



South Godstone Residents' Association

Annual General Meeting Minutes – 29 November 2024 at 8pm
At The Pavilion, Lagham Road, South Godstone

1. **Apologies for absence**
Chair Mike Crane, Vice Chair Andy Janaway, Secretary Susan Clark, Treasurer Sarah Reynolds, Colin Anderson, Chris Boughton, Pat Brown, Jeff Burrell, Julie Jones, Colin White

2. **Present**
Mike Crane, Vice Chair Andy Janaway, Secretary Susan Clark, Treasurer Sarah Reynolds, Colin Anderson, Chris Boughton, Pat Brown, Jeff Burrell, Julie Jones, Colin White

Catherine Sayer and Sue Farr attended representing Tandridge District Council, Alban Brindle represented Godstone Village Association (GVA) and a further 18 residents attended

2. **Apologies for absence**
None received

3. **Welcome by Chairman**
Mike welcomed all to our 2024 AGM

4. **Minutes from AGM 24 November 2023**
The minutes were taken as read and signed by Mike as a true representation of last year's AGM

5. **Matters arising**
None

6. **Chairman's report**
None

7. **Treasurer's report**
None

8. **Secretary's report**
I must start my report by thanking residents Mary and David Lyle and committee members who helped with the distribution of our AGM invitation to over 900 homes in South Godstone.

Due to personal health issues this year, I have been unable to attend many of our committee meetings. I am very grateful to Mike and the committee in agreeing to my partner John Farnaby being accepted in my place to record minutes for SGRA. Thank you John for your help and support.

Since our 2023 AGM, SGRA has been very busy.

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We started the year deep in preparations for our February 2024 Comedy Night – the first of this type of event in South Godstone for many a year. We were thrilled to have a sell out audience and such complimentary words from not only you, our guests, but also from our comedians too! We were very fortunate to secure your support by attending our second Comedy Night just last month.

We will soon be turning our heads to what type of events to bring you in 2025 and would be grateful for your thoughts on this. 2025 marks the anniversary of the end of World War II. We are not sure if or how we might mark that. You were passed a piece of paper and a pen when you came in so please jot down any ideas you have on events or anything else and leave them at the table at the back when you leave. Don't forget a name and number if you would like us to contact you. Thank you.

At this point, I would like to extend my personal thanks to our outgoing treasurer Sarah for the help she has given me in handling the many and varied types of payments we have received from local businesses advertising on our website to the membership and event ticket monies we have received. Thank you Sarah.

Since our review of the historic membership records during 2023, we are now confident in identifying those who have moved away as well as welcomed many new residents to the village. Our current membership stands at 123 memberships. Annual household membership costs just £10 and covers everyone at that address. Membership offers a number of benefits but one of our most advantageous ones is discounted tickets to events that we bring to our community. If you are not a member, please consider taking out a membership this evening – we can accept your payment by cash, cheque or by card tonight or you can go on our website to take out a membership or contact our secretary if you do not have access to the internet. Memberships start on the day we receive your payment and last for a whole year, we will send a payment reminder on the approach to the renewal date.

We have raised countless infrastructure defects with the Council.

- Missing road name plates for Hunters Chase have been raised with Tandridge District Council.
- Potholes, poor and fading white lines and yellow lines, including zigzags outside the school, have been raised with Surrey County Council. We have also raised the poor road condition in Easter Way off Hunters Chase even after repairs have been carried out.
- Hedges which are overgrown and overhang the pavement are the responsibility of the landowner. We engaged with Surrey County Council earlier this year asking it to request landowners of properties along A22 Eastbourne Road to cut back hedges and clear back soil at the foot of the hedges so that the footpaths were accessible to all once again. There

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hasn't necessarily been the level of assistance for which we were
hoping but we will continue to press for action. We also ask all property
owners to check if they have overgrown hedges, perhaps with spiny or
spiky growth all the way up to head height, that could benefit from a
winter prune.

- We continue to struggle in obtaining engagement with both Tandridge District Council and Surrey County Council in respect of the footpath cut through between Easter Way and Hunters Chase. Both Councils own part of this footpath and we continue to flag the uneven footway hoping for resolution soon.

Through the proceeds from our February comedy night, we were able to make a donation to St Stephen's Church to replace the batteries in the defibrillator, a very worthwhile cause.

Earlier this month, members of the committee were joined by a number of residents at our Remembrance service by our soldier on the corner of Harcourt Way and Eastbourne Road on Sunday, 10 November. Some of those present then walked to Sergeant 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 plane away from South Godstone, protecting its residents but paying the ultimate sacrifice as a result.

We continue to use our Facebook presence to bring matters of interest to the community. 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.

9. Website, social media, RH9 and "Parish" magazine.
Our website continues to be active with high numbers of page visits – 196 Facebook followers with new followers regularly joining. Susan submits editorial for both RH9 and the "Parish" magazine each month

10. Local Planning – the need for a local plan.
The government inspector found the local plan unsound.

11. Election of committee.
a. Members of the committee standing down.
Sarah Reynolds tendered her resignation as Treasurer and advised she wished to also stand down from the committee.
b. Offers to stand on the committee.
Mike asked for volunteers from the floor to join the committee. Resident John Farnaby put himself forward and he was elected to the committee.
John also stood unchallenged as Treasurer.

12. Special guest – Catherine Sayer, Leader of the Residents Alliance which forms a minority administration at Tandridge District Council (TDC) and is also therefore, Leader of the Council.

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Catherine advised there had been a different journey in TDC since the minority administration started with 20 Residents' Alliance councillors

11 Liberal Democrats councillors

7 Conservative councillors and

5 Independent Group councillors

TDC did have a dire financial position and, in May 2021, was very close to

having a Section 114 bankruptcy notice issued. There had been a £900,000

per annum pension error noted in 2021. There has been diminishing financial

support from central government. TDC is now in a better financial position.

TDC had no reserves as they were spent on the Local Plan and transformation

programme. This meant TDC had to cut its own costs and the Future

Tandridge transformation started. There is a new, much stricter, financial

process: £6 million has been saved on £12 million annual budget. Future

Tandridge will lead to £4 million savings over the next four years.

13. Any other business

- a. Resident David Lyle asked if it was known why the community speedwatch van is so often in South Godstone. The committee was unable to give a specific answer but advised that Speedwatch in South Godstone had now been disbanded. The proposed scheme in Godstone seemed unlikely to progress due to lack of interest.
- b. Jeff advised that he was continually badgering Surrey County Council to lower the speed on approach to South Godstone.
- c. There was a desire to tie in the Speed Indicator Devices at each end of the village with the pedestrian crossing lights so that lights would change to red on the approach of vehicles travelling with excessive speed.
- d. Resident Karen Jackson felt it took too long for the pedestrian crossing lights to change to red once the button had been pushed.
- e. Colin A advised that Speedwatch was more effective in the Felbridge area since the volunteers are active daily. There is no Surrey Police presence when the South Godstone volunteers have been active unlike in Felbridge. A dual presence is felt to be more effective.
- f. Resident Hugh McGinty requested consideration of 20mph speed restriction be introduced in Easter Way, Hunters Chase and Harcourt Way to deter vehicles at excessive speeds. It was recognised lowering the speed limit would only be truly beneficial if enforced by Surrey Police.
- g. Resident Hugh McGinty asked about any proposals for community CCTV which would help catch catalytic converter thieves.

Oxted Parish Council put in community CCTV but it had been a challenge to push the proposal forward. Smallfield and Bletchingley have community CCTV which is felt to work well but was costly to install.

The meeting ended at 9.06pm.

Hugh 21/11/25

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