

THURSLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday 4th June 2019 at 7.30 pm
Thursley Village Hall, Thursley

Attendees: Cllr J. Mendelssohn (Chair) Cllr S. Edwards Cllr P. Hunter
Cllr J. Luff Cllr R. Owen Cllr J. Swift
Mrs E. Felton (Clerk)

Also attending were: Cllr D. Harmer (SCC) Mr K. Powell Mrs L. Smith
Mr J. Smith

1.0 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Clerk reported that apologies had been received from Cllr Flavell, Cllr J. Else and Cllr D. Else who were not able to attend due to personal commitments. These apologies were accepted by those present.

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 14th May 2019 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

4.0 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

(4.1) Cllr Hunter reported that Highways England had confirmed that the access/egress improvement works at Warren Park had been delayed due to budgetary constraints but would be considered for completion in this financial year.

(4.2) Cllr Hunter reported that he was in the process of completing the advertisement for the redundant solar panel equipment.

(4.3) Cllr Mendelssohn advised that he had made contact with SSE regarding the safety concerns of the power cables remaining over the Clump and was waiting to speak to the appropriate person so that the matter could be discussed further.

(4.4) It was noted that the bike had been purchased from the ring-fenced fire funds. Cllr Hunter advised that it had not been possible to identify a suitable area to install a storage cabinet on the village hall but that a suitable storage site had been identified. **Cllr Hunter agreed to make the necessary arrangements to purchase and install the necessary brackets and padlock that were required to ensure the bike could be secured.**

The Clerk was asked to provide Mr Alexander's contact details to Cllr Hunter.

It was agreed that the recent Fire Awareness event on the recreation ground had been well received.

(4.5) The Clerk reported that SCC had advised that the damaged Pitch Place road sign was not in a condition to need to be replaced.

(4.6) Cllr Swift advised that he would be making the necessary arrangements to visit the Bowlhead Green property.

(4.7) It was noted that the bin in the play area had been removed.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Cllr Mendelssohn gave an overview of the discussions and meetings that had taken place with representatives from Natural England over the previous few years regarding the reinstatement of Hammer Pond. He reported that the most recent update he had received was to inform him that the works required planning permission and so they were in the process of preparing the required drawings etc. so that they could be submitted for consideration later this year to allow for the works to take place during spring 2020.

Mr Keith Powell, the owner of a property most badly affected by the flood on 24th December 2013, advised that his understanding was that Natural England intended not to replace the dam exactly how it had been but to build an embankment. He confirmed that in his experience, planning permission would be required along with an environmental assessment. He suggested that this assessment could only be done during the summer months so in order to meet the spring timescale, this would need to take place soon.

Mr Powell provided an overview of the extent of the damage to his property and the cost of the repairs needed to allow him to return to live there after eight months. He also provided details of the discussions that had taken place with his insurance company as a result of their concerns regarding future flooding.

Discussions took place regarding the frustrations experienced when communicating with Natural England on the issue and the on-going delays for the work to take place resulting in excessive expenditure to maintain the current pumping set-up.

It was agreed that all parties would continue to communicate with Natural England to put pressure on them to start the works asap. It was noted that if proceedings are to be taken against them, the case needs to start being prepared at the moment to ensure that it can be submitted before the deadline date in December.

Discussion took place about whether it was appropriate that the local press be asked to highlight the problem and the concerns of parishioners. It was also suggested the Jeremy Hunt MP be provided with details and that a Freedom of Information request be prepared to look at the cost of the current pumping operation.

Mr Powell suggested that prior to taking these actions, he monitors the situation to see if he receives the updates he has requested from Natural England to see if everything is being done that possibly can be. It was agreed that Mr Powell would communicate with Cllr Luff so that the Parish Council could be kept updated.

Mr Powell left the meeting at 8.10 pm.

It was noted that Mr and Mrs Smith were present to discuss the traffic issues associated with vehicles on Highfield Lane. Cllr Mendelsohn provided an overview of the experience of their daughter two years ago which involved the Police being called following the aggressive nature of the driver when he was challenged about his speed. It was noted that there had been a similar incident the previous week resulting in Mrs Smith being verbally abused by a driver who suggested that she was driving less than the speed limit for the road.

It was suggested that it was only a matter of time before there is a serious accident due to speed of some vehicles on the lane which is narrow, has blind corners and a large number of equestrian and farm worker vehicles using it.

Discussion took place regarding the possibility of reducing the speed limit to 20 mph (from 30 mph). Cllr Harmer advised that although not impossible, in order to make the change there was certain criteria that had to be met. He advised that evidence was required to demonstrate the current average speed of vehicles was below the speed limit. He highlighted that a reduction to 20 mph was also accepted if a school was in the vicinity but this was obviously not the case.

Discussion took place regarding the lack of Police resources to monitor the speed and how engineering works, such as pinch points, may alleviate the problem. **It was agreed that Cllr Hunter would arrange a meeting with Mr Adrian Selby (SCC) to discuss the matter so that it could be discussed further by the Parish Council. It was agreed that Cllr Hunter would invite Mr and Mrs Smith to attend the meeting.**

Mr and Mrs Smith left the meeting at 8.20 pm.

5.0 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Following review of the Roles and Responsibilities document discussed at the previous meeting, it was agreed that Cllr Owen be allocated the role for 'Young Thursley'. **The Clerk was asked to amend the list to reflect this change.**

6.0 COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS

(6.1) Cllr Harmer confirmed that at the recent SCC meeting, he had been allocated the roles and responsibilities that he had expected. It was noted that this included working on a joint venture with Buckingham CC on a Trading Standards Committee.

(6.2) Cllr Harmer asked that Councillors consider whether they wanted to apply for any Local Allocation Grant funding as he would be making a decision later in the week regarding the allocation of funds to the Western Villages. He provided an overview of the criteria that needed to be applied to applications.

Following discussion, it was agreed it may be more appropriate to fund a new finger post on the Clump from the Highways funding stream. Cllr Harmer advised that he would be arranging a meeting of the Western Villages to discuss the allocation of highways funds shortly. **Cllr Mendelsohn asked Councillors to consider whether there were other highways related requirements that needed to be considered at the meeting.**

It was confirmed that the Parish Council did not intend to apply for Local Allocation Grant funds at this time.

(6.3) Cllr Harmer provided an update on the matter which he had highlighted at the previous meeting regarding a published photo of Dye House Cottage.

7.0 PLANNING

(7.1) WA/2019/0732 – 1 Mill Farm Cottages, GU8 6NJ
Erection of detached outbuilding following demolition of existing detached outbuilding.

Following review of the plans it was resolved that the Parish Council had no comment regarding this application but that it should be highlighted to Planning Officers that it did conflict with a condition of a previous application for the property which required demolition of an outbuilding (as per previous comment).

(7.2) WA/2019/0773 - Olde Hall, The Lane, GU8 6QB
Application under Section 73 to vary Condition 1 of WA/2018/1685 (approved plan numbers) to allow changes to the footprint and fenestration.

Following review of the plans it was resolved that the Parish Council had no comment regarding this application.

(7.3) WA/2019/0786 – Olde Hall, The Lane, GU8 6QB
Application under Section 19 to vary Condition 1 of WA/2018/1686 (approved plan numbers) to allow changes to the footprint and fenestration.

Following review of the plans it was resolved that the Parish Council had no comment regarding this application.

(7.4) It was noted that a communication had been received from WBC asking for an update regarding the Parish Council's ability to receive electronic copy planning documents instead of hard copies. It was highlighted that it was difficult to view the documents online. It was suggested that a printer could be purchased to allow for them to be printed at the required size.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Council still require hard copies due to the poor internet speeds experienced by Councillors when attempting to view the documents online. **The Clerk was asked to inform WBC of this and let them know that the Council was working hard to improve the situation but in the meantime, they would require hard copies to continue to be sent.**

(7.5) It was noted that the recent planning application for the Groom's accommodation at Haybarn had been refused and an enforcement notice had been issued.

(7.6) Cllr Swift asked whether the Parish Council should be considering applications for tree works within the conservation area. It was suggested that as the decisions were based on technical judgements rather than planning rules, it was not necessary.

(7.7) **Cllr Swift agreed to prepare a draft letter, to be sent from the Clerk, to a resident in Bowlhead Green regarding a concern regarding trees on their property.**

(7.8) **Cllr Swift agreed to prepare a draft letter to WBC, to be sent from the Clerk, regarding a Bowlhead Green property.**

8.0 FINANCE

(8.1) It was noted that the insurance renewal cost for the cricket pavilion had increased from the previous year and this cost would be passed onto the Cricket Club.

(8.2) The following list of payments for June was presented, duly authorised and approved for payment:

005	B. R. Alexander	Purchase of Bike for SFRS	£529.00
006	Satswana Ltd	Annual GDPR support	£90.00
007	Richard Knight	Works	£110.00
008	Zurich	Insurance renewal	£908.32
009	E. Felton	Salary & Expenses June	£435.20
010	HMRC	June payment	£93.00
	TOTAL		£2,165.52

9.0 MEMBERS ALLOCATION FUND

See (6.2) above.

10.0 HIGHWAYS

(10.1) **Cllr Hunter advised that he would be asking for a meeting of the interested parties and Highways England to discuss the processes to be followed in the event of an emergency closure.**

(10.2) It was noted that an invitation had been received from the Police Borough Commander for Waverley to meet him at 'Meet the Policing Team' events to take place in June and July. Cllr Hunter confirmed that he had already responded to confirm his attendance. **Councillors were requested to respond to the invitation directly if they wish to attend.**

(10.3) Cllr Hunter reported that a temporary repair to the broken drain in Homefield and that a permanent repair should be completed by 20th June.

11.0 VAS

A copy of the Surrey Police 'Drive SMART' document relating to a Parish Council Vehicle Activation Scheme (VAS) for the boroughs of Guildford and Waverley had been distributed to Councillors in advance of the meeting.

Cllr Swift advised that he had attended the recent H&S training session for VAS volunteers with Mr Richard Bates and that this had highlighted some concerns regarding operation of the equipment.

He explained that the process required volunteers to work at height and involved lifting of heavy items. It was noted that volunteers would not be insured if they were not following the appropriate work methods and that this would be deemed personal negligence.

Cllr Swift suggested that it may be necessary to increase the number of volunteers to a minimum of three people but that additional people would need to complete the training.

Cllr Swift reported that the battery life when new would be approx. 5 days so it would require to be changed several times over the three-week period it would remain within the parish and therefore two batteries would be required.

In response to a suggestion from Cllr Harmer that the battery should last longer during the first week of operation as the flashing facility would not be turned on, Cllr Swift advised that he did not think the unit had the capability to be switched off.

Cllr Swift suggested that there were other items that would need to be purchased such as an additional ladder, bracket, cones, protective clothing etc. It was agreed that two sets of equipment may be required. **Cllr Swift agreed to speak to the Frensham Parish Clerk to ascertain technical requirements for the download of data.**

Discussion took place regarding whether the insurance cover was sufficient for volunteers. **The Clerk agreed to confirm that there was sufficient cover in place..**

Cllr Swift agreed to prepare a list of required items, write risk assessments and a work method statement for the operations associated with the VAS, so that they can be discussed at the next Western Village meeting. Cllr Swift agreed to provide these to the Frensham Parish Clerk so that they could be distributed to members in advance of the meeting.

12.0 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

(12.1) The Clerk reported that notification had been received regarding a Public Path Diversion Order for footpath 85a and a Path Creation Order for footpath 603. It was noted that the amendments were minor and that no comment was necessary.

Cllr Swift highlighted that he understood that if footpaths were not registered, they could lose them. Cllr Harmer confirmed that he believed all footpaths to be registered so there should not be an issue.

(12.2) Cllr Hunter advised that he had been in communication with Mr C. Heanley who claimed that there had been damage to his vehicle due to stones being moved whilst grass cutting was taking place. **Cllr Hunter advised that this was not the case and that he would speak to Mr Heanley to resolve the matter.**

13.0 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING

- Items carried forward from above
- Fixed Assets Register

The meeting closed at 9.55 pm

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 16th July 2019 at 7.30 pm.

Signed

16th July 2019

