

THURSLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday 5th December 2023 at 7.00 pm
at Thursley Village Hall

Attendees: Cllr J. Mendelssohn (Chair) Cllr C. Dailly Cllr H. Flavell
Cllr J. Luff Cllr C. McClements Cllr R. Owen
Mrs E. Felton (Clerk)

Cllr D. Harmer (SCC) – to 7.40 pm

1.0 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr de Vries and Cllr Munro (WBC). These apologies were accepted.

2.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No members disclosed any (a) Personal, (b) Prejudicial interests which they are required to disclose by section 94(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 and in accordance with The Parish Council (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007.

3.0 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th November 2023 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

4.0 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

(4.1) Cllr de Vries to provide an update on filming arrangements with WBC in due course.

(4.2) Following discussion, the Clerk was asked to contact the preferred contractor to arrange for one day's work to take place asap although it was acknowledged that this may not be until March 2024. She would also contact John Swift to inform him of the planned course of action and also enlist his help to arrange volunteers to remove the material that will be cut back.

(4.3) Cllr McClements outlined the improvement works that had taken place already, including the highway works on the bridge over the A3. He suggested that the benches be cleaned/repared in the spring and that he would obtain quotes for the works in due course. It was noted that he was in the process of taking advice regarding wildflower planting. Following discussion, it was agreed that the area in front of Tilhurst would be planted with wildflowers to provide a welcoming entrance to the village without affecting sight lines etc.

Cllr McClements confirmed that he had logged the signage replacements but had not yet received any response. Cllr Harmer suggested that he chase Mr Patrick Giles (SCC) for an update.

Cllr McClements agreed to provide an updated schedule in the new year. Cllr Mendelssohn thanked him for his works to date.

Cllr Mendelssohn also thanked Cllr Owen for the work he had undertaken on the fence for the play area.

(4.4) It was confirmed that copies of the correspondence regarding possible unlawful development in the village had been shared with Cllr Staunton.

(4.5) Cllr Owen was asked to continue to investigate opening a deposit account with Lloyds.

(4.6) Cllr Mendelssohn confirmed that he had included the need for parishioners to report potholes in his magazine report last month. Following discussion with Cllr Harmer regarding the increase in the number of contractors involved in filling potholes, it was noted that the number of crews had decreased over a period. It was acknowledged that the potholes not meeting the criteria for filling will meet the criteria quickly during the winter months if remedial works do not take place.

Cllr McClements advised that as part of his tracking system, the potholes reported and marked as 'urgent' do generally get repaired within seven days.

(4.7) Cllr Owen advised that he would speak to Mr David Sellars regarding the VAS shortly.

5.0 COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

(5.1) Cllr Harmer advised that the SCC proposal was to increase the Council Tax by 4% (2% Precept / 2% Adult Social Care).

(5.2) He advised that SCC are currently reviewing their highways working practices to make sure that they are being undertaken as efficiently as possible.

(5.3) Cllr Harmer advised that SCC are likely to receive their financial statement for 2024-25 from the Treasury just before the Christmas break to allow for decision making to take place early in January.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Cllr Mendelssohn advised that there had been some discussion regarding the purchase of a new audit visual sound system for the village hall for the benefit of parish community groups and events. Following discussion, Cllr Mendelssohn agreed to speak to Mrs Clea Beechey from the village hall to coordinate further discussions regarding funds from the community groups in advance of a possible funding request to SCC. It was agreed that the village hall should take professional advice about the system requirements.

It was noted that the projector is held by the Clerk and that the scanner will be located in the village hall.

Cllr Harmer left the meeting at 7.40 pm.

6.0 PLANNING ISSUES AND COMMUNICATIONS

(6.1) WA/2023/02425 & 02426 – Shepherds Cottage, The Lane, GU8 6QB
Erection of vehicular access gates and two pedestrian gates.

Listed Building Consent for erection of vehicular access gates, two pedestrian gates and internal alteration to dwelling.

Following discussion and review of the documents it was agreed that the Parish Council had NO COMMENT regarding the application.

(6.2) WA/2023/02577 – Kestrel Wood Stables, Highfield Lane, GU8 6QJ
Erection of extensions and alterations following demolition of 2 stables (A & C) and 1 shed.

Following discussion and review of the documents it was agreed that the Parish Council had NO COMMENT regarding the application.

7.0 FINANCE

(7.1) The Clerk salary increase from April 2023 was approved.

(7.2) The list of payments for December had been presented to Councillors in advance of the meeting. The payments were authorised and approved for payment as follows:

Voucher Reference	Payee		Amount
0043	Kimcell Ltd	Website	£576.00
0044	Richard Knight	Mowing & play area	£135.00
0045	Oxenford Farm	Tree	£540.00
0046	E. Felton	Salary & expenses	£502.54
0047	HMRC	December payment	£329.53
0048	Mark Richards	Bowlhead Green mowing x 2	£500.00
	TOTAL		£2,583.07

(7.3) It was noted the arrangements for purchase of the Christmas tree had changed as funds raised locally for the project had been used for the infrastructure and batteries, lights etc. as SCC funding had not been available.

(7.4) The Budget review document showing actual to end November 2023 was reviewed.

(7.5) Following discussion, it was agreed that the Precept amount for 2024-25 remains at the same level as previous years - £15,155.

(7.5) The Clerk advised that in response to a request for quotes for the bridleway clearance, she had received one quote for the works.

(7.6) Following discussion regarding auditing costs, the Clerk agreed to provide an update on the process in January.

8.0 HIGHWAYS/VAS

(8.1) Cllr McClements reported that the next highways works he hoped to address were by Foldsdown and Boundless.

(8.2) It was agreed that the concerns raised by Cllr de Vries regarding bridleways would be discussed at the next meeting.

(8.3) It was reported that the flooding concerns caused by the partial collapse of BW105 discussed at the previous meeting had been resolved as the lake had been drained.

(8.4) Cllr McClements provided an update on communications with Highways regarding tunnel closures, diversion routes and improved signage.

(8.5) Cllr Dailly reported that two large military vehicles had recently attempted to drive through the village but had turned around following intervention by a parishioner informing them that they were not allowed.

(8.6) It was noted that Dye House Road is gritted regularly in icy conditions due to it being categorised as a priority A road.

(8.7) Cllr Owen reported that he had reported the blocked drainage on Dye House Road.

9.0 PARKING AND ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS ON THE RECREATION GROUND

(9.1) Cllr Owen suggested that a number of small posts be erected at the edge of the cricket club to deter joy riders but the installation of a gate was probably not required. Following discussion, Cllr Owen was asked to speak to Mr Barry Rapley from the cricket club to make the necessary arrangements.

(9.2) Cllr Owen reported that SCC had supplied x 10 trees and posts which would be installed along the edge of the cricket club as a further deterrent.

(9.3) Following discussion regarding the poor state of the car parking area on the recreation ground, Cllr Mendelssohn agreed to speak to Mr Axtell to see what he would recommend.

(9.4) It was noted that it may be necessary to replace some of the posts in the parking area on the recreation ground within the next year.

10.0 THURSLEY CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

Cllr McClements advised that he had attended the recent Inter-parish group meeting. He reported that the Head of Planning of WBC had attended and listened to concerns raised regarding control over the Climate and Sustainability checklist used when determining applications.

He advised that WBC were currently undertaking a review in this area and would consult with interested parties at the appropriate time.

Cllr McClements advised that at the meeting there had been some support to the allocation of planning officers to specific locations.

11.0 MOWING ARRANGEMENTS 2024

Following discussion, the Clerk was asked to provide Cllr Owen with a map of the areas to be mowed so that he could further investigate interest shown by a parishioner in taking on the role.

12.0 PARISH EMERGENCY PLAN

Cllr Dailly confirmed that an advert regarding the community WhatsApp group had been in the December issue of the parish magazine after taking advice regarding GDPR, and a number of people had shown interest in forming a committee. She suggested that good experience and ideas were key to the success of the project. It was noted that there had been discussion with HiT and they supported the initiative. Discussion took place regarding the use of sub-groups.

She made reference to an email sent the previous day regarding the formation of a community Facebook group. Discussion took place regarding management and content.

13.0 VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

See (4.3) above.

14.0 NEW PARISHIONERS

Cllr Dailly suggested that she speak to Cllr de Vries regarding supporting her in her role.

15.0 MEETING DATES 2024-25

Following discussion, it was agreed that the date for the meeting in July be provisionally changed to 16th July 2024 and that the annual assembly meeting take place on Thursday 25th April.

16.0 CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence had already been provided to Councillors. Cllr Mendelssohn advised that he would contact Camilla Daubeney renewal of her licence for her Coffee Pod for next year.

17.0 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING

- Items carried forward from above

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm. The date of the next meeting is **Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 7.00 pm.**

Signed **9th January 2024**