

PARISH OF WOTTON

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Residents held in Wotton Village Hall at 7pm on 7 March 2023

Present:

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Steve Hackett, SCC/MVDC Cllr Hazel Watson.
2. **Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting for Residents held on 8 March 2022 had been agreed and signed at the Annual Parish Council meeting on 3 May 2022.
3. **Parish Council Chairman's Report:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed parish council activities for the year. A public defibrillator had been installed on the side wall of the Wotton Hatch pub and registered with the Ambulance Service and the District Council. Three grit bins had been ordered from Surrey Highways to be installed in the Abinger Bottom area. These had not been installed so far, owing to a supply problem, although new stock was expected within two weeks. Surrey County Council had proposed speed limit reductions on several roads in the parish and these were supported by the Parish Council. Details of incidents reported to the Police had been provided for discussion at meetings throughout the year, fortunately the parish is relatively crime free. The upcoming elections on 4 May were mentioned and the Chairman said there were currently two vacancies on the Parish Council. The Chairman concluded his report by thanking councillors and the clerk for their continued support during the year.
4. **Invited Speakers:** Denbies Vineyard had been unable to arrange for a speaker to attend the meeting owing to prior commitments. However, they are keen to engage with residents of the parish and have offered a complimentary indoor wine tour to everyone at the meeting. Contact details were provided by residents and the clerk will arrange a suitable date for the tour.
5. **Participation by Residents:**

Q. Natural England have just opened a public consultation on proposals to extend the Surrey Hills Area of Natural Beauty. There have been no changes to the AONB since it was first designated in 1958.

A. The review started on 7 March and ends on 13 June. Residents are encouraged to respond. Emails can be sent to surreyhillsaonbboundaryreview@naturalengland.org.uk. Full details can be found here: [Surrey Hills AONB Boundary Review - Welcome \(surrey-hills-aonb-boundary-review.org\)](https://www.surreyhillsaonbboundaryreview.org.uk) [Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Boundary Variation Project - Defra - Citizen Space](https://www.surreyhillsaonbboundaryreview.org.uk)

Q. What is the council's remit? A. The parish council acts as a conduit on various matters. On planning applications, we write to the district council. On highways and road safety and matters like clearing footpaths, we write to the country council.

Q. I notice a lot of the potholes have been marked up for repair recently. A. Yes. Anyone can report a pothole on the Surrey County Council website.
6. **Any other business:** There was no other business.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and the meeting ended at 7.30pm.