

PARISH OF WOTTON

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Residents held in Wotton Village Hall on 3 March 2026 at 7pm

Present: Cllrs Peter Evelyn (Chairman), Laurence Matthews, Gary Burgess, Janet Hunt.
PC Tomi Dunstan, 4 residents, and the Clerk.

1. **Apologies for absence:** SCC Cllr Watson. (*Late apologies from Cllr Bennett, Cllr Hackett, MVDC Cllr Magesh*)
2. **Minutes of 4 March 2025 meeting:** There were no comments about the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 4 March 2025 and the minutes were signed by the Chairman.
3. **Parish Council Chairman's Report:** The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Evelyn, thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and gave a report on the past year's activities. He said it had been an interesting year for local government in Surrey. The County Council and District Council are being abolished and two unitary authorities are being created, East Surrey and West Surrey, hopefully to create efficiencies.

One of the issues raised at the Parish Council was speeding down Hollow Lane. Cllr Watson had reported back about the difficulties of reducing speeding and this had been widely discussed. PC Dunstan said she had been talking to Ed Ferris, the Casualty Reduction Officer, about problems at Leith Hill, and said she would ask him to look at problems at Hollow Lane. Cllr Evelyn said there had been a car crash at Hollow Lane and the young lads said they were on their way to Leith Hill. Cllr Hunt said Cllr Watson had advised that you cannot put restrictions where there are no streetlights, but lighting cannot be installed on Hollow Lane. Cllr Hunt suggested more signage could potentially be beneficial. Cllr Matthews said people should read the existing signs and act upon them. He did not think more signs are needed. Cllr Evelyn said the Parish Council is aware of the situation and the County Council have said they cannot do anything about it.

Cllr Evelyn said the Parish Council had received a significant amount of money from the Community Infrastructure Levy which can be spent on useful projects within the parish. One of the things suggested had been to award a grant to the Trustees of the Parish Hall to improve the heating. The council had previously arranged for extra grit bins and their replacement was costly. There would be a consultation on anything people can think of within the parish. Cllr Hunt said St Johns Church need to install heating and may apply for a grant towards this. Cllr Evelyn said there were plenty of worthy causes. The Parish Council has spent money in the past on silhouettes for Remembrance Day, and litter picking devices. (*If the CIL money is not spent within five years it must be returned*).

4. **Invited Speakers:** Several speakers had been invited and Cllr Evelyn thanked PC Tomi Dunstan for coming to the meeting. PC Dunstan said she was a Neighbourhood Rural Officer covering several areas around Dorking including Wotton. The police are

aware of problems with speeding vehicles in the Wotton area, and the fly tipping. The police do not have any powers on fly tipping unless they get a report and they work with the JET team on this. Traffic units are currently dealing with speeding vehicles and motor bikes in the Box Hill area where there is now an ASB order in place. PC Dunstan said she had not seen anyone at the Gomshall Fisheries recently. She said she would ask PC Ed Ferris to look at the Wotton problems. Cllr Evelyn said the main problem was around the Hollow Lane area, in both directions. Cllr Hunt said if you sit in the pub garden the noise is horrendous. PC Dunstan said a few months ago they had tried to do something outside the pub but were asked to move on. There was disagreement about the police being right outside the pub. There had been nasty crashes there in the past, or further down the road.

Cllr Evelyn said in terms of non-motoring matters and rural crime, councillors are aware of communities moving nearby and they were also next to Sainsburys. PC Dunstan said this had happened at Newlands Corner, and in the summer they flood into the area. As soon as the police get a call they do an initial assessment as an unlawful encampment and the council have a few days to issue a removal order. The system does not work particularly well as there are delays. Cllr Burgess asked why the paperwork was not in place and ready to be issued as soon as they moved into the area. PC Dunstan said unfortunately the council do not work 24 hours and it depends if the department is open at the time. As soon as the police get a report and do the assessment, they do their paperwork and forward it to the council. The police support the council when they evict the unlawful encampments. Generally, it is peaceful. But travellers know all about the paperwork and if it is not signed, or not dated within a particular period, it is ineffective. They know there is a period of time they can stay there. Cllr Burgess said that over the weekend they moved in, fenced the area, bulldozed it and tarmacked it. PC Dunstan said they know the council's working times. Cllr Evelyn said they often do it at bank holidays and it is an ongoing issue.

The Chairman thanked PC Dunstan for coming.

5. Participation by Residents: A resident asked potholes. Cllr Evelyn agreed it is a never-ending problem, particularly in Sheephouse Lane. Highways inspect the potholes and mark them for repair. Cllr Evelyn said it is hoped the new unitary authority will be effective in making more permanent repairs of potholes.

6. Any other business: None.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 7.20 pm.

SignedDate