



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 13th December 2023 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

Present:

Parish Councillors: Terence Patrick ("Chairman"/ "TP"), Eric Palmer ("EP") Jenny Wicks ("JW"),
Neil Higgins ("NH"), Sam Wreford ("SW") and Chris Dean ("CD")
Parish Clerk: Paul Edwards ("Clerk"/"PE")
GBC Councillor: Dawn Bennett ("DB")

There was 1 resident in attendance.

23/136 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Jonathan Murphy ("JM") and Ann Dickinson ("AD"), GBC Councillors Catherine Young ("CY") and Ruth Brothwell ("RB") and SCC Councillor Bob Hughes ("BH").

23/137 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.

23/138 Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting held on November 10th 2023

The meeting approved the minutes of the meeting without amendment.

23/139 Matters arising from the meeting on November 10th 2023

The Chairman provided an update on 2 items from the November meeting:

- 23/125 – The Chairman has spoken to the manager of Edwins Garden Centre who has generously offered to provide a Christmas tree for next year. The Clerk added that it appeared feasible to extend a long cable from inside the Village Hall to provide power for lights and he agreed to diarise the subject for discussion at our September meeting.

- 23/126 – As there continues to be a lack of interest in volunteering for both the West Clandon and East Clandon Community Speedwatch, we expect that the schemes will need to be disbanded and the equipment returned to Surrey Police, who are keen to redeploy it.

23/140 Contract of Employment for the Clerk

The Clerk requested comments on the draft Contract of Employment that he had recently sent to the Councillors for their review. JM had, ahead of the meeting, raised a concern about the financial risk to the Council of clause 18. **Resolved:** The meeting approved the Contract of Employment, but with clause 18 removed (unless it was clear from the Council's insurance policy schedule that the Council was adequately covered for the risk).

23/141 Council Correspondence Sent and Received

The following topics relating to items of correspondence were discussed:

- Biodiversity Duty – the Clerk informed the Council as to their responsibilities in considering biodiversity in their decisions and actions
- Dog Fouling – the meeting agreed to signal support to GBC in its attempt renew the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)

23/142 Planning Matters

JM had already provided comments via email 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 appeal against the GBC refusal on infilling on land to the west of Clandon Road is a concern, but it is assumed that our previous planning application comments will go to the appeal inspector for examination.

The Clerk reported that an oak tree bordering Clandon Road at Fairfield house has been felled. The tree surgery contractor has advised him that it had honey fungus and that a search at GBC indicated that the tree was not part of the line of oaks covered by the Clandon Road TPO. However, the TPO map indicates otherwise and the Council agreed that the Clerk should approach the GBC planning enforcement team.

23/143 Financial Matters and Approvals

The Chairman referred to Annex C in the meeting papers relating to the payments made since the last meeting totaling £21,441.47 and the meeting approved these.

The Clerk reported that he had not yet had any response on Section 137 grant requests from the village school or the Friends of West Clandon Church. With regards to S137 spending on the chalk dragon, any activity will not be until the spring so probably not in this financial year.

The meeting then discussed the latest draft budget (circulated to the Councillors before the meeting). The Clerk advised that, contrary to the information available at the previous meeting, the LCTSS grant would be remaining for one more year; there would, however, be no CFGA grants next year and be a new charge by GBC for litter and dog waste bin collections and this creates pressure for a higher precept requirement.

EP noted that in mitigation there would be a smaller requirement than usual in the near term for capital spending on the recreation ground. CD noted that there was a desperate need to spend money on the Village Hall and providing funding for an energy survey was discussed; he agreed to talk to the Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee about that.

Other considerations noted were that West Clandon sat near the bottom of precept charges for Surrey parishes and also that we currently have sizeable general reserves. **Resolved:** The Council agreed to amend the capital budget to £6,615 and, so as to keep to a balanced budget, would demand a precept increase of 6.7% for the 2024-25 financial year. This would be equivalent to a £2.44 pa increase for a typical Band D household.

The Terms of Reference for the forthcoming Internal Audit (circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting) was discussed and approved without comment.

23/144 Gosden Hill, Garlick's Arch, Wisley Airfield and other Local Plan updates

CD advised that the Gosden Hill consultation programme has been moved back into 2024. He still considered road access to be a big problem to be resolved.

The planning appeal on the Former Wisley airfield development has been slightly extended to the end of next week.

23/145 Recreation Ground, Playground and Car Park

EP reported that our maintenance contractor's contract needs renegotiating for next year. After some negotiation, an increase of 8% is being proposed (this also now includes strimming of the grass bank aside the main road). The meeting accepted this increase and it was agreed that the choice of contractors should be reviewed again in 2 years time.

The playground annual inspection report has been received and reviewed by EP, who noted that there were no high risk problems identified. There were 2 moderate risk issues – (i) a general wear & tear item that EP will continue to monitor for any deterioration and (ii) and some metal corrosion on the blue slide that EP stated could be addressed within the current budget).

EP added that the Zipwire tyre will need replacing and the playground fencing needs some minor repairs and all should be able to be fixed within budget.

With regards to the wider recreation ground, EP noted that its attractiveness could be significantly improved if we removed the 3 remaining large tree stumps on the roadside bank and the 2 thickets at the south end of the ground. He has received a quote for £740 to do this. After a discussion on the biodiversity impacts of this, the meeting approved the expenditure.

The Clerk reported that he and 2 volunteers had now planted around the recreation ground the 10 trees supplied for free by SCC.

23/146 Footpaths

NH noted that the entrance to the Garlicks Arch SANG from Tithebarns Lane on footpath 69 is not only very narrow but now becoming quite boggy. This path is more popular than in the past due to the walking provided by the SANG.

23/147 A247 Matters

The Chairman noted that he and BH had attended a site visit of Clandon Road and The Street with the Police & Crime Commissioner for Surrey, who expressed sympathy with the various traffic and road safety issues that the parish is facing. The Chairman agreed to follow up with BH to see what the next steps are.

NH queried whether there is any progress on the signage proposed around the bridge at Tithebarns Lane. The Chairman also agreed to query this with BH.

The meeting discussed the current northbound closure of Clandon Road by Burnt Common and it was agreed that the communications around this from Surrey Highways had been very poor.

23/148 AOB

No further business.

23/149 Date of next meeting

Wednesday, January 10th 2022 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

CLOSING

There being no other business to discuss, the Chairman closed the Parish Council meeting at 21.46.