

Windlesham Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 23rd January 2024

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

Find below my update for residents of Bagshot, Lightwater and Windlesham on our recent Parish Council meeting. This is shorter than normal because the meeting was mainly concerned with statutory and governance matters which are administrative in nature. However, there are some matters below that may be of interest. As usual, 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.

1. Public Comments & Question Time

There was only one member of the public present and no questions. This may be a reflection of windy and wet weather on what was a 'wild' evening.

2. Annual Parish Meeting - 13th March. 7.30pm St Annes Church Bagshot

Please mark this date in your calendars. As residents, it is your meeting where you shape the agenda and discuss matters of significance to you. This year, the Council will facilitate the meeting, but residents should be aware that it is not a Council meeting, and our role is to chair the proceedings. To ensure the meeting's success, it is not only helpful for residents to attend but also for us to receive prior input on topics of interest and questions. This will not prevent residents from raising points for discussion at the meeting but will assist with the smooth running of the meeting. To contribute, kindly send any items for discussion at the meeting to the Clerk of the Council. So, by the note could you let the Clerk of the Council (clerk@windleshampc.gov.uk) have any items for discussion at the meeting.

3. Chairman's Community Reception

This is an annual event where the Chair of the Council hosts an annual community reception to thank volunteers for their hard work within the community. This year the event is scheduled for late April.

4. Tree Planting

I am pleased to report the Council approved the recommendations made by the village committees to replant trees at the following locations. Planting will take place later in the year in line with the recommended planting season. The associated costs include both the initial planting and maintenance ensuring their proper development during the early years:

Windlesham:

- Bosman Drive - 1 x Western Hemlock, 2 x Liriodendron Tulip trees and 1 Horse Chestnut trees which had to be felled. Indicative cost £6500.
- Cemetery tree replanting – 2 Hornbeam trees, 1 Sweet Chestnut and 2 Liriodendron trees to replace 5 trees that had to be felled in the conservation area between 2017 and 2022. Indicative cost £1910.

Lightwater:

- Queen Elizabeth Recreation Ground - replanting and initial maintenance of 2 x European Limes which had been felled. Indicative cost £3500.

5. Local Fees for Burials and Allotments

Burials:

The Council approved the Village Committee's recommended increases in burial fees. Both Bagshot and Lightwater Committees raised their charges earlier in the year with the Windlesham Committee agreeing on an increase effective from the 1st February 2024.

- Bagshot – August 2023 – increased by 10%
- Lightwater – July 2023 – increased by 10%
- Windlesham – November 2023 – to increase fees by 20% for Non-residents and 15% for Residents.

Due to restricted space issues at Windlesham Cemetery and concerns for future burial provision across the whole parish, the Council has agreed to undertake a strategic review of all 3 cemeteries. This comprehensive review aims to optimise the use of the current space and create an environment that meets the needs of the community.

Unfortunately, despite the Council's commitment to this project, it has proved difficult to source a specialist adviser, therefore if there is no progress over the next month the Council will develop an alternative plan.

Allotment Fees, Hook Mill Lane, Lightwater – users have already been advised of the annual increase for 2024-25. However, a decision on fees for 2025-26 will be postponed until June this year following the outcome of discussions on the lease of the area with the landowner.

6. Consultations

There are two public consultations underway by Surrey County Council with residents invited to read and make comments on them both on the links below.

Surrey Rights of Way – [Rights of way - Public - Surrey County Council - Citizen Space \(surreysays.co.uk\)](#)

Surrey Road Safe Vision Zero – [Have Your Say Today - Vision Zero Surrey - Commonplace](#)

7. Governance

The Council approved a number of annual and statutory documents including the Standing Orders, Risk Register, Assets Register and the Internal Audit Report. I am pleased to report that in the latter the Council received a good report from our auditor with no outstanding issues.

Next meeting & Events

- Bagshot Committee – 6th February 2024
- Planning Committee – Wednesday 14th February and 27th February 2024
- Full Council Meeting – Tuesday 27th February 2024

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 \(windleshampc.gov.uk\)](#)

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 \(windleshampc.gov.uk\)](#)

Alf Turner

Chair of Windlesham Parish Council

27th January 2024