



South Godstone Residents' Association

Annual General Meeting Minutes

21 November 2025 at 8pm

At The Pavilion, Corner of Hunters Chase and Lagham Road, South Godstone RH9 8HE

b. Members wishing to offer themselves for election to the committee
John asked for members who wished to offer themselves for election to the committee.

Duncan Hollands, Tamzie Hollands, Julie Jones, Deborah Romain and Colin White, all absent to night, have offered themselves forward already

John Farnaby, Chris Boughton, Pat Brown, as present and retiring committee members, put themselves forward to stand on the SGRA committee.

Proposer Nick Childs
Seconded by Colin Anderson

c. Election of Chair, Vice Chair, Honourable Secretary, Honourable Treasurer
John thanked those who had offered to stand

- i. John asked who would be willing to stand as Chair?
John Farnaby put himself forward for Chair.
Proposed by Nick Childs
Seconded by David Lyle
- ii. John asked who would be willing to stand as Vice Chair?
There was no offer on the evening for the post of Vice Chair. This will be discussed again at the next committee meeting
- iii. John asked who would be willing to stand as Treasurer?
There was no offer on the evening for the post of Treasurer. This will be discussed again at the next committee meeting
- iv. Finally, John asked who would be willing to stand as Secretary?
Tamzie Hollands had put her name forward
Proposed by Colin Anderson
Seconded by David Lyle

Whilst not all our roles are filled, our new committee is now formed and comprises:

John Farnaby as Chair

Tamzie Hollands as Secretary

The remaining committee comprises Chris Boughton, Pat Brown, Duncan Hollands, Julie Jones, Deborah Romain and Colin White

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and guide decisions on planning applications.

Please see Susan at the end of the meeting to receive details of how to sign up and submit your thoughts on the Neighbourhood Plan.

9. Election of committee

In accordance with our Rules, the committee has stood down and are able to offer themselves for re-election.

Before John turned to aspects of the election of the committee, he stated it was important that he advise attendees once again SGRA was seeking a number of new committee members in order that a full committee could be formed.

Additionally, John explained we needed to fill the roles of Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary as well as have a number of others on the committee.

Without a full committee, SGRA would not be able to continue and we would have to start the dissolution process immediately as the organisation must have all four roles filled. A Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary together with a minimum of four elected committee members were required to be in compliance with our rules.

a. Retiring members of the committee

A number of the committee have recently stood down and chosen not to offer themselves for re-election. John thanked

our former Chair Mike Crane for his help and guidance in steering SGRA since the November 2022 AGM

our former Vice Chair Andy Janaway for being a willing listener and for his valuable input on so many matters

our former Secretary Susan Clark for all that she has done to encourage and develop SGRA, Susan has done an enormous amount of work behind the scenes and will be a huge loss to the committee.

our former committee members Jeff Burrell and Colin Anderson both of whom have been long standing members of our committee and involved in the Speedwatch programme with Jeff having been a former Treasurer for many years

We were very grateful for their involvement in SGRA and will regret not having their experience on the committee for the future

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Tandridge District Council put its proposed Local Plan to the Government Inspector quite some time ago but the Inspector was not minded to accept the Plan and Tandridge therefore decided to withdraw the Plan meaning our district is currently without this vital piece of protection.

In early 2026, Tandridge will carry out its first consultation so it will want your views on what matters most in our neighbourhood. To have your say, please sign up for the Local Plan newsletter – further details are available from Susan.

b. What is the Neighbourhood Plan

A Neighbourhood Plan is a community-led document that provides a vision for local development, including where new housing, shops, and offices should be built, and what they should look like.

These plans are created by local communities to shape and guide development and become part of the local authority's statutory development plan, meaning they are legally binding and used to determine planning applications.

The process is voluntary, and the resulting plan must be approved by a majority of local residents in a referendum after an independent examination.

John advised he is the chair of the Godstone Neighbourhood Plan working on behalf Godstone Parish Council. The plan was in its final stages, and was with Tandridge District Council, which had sent it out to the consultees.

Once this has finished, the final plan will then be formally submitted to Tandridge who will put it out for referendum to the residents of the Parish in the May Elections.

It will then be adopted by Tandridge District Council. Please be aware, although we will have a Neighbourhood Plan, this forms part of Tandridge District Council's Local Plan.

Tandridge District Council is currently asking for views on the Godstone Neighbourhood Plan. The consultation is open until 11.59pm on Sunday 4 January 2026.

The plan will shape how Godstone Parish develops in the coming years

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application is currently awaiting Tandridge District Council's planning officer decision.

The village was recently invited to attend a drop in presentation by those wishing to bring a development of 500 homes known as Park Pale Village to the north and north east of South Godstone. At the time of the AGM, Tandridge District Council was considering the application for an Environmental Impact Assessment. This is not a planning application and naturally we do not know whether this proposal may develop into a planning application.

- j. Having been delayed due to circumstances beyond our control, our accounts were ready for taking to the auditor and would be posted on the website as soon as the figures had been agreed.

As at 30 April 2025 we held

Cash in hand	£133.61
Monies in the bank	£1,246.36
TOTAL	<u>£1,379.97</u>

- k. Our income has come from three paid website advertisers, from the Comedy Night in October 2024 and annual memberships. Our Expenditure has been on Remembrance wreaths laid at the horse trough and at Flight Serjeant Fenemore's memorial, thank you gifts to retiring committee members and donation to St Stephen's Church for the defibrillator battery.

The audited accounts will be available on our website by the end of next week.

7. Publicity (Website, social media, RH9 and "Parish" magazine)
We promote the activities of SGRA through our Facebook page. For those who prefer the printed medium, we are grateful to both RH9 magazine and the Godstone and South Godstone Magazine for editorial and advertising space given to us. Our website goes from strength to strength with a continually high number of site and page visits so we know that it is welcomed by our fellow residents
8. Local Plan / Neighbourhood Plan
 - a. What is the Local Plan?
The Local Plan is a document, put together by Tandridge District Council, which affects where new homes are built, access to schools and GPs, protection of green spaces and support for jobs and transport.

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weeks on our website.

- e. We supported Godstone Parish Council in the progression of the Neighbourhood Plan through this year.
- f. The Speedwatch scheme has been operated by trained volunteers under the guidance of Jeff Burrell and Colin Anderson for a number of years. The scheme is completely independent of South Godstone Residents' Association but the two coordinators have, until recently, both been members of the SGRA committee.

Speedwatch allows police trained civilians to operate a speed radar gun monitoring vehicle speeds in a designated area and to make a note of speeding vehicle registration plate details which are then passed to the police for appropriate action.

Regrettably, this year, due to a lack of volunteers willing to offer maybe an hour or so every so often, it was felt impractical to continue the South Godstone scheme so it has now been wound up. It could be resurrected if there were sufficient volunteers ready and willing to receive training and make themselves available. John advised that if people were interested in volunteering, to speak with him at the end of the meeting.

- g. We were proud to bring the annual Remembrance event to South Godstone on Sunday, 9 November. A number of residents joined together at the soldier on the junction of Harcourt Way and A22 Eastbourne Road to pay their respects on the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. Some of those present then walked to Flight Sergeant Stanley Fenemore's memorial opposite Posterngate Farm to lay further wreaths and pay their respects to this WWII pilot who gallantly steered his stricken Hawker Hurricane aircraft away from South Godstone, protecting its residents but paying the ultimate sacrifice as a result.
- h. We have continued to enjoy an arrangement whereby the Chair of Godstone Village Association (GVA) attends our committee meetings and we, in turn, have sent our Chair to the GVA meetings.
- i. We are mindful of the potential of property developments around our village. We each have our own views on what South Godstone might need, require or be able to accommodate by way of new homes.

Earlier this summer, we brought to your attention the proposed development of 200 homes south of the railway line where the planning

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Proposed by David Lyle
Seconded by Nick Childs

5. Matters arising

No matters arising.

6. Report on behalf of the committee

a. This section was presented on behalf of the whole committee.

b. In the twelve months since the November 2024 AGM, SGRA had benefitted from two new household memberships. It is only from these household annual memberships, at a cost of £10, that we gained an income used to maintain our website, pay for Remembrance wreaths and be able to subsidise, if necessary, our community event.

c. We have approached over 100 businesses in and around South Godstone, including Godstone, inviting them to advertise on our website. We also approached Godstone businesses impacted by the road collapse by offering support through one year's free advertising on our website. Businesses which choose to advertise with us do not benefit from any endorsement by SGRA and adverts are accepted on the basis of payment – this is made clear on our website but we do encourage local residents and businesses to look at our Local Traders page and support these businesses if they might be able to assist in the completion of a task at home. The income from these adverts, at just £20 per annum, goes towards paying for the annual fees for the website domain name and for hosting the website.

d. At last year's AGM we asked for your thoughts on what type of event you would like us to bring to our community. We were not certain that the suggestions we received would receive sufficient support from the community to justify the work in delivering the event regrettably. For events which take place here at the sports club, we need to receive the agreement of South Godstone Sports and Community Association which is the leaseholder here. For any outdoor events, we would also need to have the agreement of Tandridge District Council which is the landowner. This may reduce the type of events we can bring but all suggestions are very welcome.

John advised we are hoping to host another Comedy Night in spring 2026 here at the sports club and looked forward to the community's support through ticket purchases which will be available in the next couple of

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combined with South Godstone and Blindley Heath in a publication but the decision was taken not to amalgamate the villages within the parish due to physical distance. However, this decision has been overridden and the next publication will cover the whole parish.

South Godstone had developed due to the presence of Godstone railway station

In 1262, Henry III granted Roger de St John the ability to fortify Lagham Manor, just south of the railway station, by building a moat.

1842 the railway station opened

Godstone railway station hit the national headlines in 1862 due to a prize fight between Gem Mace (Swatham gypsy) and Tom King which was held in a local field. Many hundreds of people attended to watch.

In 1843 Godstone Fair and Race took place with much fun and enjoyment by all.

A second prize fight was held in 1866 but the Rector of Godstone, Reverend Hoare, wrote to the directors of the S E Railway complaining it was encouraging the fight by transporting spectators! A representative of the railway responded that it had no power to refuse to carry passengers.

1907 Louie Jennings wrote a book about the area

An archaeological dig took place in 1974 at Lagham Manor and the findings are on display in East Surrey Museum in Caterham Valley

Roger invited everyone to visit East Surrey Museum where they could see interesting artefacts and learn more about the Parish's history.

John thanked Roger, commenting on what an interesting and entertaining history of South Godstone had been shared with us.

4. Minutes from AGM 29 November 2024

A copy of the 2024 AGM minutes were presented such having been previously circulated by email and on our website.

John asked if those present were happy for him to sign them as a true and accurate record of the 2024 AGM.

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Retiring committee

John Farnaby, Chris Boughton, Pat Brown, Susan Clark, Julie Jones, Colin White

1. Welcome

John Farnaby, Treasurer, welcomed everyone on behalf of the committee to the Annual General Meeting of South Godstone Residents' Association (SGRA).

A special welcome was extended to guest speaker Roger Packham of The Bourne Society and Alban Brindle, Chair of Godstone Village Association (GVA). There were 22 additional attendees to supplement present committee members of John, Chris, Pat and Susan.

John advised that, whilst it may be strange for the Treasurer to welcome to an AGM, in the last few weeks, for different reasons, the Chair and Vice Chair have both stood down. This evening, the Secretary would also be standing down although there are other members of the committee who will be offering themselves for reelection.

At this very early stage of the meeting, John advised it was important that he advised SGRA was seeking a number of new committee members in order that a full committee could be formed. The roles of Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary needed to be filled as well as have a number of others on the committee. John asked those present to carefully consider during the meeting whether anyone present could help SGRA and continue the vital role it plays in the community. More than ever before, there are challenges to be faced head on including potential development opportunities which may not sit well with the community. John pointed out that later on the agenda was an item for possible Dissolution of SGRA – this would be the outcome if a committee was not formed.

2. Apologies for absence

Duncan and Tamzie Hollands, Julie Jones, Colin White, Rob Wood

3. Guest speaker – Roger Packham of The Bourne Society

The standard format of agenda was turned around and we welcomed our guest speaker Roger Packham of The Bourne Society.

John asked that any questions be saved until the end of Roger's talk.

Roger explained the Bourne Society is a local history society. It has published 12 full lengthy histories of the area other than Godstone and South Godstone! There had been a preliminary meeting in 2024 on whether Godstone should be

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The posts of Vice Chair and Treasurer are currently vacant.

This means there was no requirement to proceed with a possible agenda item of Dissolution of SGRA

10. Amendment to Rules

At our AGM in November 2022, we highlighted that SGRA needed a continuous income to meet our annual expenditure and this was not possible due the very high number of lifetime household memberships with annual membership offered at £1 per home. It was agreed at that AGM that new household memberships would be offered forthwith at £10 and that no new lifetime memberships would be offered.

Since that time, we have benefitted from just 17 Annual household memberships.

We recognise that there is an ongoing cost of living crisis and, to encourage new household memberships, we propose that the cost of annual household membership is £5 with immediate effect. No other element of our Rules is to change.

May I please ask for a proposer?

Proposer Sarah Reynolds
Seconded by Chris Boughton

11. Any other business

There were no matters raised as part of the SGRA AGM

John thanked everyone for attending tonight's AGM. The meeting closed at 21.33 and the room was then available for the rest of the evening should anyone have any other matters they may wish to raise or discuss.

28/11/26

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