villages?

#### **25/12 Crime and Disorder (DR)**

Nothing to report.

#### **25/13 Financial Matters**

##### **25/13.1 Payments for authorisation - Dec 2024**

Dec's accounts were **proposed** by Cllr S Shorthose, **Seconded** by Cllr Martin and **agreed** by all.

##### **25/13.2 Budget Update and Income report - Dec 2024**

Noted. Felt important to keep the equipment we have looking good.

##### **25/13.3 To note individual monthly costs in excess of £500**

12 Dec - Dawn Barrow - £1874.99, Dec salary

20 Dec- PWLB - £2038.74, biannual repayment to PWLB.

#### **25/14 -To note and comment on current planning applications (MJ)**

Report circulated in advance of meeting by Cllr Johnson.

No new applications this month.

Decisions: Cedar Croft- refused on grounds of impact on openness of Green Belt due to raised height of proposed roof. More than 40% increase in floor space is inappropriate in the Green Belt. Green Cross Farm - Refused on grounds of scale of proposed extension. Planning Dept happy with siting of proposed new driveway entrance but not height or closed design.

#### **25/15 Grass Protector on Redhearn Green**

Clerk and Cllr Raeside to inspect as very muddy and worn in places at the moment. Is there a better product on the market to help this? Liaise with Grasstex.

#### **Other matters**

There being no other business the meeting of the Churt Parish Council closed at 9.05pm . 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 19 February 2025 at 7.30pm in the Churt pavilion.****