

THURSLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 7.00 pm
at Thursley Village Hall

Attendees: Cllr J. Mendelssohn (Chair) Cllr de Vries Cllr H. Flavell
Cllr C. McClements Cllr R. Owen Mrs E. Felton (Clerk)

Members of the public x 17

1.0 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr Luff and Cllr Dailly. These apologies were accepted. It was agreed that the order of the agenda be changed to allow those members of the public in attendance wishing to attend the Elstead Parish Council meeting to depart by 7.45 pm.

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 December 2023 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

6.0 PLANNING ISSUES AND COMMUNICATIONS

(6.1) WA/2023/02649– Natural England, Thursley Road
Erection of a single storey office building (Use Class E(g)(i)), access road, parking and associated landscaping.

Cllr Mendelssohn provided an overview of the application and made reference to the public meeting which had taken place on site earlier in the day at which several members of the public present had attended. He explained that the Councillors would make the final decision about the Parish Council submission to WBC but that those present would have opportunity to speak to support the decision-making process. He confirmed that WBC had extended the deadline for receipt of comments until the week following the public meeting.

During the course of the discussions the following points were raised:

- A concern of increased use of main access link by vehicles from Thursley to Hankley common and the speed of vehicles impacting on equestrian use
- The application does not make it clear whether the track will be tarmacked or concreted
- Reduced number of safe areas available for equestrians to ride since the pandemic. The proposed site would no longer be safe if the development went ahead.
- Parking may meet requirements but no obvious overflow area with potential for obstructions around the already dangerous S Truxford bend or on the Common itself.

- Is there a separate application for the track from the site to the road? Section 38 snf Commons consent would be required.
- Reference to the 'track' rather than 'bridleway' throughout the application documentation with only a few mentions of a bridleway.
- No engagement with interested parties by Natural England following requests to do so
- Statutory consultees not informed of the application
- Security provision for the site. Photograph showed fencing which conflicts with NE policy.
- Plans showed all bridleways including the access track
- Red line boundary shown on specification does not include bridleway
- Inconsistencies in application documentation and what was said earlier at the public meeting
- Planning application does not limit use – set up as visitor centre with full kitchen.
- Informed at site meeting that education/research would not happen but included in application documentation
- Concern that buildings could be sold as a business enterprise in the future. Covenant could be put in place to ensure it remains for its original use.
- Drainage concerns raised by close property owners as no details included in application
- No alternative sites considered

Cllr Mendelsohn read out a draft submission to WBC which he had prepared following the site earlier in the day which had been agreed by Councillors. The following suggestions were raised in response:

- Include importance of common land
- Highlight that Section 38 consent is required
- Amend closing statement
- There is currently a site with capacity in Woolfords Lane with good security and better access
- Concerns regarding visibility for equestrians on dangerous S bend. Need to consider safe waiting area for horses.
- Need to ensure condition regarding restricted use
- Highlight inconsistencies regarding education and research in application and what had been said face to face. Difficult to know what to believe. Although not against education and research, conflicting information.

He advised that the application has been called in for discussion by the WBC Planning Committee at a public meeting which will allow one person to speak for and one to speak against the application so a decision will need to be made about who would be best placed to speak on behalf of all parties.

Cllr Mendelsohn agreed to make amendments to his draft document for agreement by Councillors the following day prior to submission to WBC.

Four members of the public left the meeting at 7.40 pm.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Cllr Mendelsohn provided an overview of the reasons why BW105 has been closed following the collapse of the dam and the subsequent impact on equestrian and other users and the ability to navigate to other walks in the area.

Twelve members of the public left the meeting at 7.45 pm.

8.0 HAMMER POND LANDSLIP

Mr George Frater advised that following the collapse of the dam, his first intention was to make it safe as soon as possible and SCC and the Environment Agency had reacted very quickly following the collapse because of safety concerns. They had imposed a Temporary Closure Order and fenced off the bridleway to prevent the public accessing the site.

Mr Frater explained that he would like to reinstate the bridleway and he advised that he was due to meet with contractors shortly to discuss options.

Discussion took place about whether SCC were responsible for the reinstatement of the bridleway and possible funding streams that may be available.

Cllr de Vries raised concerns on behalf of a parishioner regarding the closure of the bridleway. Cllr Mendelssohn advised that it was SCC's Rights of Way team that had closed it and it is not within the remit of the Parish Council or the landowner to take alternative action so it will remain closed as per SCC's closure order. It was noted that for safety the fencing on site must remain in the position which SCC placed it. Cllr Mendelssohn advised that he was happy to speak to the complainant if necessary to reinforce this message.

Mr Frater left at 8.02 pm.

4.0 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

(4.1) It was confirmed that the contractor has been engaged to clear the vegetation on the bridleway in Bowlhead Green in March as agreed at the previous meeting.

(4.2) Cllr de Vries agreed to raise concerns again regarding large vehicles associated with filming in the area travelling through the village.

(4.3) Cllr McClements confirmed that Mr Patrick Giles had arranged for the signage to be replaced as requested.

(4.4) Cllr Owen advised that he would continue to attempt to make contact with Mr Sellars regarding the VAS equipment.

(4.5) Cllr Mendelssohn advised that the proposal for the media system in the village hall had been signed by local societies and the specification should be available shortly.

(4.6) It was noted that the parking area on the recreation ground was much improved following the works undertaken by Axtell contractors the previous day.

(4.7) Cllr Owen advised that there were on-going discussion regarding mowing arrangements and he would provide an update in due course.

(4.8) It was noted that Cllr de Vries and Cllr Dailly would speak in due course regarding new parishioners.

(4.9) Cllr Flavell agreed to prepare a licence to allow the Coffee Pod to be sited on the recreation ground this year.

(4.10) Cllr Owen agreed to make arrangements for funds to be transferred to an interest-bearing account.

5.0 COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

No County or Borough Councillors were present.

6.0 PLANNING ISSUES AND COMMUNICATIONS

(6.2) WA/2023/02765 – Kettlebury View, Pitch Place, GU8 6QW
Erection of an outbuilding following demolition of existing outbuilding.

Following discussion and review of the documents it was agreed that the Parish Council had NO COMMENT regarding the application.

(6.3) WA/2023/02773 – Silkmill House, Portsmouth Road, GU8 6QW
Flood alleviation works including removal of ford to be replaced with culvert, extension of revetment and infilling of pond.

Following discussion and review of the documents it was agreed that the Parish Council had NO COMMENT regarding the application.

(6.4) Following discussion regarding the communication received from WBC requesting a call for sites, it was agreed that there were not sites to report at this time.

7.0 FINANCE

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

Voucher Reference	Payee		Amount
00049	Imperative training	Defibrillator battery	£286.20
00050	Alison Williams	Christmas party contribution	£180.00
	TOTAL		£466.20
00051	E. Felton	Salary & expenses	£348.86
00052	HMRC	December payment	£220.00
	TOTAL		£568.86

(7.2) The Budget Review document showing actual to end December 2023 was discussed. It was noted that currently neither the forecast income and expenditure exceed £25k. The Clerk provided an overview of the internal and external auditing processes.

(7.3) Cllr Owen agreed to review the operation of the cabinet for the defibrillator unit in Pitch Place so that arrangements could be made to replace or fix it as necessary.

9.0 HIGHWAYS/VAS

(9.1) Following discussion it was agreed that a response be sent to the Waverley Sustainable Transport Executive Working Group communication asking that the 20 mph speed limit be extended to include The Street and Highfield Lane.

(9.2) Cllr McClements reported that the flooding issue by Foldsdown had been rectified by the repairs to the drainage system but it had uncovered the poor state of the road surface. He agreed to following this up with Mr Patrick Giles and Cllr Harmer.

(9.3) Cllr McClements advised that his contact for tunnel closures at National Highways had changed roles and he was waiting for advice regarding who would be replacing him.

(9.4) It was noted that removal of the overgrown leylandii in front of the pub was their responsibility.

(9.5) Cllr de Vries advised that she had reported the broken fence panels on Bedford Lane adjacent to the A3. It was suggested that National Highways were the responsible authority. Cllr de Vries agreed to forward her communications to Cllr McClements.

10.0 SURREY RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Cllr Flavell agreed to prepare a draft response to the improvement plan for discussion at the next meeting.

11.0 MONTHLY LITTER PRICK PROPOSAL

Following discussion, the Clerk was asked to inform Camilla Daubeney that the Parish Council would be happy to accept her proposal for a monthly litter pick on the common with the arrangements outlined.

12.0 PARKING AND ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS ON THE RECREATION GROUND

Discussion took place regarding the efficient repair of the cricket ground following the recent vandalism caused by vehicles. Options to better secure the site were discussed including the erection of cameras.

Following discussion, Cllr Owen agreed to prepare a specification to allow for quotes to be obtained for the erection of posts around the perimeter of the cricket pitch.

13.0 THURSLEY CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

No updates at this time.

14.0 MOWING ARRANGEMENTS 2024

See (4.7) above.

15.0 PARISH EMERGENCY PLAN

Cllr Owen provided details of a report submitted by Cllr Dailly in her absence. It was noted that:

- The working group was in place but that a representative from Warren Park would be welcome to join
- It had been suggested that the project be called ‘Thursley Good Neighbours’
- GDPR implications had been covered
- The Facebook page is up and running
- Cllr Mendelsohn to prepare a welcome message once numbers increase

16.0 VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Cllr McClements advised that Mr John Swift had provided him with some ideas for inclusion in the improvement plan in Bowlhead Green and that he would respond in due course.

17.0 ANNUAL RISK ASSESSMENT

The Annual Risk Assessment was reviewed and approved.

18.0 NEW PARISHIONERS

It was noted that Mr John Swift had provided new parishioners in Bowlhead Green with the welcome pack.

19.0 CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence had already been provided to Councillors although the Clerk highlighted the appointment of the new CEO for Waverley and Guildford councils.

20.0 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING

- Items carried forward from above
- Annual Assembly Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm. The date of the next meeting is **Tuesday 6th February 2024 at 7.00 pm.**

Signed **6th February 2024**