



WEST CLANDON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Terence Patrick, Stoney Royd, Woodstock, West Clandon Surrey GU4 7UJ
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Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 8th February 2023 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

Present:

Parish Councillors: Terence Patrick ("Chairman"/ "TP"), Chris Dean ("CD"), Eric Palmer ("EP"), Sam Wreford ("SW"), Jenny Wicks ("JW") and Ann Dickinson ("AD").
Parish Clerk: Paul Edwards ("Clerk"/"PE").
SCC Councillor: Bob Hughes ("BH").

There were no residents in attendance.

The Chairman commenced the meeting by paying his respects to Jen Powell, a longstanding Borough Councillor who had represented Clandon and Horsley ward, who had passed away in January.

23/014 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Jonathan Murphy ("JM") and Steve Meredith ("SM") and GBC Councillors Tim Anderson ("TA"), Chris Barrass ("CB").and Catherine Young ("CY").

23/015 Declarations of interest

The Chairman declared that he was an Honorary Alderman of the Borough of Guildford and member of the Village Hall Management Committee. CD is a 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.

23/016 Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting held on Jan 11th 2023

The meeting approved the minutes without amendment.

23/017 Matters arising from the meeting on Jan 11th 2023

The meeting covered the following points:

- 23/004 – CD advised that he has spoken to John Vickers about a potential energy survey for the Village Hall and a quote is now being sought. On a related matter, he noted that a periodic electrical maintenance survey will occur soon and this may throw up some funding requirements for the hall lighting.
- 23/005 – The Clerk reported that he had checked the building works in Frithy's Wood and this appeared to be agricultural-related.
- 23/009 - Tennis court hedging – EP stated that pruning work has now been undertaken and the Tennis Court Committee have agreed to fund it.
- 23/009 – Recreation Ground Car Park potholes – EP reported that he has assessed the site with contractors and it appears that two areas of resurfacing and resetting are required at a quoted cost of £635. **Resolved:** The meeting approved the expenditure.

23/018 Council Correspondence Sent and Received

The following topics relating to items of correspondence were discussed:

- A247/A3 sliproad junction current roadworks – the Clerk and BH have been in correspondence with Surrey Highways on improving the traffic delays caused by the temporary traffic lights.
- Parking restriction proposals on The Street by the school – GBC have confirmed that there will be no physical changes now though the current 'Keep Clear' markings would now be made legally enforceable. SW noted that the real problem was speed along the road and the meeting discussed the preference and feasibility for 20mph; CD suggested that we write again to SCC requesting a 20mph zone once the traffic survey results from the National Highways A247/A3 sliproads project are known.
- A247/Station Approach junction road safety – SCC have advised that possible solutions are potentially extremely expensive though other options such as pillows are also being explored
- Section 137 grant to the village school – **Resolved:** The meeting approved a £1000 grant towards the revised scheme to provide additional learning space.
- Overgrown conifer trees on boundary of Recreation Ground and Laurel Cottage - EP explained the situation regarding potential damage to property from the tree roots and that there was a proposal to removing one tree and reduce the others by 50% with funding shared between the Council and the property owner; CD queried the necessity and urgency of the work and the impact on the appearance of the pruned trees; JW queried whether and when the trees would need re-pruning; EP agreed to talk to the tree surgeon to seek reassurance that the reduced state would look good and find out when re-pruning would be required and report back to the Council.
- The meeting discussed the serious dysfunction of the planning department at GBC and raised concerns as to the impact on planning applications and controls.
- The Clerk noted the SALC and GBC recent briefings on the local elections and asked all the Councillors present whether they would be prepared to put themselves forward for re-election in May, which they all responded that they would. Some of the councillors noted, though, that their length of future service would be limited and it was agreed that some succession planning would need to be undertaken over the next couple of years.

23/019 Annual Review of Policies & Procedures

The Clerk presented the list of the Council's policies and procedures. The meeting agreed that following need to be reviewed:

- Recreation ground rules – EP to provide the Clerk with some wording for the new adult fitness equipment and for another clause added in 2020 but not published on the website; re the fitness equipment, the meeting asked the Clerk to consult with SALC and other local parishes to understand what risk management measures we need to put in place
- Traveller Incursion policy – The Clerk agreed to review the new Unauthorised Encampments statutory guidance to understand whether any changes are required to our policy.

23/020 Planning Matters

The Clerk explained that very few planning applications had been notified by GBC over the past 2 months due to the dysfunction and understaffing at GBC mentioned in 23/018 above and that GBC are currently trying to recruit some extra temporary planning officers to deal with the backlog.

JM was unable to attend the meeting but had provided comments on the latest planning applications and rulings in advance. The meeting agreed with JM's view that none needed action from the Council at this point in time apart from the one relating to Send Prison. Although outside of our parish, the meeting discussed the application for an extension to the prison to add an 'open' section to it. Although we have no objections on the principle of development, we do share the concerns of SCC and local residents about drainage and note the existing flooding issues on the road and therefore will object to the development unless it can be shown that the drainage and water issues will be dealt with satisfactorily.

23/021 Financial Matters and Approvals

The Clerk referred to Annex C in the meeting papers relating to the payments made since the last meeting totaling £2187.31 and the meeting approved these.

The Clerk circulated a draft asset register for information. Updates have been made to the Fixed Asset Value (used in the annual AGAR return) to reflect additions and disposals during the year (n.b. these are accounted for at purchase cost). He noted that the insurance values would need to be reviewed before our next annual insurance renewal.

The Chairman queried the state of the internal audit; unfortunately, SM was not in attendance, but the Clerk agreed to check progress with him.

23/022 Garlick's Arch, Wisley Airfield and other Local Plan updates

CD gave an update on current activity on the strategic sites, noting that discussions appear to have opened between the Gosden Hill developer and GBC. The meeting also discussed the M25 junction works and concerns around the impact on the traffic volumes on the A247 of the forthcoming M25 closures.

23/023 Recreation Ground, Playground and Car Park

EP noted that he has been refining the proposed design of the perimeter chain-link fencing and bank renovation work with a view to reducing cost. Specifically, he suggested that the height of the fence could be reduced to 6ft and the meeting saw no problem with this.

EP also raised the concern that his current portfolio on the Council was taking up a significant amount of effort and requested some support; SW agreed to help out. The Clerk suggested that it was appropriate to formally review the size and scope of each Councillor portfolio at the May meeting.

23/024 Footpaths

The Clerk reported that there was nothing of note to discuss this month.

23/025 A247 Matters

The main items were already covered by 23/018 above.

CD noted that the sunken drain cover on the A247 northbound near Little Clandon now needs attention and the Clerk agreed to report a fault.

23/026 AOB

The plan for the Annual Parish meeting was discussed and it was agreed to hold it immediately before the May meeting as per last year.

With regards to 'The Big Help Out' charity day on Monday 8th May proposed as part of the King's Coronation, CD suggested that the Council organise a Clandon Clean-Up day along the lines of previous ones run by The Clandon Association. The meeting supported this idea noting communications would need to be issued by mid-March to advertise such an event. CD and the Clerk agreed to get together to plan the event.

23/027 Date of next meeting

Wednesday, March 8th 2022 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

CLOSING

There being no other business to discuss, the Chairman closed the Parish Council meeting at 21.54.