

THURSLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday 1st December 2020 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 (from 7.15 pm)
Cllr M. de Vries Mrs E. Felton (Clerk)

Also attending were: Cllr D. Harmer (to 7.55 pm) Mr N. Ranson
Waverley Inspector Sam Adcock (to 7.20 pm)

1.0 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

No apologies were necessary. It was noted that Cllr Swift was likely to arrive late.

It was suggested that the agenda order be changed to allow Cllr Harmer to comment before his planned departure from the meeting at 8.00 pm and for Mr N. Ranson to be present for the Thursley Climate & Sustainability Group agenda item in addition to Public Questions time. This was agreed.

2.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Luff declared a personal interest in agenda item to cover discussions regarding application S52/2020/0009 at Warren Park.

No other 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 WAVERLEY POLICE INSPECTOR – Sam Adcock

Cllr Mendelssohn welcomed Inspector Adcock to the meeting and thanked her for her attendance. He provided an overview of the relationship with the local Police previously.

Inspector Adcock provided details of her experience within the Police force. She explained that since her appointment in September two new officers had been appointed to Waverley resulting in a total of four – one per area. It was noted that PC Kat Farmer was the allocated officer for the Haslemere area which includes Thursley and that unfortunately she had not been available to attend the meeting.

Inspector Adcock advised that the number of anti-social behaviour incidents being logged had increased due to all Covid 19 related incidents being recorded in this category.

She advised that it was important that parishioners be encouraged to report activities to the Police either by calling 101 or reporting online on the website or social media sites.

Inspector Adcock advised she was planning to re-launch the Waverley team in the new year and that more neighbourhood and community working was being encouraged.

Cllr Flavell asked if Surrey Police were considering the use of WhatsApp for members of the public to report illegal activities such as anti-social behaviour, motor bikes etc. as she was aware that the arrangement worked well in Hampshire. Inspector Adcock suggested that this could result in a slower response time than using traditional methods to report activities but she asked **Cllr Flavell to provide her with details of the process used in Hampshire so that she could consider it further.**

Cllr Hunter advised that illegal use of the BOAT's and poor traffic management during closure of the Hindhead tunnel were concerns for the parish. He advised that he had been in communication with Mr John Nicholson on the matter of tunnel closures as he understood him to be responsible for tunnels in the South East area. Discussion took place regarding the need for a collaborative traffic management process.

Cllr Mendelssohn thanked Inspector Adcock for attending and advised that the Parish Council looked forward to working with PC Farmer in the future.

Inspector Adcock left the meeting at 7.20 pm.

4.0 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd November 2020 were approved by the Council to be signed by the Chairman.

5.0 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

(5.1) Cllr Mendelssohn advised that the tree issue in Bowlhead Green had been resolved.

(5.2) It was confirmed that the emergency contact list had been sent to Cllr Harmer.

(5.3) It was confirmed that the clearance works by Foldsdown had been reported and would be cleared in due course.

(5.4) It was confirmed that the arrangements for Remembrance Day had taken place.

(5.5) Cllr Mendelssohn confirmed that he had informed Mr James Giles that the suggested use of Ringo for parking on the recreation ground was not required.

(5.6) Cllr Hunter confirmed that he would chase Mr Adrian Selby (SCC) to progress the matter of signage.

(5.7) It was confirmed that WBC intended to speak to the homeowners of the Highfield Lane property to discuss commercial use.

6.0 COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

(6.1) Cllr Harmer provided details of the availability of the Local Allocation Grant funding which has a deadline for receipt of applications in the new year. It was noted that there would be discussions later on in the meeting about parking arrangements on the recreation ground and that it may be appropriate to apply for such funding to support these plans.

(6.2) Cllr Harmer provided details of the 'Your Fund Surrey' funding initiative which would be available for applications over a five-year period but that the details had yet to be finalised. It was noted that the fund could be used for community items but not for highway works.

Cllr Mendelssohn suggested that this may be an appropriate source of funding for the village hall management committee to consider. It was suggested that it may also be appropriate for the 'Preserve our Reserve' committee to consider applying for funds for reinstatement of the boardwalk on the common.

(6.3) Cllr Harmer advised that staff were working from home in the current environment and that some response times had been impacted as a result.

(6.4) Discussion took place regarding the unsatisfactory response received from SCC following a recent incident at High Button which had resulted in emergency services not being able to access the area.

Cllr Harmer agreed to speak to Cllrs David and Jenny Else to discuss a joint area study where all interested parties meet and contribute to the discussions.

(6.5) It was noted that County Hall at Kingston would be closed by Christmas.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr Ranson advised that he had not received a response from SCC regarding the ownership of the land adjacent to his field where fly-tipping had taken place. Discussion took place about whether Surrey Highways or Highways England owned the land.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk reports the fly-tipping to Highways England.

Mr Ranson advised that fly-tipping on French Lane had been cleared but that another heap of rubbish had appeared in the same location earlier in the day. He suggested that the increased number of fly-tipping incidents was as a result of the changes to the community recycling sites. Cllr Harmer advised that there were no restrictions on acceptance of domestic waste at the CRC's.

Cllr Mendelssohn advised that the Parish Council had discussed this matter on several occasions and had contributed to the debates on behalf of the village. It was suggested that generally WBC were efficient at removing rubbish. Mr Ranson suggested that it was an on-going problem for the farming community for rubbish to be dumped on private land.

Cllr de Vries highlighted that a parishioner had written to WBC regarding graffiti on the underpass on Boundless but that a response had not yet been received. Following discussion it was suggested that the matter be reported to Highways England using their online reporting facility. **Cllr de Vries agreed to speak to the parishioner to take the necessary steps to report the matter.**

Mr Ranson reported that there were overgrown hedges on the southbound slip road off of the A3 and adjacent to Milhanger. **It was agreed that the Clerk would speak to Mr Steve Lindsey-Clark (SCC) and Highways England about the issue.**

Cllr Harmer advised that he was working with his counterpart responsible for the eastern villages to set of community clusters so that Parish Councils can work together with a wider remit.

Cllr Harmer left at 7.55 pm.

7.0 THURSLEY CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

Cllr Mendelsohn advised that following the previous meeting, further discussions had taken place on this matter and as a result he had prepared a paper for Councillors to consider. It was noted that the paper had also been circulated to Councillors in advance of the meeting and shared with members of the Thursley Climate & Sustainability group and Mr Ranson.

He advised that he had checked the figures that had been disputed at the previous meeting and felt that they were accurate but he appreciated that climate emergency is an emotive subject and that different parties look at issues from their own, genuinely held, perspectives.

It was noted that the original intent was to highlight the matter within the parish and have interested parties work as a sub-committee of the Parish Council. Cllr Mendelsohn suggested that the debate had moved to a more technical position so suggested that it was more appropriate for it to work outside of the remit of the Parish Council.

Councillors confirmed that they were happy to accept the proposal but hoped that interested parties would continue to play their part to raise awareness and generate discussions as there had been some positive outcomes such as the tree planting initiative etc.

Cllr Hunter suggested that as originally suggested, Mr Ranson should prepare an article for inclusion in the parish magazine to inform people of the good work he is doing on the farm to reduce the carbon footprint as a responsible landowner. Mr Ranson confirmed that he planned to prepare such an article.

8.0 PLANNING ISSUES AND COMMUNICATIONS

(8.1) WA/2020/1668 – Heath Hall, Bowlhead Green, GU8 6NW
Erection of extension and alterations to elevation including fenestration

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

(8.2) S52/2020/0009 – Warren Park, Portsmouth Road, Thursley, GU8 6NE
Request to modify a Section 52 (legal agreement to provide 1 additional mobile home)

Following discussion and review of the documents, it was agreed that the Parish Council had no comment regarding the application but the following points be highlighted to WBC:

- The Parish Council support the concerns raised by Natural England with regards development being in close proximity to a Special Protection Area (SPA)
- There are existing safety concerns with regards the access/egress to the site which could be further impacted by an increase in the number of homes

- The site is at risk of over-development

(8.3) Cllr Mendelsohn provided an overview of the outcome of the recent Architect Registration Board meeting to discuss matters relating to Haybarn.

9.0 FINANCE

(9.1) The following list of payments for December was presented:

Voucher Reference	Payee		Amount
0035	RJ Playground Services	Play area works	£810.00
0036	E. Felton	Salary & expenses	£397.19
0037	HMRC	December payment	£95.60
	TOTAL		£1,302.79

(9.2) The draft budget for 2021-22 was discussed including the projected carry-forward amount for this year and the estimated closing balance next year. Following discussion it was confirmed that the draft budget for 2021-22 be approved.

(9.3) Cllr Swift provided an overview of the historical discussions that had taken place regarding the Precept over previous years. It was noted that the Precept had not been increased over the last few years and that a healthy balance existed. It was noted that if the Precept remained at the same level for next year, there was unlikely to be a significant increase of the closing balance at the end of March 2022.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Precept remain at the current rate of £15,155 for the 2021-22 period. The Clerk was asked to complete the form required by WBC before the deadline date.

10.0 HIGHWAYS

(10.1) Following discussion, **Cllr Hunter and Cllr Swift agreed to attempt to speak with Kier regarding the arrangements in the event of a planned closure of the tunnel.**

(10.2) Cllr Mendelsohn and Cllr Owen provided details of their proposal to install wooden posts to control the parking of cars on the recreation ground to ensure that the area could be used safely by all and to limit damage to the grass.

It was agreed that parking was a problem in the local area and that some sort of control was needed. It was suggested that Natural England may need to consider their responsibility as part of the process as many visitors park on the recreation ground to visit the common.

The different proposals for the layout of the posts were discussed. Following discussion it was agreed that those Councillors that were available would meet on the recreation ground at 11.00 am on Saturday 5th December 2020 to progress the matter.

11.0 VAS UPDATE

Cllr Swift advised that the current unit is faulty and needs to be replaced. **He agreed to continue to progress the matter so that a working unit can be installed.**

12.0 HUG MEETING REPORT

Cllr de Vries advised that she had attended a HUG meeting earlier in the day where discussions had taken place regarding the possible need for the equestrian community to apply for permits to ride on some bridleways on Hankley Common and plans to improve bridleway signage.

She advised that the MOD intended to increase their use of drones on Hankley common and the need for them to keep away from people and horses by a distance of 120 metres.

Cllr de Vries advised that discussion had taken place about the ownership of the access road by October Farm. Cllr Hunter suggested that the landowner had been identified when the matter had been raised previously. It was suggested that Mr Sean Edwards may be able to help.

13.0 CORRESPONDENCE

(13.1) The Clerk reported that communications/correspondence had been passed to Councillors electronically upon receipt and that recent emails had included information regarding the Local Plan Part 2 pre-submission consultation, census awareness, tunnel closures, boundary review meetings, winter preparedness information and Click it local.

(13.2) It was noted that after communications with Natural England, works at Hammer Pond were unlikely to take place until the new year.

(13.3) Cllr Mendelssohn reported that WBC had confirmed that the CIL funding application to support reinstatement of the boardwalk on Thursley common would not be considered until after the new deadline date of the end of January 2021.

He advised that following discussion with Natural England, he would, on behalf of the Preserve Our Reserve committee, be preparing a paper to share with parishioners in both parishes and others to provide them with an update on the current plans for the common. It was noted that Natural England are keen to ensure that the plans consider all possible options for improvement of the site.

(13.4) Cllr Hunter highlighted concerns regarding the poor condition of the BOATs. It was confirmed that all incidents should be reported to the Police. Discussion took place regarding the liability of SCC to ensure emergency access is possible.

14.0 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING

- Items carried forward from above

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

The date of the next meeting is **Tuesday 5th January 2021** at 7.00 pm.

Signed

5th January 2021