

HOLMWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY MEETING HELD ON 17 MAY 2022 AT HOLMWOOD VILLAGE HALL

Present: Mr Keith Carter Chairman
Mrs Mary Mansell
Mr Ian Fairbrother
Mr James Afford
Mr Keith Carter
Mrs Rachel Snook
Mrs Jan Russell Parish Clerk

In attendance: District Councillors Clayton Wellman and Rosemary Hobbs. Mr Lester (part)

Apologies: County Councillor Stephen Cooksey, District Councillor Claire Malcomson and Councillor Goldhawk.

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2021 were signed at the meeting held on 28 June 2021.

2. Chairman's Report

Following the previous year when very few meetings of the Parish Council were undertaken due to Covid restrictions, the full resumption of meetings in 2021-2022 has enabled the Council to function more efficiently.

The good order of Council's finances has been maintained and verified by the auditors. Precept for the coming year has been increased to £13,500 to cover the increased salary of the clerk. Planning applications have continued to be reviewed by Council and any comments passed to Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) for their consideration. The question of the Carpel House rejected planning application by MVDC and the subsequent appeal has continued to take up Council time. Of most concern is the upset being caused to the local residents and together with the MV Councillors, we are continuing to request for a conclusion to this appeal application. The Village Hall has been managed by the Council on behalf of the Trustees over the past year. Maintenance continues to be the main outlay for costs. Whilst bookings have generally been low, recently a new booking for 4 mornings a week has been gained which will boost income. The Village Club continues to rent a substantial part of the building and rent from the adjacent cottage provides the majority of income.

The Children's Playground continues to be in the care of Council and we have this year been able to purchase two new items of playground equipment which will be installed in the coming year together with two new rubbish bins. We were able to obtain a grant from Surrey County Council (SCC) to help with the cost of the new equipment, but the majority of the funds have come from Council reserves accumulated for this purpose. Safety inspection and repairs have been carried out.

The Councillors' email system has been finalised and all Councillors now have bespoke email addresses for Council business.

The south bound bus shelter adjacent to the war memorial had continued to be repaired following repeated vandalism earlier in the year but recently this has become less of a problem.

However, the safety at the road junction with Mill Road has continued to concern the Council. Representations have been made to SCC Highways regarding the new layout. SCC said they would review the layout, but we are still waiting for their response.

We have commented to MVDC regarding their Local Plan. Although there is nothing planned which directly affects South Holmwood, the possibility of large numbers of new houses in and around Beare Green could adversely affect traffic density on the A24, especially at peak times. Parking in the village continues to be a concern. We have approached the National Trust to release some of their land for parking areas in the village, but our request was rejected.

Throughout the year we have continued to ensure that the War Memorial and the Vanderbilt Memorial have been maintained to adequate and safe standards.

For the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we have planted six new trees on the common area between the play park and the pond. These were in relation to the Jubilee aim to 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee', part of The Queens Green Canopy initiative. It is also planned to light a Beacon on June 2nd.

Two Newsletters were produced this year following a hiatus due to Covid.

Finally, three long serving Councillors have expressed their desire to step down in the coming year: exact timing is yet to be confirmed. It has been a great honour for me to serve as Chairman with such distinguished Councillors. Their experience and historical knowledge have been of great value to the running of the Council. I would like to record here my thanks and appreciation for their particular help and support over the past year. I have also appreciated the help and support of all Councillors and the Clerk to the Council in undertaking the Council's business and the smooth running of the meetings.

3. Questions from the Floor

None