

Windlesham Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 27th February 2024

Update for the residents of Bagshot, Lightwater and Windlesham from the Chair of Council - Councillor Alf Turner

Please find below my update for residents of Bagshot, Lightwater and Windlesham on our recent Parish Council meeting. I hope you find this report useful and would welcome any comments either directly or through local councillors - see the links below for contact details. Also, please note that there is Annual Parish meeting coming up on the 19th March so it will be great if residents of all three villages could attend with full details on this below.

1. Public Comments & Question Time

There were 4 members of the public present and no questions.

2. Annual Parish Meeting - 19th March. 7.00-9.00pm pm St Annes Church Bagshot

This is an important meeting in the calendar where residents can have their say and ask questions on what is important to them on issues across the parish. This year the Council has called the meeting, but this is a residents meeting where our main role is to Chair proceedings. We have already received some suggestions for agenda items from residents which include the Parish Strategic Plan, Annual Budget for 2024/25, Financial Reserves, and Bagshot School Lane Field Pond Maintenance. These will be incorporated into the meeting with the full agenda to be issued shortly.

3. Strategic Plan Priorities Update

The Parish Council agreed and published a 5 year plan in 2022 which is available on our website (see link – [Strategic Plan](#)). Excellent progress is being made across all areas with ratings as follows:

- **Core Objectives:**
 - 47 objectives are green (completed/delivered regularly or meeting statutory requirement)
 - 5 objectives are amber (in progress)
 - 0 objectives are red (not started or on hold)
- **Strategic Priorities 2022-2025:**
 - 16 priorities are green (completed/delivered regularly or meeting statutory requirement)
 - 13 priorities are amber (in progress)
 - 1 priority is red (not started or on hold). This is specifically the review of management of the allotments in Hook Mill Lane.

The Windlesham Committee Councillors asked and it was agreed that the replacement of Windmill Field Playground be added to the strategic plan. Full details of the plan and progress will also be presented at the Annual Parish meeting.

4. Summer Planting

The Council selected the contractor to supply and water the hanging baskets and summer planting across all three villages this summer.

5. Review of Building Condition Survey Reports

A major piece of work has been undertaken on a building condition survey of Parish assets with a 5-year action plan and indicative costings by an RICS surveyor. This shows that significant work is required and which if not undertaken will lead to further deterioration, disrepair, and dereliction. In the first year the priorities for building improvements are Bagshot Chapel, the Council Offices and the Chamber.

6. Cemetery Review

Given a lack of response from external organisations to undertake the review of our 3 cemeteries it was agreed that the 3 village committees will drive the plan for improvements for their local cemetery. The Parish Council is a single burial authority so any burial capacity issues will need to be addressed by Full Council given the implications across the whole parish.

7. Councillor Allowances 2024-25

In accordance with the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, the Council agreed to the following:

- Councillors - pay up to the 30% of the basic allowance for Surrey Heath Borough Council which equates to £1750 pa. (the current rate is £1660 pa);
- Chair – pay an additional allowance of £1750 pa give the extra work involved in the role. (there is at current no additional allowance);
- Expenses – pay for travel expenses for use of Councillors own car on parish council business of 45p per mile.

It was also noted that Councillors and the Chair can decline the allowances if they so wish. The overall annual cost is expected to be £31500 which is marginally above budget and will be funded by the general reserve.

8. Other Business

Normal reports on parish financials confirmed that anticipated year end position which will be confirmed at the end of March. The meeting also confirmed the investment strategy on day-to-day funding and financial reserves.

The meeting also reviewed a request to the Chair from the Chair of the SHBC External Partnership Select Committee to attend a meeting. Following discussion, the Council unanimously agreed to decline the request noting that the Parish Council, is an independent corporate body directly accountable to residents of the Parish.

Next meeting & Events

- Planning Committee – Wednesday 13th March and Tuesday 26th March
- Windlesham Village Committee – Wednesday 6th March
- Full Council Meeting – Tuesday 26th March

Full details of Council meetings will be on the Windlesham Parish Council Website before the meeting with a link as follows: [Home - Windlesham Parish Council \(windleshampc.gov.uk\)](https://www.windleshampc.gov.uk)

Contact details:

[Bagshot Councillor contact details](#)

[Lightwater Councillor contact details](#)

[Windlesham Councillor contact details](#)

If you would like to contact Jo Whitfield, Clerk to the Council or visit the office please use the link below to view the office opening hours and contact details:

[Contact Us - Windlesham Parish Council \(windleshampc.gov.uk\)](https://www.windleshampc.gov.uk)

Alf Turner

Chair of Windlesham Parish Council

27th January 2024