THURSLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday 7th January 2025 at 7.00 pm
at Thursley Village Hall

Attendees:	Cllr J. Mendelssohn (Chair)	Cllr H. Flavell	Cllr M. de Vries
	Cllr C. McClements (from 7.21 pm)	Cllr R. Owen	Cllr. Taylor-Mathews
	Mrs E. Felton (Clerk)		
Also present:	Cllr D. Harmer (SCC)	Cllr D. Munro (WBC) to 8.06 pm	
	Mr K. Buchanan	Ms S. Scheffers (from 7.30 pm)	

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Dailly Who was delayed in traffic. 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 3rd December 2024 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

4.0 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

(4.1) Cllr Mendelssohn confirmed that he had received an immediate response from Mr Jeremy Hunt MP following correspondence regarding Natural England. He advised that he had also received communications from Natural England shortly afterwards following Mr Hunt contacting their office. It was noted that this would be discussed as a later agenda item.

(4.2) Cllr Mendelssohn agreed to resend the correspondence with SCC regarding grass cutting to Cllr Harmer so that he could follow up following previous discussions.

(4.3) Cllr Mendelssohn confirmed that he had spoken to the Chair of Elstead Parish Council who had written to the MOD regarding the disbanding of the HUG group. It was noted that the MOD had confirmed that they do not intend to reinstate the meetings. Following discussion it was agreed that a possible way forward is to deal with any queries on a case by case basis. Cllr de Vries agreed to report any equestrian related issues and other more common issues such as flares landing in properties, bridleway blockages etc.

(4.4) It was noted that Christmas lights had been purchased for Bowlhead Green as previously discussed and invoices received for reimbursement. The Clerk was asked to remind Mr Swift that they should be made available for other village activities as required.

(4.5) It was noted that there had been some correspondence regarding a fallen tree on a bridleway which the Parish Council had previously cleared. Cllr Mendelssohn advised that it had been reported to SCC as is usual practice.

(4.6) Cllr de Vries reported that there has still been no further action by National Highways to fix the broken panels on Bedford Lane adjacent to the A3 even though it had been reported numerous times over a long period of time. Discussion took place about the potentially dangerous situation. The Clerk was asked to speak to Mr John Baker (SCC) to see if he can help.

(4.7) The Clerk advised that she would speak again to the village hall about getting the pot hole filled.

5.0 COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

(5.1) Cllr Harmer advised that there was a SCC meeting the next day to discuss the devolution of Government and consider how any new arrangements may look in order to prepare a formal response. He agreed to keep Councillors updated.

Cllr Mc Clements arrived at 7.21 pm.

Cllr Munro advised that Waverley Borough Council (WBC) were also having the same discussion that evening. He made reference to the elections in May, the role of the Town and Parish Councils under any new arrangements and what would be done with debt accrued by some Councils.

(5.2) Cllr Harmer provided an overview of Local Government Pension Scheme guidance requiring certain schemes to join a pool. It was noted that SCC already have such an arrangement in place.

(5.3) Cllr Munro advised that WBC were concerned about the increased housing target and how best to manage the process.

Ms Sally Scheffers arrived at 7.30 pm.

(5.4) Cllr Munro advised that he was still attempting to arrange a meeting with interested parties to discuss the filming arrangements within the borough.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr Keith Buchanan introduced himself to those present and explained that if the local elections go ahead in May, he will be standing as a Liberal Democrat candidate. He advised that he lives locally in Hindhead and so is just visiting to get an understanding of local issues and meet people.

Ms Scheffers asked if the village tradition of raising the flag at half-mast following the death of a prominent parishioner could be reinstated. Cllr Mendelssohn agreed to find someone to raise the flag on 31st January when a funeral of a long standing resident is taking place. It was agreed to respond to such requests on an individual basis.

Cllr de Vries advised that a band had been booked for the VE Day celebrations. She was asked to pay the deposit and claim it back on expenses following previous agreement for the Parish Council to cover the cost.

Cllr Scheffers advised that she had obtained a further £1k contribution towards the celebratory events that were planned.

It was noted that whilst taking down the Christmas tree on the Clump, it had been noticed that the Thor sign post was rotting and needed replacing. It was agreed that quotes be obtained to support an application to the Members Grant.

In response to a question from Cllr McClements, Ms Scheffers advised that Mr Peter Goble had cleared the edges on Highfield Lane and she planned to remove the mud in due course.

6.0 PLANNING ISSUES AND COMMUNICATIONS

(6.1) WA/2024/02327 – Kestrel Wood Stables, Highfield Lane, GU8 6QJ
Erection of a single storey extension following demolition of existing stable block

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

(6.2) WA/2024/02350 – Brook Reservoir, Bowlhead Green
Change of use and conversion of former reservoir building to a dwelling house with associated access and landscaping.

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

(6.3) It was noted that a retrospective planning application for Shepherd's Cottage was being submitted so would come before Councillors in due course.

7.0 FINANCE

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

0048	John Swift	Community support	£74.71
0049	E. Felton	January payment	£509.39
0050	HMRC	January payment	£228.00
	TOTAL		**£812.10**

8.0 HIGHWAYS/VAS

(8.1) Cllr McClements advised that he was now in a position to collect the VAS unit.

(8.2) Cllr McClements advised that SCC had cleared the gulleys by Foldsdown which helped with relieving the flooding but he would speak further with Mr Goble to discuss the trenches.

(8.3) Discussion took place regarding potholes including some in French Lane that have been reported.

(8.4) Cllr McClements advised that he had written to Mr Jeremy Hunt MP about the litter on the A3. It was noted that an online petition was also in process for the same.

(8.5) Cllr McClements advised that he intended to check the diversion signs in place following closure of the slip road onto the A3.

9.0 NATURAL ENGLAND – THURSLEY COMMON

Cllr Mendelssohn voiced his frustrations over Natural England not publishing clear guidance or having a policy regarding dogs on the common during the nesting season even though discussion had been taking place with them for a long time.

Following discussion it was agreed that Cllr Mendelssohn would write an article for the parish magazine venting his frustrations and asking for users to use their common sense when walking dogs near the heather or ponds.

Cllr Munro left at 8.06 pm.

10.0 ANNUAL RISK ASSESSMENT

The Annual Risk Assessment was reviewed and approved.

11.0 ASSEMBLY MEETING DATE

It was agreed that the annual assembly take place on Thursday 24th April.

12.0 CHURCHYARD PROJECT

Deferred to next meeting.

13.0 NEW PARISHIONERS

There were no new parishioners at this time.

14.0 CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence had been shared with Councillors in advance of the meeting.

It was noted that the invoice for the entertainer at the children's Christmas party should be sent to the Clerk for payment.

15.0 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING

- Items carried forward from above

The meeting closed at 8.13 pm.

The date of the next meeting is **Tuesday 4th February 2025 at 7.00 pm**. It was noted that Cllr Mendelssohn would not be attending so Cllr Owen would be chairing in his absence.

Signed ……. 4th February 2025