

THURSLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday 5th January 2021 at 7.00 pm
Remote meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing

Attendees: Cllr J. Mendelssohn (Chair) Cllr H. Flavell Cllr P. Hunter
Cllr J. Luff Cllr R. Owen Cllr J. Swift
Cllr M. de Vries Mrs E. Felton (Clerk)

Also attending were: Cllr D. Harmer (SCC) Cllr J. Else (WBC – from 7.45 pm)
Ms J. Malton (from 7.20 – 8.07 pm)

1.0 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

No apologies were necessary.

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 1st December 2020 were approved by the Council to be signed by the Chairman.

4.0 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

(4.1) Cllr Flavell advised that she was waiting for a response from Hampshire Police and the Forestry Commission before she could pass details of the Hampshire WhatsApp group to Inspector Adcock.

(4.2) Cllr de Vries confirmed that she was in touch with Highways England regarding the graffiti.

(4.3) The Clerk reported that the required work to cut back the overgrown hedges adjacent to Milhanger was already included on the SCC list of works to take place.

(4.4) The Clerk confirmed that the Precept proforma had been submitted to WBC before the deadline.

(4.5) Cllr Hunter advised that he had not received any response to his enquiries regarding arrangements during tunnel closures. It was noted that further closures were planned and that the number each year exceeded the original estimate.

(4.6) Cllr Swift advised that Pete Harris had not been able to collect the replacement VAS units as planned. **He agreed to speak with Mr Harris further to obtain an update.**

5.0 COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

(5.1) Cllr Harmer reported that County Hall at Kingston was now closed and SCC were operating from their new location. He advised that the new location would provide opportunities for additional facilities to share the site.

(5.2) Cllr Harmer advised that he had been considering how best to ensure that people are better informed about what is happening at local Government level in a timely manner so that they have the opportunity to comment or get involved.

Discussion took place regarding communications from WBC. It was noted that the Ward Councillors had not attended the meeting for a while but remain supportive to local matters. It was further noted that the Clerk does forward on communications from WBC as required.

6.0 PLANNING ISSUES AND COMMUNICATIONS

(6.1) WA/2020/1872 – Badgers, The Lane, GU8 6QB
Listed building consent for internal and external alterations

Following discussion and review of the documents, it was agreed that the Parish Council had no comment regarding the application.

Ms Jackie Malton joined the meeting at 7.20 pm.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was agreed that as Ms Malton was attending to discuss parking on the recreation ground under Public Question Time, agenda item 9) be discussed at this point in the meeting.

Cllr Mendelsohn advised that following discussion at the previous Parish Council meeting, several Councillors had met and agreed a proposal to install posts in an attempt to control parking by restricting the parking area to three rows of cars. It was noted that contractors had been approached in order to obtain quotes for the work.

Cllr Mendelsohn highlighted that over the Christmas/New Year period there had been an increased number of cars parking on site resulting in the grass area becoming churned up.

Cllr Mendelsohn made reference to the communication from Cllr Hunter received just prior to the meeting to suggest that after considering the original proposal further, only two rows for parking may be appropriate instead of three. Cllr Mendelsohn highlighted that he was concerned however that those cars that were not able to park on the recreation ground would park on the roads and elsewhere in the village instead. It was noted that other local car parks appear to be busier than previously so people are travelling further to find someone to park and exercise on the commons and countryside.

Ms Malton advised that she is aware of the situation due to the location of her property opposite the recreation ground. She advised that she had spoken to local people who were very concerned about the increased use of the recreation ground for parking. She advised that she had the same concerns but was also mindful that the common was available for use by all and not everyone was lucky enough to live in the village.

Ms Malton raised concerns about the common not being used responsibly by users as evidenced by the discarded masks, tissues, poo bags etc. left in the area.

It was confirmed that the play area can remain open during the current lockdown period.

It was agreed that although the current damage to the grass on the recreation ground would recover, there was a need to consider the problem and to resolve it if possible.

Cllr Mendelsohn suggested that the three options for consideration by Councillors were:

- To do nothing and monitor usage following the holiday period
- Restrict parking to 3-4 rows as per the original proposal
- Adopt Cllr Hunter's proposal that two rows were sufficient

It was agreed that whatever decision was made, it was unlikely to be a satisfactory solution for some people and so an explanation of how the decision was made would be necessary.

Councillors were asked for their comments on the three options above. Discussion took place regarding the area of hard standing by Foldsdown which had been installed to allow access to Hammer Pond whilst the works took place. It was suggested that it may be appropriate for additional parking following completion of the works.

It was also suggested that the woodland area on the right of Dye House Road going towards the A3 could be used for additional parking. **Cllr Mendelsohn agreed to speak to Natural England about this suggestion** as he understood that they had taken ownership of the brownfield site when they took on responsibility for the common. It was noted that there is already hard standing on the site.

Cllr Swift suggested it may be appropriate to speak to other stakeholders about the matter such as Surrey Police as it would become their responsibility if cars started to park on the roads in the village if they were not able to access the recreation ground. It was agreed that the intention would not be to just move the problem elsewhere. It was also suggested that parking spaces should be clearly delineated.

There were differing views on whether the recreation ground was common land or not and whether horse riders had right of use. **Cllr Harmer agreed to investigate further and the Clerk was asked to obtain a digital copy of the map from Mr Sean Edwards.**

Councillors agreed that the revised proposal for two rows of cars was the preferred option but that a decision should not be rushed as the problem may have been made worse as a result of the tiering arrangements in place during the holiday period.

Cllr Jenny Else joined the meeting at 7.45 pm.

Following discussion and input from Ms Malton, it was agreed that three quotes for a two-row layout and improved grasscrete would be obtained and that parking would be monitored over the next month to see if the situation improved. It was agreed that further discussion take place at the Parish Council meeting in February.

Cllr Mendelsohn advised that in order to allow for the muddy grass area to recover, he could install a temporary measure to protect it. This was agreed.

It was agreed that Cllr Mendelsohn would highlight the problem of parking on the recreation ground in his monthly report in the next issue of the parish magazine. **He also agreed to speak to Inspector Adcock about the matter** although it was noted that the Police are under immense pressure at the moment due to the current situation.

Discussion took place regarding the possibility of obtaining funds from the Local Allocation Grant to support the costs of any works. Cllr Harmer advised that the application for funds would need to be completed by end February latest. It was noted that any grant would need to be match funded by the Parish Council.

On another matter, Cllr Mendelsohn advised that although not within the remit of the Parish Council, he had been approached to see if he could help to identify a new administrator for the village Facebook page. Discussion took place regarding the purpose of the facility and the need to moderate the content.

Following discussion it was agreed that there was a need for clear rules and guidelines to be adhered to which would allow the administrator/moderators to have control to remove discussions which did not comply. **Cllr Mendelsohn agreed to obtain the rules for the Elstead Facebook page to see if the same could be applied to Thursley.**

Ms Malton and Cllr Owen offered their services as joint administrators. Cllr Hunter raised his concerns about how it may be perceived if a parish councillor moderates the site. Discussion took place regarding the need for it to be made clear that the Facebook page is separate, not within the remit of the Parish Council and that Cllr Owen would be acting in the role in a personal capacity.

Ms Malton was thanked for her attendance and input into the meeting.

Ms Malton left the meeting at 8.07 pm.

Cllr Mendelsohn explained that although the Borough Councillor report agenda item had passed he very much hoped that Councillor Else would speak at this time.

Cllr Else advised that there was little to report at this time but she made reference to her Facebook post about delayed refuse collections as a result of staff sickness.

She advised that WBC were waiting for further information about staff support for the vaccine programme and that the carbon neutrality initiative is continuing. **It was agreed that Cllr Luff would provide Cllr Else with details of the pollutant caused by the generator at Hammer Pond for the previous seven years so that she could pass the information to the appropriate person.**

Cllr Else advised that she would be chairing the work party looking at service level agreements for voluntary organisations such as day centres, Hoppa etc. She advised that the scrutiny work continues and that the group were looking at new ideas on how best to operate.

Cllr Else advised that she was attending the first WBC committee meeting of the new year the following day and that she would continue to post relevant information on the village Facebook pages.

7.0 FINANCE

(7.1) The following list of payments for January was presented and approved for payment:

Voucher Reference	Payee		Amount
0038	e-mango	Hosting and annual charge	£576.00
0039	John Swift	Expenses	£20.80
0040	E. Felton	Salary & expenses	£397.19
0041	HMRC	January payment	£95.60
	TOTAL		£1,089.59

8.0 HIGHWAYS

It was noted that there were no further Highways matters for discussion in addition to those that had taken place earlier in the meeting (see 4.5 above).

9.0 PARKING ON RECREATION GROUND

Please see discussion that had taken place under Public Question Time above.

10.0 HAMMER POND

Cllr Mendelsohn made reference to his recent communications with Ms Marian Spain, CEO of Natural England, regarding the delayed works to Hammer Pond. He advised that she had confirmed that the funding for the project would be available in the next financial year.

Cllr Mendelsohn advised that he had also spoken to Mr Michael Woodhouse, Natural England Project Manager, who had confirmed that the works would start on 1st September 2021 and that all appropriate permissions and contracts would be in place in advance of that date to avoid any further delays. **Following a discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would invite Mr Woodhouse to attend the next meeting.**

It was noted that the sale of the strip of land which was required to allow access to the site was currently in the hands of solicitors and the matter should be resolved shortly.

11.0 ANNUAL RISK ASSESSMENT

(11.1) Discussion took place regarding the 'Recreation Ground – General' section of the risk assessment document. It was agreed that the wording on the section showing regular checks of the access/car park areas was accurate.

The annual risk assessment was approved by Councillors.

(11.2) Following discussion it was agreed that Cllr Mendelsohn and Cllr Swift be provided with access to the One drive. **The Clerk was asked to provide them with the necessary information.**

12.0 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

It was noted that the suggested dates of the Annual Assembly Meeting previously provided to Councillors was not correct and the proposed dates were 22nd or 29th April 2021.

It was agreed that the meeting take place via Zoom with no speaker being invited to present but local organisations invited as previously. It was agreed that the meeting would take place on Thursday 29th April.

13.0 CORRESPONDENCE

(13.1) The Clerk made reference to a communication received from WBC regarding cycle paths across Waverley. Cllr Owen advised that no viable routes had been identified previously.

Cllr Harmer provided details of the cycle route from Elstead to Rodborough and plans to join Haslemere to Farnham and Milford/Elstead to Farnham. He advised that the proposal was to upgrade existing bridleways to provide a route for children to travel safely to school.

Discussion took place regarding the existing routes which could be considered as part of the project. **Cllr Harmer asked that Cllr Owen and Cllr Mendelsohn provide him with details of their suggestions.**

Cllr de Vries suggested that improvement of the bridleways would allow cyclists to continue to speed resulting in horses being frightened. Cllr Harmer confirmed that the intention was not for this to be allowed to happen. He also advised that no BOAT's would be included in the route proposals.

(13.2) The Clerk made reference to a communication received from the insurance company regarding the need to ensure that 'Works in Progress' insurance is required for projects. It was agreed the evidence of this clause should be obtained from the contractor.

14.0 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING

- Items carried forward from above
- Thursley Climate and Sustainability as a regular agenda item – next meeting

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

The date of the next meeting is **Tuesday 2nd February 2021** at 7.00 pm.

Signed

5th February 2021