

PARISH OF GODALMING

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting on Thursday, 20 March 2025

WELCOME

The Mayor, Councillor Paul Rivers welcomed all those present.

1. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on the 14 March 2024, having been previously distributed, were approved by the Meeting and signed by the Town Mayor as a correct record.

2. **REPORT BY THE TOWN MAYOR**

The meeting approved an oral report by the Town Mayor, Councillor PS Rivers, summarising the work of the Town Council since the last Annual Town Meeting. In addition, a printed Annual Report 2024/25 was tabled at the meeting and a copy of that report is attached to the official record copy of these minutes.

3. **PRESENTATION OF THE MAYOR'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTEERS 2024/25**

The Town Mayor, Councillor Paul Rivers, announced the recipients of the 2024/25 Mayor's Award for Volunteers.

Awards, comprising a framed certificate and town badge were presented to:

2024/25

Graham Ekins
Maggie Haskell
Caroline Nye
David Spencer
Ellen Stevenson
Peter Stevenson
Tone Tellefsen Hughes
Farncombe Community Garden Team

A Good Citizen Award was also presented by the Mayor to:

Peter Andrews

4. **PRESENTATION BY CLLR PAUL FOLLOWS ON THE REORGANISATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN WAVERLEY AND SURREY**

The Mayor invited Cllr Paul Follows to give a presentation on the reorganisation of local government in Waverley and Surrey.

5. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS RAISED BY ANY LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTOR CONCERNING THE TOWN'S AFFAIRS**

The Mayor opened the meeting to questions from the electors of the parish of Godalming.

Question from Duncan Savage – Resident

Does the Council consider formation of a single coach bay outside the Jack Phillips High Street, if clearly marked as 'drop off only' would complement the town's tourist appeal?

Would the closure of Homebase raise the opportunity to rent the empty parking at expense of the remarking with white lines as coach bays pick up points and electric charging facility for up to six coaches?

Mayor: Thank you Duncan, Paul is going to respond.

Cllr Paul Follows:

This question highlights the complexity of local government. In the first instance the highway outside the Jack Phillips is run by the County Council and I would imagine that they would probably oppose the restriction at all of the High Street any further. Penny Rivers is the County Councillor for Godalming North which includes the High Street and has clearly heard this so I'm sure she can ask formally but I would be very surprised if the County would allow an obstruction to that bit of highway. They will class it as an obstruction because it will restrict bus access and various other things is I'm sure what they will say.

In terms of Homebase, Homebase is a private car park and it will remain a private car park owned by the new owners of it, which I gather will be The Range at this point. But I don't know if they have any considerations about that. I have got a conversation in my Waverley hat in regards to some spaces that we're trying to gain for the Wharf Nursery over the road. I'm very happy to ask them about it, but it is a private car park so it will obviously be their decision.

In terms of other places that we have coaches, I believe Waverley has coach parking at Wey Court, which I appreciate is not quite as adjacent to the town as I think would probably aid tourism in the way that you're talking about. But, at the moment I can't think of anywhere else where we could put coach bays in an area owned by Waverley that would not seriously impact the car parking provision at the moment. Unless you've got any ideas of course; I will listen to them.

There being no more questions, the Mayor brought the Annual Town Meeting to a close.