



WEST CLANDON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 9th October 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present:

Parish Councillors: Terence Patrick ("Chairman"/"TP"), Ann Dickinson ("AD"), Eric Palmer ("EP"), Jenny Wicks ("JW"), Neil Higgins ("NH"), Ray Sieber ("RS") and Jonathan Murphy ("JM")

Parish Clerk: Paul Edwards ("Clerk"/"PE")

GBC Councillors: Dawn Bennett ("DB")

There were no members of the public in attendance.

24/117 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Parish Councillor Sam Wreford ("SW"), SCC Councillor Bob Hughes ("BH") and GBC Councillors Catherine Young ("CY") and Ruth Brothwell ("RB").

24/118 Declarations of interest

TP is an Honorary Alderman of the Borough of Guildford and member of the Village Hall Management Committee. EP is the Chairman of the East and West Clandon Residents Association (EWCRA). JW is an Honorary Alderman of the Borough of Guildford.

As the National Trust (NT) was due to be discussed under item 24/120 below, JM, JW, TP, AD, EP and NH all declared an interest in that they were members of the NT.

NH raised the question of whether political party membership required noting on the councillors' Register of Interests forms. The meeting agreed that this was up to the individual but not considered essential since the Council was strictly apolitical and that it was unlikely that there would be a conflict of interest in our normal business.

24/119 Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting held on September 11th 2024

The meeting approved the minutes of the September meeting without amendment.

24/120 Matters arising from the meeting on September 11th 2024

The following items from the September meeting were discussed:

- 24/102 – The meeting approved JM's draft feedback to Clandon Park NT and agreed that the Council should not take a campaigning stance but should encourage our residents to comment on the forthcoming proposals. JM agreed to send it in advance of his forthcoming meeting with Kent Rawlinson, NT.
- 24/106 – The Chairman reported that he has spoken to our MP Zöe Franklin about the Meadowlands school bus issue and the meeting agreed that the note recently drafted by the Clerk should be sent to the MP.
- 24/109 – The Clerk noted that he has instructed Weller Hedleys Solicitors to act on our behalf in replacing the ground lease with the Royal British Legion. However, no work could start until the RBL decide whether our new lease should be with RBL Head Office or the West Clandon RBL Club. He believed that there would be a meeting on 30th October to agree the matter.
- 24/110 – The Chairman noted that there will be a Village Hall Management Committee meeting on 7th November. The meeting agreed that, now that Chris Dean had left the Council, more Council representation on the VHMC was required. JM also suggested that, once the Church Annex project was well progressed, residents may have some availability and appetite to focus on a Village Hall improvement project.
- 24/115 – The Chairman noted that he was still to meet with Edwin's Garden Centre to discuss the offer of a Christmas tree.

24/121 Feedback from the Gosden Hill Developer Briefing

JM, JW, NH and EP updated the meeting on the Gosden Hill Developer Briefing session held on 2nd October. The briefing mainly covered the consultation process and the councillors suggested to the developer that all in the parish be sent letters notifying them of the consultation. Public consultation opens on 10th October and public event is planned for the 30th October (4pm – 8pm) in the West Clandon Village Hall.

Details of the development proposals were not shared at the briefing, but it was mentioned that there will eventually be multiple developers and a design code established to ensure common standards and a unified design. Land will be reserved for a SANG (in parts of Frithy's Woods and Cotts Wood), a possible (albeit unlikely) railway station, a possible secondary school and for potential extra road access points. The main access to the site will be via a new roundabout off the A3 just east of the current Burpham junction. JM suggested to the developer that there be a footpath through to West Clandon.

With regards to timelines, an outline planning application is expected early 2025 and 'first spades in the ground' in 2027.

DB said now is an important time for the Council and residents to make comments on the development proposals. The Clerk noted that the consultation period ends on 7th November which is before our next meeting. JM, JW, NH and EP agreed to jointly prepare a consultation response on behalf of the Council.

24/122 Council Correspondence Sent and Received

The following topics relating to items of correspondence were discussed:

- Village Telephone Box – The Clerk reported that BT are now proposing that the telephone kiosk be removed and will be posting a removal notice shortly.
- Surrey Hills National Boundary review – It was agreed that no further consultation comments were required from the Council.
- New 'Surrey Connect' on-demand bus service – JW noted that it does not appear to cover West Clandon and DB agreed to look into the matter.

24/123 Planning Matters

JM talked through the latest planning applications and rulings. The meeting determined that none needed action from the Council at this point in time.

24/124 Financial Matters and Approvals

The Chairman referred to Annex C in the meeting papers relating to the payments made since the last meeting totaling £4,488.31. These were approved by the meeting.

24/125 Gosden Hill, Garlick's Arch, Wisley Airfield and other Local Plan updates

JW updated the meeting on the strategic sites:

- Gosden Hill – this was covered in item 24/121 above.
- Garlick's Arch – the main roundabout entrance work on the Portsmouth Road has now started; JW also asked the Clerk to provide the list of our previous Section 106 Garlick's Arch requests for review at the next meeting.
- Wisley Airfield – no update.
- Local Plan review – concerns were raised as to where the additional housing requirement would be met from; DB noted that there should be an update on the LP review at the end of October.

24/126 Recreation Ground, Playground and Car Park

EP reported that:

- The roadside bank has now been strimmed and the shrubbery outside the front of the village Hall pruned.
- No issues in the playground, apart from one fencing rail slightly broken (not urgent).
- The diseased Ash tree on the boundary of the Onslow estate and the playground has now been felled.
- The annual playground inspection is due in November.
- The Glebe bus shelter is due to be removed in November.

24/127 Footpaths

AD reported that a missing no cycling sign on footpath 568 has been promptly replaced by SCC and that SCC have now issued enforcement notices on the field owners by footpath 69 (just to the east of Clandon Road) who have a riparian responsibility for clearing their joint ditch which tends to cause flooding in the winter. Some progress also seem to be being made on the Green Lane bridge issue but further clarification is being sought from SCC.

NH noted the overgrown nature of the entrance to the SANG via footpath 69 from Tithebarns Lane and AD agreed to draft a note to the landowner for the Clerk to deliver. And whilst on the subject of the SANG, NH also noted the update on The Land Trust's improvement plan for the Oldlands Copse.

24/128 A247 Matters

The Clerk raised the question of installing a mirror opposite the station approach on behalf of SW. It was suggested that the Openreach telegraph pole might be a suitable location. NH questioned whether this was on Surrey Highways land and required their permission. Regardless, the meeting was not in favour of the suggestion in light of the potential liability that the Council might have if there were an accident caused by the mirror.

24/129 AOB

The Clerk asked whether any of the Councillors were able to attend the West Clandon Remembrance Day service to lay the wreath on behalf of the Council. The Chairman agreed to ask AD, who had left the meeting early.

The Clerk provided an update on the migration of our email system and website to the new gov.uk domain and IT support service. The email service is fully operational (subject to resolving the Chairman's access from his PC). The old email addresses will remain in place until July 2025, but the Clerk encouraged all the councillors to notify all their Council contacts of their new addresses. The website migration to the new domain is still to do.

24/130 Date of next meeting

Wednesday, November 27th 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

CLOSING

There being no other business to discuss, the Chairman closed the Parish Council meeting at 21.18.