

THURSLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday 1st February 2022 at 7.00 pm
At Thursley Village Hall

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

Also attending were: Cllr D. Harmer (SCC) Cllr J. Else & Cllr D. Else (from 8.10 pm)

1.0 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr Flavell due to personal commitments. These apologies were accepted.

2.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Owen declared an interest in agenda item 6) WA/202/00228 due to him being the applicant and homeowner. It was agreed that he would withdraw from the discussions for this particular agenda item.

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 5th January 2022 were approved by the Council to be signed by the Chairman.

4.0 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- (4.1) It was noted that the building works at Tilhurst would be finished soon so the condition of the land in front of the property should be returned to good order shortly.
- (4.2) A copy of the email from Cllr Swift to Cllr Harmer regarding SCC services was passed to Cllr Harmer.
- (4.3) It was confirmed that the list of Lengthsmen works had been passed to the Clerk.
- (4.4) It was confirmed that no further action was required with regards to the new fencing erected at Tilhurst.
- (4.5) Discussion took place regarding the debris on the road in Pitch Place. It was noted that this was an on-going problem and although SCC have undertaken remedial work, it continues to cause hazardous driving conditions during cold periods.

Cllr Harmer advised that there does not appear to be a solution to the problem at this time.

- (4.6) It was confirmed that a response had been sent to the Community Governance Review being undertaken by WBC.
- (4.7) Cllr Mendelsohn confirmed that he had written a letter to Mr Jeremy Hunt MP regarding the Post Implementation Review which CAA are due to undertake for Farnborough Airport.
- (4.8) Cllr Mendelsohn reported that the filming that was due to take place at the end of the month has been postponed to late April.

5.0 COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

- (5.1) In response to an email received from Cllr Flavell regarding BW503, Cllr Harmer advised that the contractors had confirmed that they were able to access the area to undertake and that the required works would take place when the conditions are right.
- (5.2) Cllr Harmer reported that communications regarding problems associated with Rights of Way should be addressed to John Baker at present.
- (5.3) In response to the email from Cllr Swift, Cllr Harmer advised that the landowner is responsible for clearing live vegetation to the middle of the road adjacent to their property and WBC would be responsible for any dead vegetation. He suggested that requests to landowners to remove vegetation be directed to Stuart Copping.
- (5.4) Cllr Harmer reported that the reorganisation plans are continuing at SCC which may result in loss of staff with experience of local geographical knowledge. He explained that Adrian Selby's role was for capital works and Stuart Copping was responsible for highways maintenance.

See below for the Borough Council report.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No members of the public were in attendance.

Cllr Sellars asked about the school sign on Dye House Road being obscured. Following discussion it was agreed that the **Clerk would contact Adrian Selby about it being removed.**

6.0 PLANNING ISSUES AND COMMUNICATIONS

- (6.1) WA/2022/00029 – Lake Cottages, Witley Park, French Lane
Sub-division of existing dwelling to create two dwellings.

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

- (6.2) WA/2022/00098 and 00029 – Shepherds Cottage, The Lane, GU8 6QB

Listed Building consent/Erection of extensions and alterations, and erection of detached garage following demolition of existing garage

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

(6.3) WA/2022/00214 – Haybarn, Highfield Lane, GU8 6QN
Conversion of existing stables to grooms accommodation

Following discussion and review of the documents it was agreed that the Parish Council OBJECTED to the application. **The Clerk was asked to prepare notes for the reasons for the objections based on discussions that had taken place.**

Cllr Owen withdrew from the meeting for the following item.

(6.4) WA/2022/00228 – Kettlebury Cottage, Pitch Place, GU8 6QW
Erection of an outbuilding following demolition of existing outbuilding.

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

(6.5) WA/2022/00352 – Badgers, The Lane, GU8 6QB
Erection of detached outbuilding following demolition of existing detached outbuilding.

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

(6.6) WA/2022/00380 – Haybarn, Highfield Lane, GU8 6QN
Certificate of lawfulness under S191 for existing extensions to barn and use for storage purposes in association with equestrian yard.

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

(6.7) WA/00410 – Land at The Briary, Highfield Lane, GU8 6QQ
Change of use of land to equestrian paddock and erection of a stable block (following invalid application WA/2021/02765)

Following discussion and review of the documents it was agreed that the Parish Council had NO COMMENT regarding the application but that the comments registered for the previous application be repeated.

(6.8) Cllr Mendelsohn reported that a meeting of Western Villages representatives had taken place the previous week with Zac Ellwood and Sally Busby (WBC). He reported that Mr Ellwood had advised that the backlog of validating planning applications had been resolved. He advised that discussion had taken place regarding the quality of the planning documents, the planning portal, an accredited agents process and other planning concerns such as the facility to allow Parish Councils to load their comments onto the portal used by members of the public.

It was noted that Mr Ellwood had requested that the group meet with him on a regular basis to allow for such discussions to take place.

Cllr Mendelsohn advised that the matter of climate change had been discussed. He suggested that it may be appropriate to consider commenting on future planning applications to highlight climate/sustainability matters such as EV chargers, water usage etc.

Cllr David Else and Cllr Jenny Else arrived.

5.0 BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORTS (continued)

(5.5) Cllrs Else apologised for their late arrival due to having to attend an earlier WBC meeting. They were invited to provide their report.

(5.6) Cllr J. Else advised that discussion and changes continue as part of the plans to collaborate with Guildford Borough Council following the appointment of a joint CEO.

(5.7) Cllr J. Else made reference to the Boundary Commission Review and the Community Governance Review. It was noted that the Parish Council had already sent a response.

(5.8) Cllr J. Else explained the changes that had been made to the format of the Overview and Scrutiny committees and the increase in discussion points at meetings as a result.

(5.9) Cllr D. Else provided an overview of the current position with regards to housing supply in the borough and the impact that this had had on recent planning appeals.

7.0 FINANCE

(7.1) The list of payments for January/February were authorised and approved for payment as follows:

Voucher Reference	Payee		Amount
0058	Building Shop Ltd	Purchase of rock salt	222.00
0059	Jackbarn Construction	Deposit for new seating	333.00
0060	Gritbins.net	Purchase of grit bins	249.18
0061	Mulberry & co	Councillor training	£60.00
0062	E. Felton	Salary & Expenses	£480.78
0063	HMRC	February payment	£95.60
	TOTAL		£1,440.56

(7.2) Cllr Swift highlighted that the first two payments had been approved electronically and paid during January. He advised that the expenditure for the salt and grit bins had been approved by Councillors previously.

Cllr Harmer was thanked for his support for funding an increased amount from the Local Allocation Fund for the new seat. It was noted that the payment to Jackbarn was the deposit amount and that installation works were due to start shortly.

(7.3) The updated Fixed Assets register had been updated to include recent purchases. Councillors approved the Fixed Assets list.

8.0 HIGHWAYS/VAS

(8.1) Cllr Mendelsohn highlighted that he had witnessed a speeding vehicle taking notice of the VAS on The Street and slowing down in response. Cllr Owen suggested that it may be necessary to consider battery arrangements for the VAS in its current location to ensure the counter function works.

Following discussion, Cllr Mendelsohn agreed to speak with Peter Hunter so that Councillors can progress the use of the solar panels for the VAS unit.

(8.2) Cllr Swift advised that during recent night closures of the tunnel, there had not been increased traffic through Bowlhead Green. He advised that he had spoken to John Nichols who advised that the final verification of the swift gates would be taking place in March at which time the TRO to shut French Lane would also be activated. It was noted that once the swift gates are operational, the traffic flow should improve.

(8.3) Cllr Swift advised that John Nichols had informed him that the works to the access/egress at Warren Park was still on the list of works but the cost had increased due to an underground obstruction.

(8.4) Cllr Mendelsohn advised that he had reported an issue with one of the tables on Dye House Road early one morning and that it had been repaired the following day.

9.0 CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY

(9.1) Cllr Swift advised that the open invite to an afternoon event in Wonersh in March was still scheduled to take place and that he would circulate the agenda following the next inter-parish meeting which was due to take place the following week.

(9.2) Cllr Swift advised that there had been a slight delay in delivery of the saplings from the Treescapes programme but they were due to arrive shortly and that they would be delivered to Mr and Mrs Bates. He advised that he would be looking for people to help with the planting on the parking side of the road on the recreation ground.

(9.3) Cllr Swift advised that it had been confirmed that the EVC company that offered to install a charging point at the village hall free of charge as it met their criteria. It was noted that the Village Hall Committee was due to discuss the matter at their next meeting.

(9.4) Cllr Swift advised that he had met with Thomas Lankester (WBC) to discuss the Active Travel initiative and the possibility of leisure activity routes (rather than cycle routes) through the village to the local towns. It was noted that he had suggested some possible routes from Bowlhead Green and Cllr Mendelsohn had made some suggestions for the centre of Thursley. **Cllr Owen agreed to consider options for the Pitch Place end of the village. Cllr Harmer asked that he be provided with the suggested options.**

Cllr de Vries highlighted the need for the routes to be suitable for both horse riders and cyclists to use safely.

10.0 QUEEN'S JUBILEE ACTIVITIES

Cllr de Vries advised that the committee had grown in number and had lots of good ideas about how best to celebrate the jubilee. She advised that there were plans in place for activities during the first weekend to include a history walk and open gardens and then on the second weekend a big lunch was planned following a church service. She advised that there were on-going discussion about whether there should be activities during the week leading up to the lunch event and the committee were due to meet shortly to discuss this further.

It was noted that the village hall was booked for a wedding on the second weekend so it was necessary to consider other venues.

Discussion took place regarding the availability of funding from the Arts Council to support artistic activities as part of the celebration but that the deadline for receipt of applications was in two weeks. **It was suggested that Cllr de Vries may want to talk to Charlotte Hall at WBC to discuss possible art based options. It was also suggested that Robbie Goldfinch may be able to support a music based activity.**

It was noted that the Clerk had not heard back from the National Trust in response to a communication about whether they intended to light a beacon on Gibbet Hill.

11.0 CRICKET CLUB UPDATE

(11.1) Cllr Mendelssohn confirmed that a new lease with the Cricket Club had been signed with all the relevant clauses in place. It was noted that this had been circulated to Councillors in advance of the meeting.

(11.2) Cllr Mendelssohn advised that the arrangements for Bamboo Bakery to operate a pop-up cafe had changed with the suggestion that it now operated from a small mobile unit on the recreation ground instead of the cricket pavilion. He advised that Bamboo Bakery required permission of the landowner to use the site before they could apply for a licence from WBC to operate.

Cllr Mendelssohn advised that Parish Council permission was sought from the trustees of Thursley Recreation Ground Trust for Bamboo Bakery to site the unit on the recreation ground with the understanding that any income received from rent would be ring fenced to be used for maintenance of the play area. It was noted that the deeds document had not been located.

Following discussion it was agreed that permission be granted to allow Bamboo Bakery to site the mobile café on the recreation ground for a maximum number of days in 2022 with a review to take place at the end of the year. It was noted that removal of rubbish, operating hours, insurance arrangements etc. would be included in the agreement and that the Parish Council would retain control.

The Clerk was asked to write to Bamboo Bakery to inform them that permission had been granted.

(11.3) It was noted that there had been some discussion about an area on the recreation ground which does not drain well resulting in continual surface water and erosion of the adjacent grasscrete. Following discussion, it was agreed that **Cllr Mendelssohn would speak to a parishioner to see if he could supply some scalplings to resolve the problem.**

12.0 GRASS CUTTING/MOWING

(12.1) It was noted that Richard Bates was happy to continue with the current grass cutting arrangements for another year.

(12.2) Discussion took place regarding the wildflower pilot that had taken place the previous year. It was agreed that all areas should not be mowed during 'No Mow May' but that the grass on the Clump be maintained at all other times. It was agreed that some other areas of the village may be left to wildflower as an experiment to inform future decisions on the matter. **Cllr Mendelssohn agreed to speak to Richard Bates to identify suitable areas.**

Cllr Swift advised that the gardener for Witley Park Estate was helping with wild flowering ideas for around the pond in Bowlhead Green.

13.0 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

It was agreed that the annual assembly meeting on 28th April will follow the same format as previous with local organisations being invited to participate but an external speaker would not be invited.

14.0 CORRESPONDENCE

(14.1) Cllr Swift reported that he had completed the Armed Forces Covenant end of grant report form. **He asked the Clerk to upload it to the Parish Council website. He agreed to draft a letter to the History Society to thank them for successfully executing the events.**

(14.2) The Clerk highlighted the Affordable Housing consultation communication received from WBC. Discussion took place regarding a piece of land that had previously been identified as a possible site and the conditions that would be attached to such housing.

(14.3) Cllr de Vries advised that the HUG meeting scheduled to take place in December had been postponed and a new date was not yet available.

(14.4) It was noted that 'New Parishioners' would appear as a standard agenda item at all meetings in future. Cllr de Vries advised that she would update the welcome pack and that distribution to new parishioners would be undertaken by the local Parish Councillor.

15.0 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING

- Items carried forward from above

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 1st March 2022 at 7.00 pm.

Signed

1st March 2022