

THURSLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday 2nd February 2021 at 7.00 pm
Remote meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing

Attendees: Cllr J. Mendelssohn (Chair) Cllr H. Flavell Cllr P. Hunter
Cllr J. Luff Cllr R. Owen Cllr J. Swift
Cllr M. de Vries Mrs E. Felton (Clerk)

Also attending were: Cllr D. Harmer SCC Cllr J. Else (7.15 to 8.35 pm)
Mr M. Woodhouse (to 7.35 pm) Mr & Mrs Powell (to 7.35 pm)

1.0 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

No apologies were necessary.

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 HAMMER POND UPDATE

Cllr Mendelssohn provided an update on the current situation of reinstatement of Hammer Pond. It was noted that the work had been delayed and was now planned to start in early September 2021. He advised that although there were several outstanding issues to be addressed which did not appear to have progressed, one cause of the delay was that the Environment Agency had objected to the planning application.

He advised that the Natural England CEO had confirmed that the funding would be carried forward to the next financial year (2021-22) and that the deadline start date of early September would be possible.

Mr Michael Woodhouse reported that Natural England have on-going discussions with the Environment Agency on the matter. He advised that the Environment Agency, as a statutory consultee, are only able to comment formally on planning applications to WBC.

He highlighted that Natural England are in consultation with different areas of the Environment Agency including the Fisheries department, Flood Risk team, Planning department and Legal team. He explained some of the issues which were being discussed with the different departments had been that new legislation had been introduced since the time the project had been agreed such as fisheries changes.

It was noted the Flood Risk team had identified a possible flood risk area in extreme circumstances at Royal Brook and that they would continue to object until the risk had been eliminated so further work was taking place to resolve this issue.

Mr Woodhouse explained that the final design structure had been agreed subject to resolution of the fish movement issue and elimination of the flood risk. He advised that there was a formal process to be followed.

Cllr J. Else joined the meeting.

Mr Woodhouse advised that an informal meeting with the Environment Agency was due to take place the following week to discuss the outstanding issues after which the intention was to ask for a formal review prior to submitting the planning application to WBC by 23rd March 2021. He suggested that a planning decision may be available by the end of April.

In response to a question about acquisition of the land that was required, Mr Woodhouse advised that this was progressing and was in the final stages of completion with the solicitors.

Mr Powell asked about the outstanding hydrological issue regarding the ability of water to pass at the base of the mast that he had asked be raised with the Environment Agency. Mr Woodhouse advised that a legal agreement was required as it was potentially subject to flooding. It was noted that this was an outstanding agreement with the landowner which had only come to light at the time of the planning application.

In response to a question about the terms that had been agreed with the landowner and whether this included the flood area issue above, Mr Woodhouse advised that the additional potential flood wet woodland area adjacent to Royal Brook had only recently been identified and that terms were currently being negotiated. It was suggested that this was a new issue that could further delay progress on the project.

Mr Powell asked Mr Woodhouse to request JBA to release the final modelling, including the feeder blockage, to WSP. **This was agreed.**

Cllr Mendelsohn advised that the Natural England CEO had asked that she be kept informed if the project was not progressing. He advised that Mr Jeremy Hunt MP was also keen to be kept updated. He stressed that the community were very frustrated over the lack of apparent progress over the previous two years and that it appears that there are still several issues that have not been resolved.

Following discussion it was agreed that Mr Woodhouse would provide an update report to Cllr Mendelsohn prior to the next Parish Council meeting on 2nd March 2021 and that if insufficient programme had been made, Cllr Mendelsohn would escalate the matter.

Mr Woodhouse and Mr & Mrs Powell left the meeting at 7.35 pm.

4.0 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th January 2021 were approved by the Council to be signed by the Chairman.

5.0 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

(5.1) It was noted that the VAS project was currently on hold awaiting further action.

(5.2) Cllr Mendelsohn confirmed that he had spoken to Mr Matt Larkin (Natural England) about the two possible parking areas. He reported that it had been suggested that the area on the common was possibly not an option but that the brownfield site, previously the bus stand, may be suitable and could be easily cleared of overgrowth.

Cllr Swift advised that Mr Larkin would ideally like to have evidence of its prior use so that he could raise the matter with the Natural England board. Cllr Hunter confirmed that he had some knowledge of the history and that he was aware that the concrete standing still existed. **Cllr Hunter agreed to provide Cllr Mendelsohn with the necessary information so that he can speak to Mr Larkin to enable him to progress the matter with the Natural England board.**

(5.3) Cllr Mendelsohn advised that it had been confirmed that the recreation ground was common land owned by the Parish Council. It was noted that it was not recommended that horse riders ride on the recreation ground in order to minimise risks and safety concerns associated with car parking and other users such as children, walkers etc.

(5.4) It was noted that Surrey Police had been contacted regarding parking on the recreation ground and that they had responded quickly.

(5.5) It was noted that Richard Owen and Jackie Malton had been added as administrators to the village Facebook page and that this role was performed in their personal capacity. It was further noted that the rules and guidelines for posting on the site had been updated.

(5.6) It was confirmed that Cllr Mendelsohn and Cllr Swift were able to access the Parish Council documents remotely if required to do so.

(5.7) It was noted that Cllr Swift had passed details of suggested cycle routes to Councillor Harmer.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Cllr Mendelsohn reported that a communication had been received from Mr Lindley regarding traffic on Byway 92A. It was noted that although usage of the BOAT's had increased, the activity was not illegal. Cllr Harmer provided an overview of the history of BOAT's and RUFP's and explained that there was little that could be done unless there was a change of legislation.

Cllr Flavell advised that the level of traffic was increasing as BOAT's do not exist in neighbouring counties and that there was a need for all interested stakeholders including National Trust, the Forestry Commission, SCC etc. to work together to control further damage. It was noted that SCC do not issue TRO's in such circumstances. Discussion took place about the illegal activity taking place with regards to speeding/racing.

It was noted that Cllr Flavell was due to attend a meeting with interested parties the following week to discuss the matter. It was agreed that this is a serious matter requiring a joint working group in order to move forward. **Cllr Flavell agreed to update Councillors at the next meeting.**

Cllr Mendelssohn agreed to write to Mr Lindley to update him on the discussions and thank him for the information provided which would be useful to support the discussions on-going.

6.0 COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

(6.1) Cllr Harmer advised that County Hall in Kingston was closed and that previous to the closure there had been a consultation with staff to ascertain their preference with regards to the new County Hall location of hubs around the county.

(6.2) Cllr Harmer advised that it is understood that the plans remain for the elections due to take place in May to go ahead as planned. It was suggested that there were safety concerns for such arrangements for both voters and electoral staff.

(6.3) Cllr J. Else confirmed that she had forwarded details of the pumping at Hammer Pond onto Cllr Williams, the WBC Councillor responsible for green matters.

(6.4) Cllr J. Else highlighted that there had been staffing issues but that the environmental team were working hard to ensure that refuse collections continue. She asked that parishioners let her know if there are unacceptable delays in the service.

(6.5) Cllr J. Else advised that WBC had introduced a new customer service system.

(6.6) Cllr J. Else advised that the full council were due to meet the following week to discuss the budget and that the Overview and Scrutiny committee were looking at the SLA's for volunteer organisations.

7.0 PLANNING ISSUES AND COMMUNICATIONS

(7.1) WA/2020/1990 – Heath Hall Cottage, Bowlhead Green, GU8 6NW

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

(7.2) WA/2021/0064 and 0065 – Badgers, The Lane, GU8 6QB

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

(7.3) It was noted that WBC were progressing an on-going planning issue relating to the village.

8.0 FINANCE

(8.1) The following list of payments for February were presented and were duly authorised and approved for payment:

Voucher Reference	Payee		Amount
0042	James Mendelssohn	Materials for recreation ground	£68.40
0043	John Swift	Expenses - trees	£547.45
0044	E. Felton	Salary & expenses	£535.25
0045	HMRC	February payment	£95.60
	TOTAL		£1,246.70

(8.2) Cllr Swift advised that his quarterly checks of the financial records were continuing to take place.

9.0 HIGHWAYS

Cllr Swift agreed to send the email communication he had received from Highways England regarding the reasons for the planned closures of the Hindhead tunnel to Parish Councillors and Cllr Harmer.

Discussion took place regarding heavy goods vehicles accessing Bowlhead Green during recent closures. **Cllr Hunter agreed to forward the email communication from Highways England to his Highways contact.**

10.0 VOLUNTARY DONATIONS AT MOAT CAR PARK

Cllr Mendelssohn explained that Natural England had entered into an agreement with Ringo to erect notices at the Moat car park requesting voluntary contributions for parking. It was agreed that the voluntary wording is not particularly visible and the layout of the post suggests that a charge applies.

It was noted that car parking charges may result in people parking elsewhere in the area. It was agreed that the situation be monitored but that there are no plans at this stage to introduce voluntary contributions on Thursley recreation ground.

11.0 PARKING ON THURSLEY RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Mendelssohn reported that the erection of the temporary orange fencing on the recreation ground had been successful in ensuring that car park in a more orderly fashion. Discussion took place regarding the parking the previous weekend which saw large number of vehicles parked in the village and neighbouring parishes.

Discussion took place regarding the three quotes that had been received for the works on the recreation ground to install posts to restrict parking in an allocated area. Following discussion it was agreed that the contract for the work be awarded to the Richard Field Groundworks Ltd who had previously satisfactorily completed work on behalf of the Parish Council and had provided a competitive quote.

The Clerk was asked to inform the successful contractor and the two other companies that they had been unsuccessful on this occasion.

It was noted that due to the Local Allocation Grant funding deadline, an application had been prepared based on fifty percent of the quote that was available at that time and that funds had subsequently been received. **As the funding amount received was in excess of fifty percent of the project costs, the Clerk was asked to arrange for the balance to be returned to SCC.**

Discussion took place regarding a communication which had been received from Maggie's charity. It was understood that they had applied for funding from the Local Allocation Grant but that the application needed the (non-financial) support of at least two Parish Councils. It was agreed that Thursley Parish Council would be happy to support their application. **Cllr Mendelssohn agreed to confirm this in writing to Cllr Harmer.**

Following discussion Cllr Swift suggested that the Parish Council should revisit their policy of not providing donations to charitable organisations. **It was agreed that this be a future agenda item.**

Following discussion it was agreed that further discussion take place about whether there was a need for new hardcore parking areas once the posts have been installed and that a new funding application could be prepared at that time if necessary.

12.0 SALT BINS

Cllr Swift made reference to the note which he had sent to Councillors in advance of the meeting. **Following discussion it was agreed that the orders be placed for an additional salt bin and shovels as per the recommendation.**

It was noted that the salt bins on Warren Park are the property of SCC and therefore the responsibility for filling them was with Surrey Highways. **Cllr Luff agreed to make the necessary arrangements.**

13.0 THURSLEY CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY

Cllr Swift advised that following the comments made to WBC on their action plan, they had suggested that a meeting take place to discuss how best to proactively engage with the borough residents to address how to reduce emissions. Following discussion it was agreed that Cllr Swift and Cllr de Vries would meet with them. **Cllr Swift agreed to make the arrangements.**

14.0 ELECTORAL REVIEW OF WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

It was noted that Cllr Mendelssohn and Cllr Swift had attend a virtual meeting regarding the electoral/boundary review of WBC which was due to take place. Cllr Mendelssohn explained about the process of allocating Ward Councillors to parishes based on the number of electors. It was noted that although there was likely to be limited impact on Thursley, there was an opportunity to comment as part of the public consultation processes.

Discussion took place regarding the inclusion of Brook in the Elstead/Thursley Ward. It was suggested that an outlying property in Thursley Parish may also need to be reallocated to a different ward. It was agreed that the Parish Council would comment at the appropriate time.

The Clerk agreed to provide Cllr Owen and Cllr de Vries with laminated parish maps.

15.0 SALC

The Clerk explained that SALC was being disbanded and that Surrey Local Councils would now be supported by Mulberry & Co. solicitors based in Godalming. It was noted that existing SALC staff would be employed by them and continue to provide the same level of service as previously.

In response to a question, it was confirmed that the Parish Council were not members of CPRE.

16.0 CORRESPONDENCE

It was noted that the majority of correspondence had either been shared with Councillors prior to the meeting or had been discussed under earlier agenda items.

The Clerk highlighted that the fly-tipping on Boundless had still not been removed as WBC believed it to be on private land. It was noted that details of the exact location had been shared with Cllr Harmer. He agreed to investigate who owned the land on which the rubbish had been dumped as it may be part a previous land deal agreement which meant that Highways England may be responsible for the removal. **He agreed to investigate and inform the Clerk of the outcome.**

It was noted that Cllr Else had sent a message to explain her early departure from the meeting.

It was confirmed that the intention at present was for the Annual Assembly meeting to take place virtually and that the date had been included in the recent report in the parish magazine.

17.0 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING

- Items carried forward from above

The meeting closed at 9.13 pm.

The date of the next meeting is **Tuesday 2nd March 2021** at 7.00 pm.

Signed

2nd March 2021