

Godstone Parish Council

(incorporating the Villages of Godstone, South Godstone and Blindley Heath)

Clerk to the Parish Council

S Endersby

The Bounty
Godstone Green
Godstone, Surrey, RH9 8DY

Telephone/Fax: 01883 744209

MINUTES

of the **Extraordinary meeting** of Godstone Parish Council held on
Monday 29 January 2023 at 7.00pm at The Bounty, Godstone.

Members: Cllrs J Gardner (Chairperson), I Smith, L Case, K Ward and S Beagley
Apologies: Cllrs C White, C Edwards, S Farr and C Farr
Present: S Endersby (Clerk).

1. Questions from Members of the Public - None

2. Apologies and reasons for absence

2.1 Apologies were received and noted from Cllr C White (due to other commitments); Cllr C Edwards (due to family commitments), Cllr S Farr and Cllr C Farr.

RESOLVED – The meeting was deemed quorate and proceeded.

3. Declarations of Interest - None

4. Motions from Councillors

4.1 Special Motion

Propose that council reconsider the decision taken at the Godstone Parish full council meeting of 8 January 2024, that Godstone Parish Council would not attend the Tandridge District Council (TDC) Planning Committee meeting to be held on 1 February 2024 to speak in relation to the Planning application for the former Godstone Quarry, planning application reference 2022/1523 (Land adjacent to Three Elms, Bletchingley Road, Godstone, Surrey), and request that a Godstone Parish councillor be appointed to attend on behalf of Godstone Parish council to speak in favour of planning application 2022/1523.

Proposed: Cllr I Smith; **Seconded:** Cllr K Ward; **Third Councillor:** Cllr J Gardner

4.1.1 The council considered the motion detailed on the agenda.

4.1.2 The council considered the information in relation to the current Pond Tail Surgery only having 2 years remaining on the building lease. The council raised the concerns of the future for the doctors surgery and what it would mean for all patients registered.

4.1.3 A number of councillors stated that they had not been aware of the situation in relation to the lease of the surgery building and the very short length, when the matter of attending the TDC Planning Committee meeting to speak in favour of planning application 2022/1523 had been discussed at the January meeting.

4.1.4 The council stated that they were aware of some objections to this development in relation to the loss of habitat. The council discussed the history of the site, including the area being filled with waste and there was a general consensus amongst councillors that developing this area of land was very positive.

4.1.5 The council reiterated their understanding of some parishioners concerns in relation to flooding and the level of the water table, but noted the considerable consideration that had been included in the application to mitigate risk.

4.1.6 There was discussion about the implications of a doctors surgery being included as part of the planning application.

RESOLVED – The council unanimously agreed that the decision made by council on 8 January 2024, that *Godstone Parish Council would not attend the TDC Planning Committee meeting on 1 February 2024 to speak in relation to the Planning application for the former Godstone Quarry, planning application reference 2022/1523*, be reconsidered.

Furthermore, the council concluded that noting the update of information in relation to the doctors surgery lease, it was unanimously agreed that a councillor should be appointed to attend the TDC Planning Committee at which planning application reference 2022/1523 is to be considered, to speak on behalf of Godstone Parish Council and in favour of the Planning application, particularly noting the benefit and importance of a new doctors surgery included in the application.

ACTION EM1/24 – 1 – Cllr J Gardner to attend the TDC Planning committee meeting which will consider Planning application 2022/1523, to speak on behalf of the Parish Council.

ACTION EM1/24 – 2 – Clerk to liaise with Councillors to prepare bullet points/brief statement for the meeting.

ACTION EM1/24 – 3 – Clerk to notify TDC of the Parish councils intention for a representative (Cllr J Gardner) to attend the TDC planning committee meeting and request that the Parish council have the opportunity for its representative to speak.

5. Trees of concern at Tilburstow Hill Common

5.1 Councillors present acknowledged that the matter of Trees of concern at Tilburstow Hill Common had not been detailed on the agenda and therefore it was not appropriate to make decisions.

5.2 Due to the urgent concern in relation to the stability of two trees on the bank, on parish land near Brakey Hill house. Following very recent deterioration of the bank surface, the earth has been washed away and the roots of the tree are now exposed, and the concern is that the trees could potentially fall on to the highway (Tilburstow Hill Road).

5.3 It was summarised that there are two issues to be considered:

- i. Trees falling
- ii. Further and continued erosion of the bank of earth.

5.4 In order that the full council can consider the matter further at its next meeting on 5 February and approve the action to be taken, the following action was agreed:

CONSIDERATIONS TO INVESTIGATE FOR FULL COUNCIL INFORMATION - EM1/24 – 4 – Clerk to contact the tree contractor due to complete works on 19 February 2024 to investigate potential to add the two new trees of concern to the works list for cutting down and the root removed. Implication on the cost to be checked.

5.5 The clerk advised the council to consider what or if long term planning was required in relation to future care or repairs that maybe required to the steep bank and if deemed necessary the need to ensure financial planning was considered.

5.6 Council noted that there were options to secure banks such as netting; camp shredding and Gabions, but it was not felt that the bank was currently in need of such drastic actions and that it was the trees that were of concern.

5.7 The council discussed monitoring the bank and the potential benefit of planting low height foliage that could be beneficial in mitigating future issues.

CONSIDERATIONS TO INVESTIGATE FOR FULL COUNCIL INFORMATION EM1/24 – 5 – Clerk to investigate options of planting foliage on the bank, such as bracken or blackberries.

ACTION EM1/24 – 6 – Matter of concern about trees on bank of Tilburstow Hill to be reported at the next full council meeting.

----- Meeting Closed -----

Signed
Chairperson

Date