

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 15 MAY 2013

|           |                      |                     |
|-----------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Present:  | Mr David Goldhawk    | Acting Chairman     |
|           | Mr Vic Mansell       |                     |
|           | Mr John Chiverton    |                     |
|           | Mr Tim Gamblen       |                     |
|           | Mr Terry Mayne       |                     |
|           | Mrs Mary Mansell     |                     |
|           | Mr Charles Hill      |                     |
|           | Mr Wayne Monkman     | District Councillor |
| Apologies | Miss Caroline Salmon | District Councillor |
|           | Mr Stephen Cooksey   | County Councillor   |

### MINUTES

Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 1 March 2012 were approved and signed as being correct at the meeting held on 16 May 2012.

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr David Goldhawk reported that this has in some ways been quite a difficult year for the Parish Council; two of the Councillors (Mr Nick McGill and Mrs Angela Kelly) resigned as a result of our requirement to sign a Declaration of personal assets, but the Council was able to find replacements without too much delay. We were pleased to welcome as new Councillors our late Clerk, Mrs Mary Mansell, and Mr Charles Hill. Following Mr McGill's resignation, I agreed to serve as Acting Chairman until a successor could be found.

The Council has on several occasions been indebted to the National Trust for their support to the Community. During the past year a new Scots Pine tree has been planted adjacent to the very old specimen at the corner of Betchets Green and Norfolk Road while several other ash samplings have been placed on land adjoining the Children's Playground. Other works carried out by the National Trust include extending the hedging around the Children's Playground (towards which the Council made a donation) and clearing land around the "Jubilee Oak" on the Common. The Playground continues to be a well-used feature of the Village; the Council is in the process of carrying out maintenance work recommended by Wicksteed's in their annual report. Parishioners should be aware that any new, more modern pieces of equipment would be very expensive to install.

The Council is grateful for work carried out by Mole Valley DC on repainting the subway under the A24, although we await the replacement of the mirrors in the subway.

Fouling by dogs on footpaths and grass areas continues to be a nuisance; dog-owners must be encouraged to clear up after their pets and to use the available bins.

Progress on getting the War Memorial and its surroundings upgraded continues to be very slow; so far (apart from a Grant of £2000 from Surrey County Council, and an individual donation of £25) we have not been successful in obtaining financial support, so it has been

agreed (with the support of the National Trust) to have the railings repainted and to improve the steps up to the Memorial.

The Queen's Jubilee was celebrated in the village with a street party to which the Council made a donation, while the Council purchased the beacon and its necessary equipment. We were very disappointed that while many other local communities received Jubilee coverage in the local Press, there was no mention of events in South Holmwood.

The Parish Council regularly considers local Planning Applications, most of which are not contested, but concern was expressed about further developments at Lodge Farm and the use of land in front of the Tyre Service at the end of Betchets Green Road.

The Council welcomes the regular attendance at its Meetings of representatives of the Surrey Police Force; we are reassured that Holmwood is a safe environment and we attempt to encourage the Police's efforts at controlling traffic speeds on the A24.

The Parish Council's role as Managing Agents at the Village Hall has once again taken a good deal of our time. During the course of the year the Council has been financially involved in works on a new fire alarm system together with problems of blockage of drains. However the most serious issues concerned the state of the Hall's roofing; surveys revealed that immediate renovations could cost in the region of £17000. The Council has already agreed to make a donation of £2000 towards this work, but it has only been possible to deal with this problem through the generosity of the Hall's Trustees and the fact that the Steward's Cottage now provides a regular income to the Hall. The Council is very grateful to Mr Peter Bray (Trustee) who has agreed to relieve Mrs Mansell of the supervision of Hall maintenance.

The substantial costs of maintaining the Village Hall is the chief reason why the Council has been unable to carry out its undertaking of last year to reduce our annual Precept request which now remains at the sum of £12000. We were pleased to make a donation of £2000 towards the new roofing for the Parish Church and it is hoped that a further sum can be donated in the current financial year. While on the subject of finance, I would like once again to thank Mole Valley District Council for their continuing Grant towards the upkeep of our open spaces.

Our local District and County Councillors are regular attenders at our Meetings and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking them for their support.

Finally I would like once again to give my thanks to all our Councillors for their support during the past year, and especially to our new Parish Clerk (Mrs Pat Clare) who has been coping very well in taking over from her experienced predecessor (Mrs Mary Mansell).

## **QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

There were no questions.

Mr John Chiverton thanked David Goldhawk for his report and for his chairmanship this year.