

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 05 MARCH 2020

Present: Mr John Chiverton Chairman
Mr David Goldhawk Vice Chairman
Mr Ian Fairbrother
Mrs Mary Mansell
Mr James Afford
Mr Keith Carter
Mrs Rachel Snook
Mrs Jan Russell Parish Clerk

Apologies: District Councillors Claire Malcomson and Clayton Wellman, and County Councillor Cooksey.

1. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 07 MARCH 2019.

The minutes were approved at the Annual Parish meeting held on 16 May 2019.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2019 - 2020

My report for the year 2019 - 2020 is a trifle truncated and, to some degree, "second-hand" in that I assumed Chairmanship only in May following the resignation in April of Mr Ian Foster as Chairman and Councillor.

However, by way of more than adequate compensation, I am delighted to record and, indeed, welcome the co-option of Mr. Keith Carter, Mr. James Afford and Mrs. Rachel Snook as Holmwood Parish Councillors.

As usual, Planning has been a matter of recurring consideration and Council has made appropriate representations to Mole Valley District Council both in respect of specific planning applications and in regard to the proposed Local Development Plan. Sadly, Mole Valley's decision-making process and, even more so, any Enforcement activity appears woefully protracted and/or postponed

There is quite a list of local concerns which Council continues to address, including:

- The Village Playground - the condition of the area and the equipment is regularly assessed, and attention given to any issues identified in Wicksteed's Inspection Report,
- The War Memorial - steps up to it are to be repointed,
- Bus shelters - these have been routinely vandalized, and Council is now faced with deciding whether it is reasonable or worthwhile to ask either Mole Valley or, indeed, volunteers to continue to repair them,
- Road Signs - Surrey County Council has been asked to repair various signs that remained damaged for some time,
- Ground maintenance - albeit with some concern as to the effect of Burley's having been taken-over, it was decided to accept their tender and to award a new 5-year contract, with their performance to be carefully monitored.

As Managing Agents, Council has continued to oversee the running of the Village Hall. There have been further upgrades to the premises and the Village Club's payments towards statutory services have been re-negotiated. Hall bookings remain stable but at a modest level.

Council's financial position is sound, and its management has been maintained in accordance with recently updated Financial Regulations. It was agreed that the sum of £4,000 be transferred to the Reserve Account, earmarked for any replacement/upgrade of playground equipment. Precept for next year has been proposed unchanged at £12,500.

On a bureaucratic note, there is now a requirement for Parish Councillors each to use an email address specific to Council-related business and Councillors have been asked to sign an agreement to Council information being forwarded via email.

In conclusion, I must record my thanks and appreciation to my fellow Parish Councillors, to Surrey County and Mole Valley District Councillor Stephen Cooksey, Mole Valley District Councillors Claire Malcolmson and Clayton Wellman and, not least, to our Parish Clerk for their help and support during my term of office.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None