

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 07 MARCH 2024 at 7.00PM**

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr M Scully.

Clerk: Parish Clerk B Bell FSLCC and Senior Admin Clerk L Glazier.

There were 28 members of the public at the meeting including Parish Councillors: M Scully (Chairman), C Walker (Vice Chairman), R Burbridge, A Morrison, H Nicholson, L Talmage, E Townsend, R Tyler, M West, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey Michael More-Molyneux, Mrs More-Molyneux, WBC Officer Kelvin Mills, WBC Officer Tamsin McLeod, GT3 Architect Matt McCreith and 3 members of the Youth Council

Apologies: Cllrs N Sanctuary

The Council Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING ON 09 MARCH 2023

The minutes were AGREED as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

PRESENTATION BY SURREY LORD-LIEUTENANT

HM Lord-Lieutenant Michael More-Molyneux of Surrey presented Cranleigh with a commemorative Coronation Plaque, which was accepted by Sue Dale on behalf of Cranleigh. HM Lord-Lieutenant said Cranleigh had been blessed with a royal visit of TRH Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh for the coronation of HM King Charles III. He said there are only two other Coronation Plaques one at Normandy and the other at the Guildford Cathedral.

The Lord-Lieutenant shared how the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh enjoyed their visit to Cranleigh and have fond memories of the time they spent in Cranleigh for the Coronation.

PRESENTATION BY WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL AND GT3 ARCHITECTS

Waverley Borough Council (WBC) and GT3 Architects presented the plans for the new Cranleigh Leisure Centre for the first time to the community, a copy of the presentation will be made available on the Parish Council website.

Matt McCreith explained that he is one of the lead architects as part of a team of 25 who have worked on the project. It was explained that there will be further opportunities to view the plans at the Village Hall and Leisure Centre in the coming weeks.

The team of architects have taken their inspiration from a notable Cranleigh resident William Heath Robinson famous for his illustrations, along with the half timbering of the Village Hall.

It is hoped to open the new Leisure Centre in the autumn/winter of 2026 and for the existing Leisure Centre to be demolished soon after.

The aim of the built form is to retain the character of Cranleigh, while creating a sustainable building, in respect to energy efficiency, social needs and value for money, and to create and maintain a connection to the High Street through the site to the playing fields.

Once the project is complete there will be 67 car parking spaces to the north and 168 to the south, although the provision is less than the current provision of parking spaces the space will be bigger to accommodate larger modern cars, there will be EV charging points, disabled spaces and parent and child spaces.

The lower level of the new Leisure Centre will have the reception, café, soft play, pools, studios, changing rooms and consultation rooms. On the upper level will be the gym, a studio, spin studio and changing rooms.

The aim is to gain Passivhaus accreditation for the new Leisure Centre once achieved it will be the third Leisure Centre in the country to have the Passivhaus accreditation. To achieve the Passivhaus accreditation the Leisure Centre should be of low energy design standard that covers energy, comfort and hygiene. Ground source heat pumps, the re-use of heated water, solar panels and a green roof will be some of the initiatives implemented to achieve the accreditation and met WBC's biodiversity duty.

Invitation for Questions from Kelvin Mills – WBC Head of Commercial Services.

With 30% of the top squash players located in the UK, why are there no squash courts included in the new Leisure Centre, there are currently 2 courts?

Unfortunately the squash courts usage is less than 8%, so it comes down to economics, with other uses having more demand on the same space as the squash courts. A local school will be putting in 3 squash courts for community use.

Would it be possible to have 1 court in the new Leisure Centre?

It is about the usage of the space and the longevity of this usage, along with this 4 squash courts would be needed for a competitive team to form.

Would it be possible to have multi-use that could be a studio during the day but squash courts during the evening?

WBC are open to looking at ideas and suggestions that are put forward during our presentation of the plans.

Please can you clarify the location of the new Leisure Centre?

It will be on the Village Way car park, where the market is.

Will the existing Leisure Centre remain open during construction?

Yes.

Can you provide the percentage of energy off of the power grid that will be required for the new Leisure Centre?

WBC will have to get back to you on what the percentage would be.

The swimming club are pleased to see that there are 6 lanes proposed, but are disappointed that there will be less than half the amount of provision for spectators than currently provided. As one of the Leisure Centre's main hirers, we need the spectator provision to be of a similar volume as it is currently, or unfortunately a new venue will need to be found. This is due to a majority of our revenue coming from our galas where the spectating area is in high demand.

WBC said they will consider more spectator provision.

Parking provision is a concern in general in the village, but at times in the week the Village Way and Sainsburys car parks are both full at their current capacity, what parking will be retained during the construction period?

The north end of the car park will have some space retained during the construction period, the medical practice has specifically asked for this, but at this time WBC cannot say for certain how many spaces that will be. This is likely to be known closer to the commencement of the construction.

Where will the market go during construction?

WBC are currently looking at Stocklund Square or the skate park.

Once the new Leisure Centre is completed the parking provision at Village Way will go from 313 spaces to 235 spaces.

From the research that has been undertaken the busiest day is market day, the rest of the week the car park is under used.

During construction and after construction there will be a knock on affect to the High Street that needs to be considered in the proposals, this will come from people looking for parking elsewhere.

For current Leisure Centre to remain open and viable for the 24 months to build the new Leisure Centre, car parking would be an arguable consideration. The provision of car parking during this period has not been sufficiently thought through to keep the Leisure Centre open and construct the new one.

How are you going to ensure the sustainability of the businesses nearby during the construction period, have you consulted with them?

WBC said they had consulted with businesses and recognise the short term challenge for businesses but hope the new Leisure Centre will bring a longer term boost for business in Cranleigh.

The Village Way car park is the only car park for the users of the medical practice, Village Hospital, nearby businesses on and off the High Street, post office and the Leisure Centre. The car park and parking during the construction of the Leisure Centre has to be managed.

The northern end bays will remain open, WBC has consulted with the medical practice and local stakeholders, they welcome any ideas you may have in regard to the parking.

It is worth considering that after 2 years of construction many businesses could be decimated.

Consideration and coordination needs to be given to other construction projects in the village and the increase in traffic that comes with this. Currently there is construction work at the Manns site, High Street improvements are being considered and then the construction of the Leisure Centre too.

Seating for the swimming pool is really important, not just for the swimming club but also for swimming lessons as many parents sit and watch their children during their lessons.

Will there be an increase on the current gym floor?

WBC will confirm this figure.

There are a few concerns, this will be a two storey building how will it blend in, what will be the construction materials. Currently at the golf club the studio is upstairs and the changing rooms are below, this creates a lot of noise in the changing rooms when the studio is use.

The building will be of a simple design, with the use of timber, although blending in will be a challenge. The building will step down in height, but as it is a leisure centre certain heights are required for particular areas. WBC will look at acoustic treatment.

Is the building restricted by size, why not make it a bit bigger?

If the building is made bigger there will be a loss of parking.

The Chairman thanked WBC and GT3 Architects for their presentation.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman gave a presentation detailing the work of the Council since the last Annual Parish Meeting in 2023.

QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS

What is being done about the water logged football pitches at Snoxhall Fields?

The Chairman replied that the Parish Council has recently received Football Foundation funding for a spiker and pitch improvement funding, however we have just had one of the wettest months of February since records began.

Feedback was requested on the Village Hall Community Ownership Fund.

The Chairman said work is just beginning on the planning phase of the improvement works and the Parish Council will keep members of the public informed about progress.

Has the Parish Council seen the Leisure Centre plans shown tonight previously?

The Chairman said the Parish Council saw the plans for the first time this evening.

What is happening with the Cranleigh Neighbourhood Plan?

Cllr E Townsend said the referendum is a very complex legislative process. The current referendum has been suspended and there will a hearing in the High Court, then the outcome will be in the public domain. Under legal advice from WBC, Cllr E Townsend cannot comment further.

There is confusion between the Neighbourhood Plan referendum and the High Street improvements consultation.

The Chairman said they are entirely separate. He said the Parish Council would like to see further public consultation on the High Street improvements and he will be meeting with Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP and the Leader of Surrey County Council to discuss this.

Concerns were raised that the High Street improvements and Leisure Centre build could happen at the same time.

Cllr E Townsend said that WBC and SCC are working together.

What are the Parish Council's plans for the tennis courts?

The Chairman said the Parish Council has had discussions with the Lawn Tennis Association and will be consulting on possible sites for new tennis courts.

Chairman Cllr M Scully thanked the residents for their questions and thanked the Councillors for all their hard work that can go unseen and un-thanked.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.42pm.

Signed.....

Date.....