

THURSLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday 7th November 2017 at 7.30 pm
The Village Hall, Thursley

Attendees: Cllr J. Mendelssohn (Chair) Cllr. S. Edwards Cllr T. Horwood
Mrs E. Felton (Clerk)

Also attending were: Cllr D. Harmer (SCC Mrs N. Bates (Warden) Mr C. Barnes
Mr & Mrs G. Frater (to 8.40 pm)

1.0 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Clerk reported that apologies had been received from Cllr Hunter, Cllr Luff, Cllr Malton and Cllr Swift who were absent due personal commitments. These apologies were approved by the Council.

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 on 3rd October 2017 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

4.0 ACTIONS FOR PREVIOUS MEETING

(4.1) Cllr Mendelssohn reported that he had spoken with Ms Anne-Marie Emersic and he understood that an email list of the equestrians within the village did not exist. Following discussion, it was agreed that Councillors would continue to speak to individuals regarding respecting other road/pavement users and speed limits within the village. **Cllr Mendelssohn agreed to write a short statement which would be delivered to Highfield Lane residents in hard copy along with the parish magazine, to highlight the concerns of the Parish Council regarding the problems. Cllr Horwood agreed to make the necessary arrangements for delivery.**

(4.2) Cllr Mendelssohn advised that Cllr Malton had been in contact with Surrey Police regarding the on-going problem of vehicles meeting on the Old Portsmouth Road on a regular basis and that she would continue to monitor and communicate with them as necessary.

(4.3) The Clerk reported that in response to a query regarding the reason why a planning matter was considered exempt from publication under Part 1 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the Monitoring Officer of WBC had advised that it was deemed appropriate as the information was likely to identify an individual, would reveal financial or business affairs on a particular person and would relate to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

The Clerk was asked to contact Cllrs Jenny and David Else and ask that they challenge this decision as Parish Councillors needed to understand why the matter had been openly discussed previously but was now closed.

(4.4) It was noted that the Clerk had applied for Delegate access to the Parish Council Online banking account and that two signatures were required to authorise the request.

(4.5) Cllr Mendelssohn reported that Cllr Malton had spoken to WBC regarding the issue of bin emptying and had been referred to Veolia. It was noted that Cllr Malton had not received responses from Veolia to her communications. Cllr Mendelssohn advised that in Cllr Malton's absence he had also contacted them and not received a reply. **It was agreed that Cllr Mendelssohn would contact them again but that if no response was received, he would refer the matter back to WBC.**

(4.6) Cllr Mendelssohn advised that Cllr Swift had reported that the residents of Bowlhead Green were keen to support grass cutting and maintenance of the area around the pond in a natural condition. It was noted that there was an intention to include an amount in the budget for 2018-19 to assist with the costs associated with the grass cutting in Bowlhead Green.

(4.7) Cllr Horwood confirmed that she was in the process of preparing an electronic welcome pack for new parishioners.

5.0 COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

(5.1) Cllr Harmer advised that following discussions with fellow SCC Councillors regarding the change to the constitution which affected his and others, ability to use the Members Local Allocation funds for local projects, his request to revert to the original wording had been supported.

(5.2) Cllr Harmer provided an update regarding the financial planning discussions taking place at County Hall. He highlighted that the Government proposed to tax council tax in the future.

(5.3) Following receipt of a communication from Cllr Jenny Else, Cllr Mendelssohn reported the following on her behalf:

- If anyone becomes aware of people experiencing problems with the WBC Careline service, they should refer parishioners to Cllr Else. Cllr Horwood advised that she would include a note in the parish magazine to this effect.
- It was noted that the traveller incursion in Elstead was likely to be moved soon. Cllr Mendelssohn advised that the both barriers on the recreation ground would be locked as a precaution.
- Both the Farnham and Godalming sports centres were due to be upgraded.
- Meetings with representatives from SECamb had been positive and that Cllr Jenny Else would continue to work with them.

6.0 PLANNING

(6.1) WA/2017/1832/1833/1910/1911 - Blackhanger Farm, GU8 6NW

It was noted that Mr & Mrs Frater, the applicants, were present and available to respond to questions if necessary. Following review of the plans and a report prepared by Cllr Swift, it was agreed that the Parish Council had no comment regarding the applications.

(6.2) In response to an email received from WBC providing dates for the Town and Parish Council Planning Forum meetings for 2018-19, it was agreed that Cllr Mendelssohn and Cllr Malton would attend and that if a third Councillor wished to attend as well, it could be agreed nearer the date of each meeting.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr Chris Barnes highlighted the problems associated with vehicles travelling through the village following closure of the A3 and/or Hindhead tunnels. Cllr Mendelssohn advised that he, along with Cllr Hunter and Cllr Harmer had attended many meetings with Highways England and other interested parties and some progress had been made during planned closures due to agreement being reached with regards the signage that should be used. It was noted that the problems still seemed to exist in the event of unplanned closures possibly due to the storage location of the required signs and other factors.

Cllr Mendelssohn advised that the Mayor of Haslemere was currently awaiting a response from Highways England on the matter and that Parish Councillors and Cllr Harmer would continue to work to resolve the issues.

Mr Barnes also highlighted the problems of speeding vehicles through the village. Cllr Mendelssohn advised that a Speedwatch scheme had been suggested but only two people had volunteered to participate and that a minimum of eight were required to allow the training to take place. **It was agreed that the scheme should be mentioned at the Annual Assembly meeting to see if additional volunteers could be identified.**

Discussion took place regarding the most effective methods of reducing the speed of vehicles and the lack of funding to support such initiatives. It was noted that Surrey Police were not able to provide manpower to deter speeding motorists.

Cllr Mendelssohn reported that he had received a request from a parishioner living close to the village hall that he ask a question of the Parish Council about whether they believe that the village hall is operated within its CIO in respect of article (4.6), to limit the size and scope of the nursery such that the noise can be controlled.

Discussion took place regarding the role of the Parish Council previously as custodian Trustees prior to the change to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. It was noted that the Parish Council had ensured that a clause had been included in the new constitution for the need for parishioners to vote for any proposed sale of assets vested in the new CIO. With this safeguard in place, the Parish Council had given up any future control over the new CIO. It was therefore agreed that taking this into account, the Parish Council had no jurisdiction on the matter. It was agreed that the parishioner should continue with his discussions with the Village Hall Management Committee to resolve the matter.

7.0 FINANCE

(7.1) The financial overview for November was presented, duly authorised and cheques signed:

993	E. Felton	297.90	Salary & Expenses
994	Post Office	173.20	HMRC payment
TOTAL		£471.10	

(7.2) It was noted that historically the discussions regarding the next year's budget had taken place at the November Parish Council meeting so that the Precept could be agreed at the December meeting in order to meet the deadline for submitting the application to WBC in early January. It was agreed that as the first meeting in 2018 was due to take place on 2nd January, discussions would take place at the December Parish Council meeting and the Precept agreed in January as the deadline for receipt of the submission to WBC could still be met.

(7.3) It was noted that the Clerk had applied for Delegate User access to the Parish Council online bank account. This was agreed and the appropriate application forms were signed by two signatories.

8.0 HIGHWAYS

(8.1) Cllr Mendelssohn advised that a report had been received from Cllr Swift regarding the problem of blocked gulleys in Bowlhead Green and the subsequent works that had been undertaken by SCC to resolve the issue.

(8.2) It was noted that Cllr Swift suggested a meeting with Cllr Harmer was required to discuss the speeding of vehicles in Bowlhead Green. Cllr Harmer advised that a local consensus was required on where to install speed limit signs prior to discussions taking place.

(8.3) Discussion took place regarding the jetting of gulleys by Hedge Farm in Highfield Lane which had improved the water flow. It was agreed that a temporary fix to the large pothole by Copper Beeches would be appropriate in advance of a longer-term solution once funding was available.

(8.4) It was noted that the contractor responsible for the delivery vehicle which had caused damage to the grass verge by the church and the clump had agreed to pay for the repairs and that these were due to take place shortly. It was agreed that residents of Highfield Lane should be encouraged to limit the size of vehicles accessing their properties.

9.0 WBC OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Following discussion, it was agreed that it was appropriate to request the WBC O&S Committee consider the planning service that operates in rural areas. **The Clerk was asked to pass this request to the appropriate person at WBC. Cllr Mendelssohn agreed to include details of the request for suggestions in his monthly report for parishioners.**

10.0 HAMMER POND

Cllr Mendelsohn explained that the Warren Park Residents Association (WPRA) had written to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and that Parish Councillors had been passed a copy of their response. Discussion took place about the historical features of the pond. **Cllr Mendelsohn agreed to speak to Mrs Parker (WPRA) to suggest a response may be appropriate from the Parish Council.**

11.0 PARISH WARDEN ROLE

It was noted that Mrs Nicki Bates had given her resignation as Parish Warden. Cllr Mendelsohn thanked Mrs Bates for her support for the village and explained that the Council fully understand her decision.

Cllr Mendelsohn explained that the responsibility for the notice boards within the village would be passed to:

- Cllr Swift – Bowlhead Green
- Cllr Luff – Warren Park
- Arkadii Kostenko – Pitch Place
- Cllr Malton – Thursley centre

It was agreed that organisations should send appropriate materials to be displayed to the Clerk who would distribute them to the nominated people. It was agreed that an annual amount be passed to them to a contribution towards printing costs.

It was noted that resolution to the emptying and siting of bins was on-going but would hopefully be resolved shortly. In light of the delegation of duties as per above, it was agreed not to appoint a new Parish Warden.

It was acknowledged that Mrs Bates' knowledge of the history of the village was invaluable and that her continued input would be appreciated. Cllr Mendelsohn thanked Mrs Bates on behalf of the Parish Council for all of her hard work and support.

Cllr Mendelsohn agreed to include a note in his report requesting that organisations send posters and notices for display to the Clerk from 1st January 2018.

12.0 DEFIBRILLATOR UPDATE

Deferred to next meeting.

13.0 VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

Cllr Mendelsohn advised that Cllr Swift had provided Parish Councillors with an update regarding the progress of updating the Village Design Statement and that a further meeting of the working group was due to take place shortly to agree the final format.

14.0 EMERGENCY PLAN

Cllr Horwood explained that she had met with Cllr Malton to review the draft Emergency Plan previously prepared and that it had been adapted and updated. It was suggested that 'Help in Thursley' and the VHMC be included as updated contacts and may be useful when preparing a list of volunteers.

It was suggested that the plan was a valuable document to be used in the event of an emergency but that effective methods of communication with parishioners was also required. It was suggested that laminated emergency notices could be displayed as required.

It was noted that the critical element of the plan was to sustain communications with the village. He suggested that a parishioner in Highfield Lane with a microwave internet link may be a useful contact to include.

It was noted that a separate Fire Plan was required. **The Clerk was asked to investigate whether other parishes had such a document.**

It was agreed that the Emergency Plan be reviewed at the December meeting.

15.0 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY 2018

It was agreed to discuss speakers at the Annual Assembly meeting at the December Parish Council meeting when previous suggestions could be considered and more Councillors were present.

16.0 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported the following items of correspondence:

- Notification from Cllr Edwards that metal detector operators had been digging on the recreation ground and when approached had advised that they had been given permission by Guildford Council. Discussion took place regarding the role of Parish Councillors in such a situation. It was suggested that it was appropriate to approach people unless it was a threatening situation.
- Notification received from the virtual solicitors working on registering the Parish Field and preparing the lease with Natural England. Cllr Mendelssohn reported that he had instructed them to prepare statutory declarations as required so that he could arrange for them to be signed as he believed that sufficient evidence was now available to them to progress that matter. Cllr Edwards suggested that Dr Arthur Lindley may be able to provide information to support the application.
- **It was agreed that the Clerk should include the leaflet about the changes to the Surrey's Community Recycling Centres on the Parish Council website.**
- Letter received from Invicta Law offering a legal service to Parish Councils. **Following discussion regarding the need for the Parish Council to have such a service, Cllr Mendelssohn agreed to investigate further.**
- Letter from Godalming Town Council inviting Parish Council representatives to a meeting to discuss how best to support the Citizens Advice service in the town. It was agreed that Thursley Parish Council were not in a position to offer financial support based on their understanding of the use of the facility by parishioners.

- Communication from WBC advising that funding to support communities preparing a Neighbourhood Plan would continue to be available.
- Letter received from a grass cutting contractor offering their services for 2018-19. **Cllr Mendelssohn agreed to speak with Mr Richard Bates regarding his services.**
- It was noted that there had been an incident involving a flasher on the common recently and that this had been publicised locally to alert parishioners and users of the common.

17.0 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING

- Items carried forward as above
- Budget Planning 2018-19

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Signed

Tuesday 5th December 2017

Date of next meeting is Tuesday 5th December 2017 at 7.30 pm.

