



# 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 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

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### Present:

Parish Councillors: Terence Patrick ("Chairman"/ "TP"), Eric Palmer ("EP") Jenny Wicks ("JW"), Neil Higgins ("NH"), Ann Dickinson ("AD"), Sam Wreford ("SW") and Jonathan Murphy ("JM")  
Parish Clerk: Paul Edwards ("Clerk"/"PE")  
SCC Councillor: Bob Hughes ("BH")

There was 1 resident in attendance.

### 23/109 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Parish Councillor Chris Dean ("CD") and GBC Councillors Catherine Young ("CY"), Dawn Bennett ("DB") and Ruth Brothwell ("RB").

### 23/110 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.

### 23/111 Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting held on September 13<sup>th</sup> 2023

The meeting approved the minutes of the meeting without amendment.

### 23/112 Matters arising from the meeting on September 13th 2023

None.

### 23/113 Council Correspondence Sent and Received

The following topics relating to items of correspondence were discussed:

- With regards to the Parish Council's request to the DVSA (Driver & Vehicle Standards Authority) to stop using the A247 through West Clandon for HGV testing, the Clerk reported that the DVSA agreed with our assessment that the road was not suitable and

have forthwith removed it from Guildford test routes and will be advising the HGV training companies accordingly. The Clerk hoped that this would reduce HGV traffic on The Street and improve road safety. The meeting expressed satisfaction with the outcome.

- GBC have sent notifications that, due to the financial difficulties to balance their budget, they are (i) suspending CFGA grants and (ii) will be charging parishes for litter and dog waste collections from the next financial year. JW suggested that this was unfair as both these measures will only affect parished areas, whilst borough wards would not be impacted. The Clerk noted that he has asked GBC for a full list of the bins affected so that we can assess the financial impact and decide on an action plan at the next meeting. The meeting assumed that the only bins in scope of the charge would be on the recreation ground and that bins on the Garlicks Arch SANG, on the roadside, on the Village Hall and behind Glebe Cottages would not be chargeable.
- Clandon Good Neighbours has requested a grant for their annual insurance premium.  
**Resolved:** The Meeting approved this request.
- The Clerk drew the meeting's attention to the forthcoming roadworks on Shere Road that will be installing speed cameras. BH surmised that is related to the new average speed zone that will extend past Newlands Corner.
- SWR has written to advise us of a new scheme for local volunteering groups to 'adopt' stations for community activities or environmental improvements.

### **23/114 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. JM noted that the new single storey annexe for West Clandon church has now been approved and the next challenge will be to raise the funds for it.

The progress on the enforcement case at The Bulls Head was also discussed.

### **23/115 Financial Matters and Approvals**

The Chairman referred to Annex C in the meeting papers relating to the payments made since the last meeting totaling £2,184.95 and the meeting approved these.

The Clerk presented the 6-month actuals and revised full-year forecast for 2023/24 and noted that the bottom-line budget deficit had increased by about £2,300. The meeting agreed that this was expected due to the net cost (after grants) of the new Recreation Ground perimeter fencing and that this was acceptable in light of our strong general reserves.

The meeting also commenced discussions on the budget for 2024/25. EP noted that he was not expecting much in the way of capital projects in the recreation ground but would be better informed on receipt of the annual playground inspection. Enhancements to our recreation ground facilities were suggested, but EP thought there would be little space for such. The Clerk noted that the recreation ground benches need inspection to assess replacement. JW expressed concern about the lack of a plan for village hall improvements and the meeting agreed that a plan would be very helpful.

The Clerk noted that we currently have a number of NatWest and Unity Trust Bank accounts, but that we are not currently receiving much interest income. He agreed to email details and a proposal to the Councillors. JW queried whether Unity Trust Bank is covered by the Government deposit guarantee and the Clerk agreed to confirm this.

### **23/116 Gosden Hill, Garlick's Arch, Wisley Airfield and other Local Plan updates**

In CD's absence, the Clerk reported that the non-determination appeal on the Former Wisley Airfield development is underway and that there is nothing of note on Garlick's Arch or Gosden Hill that we are aware of.

### **23/117 Recreation Ground, Playground and Car Park**

EP reported that there were no new issues. An extra strim on the bank bordering the A247 will be undertaken due to the weather conditions.

The meeting agreed that the Clandon Dragon was looking in a 'sorry state' and required some renovation. It was in favour of providing some finance support, assuming the volunteering group is still in place. The Chairman agreed to discuss with a volunteer contact.

### **23/118 Footpaths**

The Clerk reported that the section of footpath 69 (from the entrance to Lime Grove north to Green Lane) has finally been cut and is now passable, albeit still narrow.

### **23/119 A247 Matters**

In addition to the HGV training lorries covered under item 23/113, the following A247 matters were also discussed:

- JW queried the status of the Station Approach road safety review. BH reported that he was still waiting to see the design proposals from Surrey Highways. A number of options were being considered and Network Rail requirements will need to be consulted. With regards to a suggestion from a resident for a zebra crossing, this was unlikely to be possible due to the proximity to the raised bridge. BH added that any solutions are not on the budgeted list for this financial year and he would push for them to be included next year once the designs are agreed
- With regards to the 20mph option on The Street, BH advised that this was with Surrey Highways (Duncan Knox). BH has also requested a site visit by the Surrey Police & Crime Commissioner to assess the road which could help with the argument for a 20mph limit.
- The diversion of A3 traffic through the village over the weekend of 13-16 October did not result in the gridlock feared. Although there was extra traffic, it was lighter than expected. Councillors surmised that a combination of alternative SatNav routes (e.g. along Tithebarns Lane) and Surrey local's deciding not to drive that weekend may have helped.
- The Chairman was pleased to report that the longstanding manhole cover issue outside Gate Cottage, The Street had now been fixed.
- BH advised that Surrey Highways have requested action to remove the dead oak tree leaning over Clandon Road just north of Lime Grove and enforcement action will follow if necessary.
- JM queried the ownership of the verge by the new graveyard opposite the entrance to Clandon House NT and BH agreed to check this with Surrey Highways.

### **23/120 AOB**

EP asked whether the West Clandon speedwatch team was now operational and the Clerk agreed to find out.

The Clerk asked whether there was interest in installing a tree and or lights for the Christmas period. The meeting considered points around external power sources, location and sponsors.

**23/121 Date of next meeting**

Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> 2022 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

**CLOSING**

There being no other business to discuss, the Chairman closed the Parish Council meeting at 21.23.