THURSLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday 3rd February 2026 at 7.00 pm
at Thursley Village Hall

Attendees:	Cllr J. Mendelssohn (Chair)	Cllr M. de Vries (from 7.20 pm)	Cllr. H. Flavell
	Cllr P. Sullivan	Cllr. Taylor-Mathews	
Also present:	Cllr D. Harmer	Cllr D. Munro	Mr K. Buchanan

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr O'Brien, Cllr McClements and the Clerk. These apologies were accepted. It was noted that Cllr de Vries may arrive slightly late due to train delays.

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 meetings held on 6th January 2026 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

4.0 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

(4.1) It was confirmed that Cllr Mendelssohn had removed the 'No horses' sign from the Clump. Cllr Taylor-Mathews advised that the replacement of the missing finger post was in progress.

(4.2) Cllr Harmer said that he had not had the opportunity to speak to the local MP's regarding arranging a meeting with National Highways about tunnel closures. Cllr Mendelssohn made reference to emails received from Mr John Swift about signage issues during a recent planned closure and said that this was an urgent issue that needed to be addressed. He referred to the signage guidance issued in 2017 which if still in place, is not working effectively.

Cllr Mendelssohn asked what more could be done to progress a meeting with National Highways as there had not yet been a response from the MP's. Following discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Mendelssohn would contact Sir Jeremy Hunt and Cllr Sullivan would raise it with Greg Stafford, who she would be seeing over the coming days.

5.0 COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

(5.1) Discussion took place regarding the Local Government changes in Surrey and the possible financial and operating implications of the changes. It was suggested that there is likely to be minimal impact in Thursley as there are no public buildings etc.
Cllr de Vries joined the meeting at 7.20 pm.

(5.2) Discussion took place regarding low flying military aircraft training in the area which disturbs both residents and livestock. Whilst the importance of military training was recognised, it was also noted that training should take place in designated areas.

(5.3) Discussion took place regarding communications with the MOD following the retirement of Dean Howard, aa key member of their staff. It was noted that MOD vehicles continue to ignore the 'No military vehicles' signs and pass through the village. It was agreed that although Councillors understand the need for training in the area, it is frustrating that the MOD will no longer engage with them.

6.0 PLANNING ISSUES AND COMMUNICATIONS

(6.1) WA/2026/00147 – Garden Cottage, Robin Hill, Rutton Hill Road
Erection of a single storey extension and porch with alteration to elevations following removal of existing porch

Following review of the plans it was resolved that the Parish Council had NO COMMENT regarding the application but a question should be raised about whether Listed Building Consent is required as the structure is within the curtilage of a listed building.

7.0 FINANCE

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

0046	Richard Knight	Pavilion works	£188.20
0047	E. Felton	January payment	£371.82
0048	HMRC	January payment	£260.91
	TOTAL		**£820.93**

8.0 NATURAL ENGLAND

Cllr Mendelssohn referred to communications with Natural England which explained that, as there was insufficient resources to sort the issue of signage on all of their sites, they would be continuing to use signage from other reserves on Thursley Common. It was noted that because of this, there is conflicting signage in place which is confusing for users.

He advised that he had met with the Chair of Elstead Parish Council and the Elstead Clerk the previous week regarding use of the 'Preserve Our Reserve' funds that had been raised for reinstatement of the boardwalks. He reported that there had been discussions about how the funds could be allocated, recognising that any proposals needed to be mindful of the fact that the area is a National Nature Reserve.

Cllr Mendelssohn advised that one boardwalk had not been replaced after the fire in 2020, and that volunteers have offered to spend extra time over the next few months to reinstall it if the Preserve Our Reserve funds could be used to purchase the materials. It was agreed that this would be a most appropriate use of the funds as it was the original reason that the money was donated.

Councillors agreed an allocation of c£20k to extend the boardwalks to their original state. It was further agreed that £5k should be retained as a contingency, and the balance of approximately £5k should be allocated to improved signage at the main points of access, with the emphasis on educating visitors as to the special features of the National Nature Reserve, and why the local area needed to be respected as such.. Cllr Mendelssohn agreed to communicate the approval of use of the funds to Elstead Parish Council.

9. ELSTEAD DOCTORS' SURGERY

Discussion took place regarding the increase in patients at the Elstead Doctors Surgery in light of the closure of a practice in Milford and the new homes planned for the village. There was discussion about funding options for the proposed new surgery. Elstead Parish Council are seeking to raise c£3m, but it was felt that it was unlikely that anyone in Thursley would be prepared to make a meaningful contribution to this target. It was agreed that Cllr Mendelssohn would feedback these views to Elstead Parish Council.

10. HIGHWAYS/VAS

(10.1) It was agreed that Cllr McClements has done a good job reporting potholes and other areas of concern of the roads in the village.

(10.2) It was noted that the speed bumps also need attention as does the slip road joining the A3 northbound. Discussion took place regarding the flooding on Boundless Lane. It was agreed that the problems should continue to be reported to ensure that action is taken.

11.0 CRICKET PAVILION

Cllr Mendelssohn confirmed that the surrender document for the lease of the cricket pavilion has now been signed and received. Furthermore, the cricket club now have an agreement in place to play their home games at Thursley during the summer. He advised that a licence agreement has been prepared for all future users of the pavilion, and adherence to the terms of these licences will be carefully monitored..

It was noted that a CIL funding application had been submitted and preparation of the planning application is in progress.

Cllr Mendelssohn advised that certain items of furniture are currently being cleared from the pavilion, and a final clear out of the building is scheduled for Saturday 14 March at 10.00 am. It was also noted that the previous groundsman will be returning to maintain the pitch.

12.0 NEW PARISHIONERS

No contact was needed at this time.

13.0 CORRESPONDENCE

It was noted that communications had been provided at the time of receipt.

Cllr Mendelssohn agreed to speak to the village hall bookings coordinator to discuss the yoga class finish time being the same time as the start of the Parish Council meeting.

14.0 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING

- Items carried forward from above

The meeting closed at 7.59 pm.

The date of the next meeting is **Tuesday 3rd March 2026 at 7.00 pm**.

Signed …… 3rd March 2026