

Annual Parish Meeting for Worplesdon 16.3.2016

Chairman's Report

Dr Paul Cragg

Setting the Scene

- Government Austerity Measures
- Major Reduction in Public Sector Funding
- Reductions in County and Borough Council Grants
- ‘New Big Society’ – whatever happened to that?
- ‘Old Big Society’ – Town and Parish Councils have been doing it for years!

Austerity Measures

- County Council reductions over the past 5 years:
 - ❖ 2011/12 £61m
 - ❖ 2012/13 £66m
 - ❖ 2013/14 £62m
 - ❖ 2014/15 £69m
 - ❖ 2015/16 – Anticipated savings of £90m need to be made
- Surrey PCC – 2015/16 – Savings required £22m
- Guildford Borough Council – Savings of £7m – By 2017 GBC will have lost all of its Government Revenue Support Grant and the small element of business rate income will also start to reduce

The impact on County and Borough Councils

- No longer able to provide 'Discretionary Services' in a way that Communities expect
- Statutory services being reviewed
- The impact of the cuts is now impacting across the board:
 - ❖ Community Buildings
 - ❖ Leisure Services
 - ❖ Bus Subsidies
 - ❖ Library Services
 - ❖ Youth Service
 - ❖ Highway Maintenance

Opportunity for Local Councils to provide services for its local community

- Democratically Elected
- Community Leaders
- Facilitators
- Deliverers of Services

Questions

- ❖ Is our Business Plan appropriate to meet the communities expectations?
- ❖ Should we take over the delivery of more services?
- ❖ Should we take over assets, or are they simply liabilities?
- ❖ What do you, the Community, want us to do?
- ❖ Would you be willing to pay yet more tax to the Parish Council for additional services?
- ❖ Could volunteers help stretch our limited resources to deliver services for less money?

Precept 2016/17

- Increased by 29% or £13.01 per Band D property
- Various expert advice/opinions will be required to contest the Draft Local Plan
- Legal advice, once freely available to the Parish Council now costs £240 per hour
- Increased assets have to be maintained
- Increased staff hours
- Need for a dedicated parish office/meeting room

Work of the Parish Council

- The work of the Parish Council has increased significantly over the years. Central Government frequently makes changes to the law governing town and parish councils. The latest act to make a considerable impact on the Parish Council is the Localism Act 2011.
- In addition to the routine work, the Parish Council also carries out a wide range of projects and events on behalf of the local community.

Localism Grant

(carried out by contractors)



Holly Lane



Fairlands
Service
Road



Nevins Copse

(the majority of the work carried out by councillors and staff)



Before



Ruined mound 14.1.2016

After



Some trunks still to be cut up



Bonfire material & logs

Renovated and new signs



Burrows Lea Forge – Refurbished
Worplesdon sign – Perry Hill



Harry's Meadow – Jacobs Well
New interpretation board

Jacobs Well Play Area upgrade



If the Parish Council's funding application is unsuccessful the Parish may have to fund this £30,000 project.

Parish events 2015

VE Day Concert Party



VE Day Remembrance Service



Armistice Day Ceremony Jacobs Well

Parish Events 2016

- Queen's 90th birthday celebrations (beacon at St. Mary's Church 21st April at 7.30pm)
- All four communities will be celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday – 2nd May – Jacobs Well and 12th June Fairlands, Wood Street Village and Worplesdon
- Armistice Day Event – 11 November at 11am – Jacobs Well



Thank you

Our parish councillors work hard on your behalf.

The work of the Parish Council is varied and getting ever more complex. Vacancies occasionally arise on the parish council and we would encourage those of you who are:

- ❖ community minded
- ❖ have relevant expertise
- ❖ plenty of spare time on your hands!
- ❖ and are willing to carry out physical tasks to consider joining the Council.

Following Cllr David Elms resignation there is currently a casual vacancy to be filled. Anyone who wishes to be considered needs to submit their application to the Clerk at the earliest opportunity.

All council meetings are open to the public and we cordially invite you to join us whenever you are able.