



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
FIFTY SECOND ASSEMBLY
OF
SALFORDS & SIDLOW PARISH COUNCIL
13 April 2026**

Meeting opened at 9.15pm and closed at 9.30pm

Email: clerk@salfordsandsidlowpc.org.uk

Website: www.salfordsandsidlowpc.org.uk

Councillors (Cllrs) present:

1. Cllr Bob Barnes (BB)
2. Cllr Jim Blackmore (JB)
3. Cllr Wayne Clark (WC) Chair
4. Cllr Caroline Clarke (CC)
5. Cllr Karen Dukes (KD)
6. Cllr Paul Edwards (PE)

Apologies

1. Cllr Mark Lodge (ML)
2. Cllr Stephen Rolph (SR)

In attendance

Claire Minter (CM)—Clerk

Apologies

Cllr V Chester (VC)
Cllr S Wotton (SW) Cllr A
Lynch (AL)
Cllr C Baart (CB)
Cllr N Boghani (NB)
Cllr J Thorne (JT)

The Chairman welcomed all present and thanked them for attending.

MINUTES

The minutes from the 2025 Annual Parish Assembly held on 14 April 2025 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chair provided a summary of events for 2025/26

WC advised he is lucky to chair a group of dedicated workaholics who give up their time for no more reward than the gratitude of the local community. He said Councillors do two things: - they read, and they listen.

WC took time to recognise the individual commitment and input from each member as follows:

Jim Blackmore, who is Chair for the Planning Surgery, spends so many hours researching the planning applications and drafting responses. He then re-drafts to finalise responses after the planning Surgery. He is an active representative for the Redhill Aerodrome Consultative Committee and helped in guiding and advising for a new chairperson for this forum. Jim has spent numerous hours reviewing the consultation for Route 4 and his dedicated approach engaging with various stakeholders and attending consultation meetings goes above and beyond of what is expected.

Caroline Clark, and her husband Dave, work so hard on running community events. The

coffee mornings are such a success down to those two individuals. We have over 50 residents attending each month which shows they must be doing something right. The wellbeing walks are enjoyed by many, and it is great we continue to have new residents attend each month. All the community events are thanks to Caroline and Dave for the time they give up making these happen.

Paul Edwards leads with train station matters and ensures that we are compliant with what is needed and engages with our rail partners to make Salfords train station a welcoming space for residents and commuters. The book stall at the station is a great success and he is in the process of building another for the village hall. It is recognised that Paul is our technical guru who adds value as and when needed with reviewing of data and preparation of consultation reports.

Mark Lodge has an important role being the Parish Council representative on the R&BBC Standards Committee holding Councillors to account and ensuring code of conduct is adhered to.

Bob Barnes works tirelessly for Sidlow engaging with residents and leading on Sidlow community events such as the successful litter picks and daffodil planting, annual firework event and Sidlow celebration. He is a focus and guide for the Sidlow Community Association and advocate for Norwood Hill Residents Association.

Karen Dukes input on the Neighbourhood Plan has been invaluable, and she will be the guide to implement what is needed for the parish. Her focus and work on the Gatwick Airport Expansion does not go unnoticed and the knowledge and experience working with organisations is exceptional to properly represent our community. Karen is also the 'green fingered' Councillor who helps plan and co-ordinate what grows in the community garden.

Stephen Rolph's knowledge and input for transport, especially public, is needed and his forcefulness over the years for the Bus Connect service to come to Reigate and Banstead has come to fruition with the service being offered now for our residents. Stephen attended many of the Gatwick Airport Expansion sessions and represented the parish council at these ensuring our concerns were heard.

Councillors are not afraid to stand their ground on behalf of our residents. This was clearly demonstrated with the recent R&BBC Community Governance Review.

I'm also lucky to know another group of local workaholics that give up their time litter picking, emptying bins, clearing paths, planting flowers, baking cakes, helping at events. Thank you to each and every member of our community who takes time out of their day to help in some way.

Our Community engagement continues to grow – we held many events over the last year which were all well attended and we received so much positive feedback: - Easter treasure hunt, VE Day celebrations, Summer community events, Diwali celebrations, Marathon refreshment stations, Sidlow fireworks, Christmas lights switch-on, Tabletop sale in partnership with Infinity Space to Grow and a thriving parent/carer toddler group.

We contributed to consultations such as Gatwick Airport Expansion, Proposed A23 bus corridor, R&BBC Community Governance Review and Gatwick Airport's Route 4 plans.

We try to promote improvements for our residents such as working with Surrey County Council and Salfords Primary school for the introduction of a potential school street scheme.

We are engaging with developers who are proposing significant housing developments –

these will be our challenges in the next few years. To ensure we represent our residents it is imperative that we keep updated with understanding planning legislation so continue to read and attend training to not miss opportunities.

The village hall has undergone some significant improvements including the main hall floor major refurbishment, roof repairs to the front and side elevations, re-decoration, window repairs and plans for new fascia and gutters and a new forecourt. The hall is well used and proving to be self-sufficient through income from the use.

The finances are in a strong position through careful management and decision making. We have been successful in securing grant funding through R&BBC strategic CIL. Thanks to Caroline Clarke for monthly monitoring which is required to ensure we remain compliant for audit purposes. We review our budget on a monthly basis and make recommendations for projects for the village based on this.

None of what I have said above could happen without our Clerk, Claire, who is fully committed to help run the council efficiently and continues to dedicate her time and skills to ensure everything we work on is done with ease and enjoyment so I would like to acknowledge and thank her hard working approach for us all for the benefit of our community.

The Chairman thanked all for attending and declared the Assembly closed.

APPENDIX A - HENRY SMITH CHARITY REPORT

Annual Report of Henry Smith Horley Charity

Charity No 237044

January – December 2025

The purpose of the Henry Smith Horley Charity is to encourage individuals, families, students and others needing personal financial help to apply to the Charity if they need assistance. This will include families, single parents, students, people with disabilities, the homeless, refugees etc.

Our website is designed to provide information and there are application forms that can be downloaded to simplify an application.

In the period January to December 2025 the Charity received 131 applications and was able to make a difference in the lives of 286 people living in Horley, Salfords, Sidlow, South Earlswood and Whitebushes. Assistance has been given for purposes including replacement appliances, furniture, help with travel, training materials and similar needs.

In addition, we have made donations to a Food Bank, The Greenaway Foundation and Stripey Stork in recognition of the additional assistance given to our applicants during the year

The charity has continued to work closely with Community Providers including Social Workers, CAB, Support Workers, Food Banks, Schools and Churches etc. It has a Trustee attending the local Food Club and a Trustee volunteering with the Food Bank.

One of the Trustees is a retired teacher who has taken on the role of liaising with schools. Three of the Trustees are also members of the Lions Club and there has been the opportunity to signpost applicants to the club's Welfare Group when we have been unable to help (these applicants live outside the charity's catchment area). The most recent additional collaboration has been with The African Community in Surrey & Sussex who have their office in the parish and many members live locally. An increase in the number of applicants from immigrant communities include Asylum seekers housed locally has been noted along with an increase in applicants not coping with the general cost of living.

During the year the Charity received £18000 from the Henry Smith Foundation and is confident of similar support for 2026.

This Report is submitted by the Trustees of the Charity