

2024 PERRY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – MINUTES

Present:

Parish Councillors: Chairman Sheila Brighton (SB), Vice Chairman Eleanor Abbs (EA), Kay Darby (KD), Chris Jones (CJ), Nigel Noon (NN), Emma Prew (EP), Jo Shirreffs (JS). The meeting was quorate.

Members of the public: three.

Clerk to the Council: Eugene Smith (ES).

1) Apologies

County Councillor Ian Gardener and District Councillor Stephen Cawley's apologies were received.

2) Reports from County and District Councillors

Item not heard due to item 1 (above).

3) Approval of minutes of the 2023 Perry Parish Meeting

The minutes were approved (prop. EP) and signed by SB.

4) Annual report from the Perry Parish Council Chairman

“By law, every parish must hold a Parish Meeting at least once a year. The main differences between these and a *Parish Council meeting* are as follows.

Any matter concerning the parish may be discussed at a Parish Meeting. *Parish Council meetings* should only discuss matters on which the council has powers to act. Additionally, any person on the Parish's electoral register may speak at a Parish Meeting, at a *council meeting* members of the public speak at the chairman's discretion.

Parish Meetings are often confused with *Parish Council meetings*, and understandably so. Although they can be chaired by any elector present, if the *Parish Council* chairman is present, they must chair the meeting. Likewise, the *Parish Council* Clerk will normally organise the meeting and take the minutes. And often, as with tonight, they take place at the same time and venue as a *Parish Council* Meeting.

Part of the purpose of the annual parish meeting is to provide an update on what the parish council has been doing for the past year. Rather than read out a long list of activities, I shall mention selected highlights.

The parish council is the strongest it has been for some time, now we have seven councillors all working for the good of Perry.

A major development this year was the formation of the Events Working Party, which has already proved to be positive, ingenious and frankly invaluable.

Many of the following activities and events were a collaboration between the council and Perry Women's Institute.

In the past year we have:

- arranged for the installation of a Remembrance statue, which was the centrepiece of November's Remembrance ceremony
- held a celebration day to mark the coronation of King Charles III
- continued with the Perry in Bloom initiative
- held another garage sale, which will hopefully become an annual event
- provided a Christmas tree
- organised the village litter pick
- and taken positive steps to tackle the problem of speeding in the village, by making applications under both the Local Highway Improvements and 20mph schemes

None of this would be possible without the help and input of residents, and I would like to thank everyone who has engaged constructively with the council during the past year.

Particularly I would like to thank Eugene for his hard work throughout the year. I would also like to thank the councillors, whose input and cooperation have helped to make these meetings pleasant to attend and also effective. The events working party have done a fantastic job, and long may it continue.

I would also like to thank Grafham Water Sailability for allowing us to use their Clubhouse, which is such a good venue (Action: ES to write to Sailability). I also wish to thank Colin Beesley, the council handyman, who carries out so many jobs in the village and prevents things becoming an issue.

I would like to propose a vote of thanks to Nigel and Wendy Noon for their work in the post office and village shop and beyond, which provides so much for the village.

Finally I would like to thank the residents who come along to these meetings, and also those who provided feedback for the speeding reduction schemes."

5) Public forum

To be covered at the Perry Parish Council meeting which follows immediately.

Meeting closed at 1915 hours.