

Churt Parish Council

Clerk to the Council
Mrs Dawn Barrow

Minutes of the meeting of Churt Parish Council held on Wednesday 18 October 2023 at 7.30 pm.

Present

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

Surrey County Council: 1 (David Harmer)
Waverley Borough Council: 2 (David Munro, James Staunton part)
Clerk to the Council: Dawn Barrow
Members of the Public: 14

23/96 Welcome

Cllr Martin welcomed all to the meeting and invited the visitors to speak.

Road safety - 2 parents from the school mentioned a near miss in June when a car mounted the kerb and almost hit a child. Police did not follow up on the incident. Last road safety assessment was in 2021. Pavement outside Honda garage has been improved but does not cater well for 30 children in a group walking along it. Parents have informed SCC who have promised another road safety assessment by Summer 2024. Parents want speed reduced to 20MPH, plus parking is in short supply. They do not feel it is viable to park by the tennis courts and use the zebra crossing, plus cars often don't stop. The crossing is not raised plus there is limited vision entering the village. Parents would prefer a pelican crossing. Cllr M Shorthose asked if there were different criteria applied when considering a pelican crossing.

The walking bus is not viable at busy drop off and collection times.

The sight lines near the Crossways are poor, hence the crossing being placed where it is.

Cllr Harmer advised that SCC have set up a road safety team which is starting its assessments in Mole Valley and working westwards. This team will be looking into traffic movements, school drop off patterns, use of the roads by HGV's etc.

Green Lane planning - Cllr Johnson advised that she has read all the neighbours relating to the application for 2 new houses on the plot of land on Green Lane and these are reflected in the position which the parish council sub-committee is taking:

1. Permission in Principle should not be granted on the grounds that:
 - The grounds for refusal of the applications submitted in 1976 would seem to remain applicable to this application within the current Waverley Local Plan Parts 1 and 2 and the Surrey Hills Management Plan
 - It is the view of the Surrey Hills AONB Planning Adviser that the development would cause real harm to the character of this part of the Surrey Hills AONB.
 - The large number of neighbour objections indicates that the proposed development would detract significantly from the amenities of neighbouring residential occupiers.
 - Green Lane is a narrow road supporting a significant volume of vehicle and pedestrian traffic and two further homes would add to road safety concerns.
2. The application states that "*there is sufficient space within the application site to retain existing trees, and to provide Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)*". However, actions taken by the developers to fell trees and destroy the road frontage hedgerow prior to the submission of the planning application constituted a major loss of biodiversity and constitutes an insult to the planning system, on which it is hoped WBC will take appropriate action.

3. The block plan shows an area at the top end of the field which is not included in the site for the two houses and which will become land-locked with no access. If WBC is minded to approve the PIP application then there should be a condition that development is limited to two dwellings and there should be no further development on the landlocked portion of the field.

This is the first time that the parish council has received a PIP (Permission in Principle), Concern was expressed by neighbours that there could be an increase in the stated number of dwellings post approval (if approval granted). Cllr Munro of WBC confirmed that the planning officers can only deal with the application as it stands. Comments are due in by 20 October. If there are objections by 10 or more different households, the application would be called in to the main planning committee. Objections must include valid planning considerations. The planning officer's report can take a while to come out because WBC Planning are short staffed. Clerk will forward our comments to David Irwin who will then disseminate to others. One member of the public stated that they believe there is a badger's set on the land. If this is the case, then an ecologist's survey would be necessary with the full application if the PIP is approved.

Farnborough - Richard Nobbs thanked the PC for submitting their objection. Gatwick have put in an application to use their emergency runway as a second runway. This means additional planes might overfly Churt. It was agreed that we should register for the right to comment when the planning application is submitted.

Cllr Munro confirmed the consultation period for Farnborough has now closed, awaiting planning submission. Cllr Staunton believes that FAL may be prepared to move on tightening/restricting the aircraft types and the incremental growth rates. Independent noise monitoring equipment is now installed in Peter Scott's house in Churt.

Other - Paul Millin at SCC is looking into improving the bus stop in Churt near Hop House. Cllr Munro attended the BOAT meeting regarding Sandy Lane and asked if there was anything else that could be done to address the issues caused by off road motor vehicles and motorbike. Natural England have said they do not believe the traffic using the BOAT is adversely affecting the environment.

Cllrs Munro and Staunton left the meeting.

23/97 Apologies for absence

None

23/98 Disclosure of Pecuniary and other Interests

Cllr Spence reminded the Parish Council that he sits on the WBC planning subcommittee and as such cannot comment on planning applications relating to Churt.

23/99 Minutes of the meeting of 20 September 2023

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2023 were **AGREED** by all. **Proposed** by Cllr M Shorthose, **seconded** by Cllr Johnson.

23/100 Report of the Clerk to the Council

- 1) Insurance renewal with Hiscox from 30 September for one year only
- 2) £7000 transferred to RGT account
- 3) Clerk wrote to Boundary Commission regarding suggested renaming of Western Villages
- 4) TPOs placed on all trees around the site in Green Lane where vegetation had been cut down
- 5) Letter sent to Farnborough 10 Oct 2023

6) Philippa Harrison booked on new councillor course 26 Oct

23/101 Report from the Environment Committee (JS)

The next inter parish climate meeting is confirmed for 8 November, hosted by Churt PC in the pavilion. 8 or 9 parishes should be represented. Claire Upton-Brown the new head of planning at WBC will also attend.

23/101.1 Village centre

Gigaclear are continuing to work in the village centre.

23/101.2 Roads and Transport (PH)

Cllr Harrison will contact Cllr Munro WBC separately regarding bridleway issues. Will also follow up on traffic safety concerns with the school parents.

Cllr Spence reported that the Barford Stream bridge had still not been repaired.

23/101.3 Crime and Disorder

Police taking tyre dumping very seriously and have formed a Joint Action Group with WBC Environmental Health. Video evidence has been passed on.

Police representative cannot attend either Nov or Dec's meetings but hopes to attend in early 2024.

23/102 Financial Matters

23/102.1 Payments for authorisation - September 2023

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

23/102.2 Budget Update and Income report - September 2023

Noted.

23/102.3 To note individual monthly costs in excess of £500

20 Sept - Greenbarnes - £2414.60, honours boards

25 Sept - Arthur Gallagher - £2282.34, insurance renewal

25 Sept - RGT - £7000, internal transfer

23/103.1 -To note and comment on current planning applications

Report circulated in advance of meeting by Cllr Johnson.

Land on Green Lane, following on from earlier discussions Cllr Wright asked if 2 extra houses would make a big difference to traffic issues? Cllr Johnson to adapt wording and respond to WBC accordingly.

Regarding recent decisions, the planning department noted our comments regarding the swimming pool at Corries which is now approved.

Tall Trees - going to appeal. Cllr Harmer confirmed that if you put in an objection you will be notified if an application subsequently goes to appeal.

23/104 Farnborough

Cllr Spence will look into the Gatwick issue and advise.

23/105 Local mobile phone signal, Phone and broadband changes (SM)

Resident in Rushmoor raised concerns about poor signal and possibility of a further mast. SM issued a paper prior to the meeting covering future announced changes to national phone and broadband networks. Old style copper phone network will end 2025. Gigaclear have explained their fibre roll-out process. They are using current infrastructure as much as possible. Their current plans do not include all of the settlement area. People with medical devices could experience problems when the copper network is retired. What does this mean for Churt as a village? Will Ofcom provide advice especially relating to back up supply solutions? Openreach are aiming to have rolled out their fibre network to 25M premises in the UK by end 2026 but have announced no immediate plans for our area. estimate

Other matters

None

There being no other business the meeting of the Churt Parish Council closed at 9.15pm . 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 15 November 2023 at 7.30pm in the Churt pavilion.**