

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 06 MARCH 2025 at 7.00PM**

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr M Scully.

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

There were 49 members of the public at the meeting including Parish Councillors: M Scully (Chairman), C Bennett, R Burbridge, D Nicholas, H Nicholson, E Townsend, R Tyler, M West.

Apologies: Cllrs A Morrison, C Walker, G Worthington.

The Council Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING ON 07 MARCH 2024

The minutes were AGREED as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

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 2024. His report was following by a short video diary of events in the last year in Cranleigh.

CHAIRMAN'S AWARDS

The Chairman wished to acknowledge the work of members of our community who have contributed their time to helping others and presented the following persons with a small trophy:

- Val at Sainsburys for the donation of food for the Christmas lunch.
- Karl at Co-op for the donation of food for the Christmas lunch and topping up when they needed more items.
- Jennifer and Sarah from Cook for providing frozen and fresh foods for the Christmas lunch.
- Rob at Rawlings for the donation of meat for the Christmas lunch.
- Vivianna and her family who cooked the Christmas lunch.
- Martin Bamford for being a great support to the Parish Council and community.

PRESENTATION BY SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL ON THE HIGH STREET IMPROVEMENTS

Surrey County Council gave the presentation appended to these minutes. The presentation detailed the outcome of the recent community engagement and High Street improvements that will and will not be advanced. They explained that the next steps are to procure a designer for the High Street improvements scheme to prepare the detailed designs. Surrey County Council will then provide a further update.

PRESENTATION BY CRANLEIGH BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID)

Cranleigh BID gave the presentation appended to these minutes. Cranleigh BID are working to provide public WIFI in the village. They encouraged members of the public to use the QR code provided to access a survey about public WIFI in the village.

PRESENTATION BY CRANLEIGH HERITAGE TRUST

Cranleigh Heritage Trust gave the presentation appended to these minutes. The old cottage hospital dates back to the Battle of Agincourt in 1446. The Heritage Trust have succeeded in obtaining National Lottery Heritage funding to restore the hospital. The next steps are to recruit experts to support the project using the funding provided.

Dr Napper founded the village hospital in 1859 providing healthcare free for all. He was an apothecary growing his own medicinal plants in the hospital grounds, something which the Cranleigh Heritage Trust would like to replicate in the future. The Weald and Downland Museum have made a visit to the hospital and provided some advice on restoration.

PRESENTATION BY CRANLEIGH HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The health and wellbeing project looks at Cranleigh being the nucleus serving its hinterland of Alfold, Dunsfold and Ewhurst. The project aims to make community connections and members of the public were invited to access their survey using the QR code provided.

QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS

Are the pedestrian islands remaining in the High Street?

Surrey County Council confirmed they will be staying.

What have you done to address the flooding at the Post Office crossing point?

Surrey County Council said the detailed design of the raised crossing point should help with the flooding.

Can you ask the Traffic Warden to visit Knowle Lane more frequently.

Surrey County Council said they have requested more enforcement, the Traffic Warden currently visits twice a week.

Concerns were raised about the loss of free parking in the High Street during the High Street improvement works and the impact on businesses. A request was made for free parking bays in the main car parks.

Surrey County Council said they are not removing the free parking in the High Street and will endeavour to carry out the improvement works at night to minimise disruption to businesses. Surrey County Council had asked Waverley Borough Council if they could provide some free parking in their car parks but Waverley Borough Council declined their request.

Concerns were raised about the safety of the High Street pavements which has a range of users.

Surrey County Council said they would need to widen the pavements to make improvements which would narrow the road, which was not supported in the community engagement.

A request was made to re-surface the current pavements without widening them.

Surrey County Council said their preferred pavement width is 1.2m and some of the pavements are narrower than this. The pavements are in multiple ownerships and re-surfacing of the pavements in Surrey County Council ownership could result in flooding of the privately owned pavements.

There has been no presentation this year about the Leisure Centre.

Cllr E Townsend said Waverley Borough Council had unanimously agreed to support the planning application for the new Leisure Centre last night. The new Leisure Centre is due to open at the end of 2027, the current Leisure Centre will remain open until then.

Concerns were raised about the reduced parking available during the Leisure Centre build.

Parish Council Chairman Cllr M Scully said the Parish Council had offered its former tennis courts to Waverley Borough Council for the duration of the project as either a storage compound or temporary parking.

A member of the public said they were delighted that new posts had been installed on grass verges in the last year to prevent vehicles damaging the verges.

A member of the public asked why Alfold Road is closed for road works but there seems to be very little happening.

Surrey County Council said the road has to be closed for the safety of the workforce and it enables them to start work immediately in the morning.

A member of the public asked what is happening in Stocklund Square.

Cllr M Scully said Stocklund Square is in private ownership but planning permission has been granted to replace the shelter to enable people to shelter from the rain whilst waiting for the bus.

Cllr M Scully said that when Thames Water undertake road works, there can be a delay to completion of the work whilst they await water analysis results.

A member of the public advised that the High Street will be closed for four nights from 17 March 2025 by the Cranley Hotel for roadworks.

A member of the public said that public WIFI will not completely supplement the need for a better 4 or 5G signal in Cranleigh.

Chairman Cllr M Scully thanked the guest speakers for their presentation, the residents for their questions and the Councillors for all their hard work.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

Signed.....

Date.....