

THURSLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday 3rd November 2020 at 7.00 pm
Remote meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing

Attendees: Cllr J. Mendelsohn (Chair) Cllr H. Flavell Cllr P. Hunter
Cllr J. Luff Cllr R. Owen Cllr M. de Vries (to 7.40 pm)
Mrs E. Felton (Clerk)

Also attending were: Cllr D. Harmer (SCC – to 7.20 pm) Mr N. Ranson
Mr T. Kelly (from 7.20 – 7.45 pm)

1.0 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

It was reported that apologies had been received from Cllr Swift. These apologies were accepted.

It was suggested that the agenda order be changed to allow for Cllr Harmer and Cllr de Vries to have the opportunity to make comments prior to their early departure from the meeting. This was agreed.

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 Tuesday 6th October 2020 were approved by the Council to be signed by the Chairman.

4.0 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

(4.1) Cllr Hunter confirmed that he had requested a meeting with Highways England, a Surrey Police representative and Cllr Harmer to discuss outstanding highways issues including planned closures of the Hindhead tunnel but that he had not yet heard back from them.

(4.2) It was noted that there had been on-going discussions with Waverley regarding their decision to extend the deadline for receipt of applications for CIL funding and the understanding was that the executive were re-considering the decision.

(4.3) Cllr Mendelsohn confirmed that he had added an article to the village Facebook page with regards Covid 19 safety precautions.

(4.4) Following discussion it was agreed that **Cllr Mendelsohn would speak to the owner of Forge Cottage when he had further discussions with her regarding the tree on Bowlhead Green to resolve the issue regarding ownership of the bus shelter in Bowlhead Green.**

(4.5) Discussion took place regarding the WBC response to the Planning White Paper which had been circulated to Councillors.

(4.6) Cllr Flavell confirmed that she had provided Cllr Harmer with contact details of a legitimate biking group.

(4.7) Cllr Owen confirmed that he had received the information from Cllr Swift to allow him to report the spray paint and that he would do so once he was able to provide an exact location using 'what3words'.

(4.8) Cllr Mendelssohn provided an update on the status of the VAS in Cllr Swift's absence. Cllr Hunter advised that he had postponed installation of a solar panel for the unit until it was working.

(4.9) It was confirmed that the Clerk had sent a response to WBC regarding their Climate Emergency consultation.

(4.10) It was noted that no communications had been received from WBC, SCC, SFRS or Surrey Police in response to sending them an emergency contact list for the parish. **The Clerk was asked to send a copy of the communication to Cllr Harmer.**

(4.11) It was confirmed that the details of Trustees for the recreation ground had been amended with the Charities Commission.

(4.12) Cllr Mendelssohn provided an update on his communications with Openreach regarding the improved cabling required in Bowlhead Green. He reported that the works are now included on a current list of works but that currently they are only reacting to outages so the work will not take place immediately unless a tree should fall in the meantime.

5.0 COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

(5.1) Cllr Mendelssohn reported that he had been speaking to Mr Robert Ranson about the increase in fly-tipping incidents in Bowlhead Green. He reported that WBC had advised that it was not on their land so they were not able to remove it. It was suggested that the increase in fly-tipping was a result of the increase in charges and the change of rules and regulations at the CRC's.

Mr Nick Ranson queried who owned the land on which a recent incident had occurred. He explained that the fly-tipping was on a wide area of land on Boundless on a steep embankment. **Cllr Harmer asked Mr Ranson to provide him with a map showing the exact location to see if the land was classified as Surrey Highways or Highways England land.**

(5.2) Cllr Harmer reported that the majority of CRC sites would remain open during the planned lockdown period with only a few smaller centres having to close.

(5.3) Cllr Harmer reported that he had visited the new County Hall building in Reigate and he had been impressed with the facilities available.

Mr Tony Kelly joined the meeting.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

(from 7.15 pm)

- **Cllr de Vries advised that she would be attending a HUG meeting and would prepare a report to be circulated to Councillors in advance of the next Parish Council meeting.**
- Cllr de Vries advised that she had been in contact with a number of equestrians within the village and there was an ever-growing number of people included in an equestrian WhatsApp group. In response to a question about forming a Thursley Village Equestrian Facebook group, it was agreed that as this would be separate from the Parish Council, there was no reason why they should not use the facility to communicate on a broad range of equestrian matters.
- Cllr Mendelsohn advised that in advance of the meeting Councillors had been provided with copies of two communications received from Mr Nick Ranson regarding the infographic information which had been distributed to parishioners in the November edition of the parish magazine. He advised that as Cllr Swift was not present, Mr Kelly was attending the meeting to represent the Climate and Sustainability group.

Mr Ranson advised that the information on the infographic was incorrect and could have a damaging effect on this business. He asked who had set up the Climate Committee, why he had not been allowed to attend the meeting and whether it had the backing of the Parish Council.

Cllr Mendelsohn explained that originally Cllr Swift had attended a Climate Emergency committee meeting at WBC and had suggested that the village may wish to consider a similar initiative so that it play a part in reducing the carbon footprint. He explained that a group of interested people had met and formed a committee to progress the matter.

Mr Ranson advised that he had been told that there was no room for him on the committee and he was extremely concerned that inaccurate information had been distributed, thus having a possible detrimental impact on his business.

Cllr Mendelsohn advised that he had spoken to Mrs Tricia Horwood, editor of the parish magazine, and she was happy to allocate two pages to Mr Ranson in the next edition so that he was able to provide a balanced view on the matter.

Mr Ranson advised that he wanted the inaccurate information retracted and it was not for the Parish Council to tell people to cut their meat intake to support climate control.

Mr Kelly apologised for any upset as this had not been the intention. He assured Mr Ranson that the figures included on the sheet were prepared using Government data on climate change and that it was not the group that had calculated the information.

Mr Ranson provided details of the amount of milk and beef that each individual would need to drink/eat on a daily basis to make a difference. He reiterated that the figures were inaccurate and could have a damaging effect on this farming business.

Cllr Mendelsohn suggested that Mr Ranson take the opportunity of explaining this in the parish magazine so that parishioners get a balanced view.

Mr Ranson advised that he wanted the information retracted and asked who was legally responsible for the data being distributed as he would be considering taking the matter further.

Cllr Hunter advised that he was not defending any side and that he was sympathetic with Mr Ranson and the farming community. He suggested the best way forward would be for Mr Ranson to write his own article on the matter to increase people's understanding.

Mr Ranson asked why the committee had ignored what he had written to Cllr Swift. He advised that the information was wrong and that this had possibly happened as a result of the data being moved from one report to another.

Mr Kelly advised that he thought that the information they had used had been accurately interpreted but he would be happy to look again at the information sources and he would be willing to amend if a mistake had been made. Mr Ranson suggested that it was a shame that the data had not been checked originally when he had emailed Cllr Swift.

Cllr Mendelsohn advised that Mr Kelly had offered to check the information again and that if an alteration were necessary, an apology would be issued. He suggested that Mr Ranson accept Mrs Horwood's offer of writing an article on the subject in the parish magazine so that parishioners receive a balanced view.

Mr Ranson suggested that action needs to be taken quickly so that his business is not impacted. Cllr Mendelsohn agreed that Mr Kelly checking the information and a two-page article in the parish magazine would be quick responses.

Mr Ranson advised that he was disappointed with not being allowed to join the group. Cllr Mendelsohn advised that the group was not run by the Parish Council and consists of a small group of parishioners interested with climate control.

The Clerk advised that the matter had exceeded the length of time allocated to individual matters during public question time and the meeting should move onto other issues. She assured Mr Ranson that his concerns had been recorded.

Mr Kelly left the meeting at 7.45 pm.

- Cllr Mendelsohn advised that he had received a number of communications about the problem of cyclists on the common. He highlighted that it was possibly a contentious issue as the common was available for all to enjoy.

He advised that he had spoken to Ms Hannah Gutteridge (SCC) on the matter and that additional signage had been discussed. It was agreed that there were conflicting views on whether additional or less signage was needed.

Cllr Mendelsohn advised that the matter may be resolved when new signage is designed as part of the Preserve Our Reserve reinstatement of the boardwalk initiative so that one sign can include reference to several matters.

- Cllr Mendelsohn advised that Mr Richard Bates had voluntarily spent a considerable amount of time clearing the footpath on Dye House Road towards Foldsdown. **The Clerk was asked to contact WBC to see if they could continue the clearance works from Foldsdown to the A3.**

- Cllr Mendelsohn reported that he had conversations with a long-serving member of the community about several matters including ownership of the land in front of the Three Horseshoes as she was concerned about the building works taking place. He advised that following investigation it was confirmed that the deeds and land registry documents showed that the pub did own the land in question.

It was noted that concerns had also been raised about parking on the recreation ground as the parishioner believed that the ground had been given for the benefit of children to play on and that much of the area was now being taken over with cars.

It was noted that unfortunately people do use cars more now than when the charity was set up and if they were not allowed to park on the recreation ground, they would park on the road and cause obstruction. It was noted that parking on the roads within the village was another concern of the resident.

It was noted that people are being encouraged to have staycations and that people continue to be attracted to the area due to its location adjacent to the common, particularly during the current situation.

Following discussion it was agreed that no actions are required at this time and that cars be allowed to park on the recreation ground in a sensible fashion.

Cllr Hunter suggested that the covenant for the recreation ground showed that it was for use of members of the public rather than specifically for children but that he would check.

- Cllr Mendelsohn reported that he following a communication received regarding a dangerous tree in Bowlhead Green, he had visited the site and the danger was not apparent although he understood a tree surgeon working close by had suggested that it needed work to make safe.

Cllr Mendelsohn advised that he had reported it to SSE as a cable passed close to the tree and that they had arrived on site within one hour of the call and had advised that the tree was not dangerous and that no further action was required.

- Cllr Mendelsohn advised that following receipt of a communication about the arrangements in Bowlhead Green on Remembrance Day, he had spoken to a church representative and it had been agreed that the church would ring their bells at 11.00 am on 11th November and that people could mark the event with a two minute silence if they chose to do so. **He agreed to post an article on the village Facebook page.** It was noted that the two silent soldiers had been erected the previous week.
- Discussion took place regarding the suggestion that a Ringo parking scheme be introduced on the recreation ground asking for voluntary contributions for parking with a percentage being passed to the Parish Council and Natural England. It was suggested that this would be in breach of the deed/covenant for the land. It was agreed that this would not be appropriate. **Cllr Mendelsohn agreed to inform Mr James Giles (NE) of the decision.**

6.0 PLANNING ISSUES AND COMMUNICATIONS

(6.1) WA/2020/1599 – Hounmere House, Howndown Lane, Pitch Place
Alterations to garage to form an annexe

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

7.0 FINANCE

(7.1) The following list of payments for November were presented:

Voucher Reference	Payee		Amount
0031	datacenta/Kimcell Ltd	Renewal of domain name	£150.00
0032	E. Felton	Salary & expenses	£407.29
0033	HMRC	November payment	£95.40
0034	R. Bates	Mowing expenditure costs	£500.00
	TOTAL		£1,152.69

(7.2) Cllr Mendelssohn provided an update to the tree planting scheme which Cllr Swift was coordinating. He advised that funds of £1,590 had been raised. It was noted that land on which to plant the trees had been made available by landowners and appropriate trees to plant had been identified.

On behalf of Cllr Swift he asked Councillors to approve the payments to allow placement of the orders for the trees and sundry items at the appropriate time. Councillors authorised the payments to the suggested specialised tree suppliers. It was noted that there was not a need to obtain quotes from other suppliers as the total cost, excluding VAT, was below the £500 threshold.

(7.3) Cllr Mendelssohn advised that Cllr Swift had provided a list of items for consideration in the 2021-22 budget and that the Clerk would prepare a draft budget for the period for consideration at the December meeting in advance of agreeing the Precept amount for next year. It was agreed that an amount for 'election costs' should remain.

Discussion took place regarding the previous agreement of the Parish Council about charitable donations, in particular to Citizens Advice. It was suggested that there other many charitable organisations who would benefit from donations and that it was for parishioners to make their own decisions on this matter, rather than it being paid from the Precept.

It was agreed that the draft budget be considered at the next meeting to information the decision about the Precept.

8.0 HIGHWAYS

(8.1) Cllr Hunter agreed to include the matter of the access/egress arrangements on the agenda for the meeting he is arranging with Highways England.

(8.2) Cllr Mendelssohn made reference to a recent two vehicle accident on Highfield Lane. He advised that he had received several communications from parishioners with recommendations for actions to avoid future incidents including speed restrictions etc.

It was noted that a parishioner had offered to supply oak signage to inform road users of speed restrictions in place.

It was agreed that previous experience and discussion on this matter showed that Surrey Highways would not support additional signage and that any new speed restrictions would require additional steps to reduce the speed such as speed bumps etc.

Following discussion it was agreed that **Cllr Hunter would speak to Mr Adrian Selby (SCC) about the possibility of erecting a sign by the Clump/The Street to showing that the road was a no through road with no passing places.**

(8.3) In response to a question raised by Cllr Owen regarding an update on the road markings by Brook Cottage, **Cllr Hunter agreed to chase Highways for a response.** He highlighted that a response should have been received within twenty-eight days of registering the matter but that no response had been received to date.

9.0 COPPER BEECHES

Cllr Mendelssohn advised that he had spoken to the homeowners of Copper Beeches on Highfield Lane following concerns raised by parishioners about the increased commercial use of the property and the resulting increase in traffic.

It was noted that previously when concerns had been raised, WBC had considered the property not to require permission at that time but any further expansion of the business would require further consideration.

It was noted that although the Parish Council supported local businesses, due to the concerns raised by parishioners, **a letter be sent to WBC Planning to suggest that they may wish to visit the site again to determine whether permission is required.**

10.0 VAS UPDATE

It was noted that the VAS unit was installed but not working. **It was agreed that Cllr Swift provide an update at the next meeting.**

11.0 CORRESPONDENCE

(11.1) Cllr Mendelssohn advised that he had spoken to Natural England regarding the works at Hammer Pond. He advised that there were on-going discussions with the Environment Agency which had caused further delays. It was noted that as long as the works can commence before the time when the ground nesting birds start, the works could take place during spring. Discussion took place about the historical nature of the site.

12.0 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING

- Items carried forward from above
- Precept 2021-22

The meeting closed at 8.43 pm.

The date of the next meeting is **Tuesday 1st December 2020** at 7.00 pm.

Signed

1st December 2020