

THURSLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday 6th October 2020 at 7.00 pm
Remote meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing

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

Also attending were: Cllr D. Harmer (SCC) Cllrs Jenny & David Else (WBC) (7.15 to 7.55pm)

1.0 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

It was reported that apologies had been received from Cllr Hunter as he was not able to attend. These apologies were accepted.

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 September 2020 were approved by the Council to be signed by the Chairman.

4.0 APPROVAL OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 23rd September 2020 were approved by the Council to be signed by the Chairman.

5.0 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

(5.1) Cllr Mendelsohn reported that Cllr Hunter had been informed by Highways England that the fence panels on the A3 that were broken had been a temporary measure until vegetation became established and they had no plans to replace them. It was noted that Cllr Hunter had sent this information and photos to Mr & Mrs Ranson but had not yet received a response.

(5.2) It was noted that Cllr Hunter had not managed to progress discussions with Highways England regarding the arrangements in the event of a tunnel closure and the access/egress at Warren Park. Cllr Luff confirmed that he had received a communication from Cllr Hunter but had not yet received further information following his response.

It was noted that a communication had been received to advise that Highways England were adopting a new approach to operating and maintaining the strategic road network across the South East.

Cllr Harmer advised that representatives from Highways England had presented to the Local Committee members recently.

It was agreed that Cllr Hunter arrange a meeting with Highways England representatives as a priority to discuss the two outstanding matters.

(5.3) Cllr Mendelsohn confirmed that he had spoken to the complainant regarding cyclists following discussion at the previous meeting.

(5.4) Cllr Mendelsohn reported that Hannah Gutteridge had visited the village recently and was arranging for an overgrown footpath to be cleared but that she would also be writing to the landowner to inform them of their responsibility to maintain it to the same standard in the future.

(5.5) It was confirmed that the Rights of Way Deregulation document had been circulated as required.

(5.6) Cllr Mendelsohn reported that the Preserve our Reserve committee were very frustrated by Waverley's decision to extend the deadline for receipt of applications for CIL funds from 18th September to 31st January 2021. He explained that a bid had been prepared and submitted before the original deadline to request funds for works required on the common following the fire. He highlighted that the extended deadline meant that funds would not be available to support works that could be undertaken during the winter months.

It was noted that WBC were aware that the extended deadline was not acceptable and that it had been suggested to them that they consider the bids that had been received and that they retain funds to support new applications received between now and the new deadline. **The Clerk agreed to see if a response to the suggestion had been received.**

(5.7) It was confirmed that a letter from the Clerk had been sent to Mr Zac Ellwood (WBC) regarding Hammer Pond.

(5.8) Cllr Mendelsohn confirmed that he had contacted Mr James Giles (Natural England) regarding the tree that had fallen on the path by Hammer pond.

6.0 COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

(6.1) Cllr Harmer advised that he had spoken to Hannah Gutteridge regarding Sailor's Lane and that she would be looking to see what could be done to make it more suitable for users.

(6.2) Cllr Harmer reported that he had visited the new County Hall building (south of Reigate) and that he had been impressed with the site and facilities. He advised that the intention was to move out of the current building by Christmas.

(6.3) Cllr Jenny Else advised that the recent communications showed that Waverley had been upgraded to 'amber' with regards Covid 19. She stressed that it was important that everyone continues to be careful and follow the Government guidelines and that they should be alert but not alarmed as the situation was being carefully regulated.

Following discussion it was agreed that Cllr Mendelsohn would put an article on the village Facebook page to communicate this message.

(6.4) Cllr Jenny Else advised that she had suggested that the WBC Overview & Scrutiny committee consider the Council's response to the fire on the common.

(6.5) Cllr Mendelsohn asked if Cllrs Else were able to provide any update on the communications with WBC regarding the impact on funding bids for CIL funds following the extension of the deadline for receipt of applications. Cllr David Else advised that he was aware of the communications and that he would be following up to see if a resolution could be found so as not to delay works.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Cllr de Vries advised that she had received a communication raising a concern about the increased level of the footpath onto the common following recent improvement works, which had resulted in a low branch making it difficult for horse-riders. She stressed that the horse-riding community were grateful for the improvement to the path. Cllr Mendelsohn advised that he had contacted James Giles and the branch had been removed.

Cllr Owen highlighted that the contractor who had undertaken the works had not used any left-over material to fill the holes on the recreation ground. **Cllr Mendelsohn advised that the contractor was due to return so he would speak to them again.**

It was noted that there had been recent communications with parishioners in Bowlhead Green asking that they not use the bus shelter to distribute free goods etc. as it belonged to the owner of Forge Cottage. Discussion took place regarding the history and previous use of the bus shelter for such activities. It was noted that the Parish Council noticeboard was located there and a post box was built into the wall.

Cllr David Else agreed to investigate further. **Cllr Mendelsohn suggested a polite letter to the owner of Forge Cottage to discuss the matter may be appropriate.**

7.0 PLANNING ISSUES AND COMMUNICATIONS

(7.1) WA/2020/1454 – Tilhurst, Dye House Road, GU8 6QD
Erection of extensions with alterations to roofline and elevations; Erection of detached outbuilding.

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

(7.2) Cllr Flavell reported that she had attended the recent Western Villages Planning meeting when the Planning for the Future White Paper and the AONB Boundary review had been discussed. It was noted that copies of the letters to Jeremy Hunt MP, which had been prepared following that meeting, had been circulated to Councillors. It was noted that the AONB matter was more appropriate for other parishes.

Cllr Flavell advised that she was due to attend a WBC presentation later in the week on the white paper. It was noted that the deadline for comments was before the date of the next Parish Council meeting. **Cllr Flavell agreed to report following the WBC meeting so that a response could be prepared if deemed appropriate.**

8.0 FINANCE

(8.1) The following list of payments for September/October were presented.

025	Mr & Mrs Ranson	Defibrillator supply	£38.50
026	DJK Electrical	Defibrillator works	£288.00
027	1st Call Trees	Tree works	£192.00
028	John Swift	Expenses	£18.58
029	Elaine Felton	Salary & Expenses	£516.39
030	HMRC	October payment	£125.40
	TOTAL		£1,178.87

(8.2) The Fixed Assets register, to include the new recycling bins, was approved.

(8.3) Discussion took place regarding the Budget Review document to end September 2020. Discussion took place regarding the possible reallocation or increased allocation of funds to support projects such as footpath improvements etc. This led to discussion about issues associated with BOAT's (see Highways below).

9.0 HIGHWAYS

(9.1) Cllr Mendelsohn highlighted how horrified he had been at the dangerous condition of the BOAT in High Button following a recent visit. Discussion took place regarding the lack of responsibility of SCC and other parties to improve the poor condition. It was noted that the Police are not able to take appropriate actions as the BOAT is not clearly defined.

The options for additional signage and/or fencing to clearly delineate the area were discussed. Discussion took place regarding the possible liability issues which may arise should an accident occur.

Cllr Flavell agreed to provide Cllr Harmer with the contact details of the President of a legitimate group of bikers who were keen to support the required works to repair the site.

It was noted that Cllr de Vries has had conversations with someone involved in the community of bikers who were keen to save the BOAT's so that they are able to remain open. She suggested a petition be prepared by horse-riders in support of improvement works as they were not able to use the area as it was too dangerous.

It was noted that Cllr Flavell had drafted a letter outlining the possible resolutions to the problem. **It was agreed that this be shared with Cllr Mendelsohn so that the concerns of the Parish Council are communicated as a matter of priority.**

(9.2) Cllr Owen advised that he had not received a response to his communication with the organisers of a horse-riding event in the village requesting that they remove the spray paint which they had used to indicate the route. Cllr Swift advised that he was aware of a communication with a family member on this matter which had suggested that they would remove the markings. **He agreed to share copies of the communications with Cllr Owen.**

(9.3) Cllr de Vries asked about the flooding on Boundless Road. **Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk contact Mr Stuart Copping (SCC) to ask that he visit to investigate.**

10.0 WESTERN VILLAGES MEETING FEEDBACK

It was noted that lists for the Lengthsmen Scheme had been agreed in advance of the meeting with no specific issues discussed which affected Thursley. Discussion took place about a previous request for Parish Council's to be advised when works had or were planned to take place. Cllr Harmer advised that a new contractor had been appointed.

11.0 VAS UPDATE

Cllr Swift advised that following installation of the new battery into the VAS unit, there was some suspicion that it was not working efficiently. It was noted that a number of units had been sent to the manufacturer for refurbishment and that one of these units would be made available to replace the current unit. **Cllr Swift agreed to provide an update at the next meeting.**

12.0 THURSLEY CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY GROUP – CLIMATE EMERGENCY MOTION

Councillors agreed to support and adopt the motion document which Cllr Swift had prepared.

Cllr Swift advised that it was his intention to include the infographic information which had been shared with Councillors in advance of the meeting, in the November edition of the parish magazine with an accompanying note. It was noted that the deadline for receipt of documents for inclusion was 23rd October. Cllr Swift was thanked for his work on this matter.

13.0 WBC CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

Discussion took place regarding the WBC Climate Emergency action plan. It was suggested that they had not considered the communities involvement in the matter. Cllr Swift advised that it was a complex subject but it may be appropriate for WBC to highlight key areas in which all could be involved, much as SCC had done on their website.

Discussion took place regarding the role of the borough councils and Parish Councils in societal change. It was agreed that it was an important matter and one that everybody should be involved with by making gradual changes.

It was agreed that the Clerk submit the paper that Cllr Swift had prepared to WBC.

14.0 EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AND CONTACTS

Cllr Mendelssohn advised that he had prepared a draft list of emergency contact details which could be passed to SCC and WBC in case another emergency situation should arise in the parish. Councillors agreed that their contact detail information could be included on the list for distribution.

Cllr Mendelssohn agreed to contact the other people included on the list to obtain their approval.

Cllr de Vries asked if it would also be appropriate to provide the Police and SFRS with the same list. It was agreed that they should also be provided with a copy. Cllr Owen suggested that it may be appropriate to include landline numbers in case the mobile service is unavailable.

15.0 COUNCILLOR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It was noted that it had not been deemed appropriate to allocate a responsibility to someone not a Parish Councillor. It was agreed that Cllr de Vries would take on responsibility for the areas previously allocated to Sean Edwards.

It was agreed that Cllr Mendelssohn and Cllr Owen be appointed as the Trustees of the recreation ground in place of Cllr Hunter and Sean Edwards. **The Clerk was asked to make the necessary changes with the Charity Commission.**

16.0 MEETING DATES 2021

The proposed Parish Council meeting dates for 2021 were agreed.

17.0 SURREY ALC 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It was noted that Cllr Swift would attend the Surrey ALC AGM as the Parish Council's voting representative. Cllr Swift suggested that others may benefit from attending the presentation part of the meeting as it was quite informative.

18.0 CORRESPONDENCE

(18.1) Cllr Mendelssohn advised that he had been in contact with Mr Tim Denley (Openreach) to follow up on discussions earlier in the year regarding the problems experienced by residents in Bowlhead Green having no internet service. He advised that due to the current situation it was unlikely that they would follow up on their agreed course of action to install one cable (in place of three) and use underground cabling due to staffing issues and having other priorities at present.

Discussion took place regarding the problems and who was responsible for the trees which were causing the problem. Cllr de Vries thanked the Parish Council for the work that they had been involved with earlier in the year to resolve the matter. She advised that it was a difficult situation and likely to happen again unless action is taken.

Following discussion, Cllr Mendelssohn agreed to write to Mr Denley on the matter to see what steps could be taken to progress the matter.

(18.2) Cllr Mendelssohn made reference to the communication that had been received regarding 'what3words'. He suggested that this be widely advertised especially to those who use the common so that they could report a fire or accident easily.

19.0 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING

- Items carried forward from above
- Budget requirements for 2021-22 in advance of Precept discussions at the December meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

The date of the next meeting is **Tuesday 3rd November 2020** at 7.00 pm.

Signed

3rd November 2020