

2019 WONERSH PARISH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Record of the Annual Assembly of the electors of Blackheath, Shamley Green and Wonersh held on Thursday 24th April 2019 at 7.30pm at the Blackheath Village Hall, Blackheath.

Present at the meeting were: Borough Cllr Michael Goodridge, Parish & Borough Cllr Mike Band, Cllr Oli Burdick, Cllr Chris Crouch, Cllr Peter Maggs, Cllr Anne Powell-Evans and Cllr Rod Weale (In the chair) and approximately 30 members of the public.

Presenters: PCSO Phil Snow, Louise Williams (Surrey Community Action), Mike Saunders (Wonersh Woodland Group); Cllrs Band, Crouch and Weale.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Graham Payne, Cllr Ray Marley, the Revd Sally Davies (Vicar of Shamley Green), the Revd Debbie Sellin (Vicar of Wonersh with Blackheath), Rt Hon Anne Milton MP.

In attendance: Lisa Davison, Clerk to the Parish Council.

1. Cllr Weale welcomed all present and explained that the Annual Assembly was the opportunity for all electors in the parish to raise and discuss matters of local interest and concern. He outlined the agenda.
2. Cllr Weale presented a written report about the activities of the Parish Council since the last meeting of the Annual Assembly of electors, held on 17 May 2018. (Annex A).
3. Mrs Diane Savage (Chair of Trustees) presented the annual report of the activities of Wonersh United Charities since the last meeting of the Annual Assembly together with the audited accounts for the year ended 30 June 2018 (Annex B).
4. Mr Graham Healy presented a report on the activities of Wonersh Village Stores Ltd. He noted that the Village Stores (and Post Office) were doing well and continued to be viable at present, though this relies on people utilising these facilities. He noted that the flat above the shop was rented to those with modest needs in the Parish. Mr Healy outlined the investments that had been made to the shop, now that it was debt free: the shop frontage in 2018/19 and building a new store to the rear in 2019/20. Wonersh Foundation is now in a position to facilitate charitable giving to other parish-based projects; this includes funding the Vision for Wonersh Survey and the Foundation anticipates contributing modestly towards actions resulting from the survey findings, to the benefit of the Parish.
5. Mr Mike Saunders made a report on behalf of Wonersh Woodland Group about the ongoing work of local volunteers over the previous year to restore Gerald's Wood as a valued and accessible local amenity for individuals and groups. He highlighted the ongoing support from Wonersh Parish Council and outlined the roles available for volunteers. A copy of the presentation is available on the Parish Council Website (Annex C).
6. PCSO Phil Snow reported on recent crimes of public interest in the Parish, specifically: the theft of Land Rover Defenders to order; the theft of dumper trucks to order; break-ins via the rear of properties / garages; car thefts; fraud targeted at older and younger members of the population, via internet, telephone and post. Regarding doorstep selling the Police advice is not to purchase anything from them and make the Police and Trading Standards aware that they have been calling. Their operations are organised and involve the gathering and circulation of information. In response to queries about the speed vehicles through the

villages, PCSO Snow suggested reporting these by calling 101, or online; with sufficient volume of complaints the Road Policing Team can respond.

7. Cllr Crouch and Louise Williams presented the findings of the Parish Survey. Cllr Crouch commenced with the wider results and how, for Wonersh, these dovetailed with the Vision for Wonersh findings, and Louise Williams followed with details of housing need within the Parish. Cllr Crouch emphasised that resident input was required in order to respond to the findings of the surveys and the Parish Council will be looking for volunteers. The survey reports and presentation is available on the Parish Council Website (Annex D).

8. Cllr Band reported on the facilities and services Wonersh Parish Council intend to take over from Waverley Borough Council. The Community Room in Garden Close, Shamley Green will be leased on a peppercorn rent to the Parish Council and this will protect the space for local community use, with the intention of increasing the utilisation of the facility. The Parish Council will also take over the maintenance of green space in Shamley Green / Lords Hill Common on a long term lease with break intervals, as Waverley Borough Council intended to reduce the maintenance of these from 2019 onwards. The Parish Council will receive a reducing amount of funding from WBC for the first four years.

9. A member of the public living in Wonersh enquired about the signage near Wonersh Sports Pavilion, asking whom it was designed to prevent from parking there, given the limited alternatives for accommodation with off-street parking and the potential expense of an easement across common land. Cllr Weale highlighted that the parking area was overused and this had a repair and maintenance cost associate with it, for the permitted users. Whilst the cost of getting an easement may be perceived to be an expensive outlay it is reflected in the increased value of the property, which far exceeds the cost to the householder of an easement. In trying to seek viable alternatives for parking, it was highlighted that introducing four spaces in Shamley Green cost in excess of £10,000 and took four years because of the process of introducing parking on common land.

10. Chris Howard, now Borough Councillor for Shamley Green, announced that it will be Surrey Day on 4th May and there are a lot of local events in recognition of this.

11. Cllr Powell-Evans took the opportunity to thank the local community for their support over the years, whilst she has been part of the Parish Council. She found the roles immensely fulfilling and recognised the strengths of the local parish and wished both the Council and electors well in the future.

12. There being no further business, Cllr Weale closed the meeting and invited all present to enjoy refreshments and to view the displays. Time 21.20.