

**THURSLEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting**

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7.00 pm**  
**Thursley Village Hall, Thursley**

**Attendees:** Cllr J. Mendelsohn (Chair)      Cllr S. Edwards      Cllr H. Flavell  
Cllr J. Luff      Cllr J. Swift      Mrs E. Felton (Clerk)

**Also attending were:** Cllr D. Harmer (SCC)      Mr M. WoodHouse (Natural England)  
Mr O. Francis (JBA Consulting)      Mr M. McCormick (EA/Defra)  
+ 14 Members of Public

**1.0 HAMMER POND UPDATE**

Cllr Mendelsohn provided an overview of the history of Hammer Pond site and explained that representatives from the relevant organisations had been invited to present to provide an update on the progress to reinstate the dam. It was noted that the Parish Council meeting was to follow the presentation, so a time limit would be applied to questions.

Mr Michael Woodhouse from Natural England, Mr Oliver Francis from JBA Consulting and Mr Michael McCormick from EA/Defra introduced themselves to those present.

Mr Woodhouse advised he had been involved in the project to reinstate the dam at Hammer Pond since summer 2019 and had since that time provided regular newsletters to keep interests parties updated on progress. He advised that some coppicing and vegetation clearance works were currently taking place on site and that some maintenance works would be taking place on the track from Foldsdown before the end of March so that when planning permission is approved, the works could start immediately.

Mr Francis provided the following updates:

- Scheme Objectives
  - Reinstatement of Hammer Pond to its prior to 2013 condition to restore the flow regime
  - Remove temporary pumps
  - Preserve it as an archaeological interest site
  - Minimise the impact on various designations
  - Provide a robust and easily maintainable structure (standalone with no human element)
- Overview Plan – hard copies available
  - Infill depression area
  - Archaeological element preserved
  - Low height embankment to north
  - Replacement of outer pipe – Fort pond feeder
  - New low-level outlet to the west
  - Water to be retained at same level as previously
- Visualisations – hard copies available

- Progress
  - Scoping opinion received from WBC – EIA extended planning consultation period
  - Topographic survey, arboriculture survey etc.
  - Planning application – target date of 16<sup>th</sup> March + 16 week consultation
  - Natural England to undertake tender process during planning/consultation period
  - Construction works to commence end August 2020 (subject to planning) – 10 - 12-week construction period
- Next Steps
  - Preparation works
  - Complete the EIA
  - Finalise flood risk assessment
  - Issue construction drawings/tender process
  - Discharge planning conditions
  - Construction

The following were responses were given to questions from Councillors and members of the public:

- Pre-planning advice was sought and all being done to minimise risk
- Commons Consent has been applied for to rebuild the access route
- Not allowed to use access from the A3 due to trucks having to join the A3
- The other access gate is not suitable for the size of vehicles that will access the site. Materials to be stored at top of track and brought down to construction area as required. Fittleworth stone will be used for the track and it will be reinstated so that it is suitable for horses, walkers etc. following completion of the works.
- Calculated that 100 trucks would be needed (3-4 per day but not every day).
- Top surface will be mesh to allow grass to grow through
- Plate over low level pipe – not adjustable – no human intervention although ability to clean it/proper maintenance regime
- Extended discussions with SCC Archaeologist regarding historical elements – being reinstated in most sympathetic way possible. Happy with infilling plans.
- Intention for the Powell's property not to flood
- Fixed plates can be adjusted initially if necessary. Fixed plate to control flood risk – surveys and levels taken
- Negotiations ongoing with local landowner to buy strip of land for access
- Temporary closure of track – reinstated and reopened in better condition on completion
- Hydro power source possibility not considered as scope of the works – flood defence focus of project

Mr Francis was asked to provide the Clerk with the presentation and plans for inclusion on the Parish Council website.

In response to a question, Mr Woodhouse provided an overview of the costs to date and the cost of the construction project. It was noted that from April 2020 the estimated costs would be £900k and that the cost of pumps had been £200k per annum.

Cllr Mendelsohn thanked them for their presentation. It was noted that the newsletter would continue to provide an update on the status of the works.

*Mr Woodhouse, Mr Francis, Mr McCormick and x 11 members of the public left the meeting at 7.35 pm.*

## **2.0 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Owen and Cllr Hunter who were not able to attend due to business and personal commitments. These apologies were accepted.

## **3.0 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.

### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Cllr Mendelssohn advised that at the first meeting of a group of parishioners to discuss sustainability in the village, some good ideas had been discussed and Cllr Swift had agreed to chair the group in the future. It was noted that Cllr Swift had provided Councillors with a summary of the discussions in advance of the meeting.

Cllr Swift explained that the ideas which Mr Tony Kelly had raised were likely to be outside of the scope of the group but this work would take place alongside. Cllr Swift advised discussion about solar PV would take place at the next meeting of the group and although challenging, the project was worth considering.

He highlighted the good work which Mrs Nicki Bates has undertaken to date on recycling and that this was also due to be discussed at the next meeting.

Discussion took place about the tree planting initiative and Cllr Swift advised that he had made progress by talking to landowners who may be interested. Discussion took place about the SCC Tree Planting strategy and the need to make progress in this area prior to their plan being available.

Cllr Swift advised that he intended to include a short article each month in the parish magazine and that the next meeting of the group was planned for 11 March. It was agreed that the minimal cost of the hall rental for the sustainability meeting should be covered by the Parish Council.

Cllr Mendelssohn suggested that the matter be presented at the Annual Assembly meeting along with some practical suggestions about how the parishioners may be able to help. Cllr Harmer suggested that the SCC Portfolio holder may be able to support this presentation but it was decided that it would be better to have a more local view at this time.

Cllr Mendelssohn raised a concern from a parishioner regarding the raised manhole cover on a bridle path. **Cllr Harmer suggested that the Clerk contact Hannah Gutteridge so that the matter can be resolved.**

*Mr Kelly, Mr Hanauer and Mrs Bates left the meeting at 7.40 pm.*

In response to a concern raised by a parishioner about the poor condition of the Clump, Cllr Mendelssohn advised that the construction company have erected parking notices for their contractors to abide with and that they intended to make good the damage upon completion of the building works.

Following a request from a parishioner, it was agreed that the 'missing cat' notices have been displayed for some time and they can be removed if they feel appropriate.

It was noted that there had been communications received regarding replanting on the Clump following removal of a diseased tree on a parishioner's land. It was noted that the suggestion was that the replanting take place on the Clump rather than the original site of the tree.

Discussion took place regarding the differing views on whether the Clump should be replanted or not. Following a suggestion that the horseshoe shape Bargate stone wall be repaired and shrubbery be planted in this area, **Cllr Luff agreed to speak to the History Society on the matter so that further discussion could take place.**

#### **4.0 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

#### **5.0 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

(5.1) **It was noted the Cllr Hunter had contacted Highways England but that they had not yet returned his call so he would try again.**

(5.2) It was noted that the crash debris has now been removed.

(5.3) **It was agreed that Cllr Hunter should prepare the letter to delivery drivers to accompany the notices as soon as possible.**

(5.4) Discussion took place regarding the letter received from Highways England advising that there would be no funding for the improved access/egress works at Warren Park in the next five-year period.

Cllr Luff reported that he had written to them on behalf of the Warren Park residents highlighting that if a fatal accident occurred, they could be held responsible. Discussion took place about whether a letter should be sent to Jeremy Hunt MP. It was noted that a previous petition handed to him had not been successful.

(5.5) The Clerk reported that the Annual Assembly meetings of the Western Villages were all on different dates.

(5.6) Cllr Mendelssohn confirmed that the marker on the northbound slipway of the A3 to Thursley was still missing.

(5.7) Cllr Swift highlighted that the fencing posts adjacent to the A3 are rotting and the fence is blown during high winds.

(5.8) It was agreed that the SCC contact for tree advice was not required at this time.

(5.9) Cllr Swift reported that he had amended the Risk Assessment document to include detail regarding grass cutting and VAS equipment. Following discussion about the storage of historical information, it was agreed that the current arrangements appear to be satisfactory but the risk for this particular item be increased to 'M'. It was agreed that the Risk Assessment document be approved at the next meeting.

(5.10) It was noted that the defibrillator in Bowlhead Green had had its power supply restored. Discussion took place regarding the use of Parish Council funds required to move the unit to an alternative site. **It was noted that Cllr Flavell would like a site visit in order to complete the draft of the licence.**

(5.11) It was noted that the Leader and Deputy Leader of WBC were not able to attend the Annual Assembly meeting. **The Clerk was asked to contact them to invite them to a Parish Council meeting.**

## **6.0 COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

(6.1) Cllr Harmer reported that SCC had set the budget and that Adult Social Care and Children's Social Care were the main budgetary items. It was noted that there were several capital investment areas and that the intention was to provide a better service whilst reducing running costs.

(6.2) Cllr Harmer advised that a meeting of the Western Villages was needed in order to discuss the funds for Rights of Way improvements.

(6.3) Cllr Harmer advised that the SCC Green Strategy would be published in April.

## **7.0 PLANNING ISSUES AND COMMUNICATIONS**

(7.1) It was noted that Cllr Hunter had submitted a planning application which had not yet appeared on the WBC planning portal but documents had been made available for the Council to consider. It was agreed that the application be considered once documents had been received from WBC in the same way as other applications. It was noted that this may require a separate planning committee meeting to take place if the timescales require comment prior to the next Parish Council meeting.

(7.2) Cllr Mendelsohn provided an overview of the appeal hearing for the stables at Haybarn which had taken place during the day. Discussion took place regarding the role of WBC in the process and the reasons for legal proceedings not being taken.

Discussion also took place regarding the erroneous supporting documentation for the application and the AONB statement.

It was noted that a letter had been written to the new Head of Planning so that a meeting could be arranged to discuss Parish Council concerns regarding planning matters.

(7.3) It was noted that WBC expect to receive an appeal within the next couple of weeks for the carport at Forge Cottage following refusal of the application.

## 8.0 FINANCE

(8.1) The following list of payments for January/February was presented, duly authorised and approved for payment:

Voucher Reference	Payee		Amount
00026	Surrey County Council	VAS training	£216.67
00044	John Swift	Expenses	£13.97
00045	E. Felton	Salary & expenses	£390.68
00046	HMRC	January payment	£93.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£714.32</b>

(8.2) It was noted that the Clerk was waiting for a quote for repair to the zip wire and that an invoice was expected from WBC for election costs.

## 9.0 HIGHWAYS

(9.1) Cllr Swift reported that he was looking for volunteers to help with putting the grit bins in place. It was noted that the location in Highfield Lane may need the support of Mr Goble. **Cllr Swift agreed to make the necessary arrangements.**

(9.2) Cllr Edwards reported that he was in contact with the contractor to repair the damage on the verge by the Church caused by a vehicle following an insurance claim.

(9.3) Discussion took place regarding a large pothole in Bowlhead Green which SCC had inspected but had deemed not necessary for immediate repair. It was noted that vehicles have now been damaged.

## 10.0 VAS

It was noted that Cllr Swift had provided a list of equipment which the Parish Council would need to purchase for the use of the VAS in the village. He highlighted that volunteers were needed to help with charging and replacement of the batteries. It was agreed that a rota be prepared so that the task does not become onerous for the volunteers.

It was noted that Cllr Swift had enquired whether the redundant solar panels could be used to charge the battery. **Cllr Swift agreed to investigate the timings of when the unit would be operational.**

## 11.0 Policing your Community Feedback

(11.1) Cllr Swift had circulated a document providing details of the Policing event which had taken place the previous evening. He highlighted the good work of the Police which is not always evident and concerns regarding online crime.

**Following discussion it was agreed that Cllr Swift invite Police representatives to attend a Parish Council meeting** in order to gain a better understanding of their work and start to build relationships.

(11.2) Discussion took place regarding the Villages Neighbourhood representatives.

**12.0 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS**

It was noted that WBC had asked for details and photos of films which had been located in the area for inclusion in their publicity materials. It was noted that no response had been received from WBC following the suggestion that the Planning Department issue a licence to cover filming activities.

**13.0 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING**

- Items carried forward from above

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 at 7.00 pm.

Signed .....

**3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020**