

THURSLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday 7th December 2021 at 7.00 pm
At Thursley Village Hall

Attendees: Cllr J. Mendelssohn (Chair) Cllr H. Flavell Cllr M. de Vries
Cllr D. Sellars Cllr J. Swift Mrs E. Felton (Clerk)

Also attending were: Ms Camilla Daubeney

1.0 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr Luff, Cllr Jenny Else, Cllr David Else and Cllr Harmer due to personal and business commitments. These apologies were accepted.

Cllr Mendelssohn reported that following some unfortunate comments made by a Councillor at our November meeting, he had spoken to the Councillor involved who immediately apologised, recognising the inappropriateness of his comments and said that a lesson had been learned.

On the basis of this freely volunteered response and the independent advice received from the Waverley Monitoring Officer, Cllr Mendelssohn said that he would like to suggest that a line should be drawn under this incident. He also said that no future breaches would be tolerated and he reminded all Councillors of the need to adhere closely to the Code of Conduct which, amongst other things, requires everyone to be treated with respect. The Council agreed with this approach.

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 2nd November 2021 were approved by the Council to be signed by the Chairman.

4.0 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

(4.1) Cllr Mendelssohn advised that following further communications with WBC and support from Cllr Jenny Else, regarding the fly-tipping in Bowlhead Green, the rubbish had now been removed and WBC were reviewing their systems.

(4.2) The Clerk reported that the neighbouring Parish Councils experience the same problems with viewing the planning documents on the WBC planning portal. It was noted the quality of downloaded documents enlarged for viewing at meetings is poor. **It was agreed that this issue would be raised with Mr Z. Ellwood at the meeting being arranged in the new year.**

Following discussion, Cllr Sellars agreed to speak to Valerie Jacobi at WBC on the matter.

(4.3) It was noted that a response had been received from Ms Hannah Gutteridge (SCC) advising that a contribution for footpath improvements would not make a difference to the timescale for the works as delays were due to a lack of contractors to do the work.

Cllr Swift advised that SCC do not repair styles but that Mr Richard Knight has the appropriate liability insurance and would be able to undertake the repairs if necessary. **Cllr Swift was asked to make arrangements as required.**

(4.4) It was noted that the online banking issue has been resolved and that no changes to the authorisation approvals were required.

(4.5) **Cllr Sellars agreed to speak to Mr Peter Hunter to obtain an update on use of the solar panels for the VAS unit when it is returned to its original site.**

(4.6) Cllr Mendelssohn provided an update on the Islamabad community's involvement with the cricket club. He provided an overview of the history of the pavilion and the existing agreements in place with the cricket club.

He made reference to the Bamboo Bakery proposal which had been provided to members in advance of the meeting. It was suggested that as well as supporting local entrepreneurial activities and providing a village coffee shop, use of the pavilion by others may provide an income for the cricket club to help maintain the building and grounds as a valuable asset for the village.

It was agreed that although additional use of the building would be good, the Parish Council would need to consider any potential risk liability and other issues such as parking, removal of rubbish etc. It was noted that all food preparation would not take place on site and all electrical equipment would have the appropriate PAT testing.

Discussion took place regarding the preparation of a new lease/agreement with the cricket club to include provision for the Parish Council to have involvement of any sub-leasing licences for third party users such as the Bamboo Bakery and Bridge Club.

Following discussion it was agreed that Cllr Mendelssohn and Cllr Flavell would meet with Mr Barry Rapley from the cricket club to agree a lease/agreement for use of the pavilion including reference to sub-letting licences . It was agreed that the agreement should include a clause about BBQ's not being allowed on the recreation ground due to the risk of fire on the common.

Councillors agreed that support for the Bamboo Bakery proposal.

Ms Daubeney left the meeting at 7.39 pm.

5.0 COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

No County or Borough Councillors were present.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No members of the public were present.

6.0 PLANNING ISSUES AND COMMUNICATIONS

(6.1) WA/2021/02719 – Pax Cottage, 2 The Lane, GU8 2QB
Erection of wood framed greenhouse, open fronted log shed and freestanding hot tub.

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

(6.2) WA/2021/02703 – The Briary, Highfield Lane, GU8 6QQ
Erection of extensions and alterations, with dormer extension in roof to provide additional habitable accommodation following demolition of existing conservatory and detached garage.

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

(6.3) WA/2021/02765 – The Briary, Highfield Lane, GU8 6QQ
Change of use of land from agricultural to equestrian; erection of a stable block.

Following discussion and review of the documents online, it was agreed that the Parish Council had NO COMMENT regarding the application but that it should be requested that if the application were to be approved a restriction be attached to show that it should be used for non-commercial use only.

(6.4) WA/2021/01802 – Tilhurst, Dye House Road, GU8 6QD
Application under Section 73 to vary Condition 1 of WA/2020/1454 (approved plan numbers) to allow alterations to elevations; roof overhang; garage roofline; conservatory fascia height and removal of skylights (as amplified by amended plan received 4/11/2021 and by email of 19/11/2021)

Following discussion and review of the documents online, it was agreed that the Parish Council had NO COMMENT regarding the application but that a note should be added asking that no uncovered blockwork be in sight as per the original application.

The Clerk was asked to query with WBC about Councillors not being informed about amendments to a Tilhurst application.

The Clerk was asked to request the homeowner of Tilhurst to clear the Parish Council owned land in front of his property before the Christmas period.

(6.7) WA/2021/02850 – Overbrook, Pitch Place, GU8 6QW
Erection of garage following demolition of existing

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

(6.8) WA/2021/02910 – Hill Farm Barn, Highfield Lane, GU8 6QQ
Certificate of lawfulness under s191 for use of the 'outbuilding' as a separate residential dwelling and has been used as such for more than 4 years.

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

(6.9) Cllr Swift advised that he had attend a recent Western Villages meeting to discuss prioritisation of the Lengthsmen scheme work. It was noted that SCC had not yet been advised of their budget by central Government.

Cllr Swift advised that at the meeting Mr Adrian Selby advised that the County Council had no statutory duty to maintain verges and hedging etc. adjacent to the highway as it was the landowners' responsibility. **Cllr Swift advised that he would ask for clarification of what services SCC used to provide but no longer do from Cllr Harmer.**

Cllr Swift advised that it had been made clear that there was no longer funding available for gully cleaning, jetting etc. and that the flooding problem on French Lane was likely to continue.

It was noted that following a reorganisation, there were more staff available to deal with issues centrally and that local teams would be engaged to undertake the work. Cllr Swift advised that Frensham Parish Council Clerk intended to enter the list of works for the Western Villages onto the Surrey portal. Discussion took place about the new process of reporting works via the portal. **It was suggested that the Clerk uploads the works relating to Thursley. Cllr Swift agreed to provide the Clerk with details.**

(6.10) Cllr Mendelssohn reported that Mr Woodhouse from Natural England had been in touch with him to advise that the Environment Agency supported the application for the bridge works. It was noted that works were due to commence at Hammer Pond in September 2022.

(6.11) Cllr Mendelssohn advised that unfortunately a meeting which was due to take place the following day with a Natural England representative to discuss replacement of the boardwalks on the common had been cancelled. It was noted that consent was needed to allow for materials and machinery to be stored on the corner by Truxford on the Thursley Road whilst the works take place. Cllr Mendelssohn advised that he understood that the main and sub-contractors had been appointed and that the intention was to start the work in January 2022. It was noted that the cost of the project had increased significantly.

7.0 FINANCE

(7.1) The list of payments for December were authorised and approved for payment as follows:

Voucher Reference	Payee		Amount
0045	Surrey ALC Ltd	Attendance at conference	£42.00
0046	Thursley Cricket club	Grass cutting	£50.00
0047	Rachel bottomley	Xmas party entertainer	£135.00
0048	Thursley History Society	VE exhibition	£309.39
0049	Thursley Village Hall	Room hire for VE display	£175.00
0050	e-mango	Website	£576.00
0051	John Swift	Expenses	£225.23
0052	E. Felton	Salary & Expenses	£400.79
0053	HMRC	December payment	£95.60
	TOTAL		£2,009.01

(7.2) Cllr Owen raised a query about the cost of the website hosting and support package. **Following discussion it was agreed that the current renewal be paid but that review of the website requirements take place during summer 2022 to determine whether there is an alternative option available to manage the website.**

(7.3) It was noted that the VE exhibition event had been good and well attended. Cllr Mendelssohn reported that there had been good attendance at the opening of the newly installed bench. It was noted that the Princess of Wales Regiment's ambassador who had attended would be providing a number of copies of a historical publication.

Cllr Swift and Cllr Sellars were thanked for their work on the day of the events.

(7.4) Discussion took place regarding the budget review document for 2021-22 showing actuals to end November 2021 and the draft budget for 2022-23. It was agreed that the reserves position needed to be maintained to allow for emergency situations. It was noted that grass cutting costs may increase in the future and the potential impact this may have on the reserves position. Discussion took place regarding the amount allocated to footpaths in the current and next year budget.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Precept amount remain at the same level as previous years. **The Clerk was asked to inform WBC that the Precept amount for Thursley Parish Council for the 2022-23 period would remain at £15,155.**

(7.5) Cllr Mendelssohn agreed to include in his report in the Parish magazine a reminder for home and landowners about their responsibility regarding clearance of overgrown shrubs/hedging and trees adjacent to footpaths.

(7.6) Cllr Swift advised that an amount of £500 had been included in the budget for preparation of a separate website for climate action and sustainability articles. It was noted that several local Parish Councils do have a separate site. He advised that the actual cost is

likely to be approx. £300 and that he would bring the proposal once available to the Parish Council for approval.

Discussion took place regarding whether this was an effective use of funds. It was suggested that should the Boundary Review recommendations be accepted, Thursley would be grouped with Churt and Frensham and that there may be some merit of considering making collaborative arrangements. Cllr Swift suggested that it would be preferable to control the local vision. Following discussion it was agreed that the amount remain in the budget for 2022-23 and that the website proposal be revisited following the outcome of the Boundary Review being know.

(7.7) Cllr Swift provided an overview of the position with regards to replacement of the seating area around the oak tree on the recreation ground. Copies of designs had been available to Councillors in advance of the meeting.

Following discussion it was agreed to award the work to a local craftsmen and his bespoke design without a backrest at a total cost of £1,335 including installation. **The Clerk was asked to speak to SCC regarding increasing the amount of Local Allocation Grant funding which had been received to support the purchase.**

8.0 HIGHWAYS/VAS

(8.1) Cllr Swift advised that John Nichols had informed him that swift gates were being installed at the Hindhead tunnel to allow for an improved closure of lanes and better diversion options. It was noted that further closures of the tunnel would be necessary to allow for testing of the newly installed gates.

(8.2) Cllr Swift reported that during recent tunnel closures there had been improved signage in place. He suggested that some of the problem with traffic issues was that drivers do not follow the diversion routes in place. Cllr Owen raised a concern from a parishioner in Pitch Place regarding the increased flow of traffic through that part of the village. It was suggested that this was a national issue and not easily resolved as drivers will follow their satnavs.

(8.3) Cllr Mendelsohn advised that following a recent bad accident at the junction of Old Portsmouth Road and Dye House Road he had contacted Lucy Monie, Director of Highways and Transport for Surrey, about the need for improved signage and white lining. It was noted that this had already been raised with the Highways team several times previously and that a site meeting with Mr Selby was due to take place later in the week to discuss resolution of the problem.

9.0 CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY

(9.1) Cllr Swift advised that Surrey University were on board with working with local councils on a Vision 2030 project and that a recruitment process was currently taking place to identify who might be interested. It was noted that the next step would be to work with Churt, Tilford and possibly Woneresh PC's to determine the next step.

(9.2) Cllr Swift advised that discussion had taken place regarding inclusion of climate/sustainability feature on planning applications and how this might become policy.

Cllr Swift advised that there was a half day meeting arranged in March 2002 in Wonersh to make further progress.

(9.3) Cllr Swift advised that an application had been made to the Surrey Treescape scheme. Following discussion about the need to inform Surrey where the trees are to be planted, it was agreed that some could be planted by the track leading to the cricket club on the recreation ground. It was agreed not to plant any adjacent to the play area. It was suggested that some trees could be planted in Bowlhead Green and others provided as a virtual wood.

(9.4) Cllr Swift advised that he had placed an order for one hundred and ninety two saplings as part of the tree initiative scheme but they had not yet arrived. It was noted that more volunteers to help with the planting of the trees would be needed.

10.0 WAVERLEY ELECTORAL REVIEW

It was agreed that there were no additional comments to make other than those agreed at a previous meeting. It was noted that the recommendations which WBC had suggested did not affect the original proposal with regards to the village.

11.0 BAMBOO BAKERY PROPOSAL

See 4.6) above.

12.0 FARNBOROUGH AIRPORT NOISE

Discussion took place regarding the extension to the consultation and the plan to commence collecting data for from March 2022. It was noted that a presentation was due to take place the following morning on the matter at a meeting which Cllr Swift would be attending. **It was agreed that the matter be discussed at the January meeting.**

13.0 JANUARY 2022 MEETING DATE

It was noted that the January 2022 Parish Council meeting would take place on Wednesday 5th January (instead of Tuesday 4th).

14.0 CORRESPONDENCE

(14.1) The Clerk advised that all correspondence had been provided to Councillors in advance of the meeting.

(14.2) Cllr Swift advised that a fly-tipping incident involving a burnt out scrambler bike had been left on Greensands Way.

(14.3) Cllr de Vries advised that the first meeting of the group to discuss the Queens Jubilee events will take place in the first week of January. She provided a couple of ideas to be included in the schedule of activities leading up to a main event. It was noted that any activities would need to be co-ordinated within the village with other parties.

(14.4) Cllr de Vries advised that the HUG meeting had been postponed to January 2022.

(14.5) Cllr Mendelssohn advised that Hannah Gutteridge had arranged for the large craters in the road leading to the car park at the dropping zone to be filled in due to them being dangerous even though the area was the responsibility of the MOD.

15.0 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING

- Items carried forward from above

The meeting closed at 9.44 pm.

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 5th January 2022 at 7.00 pm.

Signed

5th January 2022