

THURSLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday 5th November 2024 at 7.00 pm
at Thursley Village Hall

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

Also present: Cllr D. Harmer (SCC)-to 7.40 pm Cllr D. Munro (WBC)
Ms S. Scheffers (from 7.20 pm)

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Taylor-Mathews, Cllr Flavell, Cllr Dailly and Cllr McClements. 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 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st October 2024 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

4.0 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

(4.1) Cllr de Vries to provide an update regarding water quality at the next meeting.

(4.2) Cllr Mendelssohn confirmed that the waste by Church Cottages had been removed.

Discussion took place regarding the works taking place by Church Cottages. It was noted that the resident arranging the works had been asked to inform the Parish Council in advance of any further works that may take place.

(4.3) It was reported that the film company did not use the recreation ground for parking as previously discussed.

(4.4) Cllr Mendelssohn advised that a Christmas tree will be purchased as previously agreed by Councillors.

(4.5) Discussion took place regarding recent discussions with Natural England representatives regarding a common policy regarding dogs, access etc. It was noted that no response had been received from Alison Potts. Cllr Mendelssohn agree to follow this up.

(4.6) Cllr Mendelssohn confirmed that he had referred to 'Fix my street' in his magazine report. It was noted that there was positive feedback to the facility.

(4.7) Discussion took place regarding grass cutting by SCC. Cllr Mendelssohn agreed to speak to the SCC Officer responsible for grass cutting to determine whether the Parish Council might be best placed to manage a contractor with local knowledge.

Ms Sally Scheffers arrived at 7.20 pm.

5.0 COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

(5.1) Cllr Harmer advised that following new appointments and structural changes at County Hall, things are settling well with work to prepare a draft budget for next year underway.

(5.2) Cllr Munro advised that he is currently trying to arrange to meet with the person at WBC involved with filming in the borough.

(5.3) Cllr Munro referred to the doubling of housing targets and WBC's response to Government regarding grey belt land. He advised that he was not aware of any plans to remove AONB designations.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Cllr Mendelssohn advised that some parishioners had asked that he raise a concern that the ring-fenced funds held by WBC may not remain ring-fenced following their partnership working arrangement with Guildford. Cllr Munro advised that he was not aware of any changes to the current arrangements but if it should arise, due process would be followed including a consultation.

Ms Scheffers advised that there had been some progress with regards to arrangements for the VE celebrations which would include a concert in the church, an exhibition in the village hall and a lunch. Following discussion, Cllr de Vries agreed to meet with Cllr Dailly to discuss the options for the lunch.

Ms Scheffers advised that SCC Highways had only repaired one small strip of roadway by her property and a suggestion that goodwill had been exhausted was unacceptable. Following discussion regarding the status of the road, Cllr Harmer agreed to investigate further. It was noted that the issue should also be reported on 'Fix my street'.

Cllr Harmer left the meeting at 7.40 pm.

Ms Scheffers reported a possible issue with the drainage at the top of the triangle on Highfield Lane. Following discussion, Cllr Mendelssohn agreed to report this to SE Water.

Discussion took place regarding replacement windows in a listed property.

6.0 PLANNING ISSUES AND COMMUNICATIONS

(6.1) WA/2024/01902 – Prospect Cottage, The Street, GU8 6LF
Listed Building Consent for replacement fenestrations

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 list of payments for November had been presented to Councillors in advance of the meeting. These were authorised and approved for payment as follows:

0040	E. Felton	November payment	£445.74
0041	HMRC	November payment	£284.80
	TOTAL		£730.54

(7.2) It was noted that the Clerks salary payment included the annual increase amount backdated to April 2024. This increase was approved by Councillors.

(7.3) Following discussion regarding the draft budget for 2025-26 which had been available to Councillors in advance of the meeting, it was agreed that the footpaths allocation be increased to £1,500 to include bridleways.

Discussion took place regarding landowners being responsible for removing overgrown hedges and shrubbery blocking footpaths and bridleways. Cllr Mendelsohn agreed to include reference to this along with a request that parishioners let the Parish Council know of any problems, in his report for the parish magazine.

8.0 VE EVENTS – see public question time above.

9.0 EV CHARGING POINT

Cllr Mendelsohn advised that he expected to receive a draft contract shortly.

10.0 PUBLIC CONSULTATION REMOTE MEETINGS AND PROXY VOTING

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk submit a response on behalf of the Parish Council to show that in person meetings are preferable and that remote meetings should only happen when it is necessary.

11.0 THRIVING COMMUNITIES COMMISSIONS FUND

In light of the criteria, it was agreed that it would not be appropriate to apply for this funding.

12.0 COUNCIL TAX PRECEPT 2025-26

As discussed earlier in the meeting, the draft budget for next year currently includes the same precept amount as previous years but this will be reviewed further at the December meeting in order to meet the deadline for submission to WBC.

13.0 HIGHWAYS/VAS

(13.1) Cllr de Vries advised that discussions are taking place with SCC regarding the erection of a 'Slow – Horses' sign on Highfield Lane and she will provide an update in due course.

(13.2) Discussion took place regarding the installation of gateway signs at the entrances to the village. It was agreed that there was no support to continue these discussions at this time.

(13.3) Cllr Owen provided an update on the work to remedy the damage to a pole and fallen tree following a recent car accident in Pitch Place. He agreed to speak with Mr John Baker if there is no further progress following removal of the fallen cables.

14.0 THURSLEY CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

No update at this time.

15.0 VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

No update at this time.

16.0 NEW PARISHIONERS

Cllr Mendelssohn agreed to welcome the new parishioner.

17.0 CORRESPONDENCE

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

(17.2) Cllr de Vries provided an overview of discussions which had taken place at the recent HUG meeting. This included more troops training on the common and concerns regarding cyclists not staying on the tracks. She explained that the message was for users to not stray off track and to observe the signage. She agreed to email the MOD regarding movement of troops in trucks not passing through the village.

(17.3) Cllr de Vries explained that there had been issues with deliveries to the DZ huts and so consideration was being given to whether they change their postcode.

Discussion took place regarding ownership of the track to the huts. It was suggested that SCC were responsible for maintenance but that MOD trucks are the main users.

(17.4) Cllr Mendelssohn advised that following a recent issue with trucks associated with filming activities travelling through the village, he had spoken to the location manager.

18.0 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING

- Items carried forward from above
- Precept 2025-26

The meeting closed at 8.14 pm.

The date of the next meeting is **Tuesday 3rd December 2024 at 7.00 pm.**

Signed **3rd December 2024**