



# 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 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

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### Present:

Parish Councillors: Terence Patrick ("Chairman"/ "TP"), Chris Dean ("CD"), Sam Wreford ("SW"), Jonathan Murphy ("JM"), and Eric Palmer ("EP")

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

SCC Councillor: Bob Hughes ("BH")

GBC Councillor: GBC Councillor Ruth Brothwell ("RB")

There were 2 residents in attendance.

### 23/069 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Jenny Wicks ("JW") and Ann Dickinson ("AD") and GBC Councillors Catherine Young ("CY") and Dawn Bennett ("DB").

### 23/070 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.

### 23/071 Co-option of Vacant Councillor Position

The meeting discussed the candidature for the vacant Councillor position. The Chairman proposed the co-option of Neil Higgins and this was seconded by the JM. **Resolved:** The meeting unanimously approved the appointment of Neil Higgins as a Councillor.

### 23/072 Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting held on May 10<sup>th</sup> 2023

The meeting approved the minutes without amendment.

## **23/073 Matters arising from the meeting on May 10th 2023**

23/067 - The Chairman reported that he had conducted a review of the potholes/sunken drains on the A247 and provided this to the Clerk for raising with Surrey Highways. BH asked for the list to be sent to him also.

Annual Parish Assembly minutes item 5 - the Clerk noted that he and the Rector are unaware of the constitution of the Henry Smith and West Clandon Parochial charities and are still waiting for a response from Steve Meredith. Once that is known, we will then know whether (i) we need to continue to report on them at the Annual Parish Assembly and (ii) the Parish Council needs to be represented on the grants committee.

## **23/074 Council Correspondence Sent and Received**

The following topics relating to items of correspondence were discussed:

- Tithebarns Lane road issues – the meeting discussed the content and progress of the road works currently underway; BH noted that he will arrange the site meeting to review road safety issues on this road to a date after the road has reopened.
- Dog noise nuisance near Lime Grove – The Clerk reported that GBC had provided information on the complaints procedure and a local resident has agreed to act as ‘receptor’ and formally lodge the issue.
- Gosden Hill – The Clerk noted that Martin Grant Homes’ public consultation agents would be attending our July meeting to update us on the plans for the Gosden Hill development.
- Clandon Park NT - EP reiterated that there will be a presentation by Clandon Park NT to the East & West Clandon Residents Association on 16<sup>th</sup> June in the Poppy Room, RBL.

## **23/075 Planning Matters**

JM provided comments on the latest planning applications and rulings. The meeting agreed with JM’s view that none needed action from the Council at this point in time.

The meeting discussed whether any action should be taken about the removal of the dark wooden gates at Ashley Park Nursing Home and replacement with concrete fence posts and a light brown fence. The meeting agreed that we should write to Ashley Park saying that the change appears incongruous and asking them to consider improving the look and consistency with the surrounds. JM agreed to draft a note for the Clerk to send out.

## **23/076 Financial Matters and Approvals**

The Chairman referred to Annex C in the meeting papers relating to the payments made since the last meeting totaling £6,910.10 and the meeting approved these.

The Clerk presented the year-end financial accounts (Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. He noted that the move of the accounts from Excel to the new accounting software package had identified that the 2021/22 accounts had overstated our General Reserves by £96 due to VAT due to HMRC and thus has had to be restated. **Resolved:** The meeting approved the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

The meeting discussed the general reserves balance, which is currently about double the annual precept. The conclusion was that the level was acceptable as required for certain specific actual and contingency expenditure items.

The Clerk noted that GBC will shortly be providing us with an invoice for expenses for the recent uncontested election (we had budgeted £400 for this).

### **23/077 Garlick's Arch, Wisley Airfield and other Local Plan updates**

CD queried when the burying of the pylons at Garlick's Arch would happen as it did not appear to be mentioned in the Phase 2 application. The Clerk agreed to follow this up with CA.

RB spoke about Gosden Hill and advised that GBC Councillors will be receiving a consultation on 19<sup>th</sup> June and will report back to us after the meeting. She also stated that Section 106 is open for applications; the meeting expressed disappointment that they had not been informed of this by GBC Planning department and it was agreed that we should write to them on this subject. The Clerk enquired as to whether the meeting wanted us to assess our Section 106 requests now and it was agreed that he should circulate the S106 proposals that we previously put together for Garlick's Arch.

### **23/078 Recreation Ground, Playground and Car Park**

EP provided an update:

- The Fox Way Half-Marathon (400 runners) used the recreation ground for its event on the morning of 27<sup>th</sup> May. The event passed smoothly and the site was cleared up well. Although provided for free this year, the meeting discussed what our charges might be for this event if held at the ground again next year.
- The recreation ground will be used by Clendon School for their Sports Day on 29<sup>th</sup> June.
- All is well with the Playground at present.
- There are a few small ad-hoc jobs (replacement of 2 broken posts in car park; concrete posts removal; notice board pinboard replacement, bench repairs) that one of our usual contractors is currently compiling a quotation for. CD suggested that the Council should allow the Councillor responsible for the Recreation Ground/Playground/Car Park portfolio to have some discretionary powers for small items of expenditure. **Resolved:** The meeting agreed that the portfolio owner should authorize expenditure on any number of items relating to the portfolio that are less than £200 each provided that he/she report back to the next Council meeting and that the expenditure remains within the overall agreed budget.
- A Worplesdon Under 18 football team has requested use of the football pitch for every Sunday during the winter months. The meeting considered the request but agreed that it should be declined as the pitch was not considered suitable and would adversely affect existing recreational use by local residents.
- The perimeter netting work is due to commence on Monday 26 June. EP also noted that the nettles on the bank were becoming an obstacle for the project and will need to be dealt with.

The Chairman raised a concern over the state of the grass cutting and overgrown hedges in the new graveyard. JM agreed to raise the issue with the Church Warden.

### **23/079 Footpaths**

The Clerk reported that had had agreed with our usual private contractor to undertake 2 cuts (asap and late-August) to the footpaths near to the golf course (FPs 74, 82 and 83) which have become very overgrown.

The Clerk added that, following resident interest, he and East Clandon Parish Council have been examining the case for access to a path in a field parallel with Staple Lane.

### **23/080 A247 Matters**

Tithebarns Lane issues have already been discussed under item 23/073 above.

The meeting noted a spate of recent unplanned short closures to the A247 The Street over the past month (this included closures due to a water leak and an Air Ambulance attendance).

BH reported that a technical appraisal has started on the road safety measures for the station approach.

A resident raised concerns about the extra traffic through the village, especially at night, caused by the A3/M25 junction diversions. The meeting requested that the Clerk write to National Highways on the subject.

### **23/081 AOB**

The Clerk noted that he was continuing to not receive a small number of emails (which may be an issue with btinternet.com addresses) and was also in discussions with Mark Bridger as to whether our parish council email system could be made more resilient and also better supported for councillors still having problems with access from certain devices. Mark accepts that email systems are not his area of expertise and suggests that we either (i) engage with an IT support business who can solve any problems that certain users have or (ii) move to more of a business email solution (e.g. Microsoft 365) with assistance from an IT support company. We could also move to a gov.uk domain name at the same time for extra security (as recommended by SALC). This will obviously have some expenditure implications for us. The meeting requested that the Clerk liaise with other parishes and investigate solutions.

SW noted that a bike of his has yet again been stolen from the bike racks at Clandon Station. CD suggested that we include provision of more secure bike racks in our Section 106 list.

### **23/082 Date of next meeting**

Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> 2022 at 8pm in the Village Hall (following the Annual Parish Meeting).

### **CLOSING**

There being no other business to discuss, the Chairman closed the Parish Council meeting at 21.52.