

THURSLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Annual Meeting

Tuesday 5th May 2020 at 7.00 pm
Remote meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing

Attendees: Cllr J. Mendelssohn (Chair) Cllr S. Edwards Cllr H. Flavell
Cllr P. Hunter Cllr J. Luff (from 7.30 pm) Cllr R. Owen
Cllr J. Swift Mrs E. Felton (Clerk)

Also attending were: Cllr D. Harmer SCC Cllr J. Else (WBC) Cllr D. Else (WBC)

In advance of the meeting start, Cllr Mendelssohn reminded members of the need to comply with the Virtual Meeting Protocol that had been adopted at the previous meeting.

1.0 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Following a nomination process, it was declared that Cllr Mendelssohn be re-elected as Chairman.

2.0 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Following a nomination process, it was declared that Cllr Swift be re-elected as Vice Chairman.

3.0 DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Cllr Mendelssohn agreed to sign and send his completed Declaration of Acceptance of Office form to the Clerk to be countersigned.

4.0 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Clerk reported that all Parish Councillors were present with the exception of Cllr Luff and that no apologies had been received. It was suggested that Cllr Luff may join the meeting in due course.

5.0 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.

6.0 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES

Following review of the draft 'Appointment of Member to Committees and Other Bodies' list for 2020-21, the list was agreed subject to the addition of Cllr Hunter and Cllr Edwards as Trustees of the Recreation Ground and correction of Cllr Owen's title.

7.0 RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM ELIGIBILITY FOR GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

Councillors resolved that the Parish Council continues to meet the criteria for eligibility to use of the General Power of Competence.

8.0 ANNUAL REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS

Councillors reviewed and approved the Standing Orders. It was noted that there had not been any changes to the document since the previous review.

9.0 ANNUAL REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Councillors reviewed the Financial Regulations. It was agreed that no changes were required at this time.

10.0 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th April 2020 were approved by the Council and would be signed by the Chairman and provided to the Clerk electronically.

11.0 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

(11.1) Cllr Mendelsohn confirmed that the telephone conferencing call had taken place with Mr Zac Ellwood, Head of Planning at WBC and that he would provide detail under the 'Other Planning Issues and Communications' agenda item.

(11.2) Cllr Mendelsohn thanked Cllr David Else for his communication regarding the recent planning appeal being considered under the Householder Appeals service. It was agreed that it was unfortunate that it was not possible for the Planning Inspectorate to receive the recording of the WBC Planning Committee meeting at which the decision for refusal had taken place.

(11.3) It was noted that Cllr Flavell and Cllr Hunter were in communication regarding the licence for the defibrillator units.

(11.4) The Clerk was asked to check with Cllr Luff to obtain an update with regards parking in the lay-by by Warren Park and to let Cllr Harmer know if the issue had not been resolved.

(11.5) Cllr Mendelsohn advised that he had been in communication with Mr Michael Woodhouse (Natural England) and discussed the extended period required for the environmental aspects of the planning application for works to Hammer Pond. He advised that he had subsequently spoken to Mr Ellwood who had referred the matter to Beth Howland-Smith and that his understanding was that the WBC Planning group were doing all they could to ensure that the application is not delayed unnecessarily.

(11.6) Cllr Swift confirmed that he had checked the restrictions and guidelines for fundraising and he was pleased to confirm that his understanding was that the Parish Council can receive donations for the Tree Planting Scheme as per the original proposal. It was noted that the proposal had been agreed electronically with Councillors so that an article could be included in the May edition of the parish magazine.

12.0 COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

(12.1) Cllr Harmer advised that the recent priority for Highways had been to ensure that the blue light services were able to access roads and that they remained open and safe.

(12.2) Cllr Harmer advised that there would be a statement issued shortly about re-opening of some of the CRC's which would include the Witley facility. He advised that consideration had had to be given to traffic congestion due to an anticipated increased number of people visiting the facilities and that plans would be in place to minimise disruption on the roads.

He advised that in order to avoid overload, initially only green waste and black bin bags would be accepted but that this would be extended to other types of refuse in due course. He advised that arrangements would be in place to maintain social distancing requirements etc.

(12.3) Cllr David Else reported that due to the current COVID 19 situation, the WBC number of planning committees had been reduced to two committees. It was noted that Cllr David Else continued to act as Vice Chair of the Central committee which had been extended to include Godalming, the villages and Cranleigh.

(12.4) Cllr Jenny Else advised that WBC had been working hard during the current situation. She confirmed that the bins were continuing to be emptied and that over one weekend, WBC had processed £10m in small business grants.

(12.5) She advised that WBC, working in partnership with Voluntary Action South West Surrey, had a bank of volunteers available to support vulnerable people in the borough. She advised that she was aware that there had also been a good neighbourhood response to support those people self-isolating or needing help at this current time. She asked Councillors that if they were aware of people needing support she was available to signpost them. It was noted that the number of community meal deliveries had increased.

(12.6) Cllr Jenny Else advised that although there had not been any meetings recently of the Overview & Scrutiny and Audit committees, members would be asking that this be arranged as it is important that the democratic process continues.

(12.7) Cllr Jenny Else asked that if Councillors were aware of people not wanting to receive the food boxes being provided by the Government, please could they let her know.

Cllr John Luff joined the meeting.

(12.8) Cllr Mendelssohn advised that there had been no interruption to the bin collections and he thanked WBC for continuing to provide services at this time. Cllr Owen highlighted that WBC had reacted quickly to a recent report of fly-tipping in the village with collection taking place within 48 hours.

13.0 PLANNING ISSUES AND COMMUNICATIONS

(13.1) WA/2020/0555 – Pitch Cottage, Pitch Place, GU8 6QW
Application under Section 73 to vary Condition 1 of WA/2018/1968 (approved plan numbers) to allow alterations to design and removal of bay window.

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

(13.2) WA/2020/0556 – Land at Little Cowdray Farm, Highfield Lane, GU8 6QJ
Erection of a domed structure for use as a holiday let and associated parking.

Following discussion and review of the documents, it was agreed that the Parish Council objected to the application for the following reasons:

- Does not comply with the Village Design Statement which highlights the need to consider the impact of 'any future development on existing infrastructure and services'; and raises concerns over 'the volume of traffic and the size of vehicles using the lanes through the parish'.
- Concerns regarding over development at the end of Highfield Lane and the resultant increased traffic on a narrow lane already struggling with increased use
- Continuing impact on the few amenities and infrastructure in a small village

(13.3) WA/2020/0570 – The Clockhouse, Rutton Hill Road, GU8 6NW
Alterations & elevations

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

(13.4) WA/2020/0594 & 0595 – The Turbine House, Witley Park, Witley
Alterations to repair and restore the Turbine House and construction of associated replacement bridge and Listed building consent for the same.

Following discussion and review of the documents, it was agreed that the Parish Council supported the application.

(13.5) WA/2020/0630 – Land at Halycon House, Bunch Lane, Haslemere
Application for a deemed consent under Section 37 (1) of the Electricity Act 2009 for the erection of a new pole, with associated stay and housing a transformer for the purposes of distributing electricity.

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

(13.6) Cllr Mendelssohn reported that a video conferencing call had taken place the previous week with Cllr Flavell, Cllr David Else, Cllr Jenny Else, Mr Ellwood, Beth Howland-Smith and Victoria Charlton from WBC Planning and Enforcement teams.

He explained that the purpose of the meeting was to convey to WBC how disappointed the Parish Council were with the way in which they had dealt with a recent appeal. He provided an overview of the areas which had been discussed. It was noted that it was important that the concerns be highlighted at this time in advance of other appeal hearings in the future.

Cllr Mendelssohn explained that they had also spoken to Mr Ellwood about the involvement of the WBC Legal team earlier in the process. He advised that following the discussion, it had been agreed that Mr Ellwood would request that the WBC Legal team explain in writing why the decision had been taken not to pursue the matter and that this would be shared with the Parish Council.

(13.7) Following discussion regarding correspondence received about plans for an incinerator in Hampshire, Councillors decided that no comment was required to be made.

(13.8) Discussion took place regarding the plans received for building works to the village hall in advance of them being sent to WBC for planning. It was agreed that the Parish Council were pleased that the plans allowed for dual use of the hall so that it could continue to be available for community use.

It was agreed that Cllr Mendelssohn write a note to the village hall advising that the Parish Council agreed with the plans in principle as they allowed for shared use of the community space and that they would consider the planning application in more detail when the documents were available through the WBC Planning Department.

14.0 FINANCE

(14.1) The following list of payments for April/May were presented, duly authorised and approved for payment:

Voucher Reference	Payee		Amount
004/20	A. Kelly	Refund of tree funds	£124.87
005/20	E. Felton	Salary & expenses	£441.47
006/20	HMRC	May payment	£93.00
007/20	Richard Knight	Maintenance works	£29.00
	TOTAL		£688.34

(14.2) Cllr Swift provided further detail to the funding request which had been received from the Climate and Sustainability Action Group. **Following discussion, he was asked to provide further detail regarding emptying arrangements and confirmation that approval had been given for the location of the bins.** It was agreed that this be discussed further at the June meeting.

15.0 HIGHWAYS

There were no matters for consideration.

16.0 THURSLEY TREE PLANTING SCHEME

It was noted that the donation scheme had already been discussed under agenda item (11.6) above and that the proposal had been agreed.

Cllr Swift confirmed that an article had been included in the parish magazine to show a target amount of £2,000. He advised that the intention was that a visual indicator be prepared to show the progress made towards achieving the target amount.

It was noted that the action group had not been able to meet or move forward with their plans as quickly as hoped due to the current situation but the plan was still to have sufficient funds available to allow for planting to take place in November.

Cllr Swift advised that it was important to ensure that donations are not received from vulnerable people. This was agreed.

17.0 BOWLHEAD GREEN BROADBAND UPDATE

Cllr Mendelssohn reported that following the initial meetings with interested parties, there were still some issues to be resolved but that a broadband service was now available to Bowlhead Green residents. It was noted that Cllr Mendelssohn had prepared a short note to them in order to provide them with an update. He confirmed that he would continue to monitor progress.

18.0 VE DAY VILLAGE ARRANGEMENTS

(18.1) Cllr Mendelssohn advised that Cllr Swift had circulated a note outlining the VE commemoration arrangements in Bowlhead Green. He advised that he had also received a note about the arrangements which The Three Horseshoes were putting in place to allow for groups to meet to celebrate whilst ensuring social distancing was maintained. **Councillors were asked to share details of the event with those not on social media.**

(18.2) Cllr Swift reported that the History Society had prepared a lot of materials to commemorate VED Day but would possibly need some help to prepare the display should it go ahead later in the year.

19.0 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

- The Clerk reported that the annual inspection of the play area was due to take place in June and that a checklist had been requested by the company so that the Parish Council could undertake their own regular checks.
- It was noted that there had been an attempted break-in in the village the previous evening. Cllr Mendelssohn advised that the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators had suggested that they wished to resign from the role. **Following discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Mendelssohn approach a resident to ascertain whether she may be interested in taking over.**

- Cllr Luff asked if Cllr Harmer was able to provide any information regarding re-opening of the CRC. Cllr Harmer provided an overview of the arrangements which had been discussed earlier in the meeting when Cllr Luff was not available.
- Cllr David Else asked if **Cllr Mendelssohn would like to highlight to the village hall management team that the small business relief grant process was a simple process for them to follow.**
- Cllr Owen reported that several of the footpaths were very overgrown as expected at this time of year. **Cllr Mendelssohn agreed to include a note in his monthly report to ask for support to help clear local footpaths whilst villagers are using them for their exercise if possible.** It was noted that issues with footpath can be reported to SCC online in the same way as highway issues.
- **The Clerk was asked to provide Cllr Hunter with a copy of the Footpaths list showing who was responsible for each footpath.**

20.0 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING

- Items carried forward from above
- Clerks Remuneration 2020-21 (if available)

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 2nd June 2020 at 7.00 pm.

Signed

2nd June 2020