

THURSLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday 3rd December 2024 at 7.00 pm
at Thursley Village Hall

Attendees: Cllr J. Mendelssohn (Chair) Cllr D. Dailly Cllr M. de Vries
 Cllr R. Owen Cllr. Taylor-Mathews Mrs E. Felton (Clerk)

Also present: Cllr D. Harmer (SCC)-to 7.40 pm Cllr D. Munro (WBC) from 8.27 pm
 Ms S. Scheffers Mr D. Young

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Flavell and Cllr McClements and it was noted that Cllr Munro would arrive late. 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 5th November 2024 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

4.0 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

(4.1) Cllr Mendelssohn advised that he is still waiting for a response from Alison Potts (Natural England) to provide an update following recent communications regarding the inconsistent approach with regards to signage, dogs on leads etc. on the common. It was agreed that he write to Jeremy Hunt MP to raise these concerns (cc: Cllr Harmer)

(4.2) Cllr Mendelssohn had provided Cllr Harmer with copies of communications with SCC regarding grass cutting after the previous meeting. He also said that he had been in touch with SCC again but had not received a reply. Cllr Harmer said he would follow this up and provide an update at the next meeting.

(4.3) It was noted that shortly after discussions at the previous Parish Council meeting regarding the collaboration of Guildford and Waverley Borough Councils, Guildford Council uploaded a statement on Twitter saying that the boardwalk as it had been recognised as footpath of the year by the Ramblers Association, which demonstrated excellent collaboration between the two Borough Councils. Cllr Mendelssohn advised that he had spoken to the CEO to explain the involvement of the two Parish Councils and funding from WBC that had enabled the footpath to be recognised. He explained that the CEO had apologised and explained that this had not been deliberate and that his communications team had been spoken to.

(4.4) It was noted that following discussion at the previous Parish Council meeting, Thames Water had arrived on site the following day but after further investigation, it was determined that a nearby homeowner may be responsible and appropriate action is being taken.

(4.5) It was confirmed that the request to cut back shrubbery had been included in the parish magazine and that the fallen cables issue had been resolved.

(4.6) Discussion took place regarding the number of MOD vehicles still passing through the village. It was noted that there had been no response from them following recent communications.

Cllr de Vries advised that the HUG group, at which matters such as this were discussed, had been disbanded. It was agreed that this was a retrograde step as it is important that they continue to work with the Parish Councils on matters other than to inform them of closures. Discussion took place regarding ownership of the track from the Truxford bend to the Dropping Zone carpark, which is believed to be a bridleway, thereby making it SCC's responsibility so they repair to their standard although the MOD believe it to be theirs and also undertake remedial works. It was agreed that it was important the communication lines with the MOD continue so Cllr Mendelssohn agreed to speak to Cllr Murphy, Chair of Elstead Parish Council on the matter.

5.0 COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

(5.1) Cllr Harmer advised that SCC had prepared a draft budget but await notification from Government regarding their contribution.

(5.2) It was reported that the matter of unitary authorities is currently being considered although no action is required at this time.

(5.3) Discussion took place regarding the 40 mph limit in the tunnel. It was noted that Cllr McClements had not received a response when he asked about why it was in place. It was agreed that Cllr McClements contact National Highways again to escalate the matter.

Cllr Harmer left at 7.35 pm.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Ms Scheffers distributed a paper outlining the arrangements for the VE day celebrations. Reference was made to the VE Day website showing the suggested activities. Cllr Mendelssohn reported that arrangements for the events at the weekend appear to be in hand and that he understood that the church intended for the bells to be rung at 6.30 pm with lighting of the beacon at 9.30 pm on 8th May. Following discussion, it was agreed that it was appropriate for the pub to provide fish and chips on the same day.

Discussion took place about whether a 80 VE flag and Lamp of Peace should be purchased and a celebration cake be provided.

Following discussion it was agreed that Cllrs Dailly and de Vries organise for a band/DJ on 8th May with the picnic taking place on the previous afternoon following the cricket.

Councillors agreed a budget of £1k for the band/DJ and £1k contribution towards the fish and chip meals.

It was reported that a Bowlhead Green resident had requested £75 from the Parish Council to purchase lights for the Christmas tree in that location. It was noted that funds had already been spent on erecting a Christmas tree in the centre of the parish. Following discussion, the expenditure was agreed with the condition that the lights be passed on in the new year to be used for other village activities such as VE Day celebrations.

6.0 PLANNING ISSUES AND COMMUNICATIONS

(6.1) WA/2024/02214 – Boxalls, The Street, GU8 6QF
Listed Building Consent for replacement windows and door on east elevation.

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

0042	Oxenford Farm	Christmas tree	£450.00
November	Additional total		£450.00
0043	Richard Owen	Tree purchase	£170.93
0044	G. Scofield	Purchase	£105.00
0045	E. Felton	December payment	£360.67
0046	HMRC	December payment	£228.40
0047	NCM Property Serv.	Mowing	£100.00
December	TOTAL		£965.00

(7.2) Following discussion, Councillors unanimously agreed to retain the Precept for 2025-26 at the current amount of £15,155.

8.0 HIGHWAYS/VAS

(8.1) Discussion took place about removal of the speed bumps. It was noted that this would result in a 30 mph speed limit being introduced. There was discussion about other possible solutions.

(8.2) It was noted that the fence panels adjacent to the A3 have not yet been repaired even though they had been reported. It was suggested that 'Fix my Street' may be an appropriate mechanism to report it.

(8.3) Cllr McClements had reported that a number of potholes had been reported.

(8.4) It was noted that the large pothole on the village hall driveway was deteriorating further. The Clerk was asked to contact Clea Beechey to raise the matter.

9.0 THURSLEY CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

No update at this time. It was agreed that it be removed as a standard agenda item.

10.0 VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

No update at this time.

11.0 NEW PARISHIONERS

Discussion took place regarding new parishioners and other properties to be vacated in the parish.

12.0 MEETING DATES 2025-26

The proposed dates for 2025-26 meetings were agreed. It was suggested that a date for the Annual Assembly meeting be agreed in the new year to ensure it does not conflict with elections.

13.0 CORRESPONDENCE

(13.1) It was agreed that the Coffee Pod agreement be reissued for 2025-26. Cllr Dailly advised that she was in communication with Camilla regarding the 'Walk and Talk' initiative.

(13.2) It was noted that a thank you letter had been received from RBLI but it was not evident where the donation that had come from.. It was thought likely that the donation had come from the Church following the Remembrance Day service. Cllr Dailly agreed to inform the PCC of the letter of thanks.

(13.3) In advance of the meeting it had been agreed that the Clerk be nominated to attend a King's garden party. Discussion took place regarding the wording to be submitted.

(13.4) Cllr Dailly advised that there is a project in process to install QR codes in the church graveyard to inform people about who is buried there. It was agreed that a contribution from the PC towards the cost of the project would be appropriate, but would be discussed in more detail at a future meeting once the plans have been developed and the likely costs are clearer.

(13.5) It was noted that the Parish Council would be funding the entertainer at the Christmas part again this year.

Cllr Munro arrived at 8.27 pm.

(13.6) Cllr Munro agreed to speak to Tilford Parish Council regarding the removal of the HUG group.

(13.7) Cllr Munro reported that he will chase Ms Clare Upton-Brown regarding setting up a meeting to discuss filming arrangements.

(13.8) Discussion took place regarding a recent communication from the WBC enforcement team regarding Shepherds Cottage.

14.0 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING

- Items carried forward from above
- Annual Assembly meeting date
- Church project

The meeting closed at 8.38 pm.

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

Signed **7th January 2025**