

PARISH OF WOTTON

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Residents held at 7pm on 8 March 2022

Present:

Wotton Parish Councillors: Peter Evelyn (Chairman), Jo Mansfield Tubb, Laurence Matthews, Gary Burgess, Andy Cole, David Mir, Parish Clerk and a member of the public.

Speakers: PCSO Dave Sadler, PCSO Charlotte Kew, PC Rowley, Reverend David Grundy.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Steve Hackett.
2. **Parish Council Chairman's Report:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and said there was little to report since last year's meeting owing to continuing lockdowns and other restrictions which had affected most people. Although it had been a difficult period, most of the restrictions had recently been lifted and it was hoped that everything would now return to normal.
3. **Report from Rural Crime Officers:** PCSO Sadler introduced his colleagues. He covers the area from Headley to Hookwood, PCSO Kew also covers this area, PC Rowley is the Rural Wildlife Officer for East Surrey. PCSO Kew said there had only been a few incidents reported since the previous meeting (see attached). PCSO Rowley gave an outline of her work and responsibilities across the whole area.

In response to a question about poaching, PC Rowley said there had not been a huge rise although these incidents are not always reported. She asked people to report these incidents to the police. Thefts of red diesel are likely to be increasing soon and gardeners are no longer allowed to use it. The Chairman asked if CCTV works in crime prevention. PC Rowley said they are helpful and the police do see a decrease in crime where they are on show. Up-to-date CCTVs work best and video door bells are good. The police will make security visits to residents' premises on request. A councillor asked if ANPR cameras (automatic number plate recognition) are allowed and this was confirmed. In response to a question about the percentage of real and dummy boxes, PCSO Sadler said if these are realistic and placed high up.

The Chairman raised the issue of access on narrow roads and enforcement of width restrictions. Do these get enforced and is it a recommendation or legally enforceable? PCSO Sadler said that normally the police will come to assist if there is a problem. Unless a traffic officer responds it is unlikely to be enforced. There are only a few traffic officers available and they are usually responding to road traffic accidents and fatalities. A councillor suggested the best way to deal with the width problem is to engineer it out. The Chairman thanked the officers for coming along and providing some useful information.

4. **Report from Reverend David Grundy:** Rev Grundy brought a colourful photo montage showing St Johns Church, damage caused to trees in the church grounds by recent storms, some beautiful flower displays inside the church, and views of a recent service. Throughout the period of lockdowns and restrictions prayer boards had been placed in the church porch and online services were held. Up to 100 parishioners in Holmbury and Wotton had taken part in these. Church volunteers had helped with shopping for the housebound and Rev Grundy had phoned 5 people every day to keep in touch and give comfort. Owing to doubts about whether Christmas celebrations would be permitted by government in December, the kriskringle service had been postponed until 3 weeks ago. For the future, Reverend Grundy is aiming to arrange two or three events and he will be leafleting residents.

A councillor asked if anything was being done about Ukraine. Rev Grundy said there were lots of prayers and Holmbury were doing collections. The Chairman said Abinger had a link to the government's Disasters Emergency Committee and a link would be placed on the Parish Council's website. Rev Grundy said he would contact the Red Cross and put a collection box in the church porch.

5. Participation by Residents: A resident said there was a rumour going around about a reduction of the speed limit on every road to 20mph. Councillors discussed this and it was thought that the 20mph would only affect certain roads. A recent radio programme had reported that some 60mph roads would be reduced to 50mph and some roads would be reduced to 20mph. Speed limits on some A roads in Surrey had already been reduced. It was suggested that further enquiries should be made with Surrey County Council.

6. Any other business: There was no other business.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and the meeting ended at 7.40pm.

Signed

Date

POLICE REPORT

1 February – 8 March 2022

| Locality | Street | Summary |
|----------|------------|---|
| RANMORE | HOGDEN LN | BATH AND OTHER ITEMS FLY TIPPED IN ROAD |
| RANMORE | CHAPEL LN | TWO VEHICLE COLLISION MINOR INJURIES |
| WOTTON | NA | HATE / DIVERSITY INCIDENT ON FARM HAS BEEN CRIMED |
| WOTTON | NA | PUBLIC ORDER AT BUSINESS PREMISES CRIMED |
| RANMORE | HOGDEN LN | VEHICLE STUCK IN MUD AT LOCATION |
| RANMORE | RANMORE RD | TWO DOGS IN HARNESSSES JUMPING IN AND OUT OF ROAD. AREA SEARCH NO TRACE |
| WOTTON | NA | DOMESTIC INCDIENT HAS BEEN CRIMED |

END