

THURSLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting

Monday 5th December 2022 at 7.00 pm
at Thursley Village Hall

Attendees: Cllr J. Mendelssohn (Chair) Cllr de Vries Cllr J. Luff
 Cllr R. Owen Cllr J. Swift Mrs E. Felton (Clerk)

Also attending were: Cllr D. Harmer (SCC) Mr & Mrs Smart (from 7.11 to 7.29 pm)

1.0 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr Flavell.

2.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Owen declared an interest in the planning application reference WA/2022/02842.

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 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st November 2022 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

4.0 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

(4.1) Cllr Mendelssohn advised that he had a meeting the following day with representatives from SCA and a Housing Association to discuss affordable housing in the parish. It was noted that there had not been any communication received from Natural England on the subject.

(4.2) It was confirmed that Cllr Flavell had prepared registration documents for an area of land in the parish.

(4.3) It was agreed that Cllr Swift would raise a request on the SCC website for information relating to an area of land in Bowlhead Green.

(4.4) It was noted that there was a Preserve Our Reserve meeting the following day at which the Natural England materials would be discussed.

(4.5) It was noted that the response from Ms Katie Stewart (SCC) had not addressed the questions and concerns raised. It was agreed that this would be discussed further as a later agenda item.

(4.6) It was confirmed that the list of works had been prioritised in advance of the Western Villages meeting as requested.

(4.7) Cllr Mendelsohn confirmed that a new defibrillator unit has been installed in Highfield Lane and a second will be installed in the High Button area in due course.

(4.8) The Clerk advised that it had been confirmed that the CIL funding could be used to purchase the defibrillators.

Mr Alex Smart and Mrs Maggie Smart arrived at 7.11 pm.

It was agreed that Public Question Time take place in advance of the County Councillor report as members of the public were present.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Cllr Mendelsohn provided an overview of the previous discussions regarding a cypress tree on land which the Parish Council owned in front of Tilhurst. It was noted that the roots of the tree are causing concerns with regards to possible damage to the property and a paving area.

Cllr Mendelsohn advised that WBC had given Mr & Mrs Smart approval to remove the cypress tree but they required permission of the landowner to do so. He suggested that the three options for Councillors to consider were 1) to allow Mr & Mrs Smart to remove the tree at their cost 2) to allow Mr & Mrs Smart remove the tree at their cost and there be a written agreement with conditions about what it should be replaced with or 3) that the tree should not be removed.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the tree could be removed at cost to Mr & Mrs Smart and that the Parish Council would obtain advice from a local tree expert about what species of tree they should plant in its place and the suggested location. It was agreed that a mature tree (or trees) should be planted rather than a sapling. **Cllr Mendelsohn agreed to discuss with the tree expert and Mr & Mrs Smart the type of tree(s) they should purchase and provide a document for their signed approval.**

Mr & Mrs Smart left the meeting at 7.29 pm.

5.0 COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

(5.1) Cllr Harmer provided an update on discussions at SCC with regards to budgets. He advised that Central Government had advised that CC's could increase their Council Tax by 3% and their Adult Care precept by 2% without referendums being needed. He advised that the Executive would make their recommendation for consideration at the February meeting following confirmation from Central Government of costs and finalised contributions.

It was noted that the Adult Social Care bill had been delayed by two years. Cllr Harmer explained the issues connected with this proposal.

Cllr Harmer advised that SCC would be looking at making savings in advance of approving the final budget for 2023-24. He advised that the cost of bitumen and oil had impacted the Highways budget.

(5.2) Cllr Harmer advised that the maintenance works relating to highways should not be impacted by budgetary constraints (e.g. hedge-cutting etc.). He advised that SCC are taking back responsibility for verge cutting etc. so this service should improve.

He explained that the two priority road works for next year related to Thursley Road in Elstead and a section of the A287 from Churt towards Farnham.

(5.3) It was noted that although the WBC Ward Councillors are not able to attend meetings, they are available on a day to day basis to support the Parish Council and parishioners as required.

6.0 PLANNING ISSUES AND COMMUNICATIONS

(6.1) WA/2022/02842 – Kettlebury, Pitch Place, GU8 6QW
Application under S73 to vary condition 1 of WA/2022/00228 (approved plans) to allow changes to design.

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

(6.2) WA/2022/02912 & 2913 – Hill Farm Barn, Highfield Lane, GU8 6QQ
Application under section 19 of the planning (listed buildings and conservation areas) act 1990 to vary condition 1 of WA/2021/01967 (approved plans) to allow changes to design.

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

(6.3) Following discussion regarding a recent communication regarding a written representation appeal for the groom's accommodation at Haybarn, **it was agreed that the Clerk resubmit the original comments to the Planning Inspectorate.**

(6.4) It was noted that as the owner of Warren Park has not cooperated with the enforcement notice requesting that they remove the signage at the entrance, the matter has been passed to the WBC legal team.

(6.5) Discussion took place regarding the communication received regarding a proposal for installation of an upgrade base station at Cornerstone, Witley Park. It was agreed that no comment was required.

(6.6) Discussion took place about why the homes at Warren Park do not meet the criteria for receipt of CIL funds. **The Clerk was asked to request clarification of this.**

7.0 FINANCE

(7.1) Cllr Mendelsohn advised that the new Clerk pay scales for 2022-23 had been received and he had prepared a letter to the Clerk to inform her of the new salary amount and that the increase be backdated to April 2022. The new pay amount was approved.

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

Voucher Reference	Payee	Purpose	Amount
0054	Kimcell	Website hosting	£576.00
0050	E. Felton	Salary & expenses	£487.36
0051	HMRC	December payment	£312.12
	TOTAL		£1,375.48

It was noted that an additional payments had been approved for payment in November as follows:

Voucher Reference	Payee		Amount
0052	Thursley History Society	Remembrance exps	£46.11
0053	Imperative Training	Defibrillators/spares	£3,895.80
	TOTAL		£3,941.91

(7.3) Discussion took place regarding the draft budget information for 2023-24 which had been available to Councillors in advance of the meeting.

As part of the discussion, Cllr Harmer advised that SCC were introducing a new funding stream for lower values than the Surrey Your Fund scheme to support capital projects.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Precept amount for 2023-24 be set at the same level as previous years - £15,155.

(7.4) The updated Fixed Assets register to include the new defibrillator units was approved and signed by the Chair.

(7.7) It was agreed that Cllr de Vries and Cllr Sellars be added as signatories to the bank account following the election in May. **It was suggested that Cllr Flavell and Cllr Owen take responsibility for approving the online payments in the new year.**

(7.8) It was agreed that the Parish Council make a contribution to the Children's Christmas party of £180 for an entertainer.

8.0 REMOVAL OF TREE OUTSIDE TILHURST

See public question time above.

9.0 COMMUNITY GROUPINGS IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY

Cllr Mendelssohn suggested some community groupings to ensure cover across the parish. It was suggested that three groups were needed in Highfield Lane. Discussion took place regarding existing WhatsApp groups and how to ensure parishioners without access to a smartphone/social media could be included.

Cllr Mendelsohn suggested that in order to progress the proposal, the Parish Council needed to agree the groupings, identify/appoint a champion for each group and then for each group to agree the format of their communications. It was recognised that each group may have different ways of operating depending upon the members.

Following discussion it was agreed the Councillors consider the groupings within their own proximity and that further discussion take place at the January meeting.

10.0 THURSLEY CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

(10.1) Cllr Swift advised that the compilation of the survey results will be completed shortly.

(10.2) Cllr Swift advised another meeting of the Parish Councils had taken place. He advised that present at that meeting was a Tree Warden appointed by WBC on a voluntary basis. He suggested that the Thursley Parish may wish to appoint a Tree Warden.

Following discussion it was agreed that the proposal be included in the parish magazine and social media sites to see if someone might be interested in the role.

(10.3) Cllr Swift highlighted the WBC initiative regarding the placement of EV charging points in the borough.

(10.4) Cllr Swift advised that there was further discussion regarding the CAA allowing the Air Review at Farnborough airport.

(10.5) It was noted that there had also been discussion about SCC taking back verge cutting. It was suggested that the Parish Council had been encouraged by Cllr Harmer's comment that the service would improve.

(10.6) It was noted that Witley Parish Council are looking to follow the same survey process that Thursley had implemented.

11.0 HIGHWAYS & WESTERN VILLAGES MEETING

(11.1) Cllr Mendelsohn reported that parishioners are very concerned about the water leak in Highfield Lane and the lack of progress to resolve the problem. He advised that even though Southeast Water had informed him that the leak would be fixed earlier in the day, no action had been taken. Discussion took place regarding the differing roles of Southeast Water and SCC in the process. It was acknowledged that should the temperature reduce, the water on the road will freeze and cause hazardous conditions.

Following discussion, Cllr Mendelsohn agreed to ring Southeast Water's emergency service again to stress the need for urgent action.

(11.2) It was noted that although the recent Western Villages meeting had been better than the previous meeting, there was still some frustration within the group about the progress of highways issues. It was suggested that works remain on the list for some time with no apparent progress and it is difficult to monitor activities online.

Cllr Harmer offered to speak to the Clerk of Frensham Parish Council to obtain an update.

(11.3) **Following discussion about the response received from Ms Katie Stewart (SCC Highways), it was agreed that Cllr Swift would write to her again to repeat the request for information** and that if an unsatisfactory response is received, Cllr Harmer would get involved.

(11.4) It was noted that the overnight tannoy system at the Hindhead tunnel continues to disrupt neighbouring properties. Cllr Swift agreed to speak to Mr John Nichols again.

(11.5) Cllr Mendelssohn reported that a meeting was arranged to take place on 9th December to discuss drainage issues on the slip road/footpath by Mill Farm Cottages. **Cllr Harmer offered to investigate to see what the agreement had been at the time of the transfer from SCC Highways.**

12.0 NEW PARISHIONERS

It was noted that there were no new parishioners at this time. Discussion took place regarding Ukrainian parishioners.

Discussion took place regarding parishioners who may be interested in standing as a Parish Councillor at the elections in May 2023 and the change in responsibilities of Councillors at that time.

13.0 CORRESPONDENCE

- It was agreed that there was no need to comment on the air quality consultation at this time.
- The Clerk highlighted the need to be vigilant with regards to use of Parish Council emails following a number of phishing/hacking/cyber-attacks targeting Councils.

14.0 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING

- Items carried forward from above
- Meeting Dates 2023-24

Cllr Mendelssohn proposed that the date of the next Parish Council meeting be moved from Tuesday 3rd January 2023 to Tuesday 10th January 2023. This was agreed.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

The date of the next meeting is 10th January 2023 at 7.00 pm.

Signed

10th January 2023