

PARISH OF GODALMING

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting on Thursday, 19 March 2026

WELCOME

The Mayor, Councillor Bob Crooks welcomed all those present.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on the 20 March 2025, 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 Crooks, summarising the work of the Town Council since the last Annual Town Meeting. In addition, a printed Annual Report 2025/26 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 2025/26

The Town Mayor, Councillor Crooks, announced the recipients of the 2025/26 Mayor's Award for Volunteers.

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

2025/26

Mike Clarke Snr
Alison Connelly
Nicki Farrington
Julia Hedger
Kevin Holcombe
Jen Jupe
Tom Martin

4. PRESENTATION BY DEBBIE CROW, REGIONAL MANAGER FOR CENTRAL SOUTH ENGLAND & SOUTH WALES, CASH ACCESS UK – GODALMING BANKING HUB

The presentation did not take place due to a failure in technology in the Council Chamber. Attendees were advised to send any questions relating to the Godalming Banking Hub to Godalming Town Council (GTC) Officers which would be forwarded to the Regional Manager for Cash Access UK for consideration.

5. PRESENTATION TO JANE FITZSIMMONS – GODALMING YOUTH SERVICE

The Mayor presented an award to Jane Fitzsimmons of Godalming Youth Service for completing a Creative Arts Therapies qualification.

6. PRESENTATION BY JANE FITZSIMMONS – CREATIVE ARTS THERAPIES IN THE GODALMING YOUTH SERVICE

Jane Fitzsimmons gave a presentation on Creative Arts Therapies and how they are applied to Godalming Youth Service.

7. PRESENTATION BY DAVID WILBY, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER OF SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY

David Wilby gave a presentation on community rail and partnership working, with a particular focus on initiatives at Godalming and Farncombe stations.

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

Two pre-submitted questions were read out by the Mayor, along with GTC's response.

Question from Dennis Forrest – Resident

We would like to know when the traffic calming/parking measures will take place along Catteshall Lane? We understand that the speed limit will be reduced to 20mph and speed humps will also be installed.

We also understand that parking restrictions will be in place close to junctions leading off Catteshall Lane. We live on Alderbank Drive and we often find it difficult to pull out to turn left or right on to Catteshall Lane.

1. Vehicles travelling more like 35 mph rather 30mph.
2. Vehicles travelling on the wrong side of the road because they are passing cars parked opposite Alderbank Drive.

Perhaps nothing to do with the council but high hedges on gardens adjacent to the junction don't help either.

Response: The Mayor read out a pre-prepared response

The responsibility for speed reductions and associated traffic calming measures lies with Surrey County Council.

Godalming Town Council is aware that a signed, on-carriageway cycle route along Catteshall Road and Catteshall Lane is proposed as part of Phase 1 of the Guildford to Godalming Greenway route, a scheme aiming to deliver active travel infrastructure between Guildford, Godalming and the communities/areas in between. The proposals also include footway improvements for pedestrians and a proposed 20mph speed limit. Surrey County Council recently consulted on the design proposals, and it is understood that responses are currently being reviewed.

Surrey County Council has not yet published a timetable on when the final designs will be published and when the proposals are likely to be implemented.

Regarding parking restrictions on Catteshall Lane, the only information that is publicly available is the outcome of the 2024 Surrey County Council Parking Review. It proposed to include parking restrictions on the eastern side of the ambulance station junction. Surrey County Council confirms in its decision report that this proposal will be implemented, which is likely to take place in 2026.

Concerns about overgrown hedges impacting on the public highway, including sightlines, should be reported to Surrey County Council using their online reporting tool.

Question from Penny Knight – Resident

What plans does the Council have to introduce a blanket reduction of the 30mph speed limited roads to 20mph throughout Godalming and Farncombe. If there are no such plans, when will this be considered?

Response: The Mayor read out a pre-prepared response

The responsibility for speed reductions lies with Surrey County Council. Surrey County Council undertook a consultation specifically on Farncombe Local Street Improvements throughout February and March 2026. This was aimed at presenting draft proposals to make Farncombe's streets safer, healthier and more attractive with appropriate vehicle speed limits and improved facilities for walking, wheeling and cycling. The outcomes of this consultation are yet to be published.

The next stages, according to Surrey County Council's timeline, include further design work and public consultation. Residents can register on the Surrey County Council Commonplace website to receive further updates.

After the suggestion at the meeting that Godalming Town Council was not actively campaigning for reduced speeds in the town, further clarification was provided confirming that the Town Council has written to Surrey County Council on at least three occasions in the last two years to lobby for a 20mph limit in Farncombe and other areas. As Surrey County Council is the highway authority, the resident was directed to their Surrey County Councillor, Penny Rivers, to progress this further.

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

Question from Martyn Sandford – Godalming Cycle Campaign

For over 20 years, Godalming and Farncombe residents have been campaigning for improvements to the path beside the railway line that links Marshall Road to the Farncombe Street level-crossing. This forms part of the most direct active travel route between the centres of Godalming and Farncombe. It links thousands of residents to shops, schools and Farncombe Station.

There is ample space for the path to be widened to three metres along most of its length. Will Godalming Town Council join with residents in urging cooperation between all parties to bring these improvements into effect?

Response: The Mayor asked Cllr Follows to respond:

Cllr Follows confirmed that this issue will be raised at a future GTC meeting to discuss further, and he will also liaise further with David Wilby from South-Western Railway on the matter.

Question from Hugh Pile – Resident

Parking by students at Godalming College is becoming increasingly problematic. Numbers of students have trebled in the last 20 years however the onsite parking provision has not increased, resulting in a significant increase in overspill parking on nearby roads, particularly around Tuesley Lane and Holloway Hill. The consequence of this is that Holloway Hill, which is a busy road, is reduced to a single lane with limited passing places, the only one being at the entrance of Oakdene Road. Drivers exiting Oakdene Road often have to manoeuvre out of the junction with a three-point turn, which is exacerbated by speeding cars. Mr Pile requests more communication from his Surrey County Councillor, the establishment of yellow lines, and additional parking to be provided on site at Godalming College.

Response: The Mayor asked Cllr Follows to respond:

Cllr Follows confirmed that he has been discussing these issues with the Surrey County Council highways engineers who are due to meet on site imminently to discuss further. They have intimated that they will be willing to work with Godalming College to improve enforcement of illegal parking and to re-establish yellow lines. Cllr Follows will inform the residents he has been corresponding with when the onsite meeting will be taking place so they can attend; he will also provide them with further updates.

Question from Sarah Morgan – Resident

Request that the Borough's crest and the Nolan Principles are displayed more clearly in the Council Chamber as a reminder to elected representatives of how democracy should take place.

Response:

Cllr Follows confirmed GTC's commitment to representing the community and the GTC Chief Executive Officer explained that GTC councillors take their duties extremely seriously, which are done so on a voluntary basis and to a high standard.

Question from Chris Meeks – Resident

The resident raised concerns about the lack of integrated transport, particularly accessible bus stops at Farncombe Station.

Response:

Cllr Follows advised that both GTC and Waverley Borough Council have raised this issue several times and suggested that the resident could raise his concerns again with the West Surrey Unitary Authority once it is in place, as it will have the powers to achieve change.

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