

THURSLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting

Monday 3rd September 2018 at 7.30 pm
Thursley Village Hall, Thursley

Attendees: Cllr J. Mendelsohn (Chair) Cllr S. Edwards Cllr P. Hunter
Cllr J. Luff Cllr J. Malton Cllr J. Swift
Cllr H. Flavell (Co-opted) Mrs E. Felton (Clerk)

Also attending were: Cllr D. Harmer (SCC) Cllr J. Else (WBC) Mrs N. Bates
Mrs B. Wedge Mr A. Smith

1.0 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Clerk reported that apologies had been received from Cllr David Else who was not able to attend due to business 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 COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION PROCESS

The Clerk explained that due to the resignation of Mrs Patricia Horwood as a Parish Councillor a Co-option process had been followed to appoint a replacement with a closing date for expressions of interest of Friday 13th July 2018. She advised that one expression of interest in the role had been received from Mrs Helen Flavell.

Mrs Flavell explained that in her role as a lawyer she had experience of highway and planning regulations which would be useful to the Parish Council. She has also recently been involved with BOAT and footpath issues and is keen to get involved in all aspects of the parish. Her application was unanimously supported by the Parish Councillors and she was co-opted to the Council by a majority vote.

Mrs Flavell was therefore duly appointed a Parish Councillor and she completed an 'Acceptance of Office form' prior to joining the Councillors as a Council member.

4.0 HOUSING STRATEGY 2018 - 2023 PRESENTATION – Andrew Smith (WBC)

Mr Andrew Smith, Head of Strategic Housing and Delivery for WBC introduced himself to Councillors and provided an overview of his role and responsibilities. He explained the meaning of 'Affordable Housing' as being a means for those who can not afford to buy or rent housing on the private market, to access the property market through a subsidised process.

Mr Smith reported that the average cost of a house in Waverley was £503k which would require a household income of £113k pa. He advised that there was a great need for

affordable housing within the borough to ensure that local people, with a strong connection to the parish, could remain within the area.

Mr Smith explained that WBC had consulted with partners and local stakeholders to prepare the strategy for the next five years and agree the goal for everyone to have a HOME:

- To increase delivery of well designed, well-built affordable HOUSING
- To OPTIMISE social and economic wellbeing
- To MAKE best use of existing homes
- To ENGAGE with partners to achieve joint aims

It was noted that the strategy document will be reviewed on an annual basis and an action plan prepared.

Discussion took place regarding the affordable housing possibilities in Thursley. It was noted that the scheme can ensure that the housing is available to those with connections to the parish in perpetuity and arrangements can be agreed to ensure that they can not be sold on the open market. Cllr Flavell raised a question regarding the lack of infrastructure in the village to support additional housing. Mr Smith explained that the scheme is locally driven through the Parish Council and parishioners and that consideration could be given to community improvements as part of the scheme if deemed appropriate. There was discussion regarding the ownership of the land and arrangements for long leases with housing associations.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council should consider the matter further at the October Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Mendelsohn thanked Mr Smith for his attendance.

Mr Smith left the meeting at 7.50 pm.

5.0 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd July 2018 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

6.0 APPROVAL OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 20th August 2018 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

7.0 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

(7.1) It was noted that the replacement rocker recently installed in the play area had been broken within one week of its installation. Cllr Mendelsohn advised that Eibe were providing a replacement unit FOC which was due to be installed the following week.

Cllr Mendelsohn advised that he had received an email from a parishioner suggesting that additional signage was needed to deter adults from using the equipment. He circulated a draft notice for review. It was felt that something shorter and snappier was required and **Councillor Mendelsohn agreed to table an alternative sign at the next meeting.**

(7.2) Cllr Mendelsohn reported that he had received correspondence from a parishioner who was objecting to the planning application for Church Cottages but he understood that this had now been resolved satisfactorily.

(7.3) **Following discussion, it was suggested that Cllr Swift speak to the owners/residents, on behalf of the Parish Council, of a property in Bowlhead Green to ascertain details of the development that is taking place on the site.**

(7.4) Following discussion, it was suggested that it may not be of great benefit for the Parish Council to open a deposit account. **Cllr Swift agreed to review further options which may be available with increased interest rates.**

(7.5) It was noted that Cllr Swift had submitted comments to the Local Plan Part 2 on behalf of the Parish Council.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mrs Nicki Bates passed a sign to Cllr Mendelsohn which he suggested may be useful to erect on the barrier of the recreation ground when it was necessary to close it, to ensure the barrier was visible.

Mrs Bates asked whether the updated Village Design Statement should be included on the Parish Council website. **The Clerk was asked to make the necessary arrangements for this to take place.**

Mrs Bates provided copies of a notice to be put on the noticeboards.

Mrs Bates advised that it had been suggested that a recycling bin be placed on the recreation ground. Following discussion, it was agreed that this was not required at this time.

Mrs Bates suggested that additional signage to deter adults and older children from using the play area equipment, be placed on the back of the seat or on a tree.

Mrs Bryony Wedge advised that she had been aggrieved by the return of a cheque which had been passed to the Parish Council for purchase of a Silent Soldier. Cllr Mendelsohn explained that following receipt of the cheque, he had spoken to the Monitoring Officer at WBC and he had been advised that in light of the contentious planning discussions taking place regarding the Haybarn site at that time, the cheque should not be accepted to avoid any misinterpretation at a later date.

He explained that the Parish Council were simply a conduit for the funding of the item but the money was being received into the Parish Council account. It was noted that the same principle would have been adopted for any site within the village.

Mrs Wedge explained that she had purchased a Silent Soldier herself and would be happy for it to be moved to a village location if deemed appropriate at a later date. It was suggested that she speak to the Village Hall Committee to determine whether they would like it to be placed on their site.

Mrs Wedge advised that unfortunately she had taken the non-acceptance of the funds personally and had struggled to understand the need to return it as she had previously donated to the play area improvements etc. She advised that the support had been genuinely offered and that she wanted to be made aware if there were grievances from neighbours etc. Cllr Malton suggested that people were not always happy to approach others with grievances.

8.0 COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS

(8.1) Cllr Harmer advised that the advice given to Cllr Mendelsohn by the WBC Monitoring Officer was correct. He explained that the measure of an action is whether the average person would consider it questionable. He suggested that an anonymous donation was possible.

Mrs Wedge left the meeting.

(8.2) Cllr Harmer suggested that the new signage for the play area should state that it is a 'Public Safety Notice'.

(8.3) Cllr Harmer advised that he had previous positive experience of working with the Rural Housing Trust, Mr Smith's previous employer, with regards affordable housing. He outlined an event which had taken place in Hindhead when a shared ownership scheme had been completed.

(8.4) Cllr Harmer advised that the new CEO of SCC had taken actions to resolve the financial pressures as quickly as possible.

(8.5) Cllr Harmer provided an overview of the current school transport and admission arrangements in the area which were causing some concerns to parents.

(8.6) Cllr Jenny Else advised she had been involved in arrangements for a memorial unveiling on Milford Common on Friday 7th September to commemorate the Canadian soldiers who were trained there during WWI and WWII.

(8.7) Cllr Else advised that the Farnham Memorial Hall works had now been completed and that she was very pleased with the results.

(8.8) Cllr Hunter suggested that arrangements for the Dementia Friendly event which the Parish Council had arranged to take place in October should be passed to 'Help in Thursley' as part of their AGM in order to maximise attendance. It was agreed that this was appropriate and that Cllr Hunter would speak to Cllr Else to make the arrangements and identify a suitable date.

(8.9) Cllr Mendelsohn thanked the County and Borough Councillors for their support and contributions to the parish.

9.0 PLANNING

(9.1) Discussion took place regarding alternative arrangements which were needed to be able to view planning application documentation electronically at meetings as hard copy documents would no longer be provided by WBC.

A concern was raised regarding the quality of the documents if they were to be displayed on a monitor at the meetings. **The Clerk was asked to contact neighbouring parishes to ascertain whether they had identified a way in which to view the documentation at their meetings.**

(9.2) Discussion took place regarding the 'Permission in Principle' (PIP) process which WBC were introducing. It was agreed that the best method for dealing with these would be identified once a PIP had been received.

(9.3) Cllr Swift advised that he had attended the Peer Review meeting and circulated his notes. **The Clerk was asked to request a copy of the report from the meeting.**

(9.4) Cllr Mendelsohn advised that Cllr Hunter would be speaking to represent the Parish Council at the WBC Central Planning Committee meeting on 12th September 2018 with regards to the Uplands Stud development (WA/2017/2308). Discussion took place regarding the issues and concerns that should be conveyed to the Committee.

Cllr Mendelsohn advised that he understood a legal representative would be speaking to object to the development on behalf of a parishioner as well as Cllr Jenny Else who would be speaking in her capacity as Ward Councillor.

Discussion took place regarding the report that Central Planning Committee members had received regarding the application and the possibility of a site visit taking place in advance of the meeting.

(9.5) **Following discussion it was agreed that Cllr Swift provide Cllr Jenny Else with details of a possible enforcement issue on the site.**

(9.6) Cllr Mendelsohn reported that following discussion regarding planning application reference WA/2018/1302 (Haybarn) at the previous Parish Council meeting, the application had been withdrawn. It was noted that following receipt of the objection from the Parish Council, WBC had been in contact with Cllr Mendelsohn to discuss the matter further. He advised that he understood that WBC were considering the way forward with regards the site. **Cllr Jenny Else agreed to speak to them to obtain an update.**

10.0 FINANCE

(10.1) It was noted that the external annual audit return 2017-18 had been received and that no other matters affecting their opinion need to be drawn to the attention of the Council.

The External Auditor Report and Certificate 2017-18 was approved and accepted by the Parish Council.

(10.2) Following discussion, it was agreed to make a contribution of £200 towards the WWI Remembrance events planned in the village. **The Clerk was asked to pass a cheque to Rev. Peter Muir in his capacity as treasurer.**

(10.3) The Clerk reported that a total of £705 had been received as a contribution towards purchase of a Silent Soldier. Cllr Hunter agreed to donate the balance of £45. **The Clerk was asked to arrange for the order to be placed so that it can be erected asap.** It was agreed that it should be installed on The Clump.

Discussion took place regarding the replanting on The Clump.

(10.4) The Clerk explained the annual play area inspection report had identified some work that was needed on the area and that this had been undertaken by both the equipment provider and Richard Knight. It was agreed that the budget for the play area needs to be reviewed in advance of agreeing the Precept each year.

(10.5) The following list of payments for August and September was presented, duly authorised and approved for payment:

Payee		Amount	Online	Cheque no.
ROSPA Playsafety	Annual inspection	£100.80		
B. Rapley	Reimbursement mowing	£40.00		
HMRC	Refund of VAT payment	£3,475.84		1027
Peter Muir	Contribution to WWI event	£200.00		1029
PKF Littlejohn LLP	External inspection fee	£240.00		
Satswana	DPO service	£180.00		
R. Knight	Play area works	£115.50		
P. Hunter	Defibrillator expenses	£92.69		
E. Felton	Aug/Sept salary & expenses	£613.52		
HMRC	August payment	£182.40		
HMRC	September payment	£182.40		
TOTAL		£5,423.15		

(10.6) It was noted that the first two payments listed had been approved for and paid during August.

11.0 HIGHWAYS

(11.1) Cllr Hunter reported that work had started for installation of the de-acceleration access road into Warren Park.

(11.2) It was noted that following the chaos during the first night of closure of the Hindhead Tunnel in August, subsequent closures had not resulted in the same problem.

(11.3) It was noted that Cllr Hunter had agreed to complete the 'National Highways and Transport Public Representative Survey' on behalf of the Parish Council.

12.0 BOAT'S

The poor state of the BOAT's in the parish was discussed. It was noted that there is also damage being made to the areas around the BOAT's including verges, banks and footpaths.

Discussion took place regarding the powers of the landowners in such circumstances and the effectiveness of motion sensor cameras to deter illegal activity.

Following discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Flavell would draft a letter to National Trust, the Forestry Commission, SCC and Surrey Police to request that a meeting of all interested parties take place to discuss the matter.

13.0 PARISH FIELD

Cllr Mendelssohn reported that the registration of the Parish Field is now complete. He advised that he was still waiting to hear back from the lawyers regarding the new lease with Natural England.

14.0 REMOVAL OF REDUNDANT ROAD SIGNS

It was noted that a request had been received from a parishioner for the removal of two signs. **Cllr Hunter agreed to inform SCC of the request.**

Cllr Mendelssohn reported that Elstead Parish Council had expressed an interest in the 'School' sign which had become visible following clearance of overgrowth by the recreation ground.

Discussion took place regarding temporary 20mph signs on Thursley Road and the Neighbourhood Watch signs.

15.0 RE-APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEE TO THURSLEY CHARITIES

It was agreed that Rev. Peter Muir be re-appointed as a Trustee to Thursley Charities.

16.0 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported a 'Prospective Councillor event' was due to take place on 10th September 2018.

It was noted that a lot of communications had been shared with Councillors already due to the length of time since the previous Parish Council meeting.

17.0 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING

- Items carried forward from above
- Councillors Roles and Responsibilities 2018-19
- Recreation Ground boundary and registration – Cllr Edwards
- Hammer Pond
- Pitch Place Defibrillator – Cllr Hunter

The meeting closed at 9.45 am. The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 2nd October 2018 at 7.30 pm.

Signed

2nd October 2018