

Motions

09/12/2025

Full Council – 9 DECEMBER 2025
Motions

1. Misinformation and fake news

Proposed by Councillor Giles-Medhurst and seconded by Councillor Nelmes
This council objects to the continued mis-information and fake news being promoted by Three Rivers Conservatives and their councillors especially as regards using the below and other means namely on;

1. The legal and council process over the Local Plan
2. Parking issues
3. Claims made on crime and policing issues
4. Local Cycling and Walking Routes

Furthermore this council condemns the use of a web and email link that is made to look as if it's from Three Rivers Council , namely www.threerivers.team , fails to indicate it's from a political party and is thus dubious and can fool residents into thinking it's an official Three Rivers Council link when in fact a rouse to just collect emails.

Council calls upon Three Rivers Conservatives' etc 'to cease immediately THESE and any other such activities that ARE bringing politics into disrepute'

2. Chorleywood Parish Council Elections

Proposed by Councillor Giles-Medhurst and seconded by Councillor Nelmes Council notes the views of the Chorleywood Parish Council and Chorleywood Residents Association to support the Community Governance Review and notes the following :

The decision to request the CGR, including the election timing, was led by independent councillors, not Liberal Democrats as laid out in the motion. The Conservative lead is well aware of this (an independent councillor who proposed the motion to the Parish Council) discussed the issue with him before the TRDC Policy and P&R decision on this .

The decision was unanimously supported by the Parish Council, including Conservative councillors

If any of the areas being consulted on the change in boundaries decide to join Chorleywood Parish (which is considered highly probable), if elections were to be held in May 2026, it would be extremely difficult, in the time available, for candidates from the new area(s) to put themselves forward for election to the Parish Council.

It is quite possible that Heronsgate residents will vote differently to those of Stag Lane and Shepherds Lane. As both of these areas use the same polling station, this would impact the preparation of Poll Cards for the 2026 Council elections and may well not be possible to organise in the time available.

By aligning with the elections for the Unitary Council, both in 2027 (along with other Parish councils) going forward, this will save the Parish Council a considerable amount of money in terms of Election Costs. For the Parish Council to hold elections on their own could cost the residents of Chorleywood in excess of £20,000 for each election cycle.

With the change in the role of Parish Councils and Parish Councillors as part of the LGR, with Parish Councillors likely to have to take on more responsibility for community engagement at all council levels, it will be hard to give candidates for Parish Councillor clarity on their roles before the 2026 election. This is likely to result in real difficulty in recruiting quality candidates and those who do join may well stand down before the end of the 4 year period if their roles are not what they expect. This will cause unnecessary disruption and cost of additional elections.

With LGR and the Local Plan going through critical phases in 26/27, giving the Parish Council some measure of stability through the period will be vital for its smooth running. Many of the existing experienced councillors are not willing to stand again for a four year term but are happy to cover this one difficult year. A new Council can then take the parish forward in the new world of Unitary Councils and higher development levels.

The request for the Community Governance Review has the support of Chorleywood Residents Association and other Parish Councils.

3. To meet Thames Water at a high level to get clarity on the works required to meet the sewage capacity need of Three Rivers.

Proposed by Councillor Mitchell and seconded by Councillor Stungo
Thames Water has made it clear in their recent response to planning applications that they do not have any spare capacity for Sewage treatment. This impacts on any planning applications for new homes and the ability for the local plan, when its is agreed, to be implemented.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. The Chief executive to write to the Chief Executive of the Thames Water to set up a meet with the relevant officers to establish;

1.1 What works are required to meet the future needs for the district and to ensure pollution into our watercourses does not occur

1.2 What is the timescale for the work to be implemented

4. To ensure our PR is creating a positive story for the Council, not just the administration

Proposed by Councillor Mitchell and Seconded by Councillor Sian

At the last Full council meeting, the Green Group submitted a motion for the council to review tightening up on the HMO regulations. The wording mainly put to together by the Green Group was then used in agreement at the beginning for the meeting in response to the public question. A press release was realised on the 24th October with no mention of the fact that the Green Group fundamentally created the wording. We consider that this is typical of the PR we send out and it does not reflect where the has been very effective cross party working. We consider that the present approach is biased.

Council therefore resolves to;

The official Council press releases should promote the work of the "Council" reflecting any work that has been cross party in a positive way. Also, it should include any work carried out by any councillor, as all councillors are representing the residents. If there are changes required to the constitution then the monitoring officer will review these and bring back to the relevant committee.

5. Raising our flag in Three Rivers

Proposed by Councillor Reed and seconded by Councillor Alley

This Council recognises that a shared sense of British identity unites the villages and towns of Three Rivers and the wider country. It is only through emphasising what unites us, not what divides us, that we can bring people together into a shared sense of community.

The Union Flag, as the main symbol of our shared cultural identity and shared values that we hold as a country, is a common way of uniting everyone who lives and works in our district.

However, this council believes that it is disappointing that the Union Flag is not currently seen as commonly as it could be on buildings in public spaces, particularly high streets across our district.

Residents want to see more flags that represent all of our common identity flying in public spaces, as demonstrated by the direct action of residents who have put flags on lampposts across Three Rivers.

But more must be done in an official way to increase the presence of the Union Flag in the public spaces in Three Rivers.

Furthermore, with difficult economic conditions at the moment, this council recognises that many shops on our high streets are struggling and that many high streets across Three Rivers have been poorly managed, seeing a decline in their attractiveness to new businesses, customers and residents.

Therefore, to increase the number of Union Flags, this council resolves to create a Flags Fund to increase the number of Union Flags or St George's Flags on high streets, parades of shops, and public spaces in Three Rivers District.

- The cost of that fund not to exceed an initial £9,999, due to the limit in the council's procedure rules.
- The Flags Fund to be available to parish councils (or in areas that are unparished, the internal departments of Three Rivers District Council) or other entities representing the community
- The Flags Fund to be able to make grants for projects including but not limited to purchasing and installing flagpoles, brackets, or the flags themselves
- Materials purchased with the Flags Fund to only be used for the purpose of flying Union Flags or St George's Flags.

6. Timely and Inclusive Burial

Proposed by Councillor Merali and seconded by Councillor Cooper

Council notes that in several faith traditions, including Islam and Judaism, there is a religious requirement to bury the deceased as soon as possible, often on the same day or within 24 hours of death. Current burial arrangements in Three Rivers do not always accommodate these needs, particularly outside of normal working hours and at weekends.

Council recognises that the ability to bury loved ones quickly and with dignity is a deeply important issue for many residents in our district. As a local authority serving a multi-faith community, it is vital that our burial services reflect and respect these needs.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Review the current cemetery and burial service provision to ensure that same-day or within 24-hour burials can be facilitated where required.
2. Explore the feasibility of providing weekend and out-of-hours burials to meet the needs of faith communities.
3. Consult with local faith leaders and community representatives to identify practical steps that would enable the council to deliver timely and inclusive burial services.
4. Report back within [6 months] with recommendations on policy, resourcing, and operational changes needed to implement these measures

