

THURSLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday 6th April 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)

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

4.0 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

(4.1) Cllr Harmer advised that he had not yet been able to identify who owned the land on which the fly-tipping had taken place but that he would continue to attempt to do so.

(4.2) Cllr Mendelssohn confirmed that he had written to WBC regarding the change of use of the land at Hindhead Hill Farm but that the situation now appeared to be under control with no further action needed at this time.

(4.3) Cllr Mendelssohn confirmed that along with Cllr Swift has established good lines of communication with Highways England and it had not therefore been necessary to contact Catherine Blofield.

(4.4) It was confirmed that Cllr Swift had passed the Welcome Pack information to Cllr De Vries. It was suggested that the pack should be updated as and when necessary and the master version be made available on the website. It was noted that Cllr Swift would continue to oversee the Bowlhead Green version, Cllr Mendelssohn would distribute the pack within Thursley and Cllr Owen would distribute it in Pitch Place.

(4.5) Cllr Hunter confirmed that he was in the process of preparing the highways folder to hand it over to Cllr Swift.

(4.6) Cllr De Vries advised that following the previous meeting she had realised that Cllr Flavell already had the contact details of the trail bike riders association so no further action was required.

5.0 COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

(5.1) Cllr Harmer advised that the service dressing work on Thursley Road had started but that some sections had deteriorated more than had been anticipated so some further analysis was taking place. It was noted that a rolling road operation was in place with access points as required.

Cllr Harmer advised that he had raised a concern with Highways England about the impact on the local road network if the Hindhead tunnel was closed whilst the work on Thursley Road was taking place.

(5.2) Cllr Harmer advised that Tilford Road would also be closed for a short period so that resurfacing works could take place from Pride of the Valley to Hyde Lane. It was noted that this work was due to take place at night.

(5.3) Cllr Harmer advised that there were a lot of road works planned to cover a three-year period of the major road works programme during this financial year. He advised that he was in close contact with the coordinator and that he would keep Councillors informed of any changes.

(5.4) In response to a question from Cllr Luff regarding the yellow lines painted prior to works taking place, Cllr Harmer advised that this was to deter people from parking in the area where the works would take place. Discussion took place regarding the powers that enable the contractors to remove vehicles blocking the area if advance warning of the work has taken place.

(5.5) Cllr Harmer advised that from 1st April 2021, utility companies undertaking work on the road system would have to pay for each side of the road on which they were working within the terms of their licence as an incentive for them to complete the work within the agreed timescale.

6.0 PLANNING ISSUES AND COMMUNICATIONS

(6.1) WA/2021/0331 – Holly Tree Cottage, French Lane GU8 6NW
Erection of greenhouse following demolition of existing greenhouse.

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

(6.2) WA/2021/0401 – Kestrel Wood Stables, Highfield Lane, GU8 6QJ
Alterations to existing stable 'b' to provide a dwelling following demolition of hay barn, office and shed; relocation of vehicular site access.

Following discussion and review of the documents, it was agreed that the Parish Council had no comment regarding this application but that this was subject to certain conditions if WBC were minded to grant planning permission. **It was agreed the Cllr Flavell and the Clerk would prepare a statement for submission.**

(6.3) WA/2021/0469 & 0470 – Shepherds Cottage, The Lane, GU8 6QB
Erection of extensions, alterations and detached garage following demolition of existing extension and garage/Listed Building Consent

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

(6.4) Cllr Mendelsohn provided an overview of the proceedings at the recent appeal hearing for the Grooms house at Haybarn. He advised that the hearing had lasted longer than expected and that the Inspector had undertaken a site visit.

It was noted that WBC had not provided the Inspector with the required documentation including all of the objections and comments at the time of the original application. Cllr Mendelsohn advised that the Enforcement Team had subsequently prepared a folder for the Inspector to consider as part of the decision-making process.

Discussion took place regarding WBC's role within the process. It was agreed that the Parish Council wait for the outcome of the appeal prior to any further discussion taking place.

(6.5) Cllr Mendelsohn advised that following comments he had received from parishioners regarding the development taking place at Tilhurst, he had spoken to the owner who had subsequently spoken to the WBC Planning Officer about the matter and submitted a new planning application.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Cllr Mendelsohn raised a concern from parishioners about the amount of litter in the village. Discussion took place about the possibility of a spring litter pick event. Cllr Swift advised that he had spoken to the person at WBC who coordinated such events and that WBC were not currently in a position to provide support through the supply of litter picker equipment etc. but that they hoped to be able to in the near future.

Discussion took place regarding the safety elements of any voluntary litter pick arrangements.

Following discussion Cllr Owen agreed to speak to WBC to see how they could support a litter pick in May and then arrange the publicity through the parish magazine, social media etc. It was agreed that the volunteers should be informed of the safety arrangements and asked not to litter pick on the roads.

It was agreed that litter on the A3 was a problem but that Highways England were responsible for its removal.

Cllr Mendelsohn advised that he had received several positive comments following the installation of the posts on the recreation ground. Discussion took place regarding the best method of drainage on the site. It was noted that a quote for additional works had been requested from the contractor but that this had not yet been received.

It was noted that there is one removeable post which is secured by a padlock. Cllr Mendelssohn advised that the combination lock number is the same as the barrier onto the recreation ground and is known to several parties.

7.0 FINANCE

(7.1) The following list of payments for April were presented and were duly authorised and approved for payment:

Voucher Reference	Payee		Amount
001/21	Surrey ALC Ltd	Annual subscription	£214.61
002/21	Mr & Mrs Ranson	Defibrillator power supply	£66.00
003/21	Mr A Kostenko	Defibrillator power supply	£66.00
004/21	Mrs E Felton	Salary & Expenses	£400.99
005/21	HMRC	April payment	£95.40
	TOTAL		£843.00

(7.2) It was noted that the following payments had been included in the financial year 2019-20:

Voucher Reference	Payee		Amount
0051	Richard Field	Works on recreation ground	£876.00
0052	James Mendelssohn	Purchase of padlocks	£6.99
0053	E. Felton	Printing & delivery	£40.21
0054	SCC	Refund	£270.00
	TOTAL		£1,193.20

(7.3) Cllr Mendelssohn advised that the cost of charging the VAS batteries had been calculated and although minimal, Mr Richard Bates should be reimbursed for the amount. **The Clerk was asked to make arrangements for this to take place next month.**

Cllr Hunter agreed to speak to Cllr Swift regarding installation of the solar panels on the VAS unit.

(7.4) The Budget review document for 2020-21 showing actuals for the 2019-20 period was available to Councillors in advance of the meeting. Cllr Swift confirmed that he had completed his final quarterly review of the accounts information in advance of the annual internal audit.

It was noted that the Parish Council could request a certificate of exemption again for 2019-20 so an external audit would not be required.

8.0 HIGHWAYS

Cllr Swift advised that along with Cllr Harmer, he had met with Mr John Nicholas and Mr Sanjiv Uppal of Highways England to discuss the traffic problems associated with tunnel closures. Cllr Swift advised that they intended to speak to Kier to resolve the matter. It was noted that there had been some discussion about traffic regulatory orders but that the requirement for advance notice would be an issue. Discussion took place regarding the manpower required to be at the site of the closure if the incorrect signage continues to be an issue.

Discussion took place regarding Police attendance during a recent tunnel closure following Cllr Swift's attempts to manage the traffic.

Cllr Mendelsohn thanked Cllr Swift and Cllr Harmer for their efforts to ensure that the matter is resolved.

9.0 HAMMER POND UPDATE

Cllr Mendelsohn advised that he had received a report from Michael Woodhouse to provide an update on progress at Hammer Pond as follows:

- The Environment Agency (EA) had accepted the design and supporting flow information to allow free passage of fish up Royal Brook and beyond
- Flood risk mapping has been submitted to the EA and a formal acknowledgement is due shortly
- Acquisition of two parcels of land are due to completed with the third wet woodland area progressing to a conclusion
- Intention is to resubmit a planning application shortly once formal EA approval is given

It was noted that the intention was to widen the two pipes by the bridge but that this was less critical than the main water flow arrangements.

Cllr Mendelsohn advised that he had spoken to Mr Keith Powell who appeared to be generally comfortable with the arrangements.

10.0 GREEN SPACES/GRASS CUTTING

Cllr Swift made reference to the map showing the mowing areas in Thursley that had been made available to Councillors in advance of the meeting. He advised that SCC and WBC had adopted policies to reduce or stop mowing grass verges due to the biodiversity crisis affecting wildlife.

He suggested that the Parish Council may want to consider adopting a similar arrangement in Thursley. It was noted that other Parish Councils had already implemented such an arrangement. Discussion took place regarding the potential areas which could be left as wildflower areas. Following discussion, Councillors agreed that it was a good idea but that it would need to be monitored to gauge people's reaction.

It was agreed that it may be appropriate for the area in front of Tilhurst to remain as a wildflower area once the construction works are completed. It was also agreed that the Clump should have pathways mown to allow access to the benches but that the remainder is left.

It was agreed that Cllr Mendelssohn would speak with Mr Richard Bates regarding the areas to be mown. Cllr Swift advised that there were also areas in Bowlhead Green that would be left to grow.

Discussion took place regarding work that may still be required to maintain the wildflower areas. Cllr De Vries offered the services of her gardener to provide advice on how to proceed.

Cllr De Vries agreed to write an article on the matter for inclusion in the parish magazine.

11.0 THURSLEY CHARITIES

Cllr Mendelssohn made reference to an email communication received regarding the appointment of trustees to the Thursley Charities.

Councillors approved the appointments of Nina Allen and Clare Norris as trustees.

12.0 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

Cllr Mendelssohn advised that he had met with Cllr Swift and agreed the format of the assembly meeting on 29th April 2021 to include a brief debate on the subject of charitable donations.

Discussion took place about the need to encourage parishioners to attend the virtual meeting and provide them with details of how to join the meeting via Zoom.

Cllr Mendelssohn highlighted that he had received Cllr Hunter's retirement letter following his service to the community as a Parish Councillor for over thirty years. It was noted that he intended to address this more formally at the assembly meeting.

Cllr Hunter was thanked by Councillors for his support and guidance on local matters.

13.0 CORRESPONDENCE

It was noted that correspondence is usually shared with Councillors at the time of receipt.

There was discussion on the following items of correspondence:

- Advice received from WBC regarding their recommendation for funds following the CIL application to support reinstatement of the boardwalk on the common. It was noted that the funding amount would be confirmed following a WBC Executive meeting.

Cllr Mendelssohn advised that an application for funds from 'Your Fund Surrey' had been postponed until advice is received regarding the outcome of the CIL application. It was noted that Natural England were keen to start the works during the summer months.

- It was noted that face to face meetings were to be reintroduced from 7th May 2021. Discussion took place regarding the preference for meetings to continue via Zoom. It was noted that further advice on the matter may be available in advance of the June meeting but that the meeting on 4th May would be held virtually.

- It was confirmed that, following Cllr Hunter’s retirement, the formal process of appointing a replacement had started and that unless an election is necessary, a co-option process will take place at either the May or June Parish Council meeting.
- It was noted that Cllr De Vries had attended a recent HUG meeting when ownership and maintenance of the bridleway providing access onto Hankley Common, between Truxford Corner and the Dropping Zone had been discussed.

Cllr Harmer advised that the priority bridleway at present was the one from Elstead to Witley. He suggested that the matter could be discussed at the next Western Villages meeting but that works would not be possible this year. Cllr De Vries agreed to make contact with Mr John Casey who had raised a concern about the bridleway to keep him informed.

14.0 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING

- Items carried forward from above

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

The date of the next meeting is **Tuesday 4th May 2021** at 7.00 pm.

Signed

4th May 2021