

THURSLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday 2nd September 2025 at 7.00 pm
at Thursley Village Hall

Attendees: Cllr J. Mendelssohn (Chair) Cllr H. Flavell Cllr M. de Vries
Cllr S. O'Brien (from 7.01 pm) Cllr. Taylor-Mathews Cllr P. Sullivan (from 7.08 pm)
Mrs E. Felton (Clerk)

Also present: Cllr D. Munro (WBC) Cllr D. Harmer (to 7.12 pm) Mr J. Swift (7.14 -7.38 pm)
Mr K. Buchanan Mr D. Nasir (from 7.30-7.48 pm)

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Mc Clements. These apologies were accepted. It was noted that Cllr O'Brien and Cllr Sullivan would arrive slightly late.

The Chair advised that the order of the agenda would be changed to allow Cllr Harmer to speak at the start of the meeting so that he could leave promptly

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.

5.0 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Discussion took place regarding lack of communication with Highways England with regards to tunnel closures and diversion signs.

Cllr Harmer asked if Councillors would support his proposal to ask the two local MP's to speak to the relevant departments to ask that they reinstate the regular meetings with National Highways representatives, as these had worked well previously. Following discussion, it was agreed that Councillors fully supported this proposal.

Cllr Mendelssohn suggested that it may also be useful for the SCC Highways team to attend. Cllr Harmer suggested that the discussions with regards to SCC works would usually take place at the Western Villages meeting. It was noted that this meeting is currently scheduled to take place in October.

On the subject of highways, discussion took place regarding the closure of Thursley Road for gas works following a previous closure to resurface it.

Cllr Sullivan arrived at 7.08 pm.

Cllr de Vries raised concerns regarding the amount of litter on the A3. She suggested that the matter appeared to be getting worse and previous discussions with National Highways had not resulted in resolving the situation.

Cllr Harmer left the meeting at 7.12 pm.

3.0 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 15th July and 12th August 2025 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

4.0 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

(4.1) It was noted that the WBC Enforcement team had responded with regards to the vehicle parked at the egress to Warren Park. Following discussion, the Clerk was asked to provide Cllr Munro with a copy of the email communications.

Mr John Swift arrived at 7.14 pm.

(4.2) Cllr Mendelsohn advised that he would follow up discussions with Natural England regarding the formation of a local user group so that meetings can be arranged.

(4.3) The action for Cllr McClements to speak with National Highways regarding signage was deferred to the next meeting.

(4.4) It was confirmed that the black bins had been emptied during the holiday period of the parishioner who usually undertakes the task.

(4.5) Cllr Taylor-Mathews agreed to follow up regarding the asbestos material.

(4.6) Cllr de Vries confirmed that the traffic management during the filming period had been resolved.

(4.7) It was noted that a meeting to discuss the use of the Preserve Our Reserve funds had yet to be arranged. It was noted that the funds were to be used for the purpose for which they had originally been donated.

(4.8) Cllr de Vries confirmed that she had responded to the green lanes consultation.

(4.9) It was noted that the overgrown tree approaching Mathwall's Garage from the north is due to be cut back.

5.0 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORT

(5.1) Cllr Munro advised that as a response to the recent fire by the sculpture park, he had contacted Claire Upton-Brown (WBC) to ask that local Parish Councils are informed in the event of such incidents.

(5.2) Cllr Munro advised that he had received several communications from local farmers regarding the issue of inheritance tax, over which he had no control.

(5.3) Cllr Munro advised that WBC had submitted their comments as part of the Local Government Review and were currently awaiting a response.

(5.4) Cllr Munro provided an update on the outcomes of recent planning application appeals.

6.0 PLANNING ISSUES AND COMMUNICATIONS

(6.1) There were no new planning applications for consideration.

(6.2) It was noted that a planning appeal had been registered with the Planning Inspectorate for Oakenhurst. It was confirmed that the Parish Council had no comment to make.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Cllr Mendelsohn provided an overview of the history of mowing arrangements in the village. He advised that residents of Bowlhead Green were keen for the area around the pond to be maintained by the Parish Council. It was noted that a contractor had been identified to undertake the work but he was no longer available.

Mr Swift explained that the pond had been reinstated in 2015 and further works had taken place in 2017 to complete the project. He advised that the Parish Council had provided a grant of £250 for a couple of years to support the maintenance of the area by a local gardener but unfortunately this arrangement had ended and although he had undertaken the work for a period of time, he was also no longer able to continue.

He had asked that the Parish Council reinstate the £250 grant to support the costs associated with a rota of Bowlhead Green residents undertaking the work on a more regular basis. It was noted that the area had recently been cleared by a parishioner. Mr Swift confirmed that he stores the strimmer which had been purchased for the work to take place but there is more mowing than strimming required.

Mr Swift referred to the previous arrangement of a parishioner undertaking the mowing in the village who had received a grant to cover his costs. It was agreed that this had been exceptionally good value.

Mr Daud Nasir arrived at 7.30 pm.

Cllr Sullivan agreed to speak to a contractor who worked in other local parishes to see if he would be interested in maintaining the area around the pond and to liaise with Mr Swift to make arrangements.

Cllr O'Brien suggested that if the contractor arrangement does not work out, in order for the Parish Council to be able to grant an amount to support the proposed community rota, it may be necessary for Councillors to have a better understanding of how the grant would be distributed.

Mr Swift left the meeting at 7.38 pm.

It was agreed that the Cricket Club agenda item be moved as Mr Nasir was attending for this discussion point.

9.0 CRICKET CLUB

Cllr Mendelsohn provided an overview of recent concerns regarding the condition of the cricket ground and pavilion. He advised that along with Cllr de Vries, he had met with Mr Nasir the previous week to discuss the matter.

He advised that an outcome of that meeting had been that the cricket club committee may be happy to relinquish the lease so that the facility could be used for more community use under local management arrangements, if the cricket club could continue to play under licence.

Mr Nasir advised that the cricket club committee had discussed the concept and they would be happy to no longer be the leaseholder if the Parish Council were able to provide assurance in writing that Thursley cricket

club could continue to play through licence arrangements, in the same way as other community groups/clubs would be able to.

Cllr Mendelssohn advised that the Parish Council would look at preparing a document to provide the assurance to the cricket club so that the lease could be relinquished in order for plans to move forward.

Mr Nasir left the meeting at 7.48 pm.

7.0 FINANCE

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

024	E. Felton	August payment	£360.67
025	HMRC	August payment	£251.42
	TOTAL		£612.09

0026	E. Felton	September payment	£425.59
0027	HMRC	September payment	£310.38
	TOTAL		£735.97

(7.2) Councillors reviewed the financial overview document, which had been available in advance of the meeting, showing actual to end July 2025.

(7.3) The Clerk reported that she had received notification of exempt status from then external auditors.

(7.4) It was noted that the salary amount paid to the Clerk included a back-dated amount to 1st April 2025 to take into account the recent NJC salary increase.

8.0 HIGHWAYS/VAS/A3 Litter

(8.1) It was noted that there were planned closures to the slip roads onto the A3 in the near future.

(8.2) Cllr Sullivan advised that she would speak to WBC regarding litter picking.

10.0 COMMEMORATION OAK

Discussion took place regarding the report which had been prepared regarding the commemoration oak which had been planted which had failed to thrive, in spite of best efforts to support its growth.

It was agreed not to replace it and that the engraved bench be sufficient as a commemoration.

11.0 PRESERVE OUR RESERVE FUNDING REQUEST

See (4.7) above.

12.0 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2025-26

The Clerk advised that the dates which had been available in advance of the meeting, would be discussed further at the January meeting so that a date for the Assembly and July meeting could be agreed.

Cllr O'Brien advised that she would only be available to attend the first fifty minutes of the next few meetings due to a prior commitment. This was accepted.

13.0 NEW PARISHIONERS

Discussion took place regarding properties for sale or completing sales in the near future.

14.0 CORRESPONDENCE

- The Clerk referred to a communication shared with Councillors just prior to the meeting from Surrey Hills.
- Cllr de Vries reported that a volunteer group had installed a handrail on Greensands Way. She also provided an update on investigations that had taken place regarding the waterlogged area.

15.0 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING

- Items carried forward from above

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

The date of the next meeting is **Tuesday 7th October 2025 at 7.00 pm.**

Signed **7th October 2025**