

THURSLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting
Monday 3rd September 2024 at 7.00 pm
at Thursley Village Hall

Attendees: Cllr J. Mendelssohn (Chair) Cllr C. Dailly Cllr M. de Vries
Cllr C. McClements Cllr R. Owen
Cllr T. Taylor-Matthews (from 7.05 pm) Mrs E. Felton (Clerk)

Also present: Cllr D. Harmer (SCC) Cllr D. Munro (WBC) Cllr J. Staunton (WBC)

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Flavell. 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 CO-OPTION PROCESS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW COUNCILLOR

The Chair advised that one candidate had applied for the vacancy which exists as a Parish Councillor following the retirement of Mr John Luff.

Mr Tom Taylor-Mathews introduced himself to Councillors and provided an overview of his experience and skills appropriate to the role.

Mr Taylor-Mathews was appointed as a Councillor. He signed an Acceptance of Office form and joined the meeting in his new role as a Parish Councillor.

4.0 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th July 2024 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

5.0 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

(5.1) It was agreed that the action for Cllr de Vries to check regarding environmental water issues be carried over to the next meeting.

(5.2) Cllr McClements was thanked for arranging for the two benches on the Clump to be refurbished.

(5.3) Cllr Harmer advised that he expected to be able to provide an update regarding the Countryside Team at the next meeting but in the meantime, contact should continue to be made through Mr John Baker.

6.0 COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

(6.1) Cllr Harmer advised that Philippa Secretan was the Community Liaison Officer for the area and that James Haley had joined the Highways team.

(6.2) It was noted that there are lots of road resurfacing works and white lining taking place across the area at the moment. Cllr Mendelssohn suggested that a proactive approach to filling small potholes now would help eradicate the need for them to increase in size and require filling during the winter months.

(6.3) Cllr Munro referred to the new WBC corporate plan which would be available for comment shortly.

(6.4) Cllr Munro advised that some areas of the WBC and Guildford Borough Councils were merging including the Planning departments but that finances would remain separate.

(6.5) Cllr Munro advised that the planning service had improved recently with fewer delays in the decision making process. Discussion took place regarding the shortage of Planning Officers.

(6.6) Discussion took place regarding the increased housing targets in Waverley and required infrastructure to support the developments. It was noted that the intention is for the land survey to be updated.

(6.7) It was noted that the planning application to alleviate flooding at Hammer Pond had been refused, possibly as a result of Natural England not visiting the site prior to submitting their comments.

(6.8) Cllr Munro made reference to the Heathland Connect project which included the commonality of signs which had previously been discussed. Cllr Mendelssohn referred to several communications regarding Natural England to which he had not received a response.

It was noted that the boardwalk on Thursley Common had recently been spray painted with a sign regarding keeping dogs on leads.

(6.9) Cllr Harmer suggested that there may be a need for further discussions regarding funds for the Western Villages.

(6.10) It was noted that following initial discussions with the SCC contractor for grass cutting about heavy machinery being used and causing damage to the grass areas, no further cuts had happened and responses had not been received to emails requesting an update and schedule information.

Cllr Harmer left the meeting at 7.35 pm.

7.0 PLANNING ISSUES AND COMMUNICATIONS

(7.1) WA/2024/01462 – Kestrel Wood Stables, Highfield Lane, GU8 6QJ

Construction of an outdoor swimming pool and associated works following removal of existing menage.

Following discussion and review of the documents it was agreed that the Parish Council had NO COMMENT regarding the application but a statement outlining concerns regarding the development of the site be submitted.

(7.2) WA/2024/01607 – 3 Homefield Cottages, Highfield Lane, GU8 6QH
Erection of porch and alterations following demolition of existing porch

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

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

In response to concerns raised by parishioners, it was agreed that the Clerk write to a homeowner regarding waste which had accumulated outside of his house asking that they arrange for it to be tidied up.

Cllr de Vries advised that she had been made aware of problems with deliveries in Bowlhead Green following the new postcodes due to delays in companies and organisations not updating their databases.

Cllr Owen referred to recent comments regarding the oak tree on the recreation ground dying. He advised that a new one would be planted to replace it in due course. It was noted that this was not as a result of it not being watered and that recent efforts by parishioners to water the saplings were appreciated.

Discussion took place regarding the increase and speed of traffic on Highfield Lane. Cllr Mendelsohn agreed to speak to some parties regarding the concerns that had been raised.

It was noted that it had been reported that litter around the cricket ground bins was not being removed as often as was necessary. It was agreed that the Clerk would invite cricket club representatives to attend the next meeting.

Ms Sally Scheffers arrived at 8.10 pm.

Ms Scheffers provided Thusley History Society plans for an exhibition in the village hall for VJ day on the May Day bank holiday weekend in 2025. She advised that a cricket match may also be being arranged and that possibly a 1940's themed event or concert. Following discussion, Cllr de Vries and Cllr Dailly suggested that they may be happy to be involved in arranging such an event.

It was agreed that Councillors fully supported the proposal and that they will consider it further and revert with the outcome of their discussions.

Ms Scheffers reported that although SCC had swept the road leading to her property, it had not been resurfaced. Cllr McClements agreed to report this along with an issue with the bridleway resurfacing and subsequent drainage issues.

8.0 FINANCE

(8.1) The list of payments for August and September had been presented to Councillors in advance of the meeting. The payments for August had been previously approved and those for September were authorised and approved for payment as follows:

0028	NCM Property Services	Grass cutting	£150.00	03783081	090130
0029	E. Felton	Salary & expenses	£345.26	40372099	206182
0030	HMRC	July payment	£220.00	12001039	083210
	TOTAL		£715.26		

0031	X-Net	IT renewal	£48.00	03104279	309673
0032	E. Felton	Salary & expenses	£348.86	40372099	206182
0030	HMRC	July payment	£220.00	12001039	083210
	TOTAL		£616.86		

(8.2) The financial overview document showing actuals to end July 2024, which had been available to councillors in advance of the meeting, was reviewed and discussed. It was noted that expenditure and income to date was as expected.

(8.3) The Clerk advised that she had received confirmation the annual accounts exemption documents had been received by the external auditor and so no review is required, consequently no auditor certificate and report, or any other closure documentation, will be issued for the 2024-25 year.

(8.4) Following discussion, Cllr Taylor-Mathews agreed to take on the Finance and Accounts role.

(8.5) Cllr Mendelssohn advised that following a telephone conversation he had met with a representative from a film company to discuss the possibility of parking vehicles on the recreation ground for a period of time in October for which they were willing to pay the Parish Council. Following discussion about the proposed arrangements, Councillors supported the proposal and it was agreed that Cllr Mendelssohn continue discussions with the company to result in a formal agreement.

Discussion took place regarding possible opportunities for improvements within the parish using the funds that would be forthcoming. Councillors were asked to let Cllr Mendelssohn know of their ideas.

(8.6) It was noted that the cost of maintenance to the play area following the recent annual survey was in excess of the budgeted amount.

It was agreed that Cllr Mendelssohn, Cllr Owen and Cllr Taylor-Mathews may arrange to meet at the play area to discuss possible improvements.

(8.7) It was agreed that the Clerk make arrangements for all Councillors to be signatories on the Parish Council bank account.

Cllr Munro left the meeting at 8.37 pm.

9.0 HIGHWAYS/VAS

(9.1) Cllr McClements advised that there is little to report in addition to above comments already made regarding highways works but that he would continue to work with SCC to ensure works continue.

(9.2) Cllr McClements advised that he is waiting for a response from James Giles regarding the required drainage works by Foldsdown.

(9.3) Cllr Owen agreed to speak to David Sellars regarding the VAS equipment in his possession.

(9.4) Cllr McClements agreed to register a grass cutting request for the bank opposite Wheelers Farm online as the vegetation is spreading onto the road.

10.0 ELSTEAD SURGERY DEVELOPMENT

Cllr Mendelssohn advised that following additional patients joining Springfield surgery following the closure of the Milford practice, there was discussion taking place regarding new GP facilities required in Elstead to ensure adequate facilities are available to meet need. Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Chair of Elstead Parish Council to confirm that they supported the proposal.

11.0 PURCHASE OF A CHRISTMAS TREE

Following discussion, Councillors agreed to fund the purchase of a Christmas tree again this year.

12.0 THURSLEY COMMON

Cllr Mendelssohn referred to his earlier comments regarding the lack of responses from Natural England regarding signage, filming activities etc.

It was noted that James Giles has a new assistant starting in October.

13.0 THURSLEY CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

It was noted that Cllr McClements would arrange another litter pick in due course.

14.0 PARISH IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

Cllr McClements advised that following refurbishment of the benches, there are no other works required immediately but there are some options for further improvements that he will consider further.

15.0 NEW PARISHIONERS

It was noted that there are some new parishioners due to move to the parish shortly.

16.0 CORRESPONDENCE

(16.1) All correspondence had already been provided to Councillors in advance of the meeting.

(16.2) Cllr Dailly advised that she was hoping to arrange some further first aid training shortly.

17.0 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING

- Items carried forward from above
- Mowing arrangements
- Motion sensor camera positioning

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

The date of the next meeting is **Tuesday 1st October 2024 at 7.00 pm.**

Signed **1st October 2024**