

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

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at 7.30 pm**  
**Thursley Village Hall, Thursley**

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

**Also attending were:** Cllr D. Harmer (SCC)      Cllr D. Else (WBC)      Mrs N. Bates  
Mr B. Welch (7.40 – 8.35 pm)

**1.0 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Clerk reported that apologies had been received from Cllr Tricia Horwood and Cllr Jenny Else (WBC) who were absent due to business commitments. These apologies were accepted by the Council.

**2.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr David Else declared an interest in agenda item 6) – Planning Applications as the applicants were either clients of his or he was acting as their agent.

No Parish Council 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 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

**4.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

(4.1) The 'No Horse' signs still need to be erected. **Cllr Hunter agreed to do this.**

(4.2) Cllr Luff explained that following correspondence with WBC Planning department and a Freedom of Information request, he had received copies of correspondence showing that WBC had spoken to Highways England approx. three years ago regarding access arrangements onto the site and that they had indicated that they had no problem with the increased number of homes at that time (3 homes). He advised that WBC had contacted Highways England again recently to be informed that they had no comment.

Cllr Luff advised that following contact with Cllr Jenny Else regarding the access concerns to the park, a meeting with Highways England was being arranged to discuss the issue. **Cllr Luff agreed to keep the Council informed of progress.**

(4.3) Cllr Mendelssohn reported that vehicles were no longer parking by the Clump.

(4.4) Cllr Mendelssohn advised that a meeting with representatives from the Western Villages Parish Councils had been arranged to discuss concerns regarding planning issues, in advance of a meeting with WBC, on 9<sup>th</sup> March at the Frensham Parish Council office.

(4.5) Cllr Mendelssohn confirmed that he had reported that there had been no increase to the Precept in his January Parish Council report included in the parish magazine.

(4.6) Cllr Malton reported that she had met with two PCSO's who advised that Thursley was a very low crime area. She advised that she had also registered on the Surrey and Sussex Police 'In the Know' website but had not yet received any communications. It was agreed that as an interim measure, until the new system was working efficiently, Neighbourhood Watch concerns should be passed to Jackie for sharing on the village website. Contact details to be included in the parish report and magazine.

## **5.0 COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

(5.1) Cllr David Else advised that the WBC Local Plan Part 1 had been submitted to the Secretary of State and that WBC were working on Part 2 of the plan which they hoped to be able to consult on during August/September 2017.

(5.2) Cllr Else advised that the new Community Wheels Service which had replaced Meals on Wheels appeared to be working well with food being prepared in facilities across the borough rather than in one location. Feedback to the new service had been very positive. He reminded Councillors that the service is available to Thursley residents if required.

(5.3) Cllr Else confirmed that the planning application for new homes at Uplands Stud had been refused. Discussion took place regarding the legality of the certificates of lawfulness which had been granted to the site even though they had now been deemed unlawful. It was agreed that the issue be included on the list of concerns to be discussed with WBC.

(5.4) Cllr Else reported that Elstead Parish Council had a meeting arranged with Peter Cleveland from WBC Planning and asked if Thursley Parish Council would like to be included in the meeting. Cllr Malton agreed to represent Thursley at the meeting. Cllr Else agreed to provide details.

(5.5) Cllr David Harmer advised that it had been agreed at County Hall that day that SCC intended to increase the council tax by 4.99%, instead of 15%, thus removing the need for a referendum.

(5.6) Cllr Harmer advised that he had met with the Superfast Broadband Surrey team and had been asked to look at the proposals for the Western Villages to improve the service to hard to reach properties to see if they were reasonable. He advised that a list of all postcodes to benefit from the proposal would be available before Easter.

Cllr Luff confirmed that Warren Park residents would be happy with the suggestion that cables run under the underpass. It was noted that other options may be justifiable due to the number of properties that would benefit.

## PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mrs Nicki Bates advised that the grass on the recreation ground was in poor condition due to the recent tri-adventure event and joy riders on the site during the night. Cllr Mendelsohn advised that he had attempted to repair the damage and that it would recover over time.

Mrs Bates advised that there was a definite track across the Clump now made by horses using the logical line of travel and that further damage was likely if they continued to do so. It was agreed that a sign or signs be erected to deter horses from forming a permanent track across the area. **Cllr Hunter agreed to review the number of signs available for Highfield Lane and the Clump and order an additional number if required.**

Mrs Bates made reference to an email which the Clerk had received regarding the amount of dog mess on the recreation ground. **Following discussion, Cllr Mendelsohn agreed to speak to James Giles (Natural England) about the problem and possible solutions.**

Discussion took place regarding a hunt on the common. **Cllr Mendelsohn agreed to speak to James Giles to ask that the Parish Council be informed of such events in the future so that parishioners can be informed.**

Discussion took place regarding the commercial activity involving 65 people which had taken place on the recreation ground at the weekend, which had attracted a large number of vehicles parking on the site. It was understood that the Village Hall Management and the Cricket Club had been aware of the event but that the Parish Council had not been informed. **It was agreed that Cllr Mendelsohn write to the Village Hall, Cricket Club and Natural England to request that if further events are planned, they inform the Parish Council so that they can alert parishioners and make arrangements for the site to minimise possible damage to the grass/parking areas.**

Mr Brian Welch asked that why, if the Parish Council policy was to speak to parishioners if they became aware of a planning breach, he had not been spoken to regarding the cladding on his property prior to a letter being sent to WBC. Cllr Mendelsohn confirmed that it was Parish Council policy to approach the homeowner before WBC in such circumstances and he apologised on behalf of the Council for this not happening on this occasion. It was noted that Councillors were not able to make approaches to homeowners without the matter being first brought before the Parish Council.

## 6.0 PLANNING

(6.1) WA/2017/0018 & 0019 – Olde Hall, The Lane, GU8 6QB  
*Erection of a single storey extension, porch and extension to existing cellar.*  
*Listed Building Consent for erection of a single storey extension, porch and extension to existing cellar.*

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

(6.2) WA/2017/0101 – Sawyers, Dye House Road, GU8 6QA  
*Erection of extensions and alterations*

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

(6.3) WA/2016/1501 – Uplands Stud

See (5.3). It was noted that an appeal process for the site had not appeared on the WBC website.

(6.4) Mr Welch asked why the Parish Council appeared to make a high number of ‘No Comment’ determinations when considering planning applications when he was aware that Witley Parish Council quite often supported applications. He was informed that the Parish Council deemed a ‘No Comment’ statement appropriate if the development resulted in no adverse effect on the village and conformed with the village design statement. Cllr Else advised that WBC accepted a ‘No Comment’ statement to mean that there were no objections to the proposal.

## 7.0 FINANCE

(7.1) The following financial overview for February was presented, duly authorised and the cheques for payment were approved and signed:

942	E. Felton	276.60	Salary & Expenses
943	Post Office	169.60	HMRC payment
944	Village Hall	235.90	Room costs
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£446.20</b>	

(7.2) The Clerk reported that £8,000 funding from WBC had been received and works to improve the track on the recreation ground and that work would start soon.

(7.3) The Clerk advised that she had not received a response from Billmeir Trust regarding the funding request for a defibrillator for Pitch Place. **It was agreed that the Clerk should continue to request an update from Billmeir.**

(7.4) Cllr Hunter raised a question regarding the use of the ‘Fire Fund’ held in the Parish Council account. **Following discussion it was agreed that Cllr Mendelssohn would speak to James Giles to obtain an update on his plans for the installation of a fire track onto the common from dye House Road, adjacent to Sawyers.**

## 8.0 HIGHWAYS

(8.1) Cllr Hunter explained that following the recent closures of the Hindhead tunnel which has resulted in traffic congestion and large vehicles becoming stuck down the narrow lanes, he had written to Highways England, Surrey Police and SCC to request another meeting to resolve the on-going problems of traffic management. He reported that the Police and SCC had replied but no response had been received from Highways England.

As a result of the lack of communication, Cllr Mendelssohn had written to Jeremy Hunt MP and that he had been informed that Cllr David Harmer would be dealing with the problem. Cllr Harmer advised that he written to Highways England suggesting a pre-meeting take place prior to a meeting with all interested parties and that he was awaiting a response.

Cllr Mendelssohn reported that he had received a reply from Mr Hunt advising that he had written to Highways England to support the requests for another meeting with all stakeholders to discuss action plans in advance of future closures.

It was suggested that another way forward may be to prepare a question to go before the SCC Economic, Prosperity, Environment and Highways Board. It was agreed to wait until the next Parish Council meeting to see if a response is received to arrange a meeting and if not, the option to submit a question be considered further. **Cllr Hunter agreed to consider the question to be asked in advance of the next meeting.**

Cllr Swift raised a question about whether it would be appropriate to request under the Freedom of Information act for details from Highways England about the reasons for the closure of the Hindhead Tunnel in January 2017 and why they don't use contra-flow in one tunnel, rather than shutting the tunnel.

#### **9.0 JOINT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

It was reported that a meeting with representatives from the Western Villages Parish Council had been arranged to take place on 9<sup>th</sup> March at the Frensham Parish Council office. Cllr Mendelssohn advised that he had prepared an agenda for the meeting. **It was suggested that the Clerk obtain from WBC their availability to meet with Western Village Parish Council representatives in late March.**

#### **10.0 RECREATION GROUND SECURITY**

Discussion took place regarding restricting access onto the recreation ground during night time hours to avoid further damage from joy riders. It was agreed that there was a need to be vigilant to such activity and if seen taking place, the lower bar be closed immediately.

#### **11.0 SPRING CLEAN EVENT**

Cllr Malton confirmed that the spring clean event was planned to take place on 4<sup>th</sup> March and that she had ordered all necessary equipment from WBC for volunteers to use. The event had been marketed on the village Facebook site and in the parish magazine.

#### **12.0 HAMMER POND**

Cllr Mendelssohn reported that he had spoken at length with Andrew Smith from Natural England and that he had been very apologetic about the lack of progress. Mr Smith had reported that a new pumping system would be installed in the very near future as the current process was not able to cope with the increased rainfall.

Cllr Mendelssohn advised that Natural England engineers were in the process of preparing a number of proposals to resolve the problem and had a deadline of the end of February to provide details of their preferred option. It was noted that Mr Smith intended to provide Cllr Mendelssohn with an update in advance of the next Parish Council meeting.

### **13.0 PARISH FIELD**

Cllr Mendelssohn reported that following on from discussions which had taken place a few years previously, he had met with Cllr Hunter and Matt Larkin from Natural England to discuss the future use and possible swap of land owned by the Parish Council and Natural England within the village.

The options available to the Parish Council were discussed. It was suggested that it may be appropriate to enter into an agreement with Natural England for an option for the swap within an agreed timescale so that action could be taken if deemed necessary.

It was agreed that further consideration should be given to the options available for further discussion at the next meeting. It was noted that there would be a need to consult if the decision is made to progress the option with Natural England and that Natural England would need to undertake the deregistration process if necessary.

### **14.0 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH UPDATE**

See (4.6).

### **15.0 ANTHONY SMITH CHARITY – TRUSTEE APPOINTMENT**

Cllr Mendelssohn reported that he had received a request from Rev. Muir asking for the Parish Council to reappoint Marion O’Brien as a Trustee of the Thursley Charity (Anthony Smith Charity). The reappointment was unanimously agreed.

### **16.0 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY**

Cllr Edwards reported that he hoped to receive a response from the Army within the next week to confirm whether they would be able to present at the Annual Assembly meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> April. The Clerk reported that the National Trust employees that had attend a Parish Council meeting to discuss the improvement to the Hindhead Visitor centre were currently on leave and therefore not able to attend with their display stands.

It was agreed that the main speaker would need to be confirmed at the March Parish Council meeting. It was suggested that if the Army were not able to attend, a Police representative may be called upon.

**It was agreed that the Clerk invite village organisations to attend and present at the Assembly meeting.**

### **17.0 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING**

- Items carried forward from above.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm

Date of next meeting is Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 7.30 pm.

Signed .....

**7<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

