



WEST CLANDON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Terence Patrick, Stoney Royd, Woodstock, West Clandon Surrey GU4 7UJ
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Clerk: Paul Edwards, Amberleaf, Clandon Road, West Clandon. GU4 7TL
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Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 8th November 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: Catherine Young ("CY")
SCC Councillor: Bob Hughes ("BH")

There was 1 resident in attendance.

23/122 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Jonathan Murphy ("JM") and Ann Dickinson ("AD") and GBC Councillors Dawn Bennett ("DB") and Ruth Brothwell ("RB").

23/123 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.

23/124 Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting held on October 18th 2023

The meeting approved the minutes of the meeting without amendment.

23/125 Matters arising from the meeting on October 18th 2023

Referring to item 23/113 on the topic of GBC charging for bin collections going forwards, JW suggested that we liaise with other local parishes to see if we can take advantage of joint purchasing power with other suppliers. The Clerk agreed to pursue this.

The Chairman queried the feasibility of erecting a Christmas tree and lights (23/120). The Clerk noted that John Vickers was currently looking into whether a power supply was possible from the Village Hall.

JW queried the status of the dead oak tree overhanging Clandon Road and BH agreed to follow up with Surrey Highways.

23/126 Council Correspondence Sent and Received

The following topics relating to items of correspondence were discussed:

- West Clandon Community Speedwatch (CSW) – despite best efforts, the CSW activity has been struggling due to a range of issues; this has also been the case for East Clandon. As a result, Surrey Police are keen to reallocate both sets of CSW equipment unless we can show adequate activity. The Chairman reported that he had been in discussion with East Clandon Parish Council about the way forward. The meeting was amenable to merging parts of the process across the parishes (including sharing one set of equipment and co-ordination of activity); however, there would need to be an adequate number of volunteers separately for both West and East Clandon. Retaining volunteers in both villages has been a struggle (despite the clear concerns from many residents on speeding issues) and an advertising campaign would be required. The Chairman agreed to revert to Drew Craig and East Clandon PC with these proposals.
- The Clandon chalk dragon – The meeting was amenable to providing financial support for initial vegetation clearance and subsequently for additional chalk, though did not want to manage in the actual chalking effort. EP recommended that we organise and fund a vegetation clearance in spring when the weather would be better and site safer to work on.
Resolved: The meeting agreed to EP's proposal.
- GBC's polling places review – the meeting noted that they were happy with the suitability of the existing site (i.e. the Village Hall).
- An email from a resident raising concerns over speeding along Clandon Road and south into The Street was discussed. The resident suggested (i) removing a confusing southbound 40mph sign that is close to the 30mph zone at the Lime Grove junction and (ii) collecting data on accidents and near-misses. On (i), the Clerk reported that he has requested Surrey Highways remove the sign. BH added that he had supported the request and furthermore had suggested to Surrey Highways that the 30mph zone be extended northwards up to Green Lane. On (ii), CY advised that Surrey Highways already had a facility for reporting these and suggested that the following link be publicised in the parish: [Select the option most like the issue - Report a highway issue - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/your-council/your-voice/road-works-and-issues/report-a-highway-issue)

23/127 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.

With regards to the Wisley Airfield (Hatch Lane) application, CY suggested that West Clandon may wish to make a comment relating to the harm to the local road network. CD noted that Surrey Highways are happy with the traffic projections so was not convinced that there was any point in commenting and added that we need to be focused on the nearby Gosden Hill development. JW added that there could also be some unintended consequences from raising an objection.

23/128 Financial Matters and Approvals

The Chairman referred to Annex C in the meeting papers relating to the payments made since the last meeting totaling £1,631.86 and the meeting approved these.

The Clerk requested views on Section 137 grants for this financial year and the meeting agreed that he should enquire as to whether the West Clandon village school and the Friends of West Clandon church had any projects with suitable cases. NH queried whether the Clandon Dragon volunteering group met the S137 criteria and the Clerk agreed to investigate.

The Clerk presented a proposed budget for 2024/25 and noted that, with GBC's withdrawal of CFGA and LCTSS grants and imposition of litter bin collection charges, local parish councils were planning to significantly increase their precept requests. Due to the GBC changes, councillors felt that we did have a justification for a large increase in the precept though it was noted that we do have significant reserves and should consider absorbing some of the impact.

The meeting asked the Clerk to rework the following budget lines:

- Assume zero grant receipts
- Recalculate interest received
- Include the full cost of the litter bin charges
- Assume only £6000 capital projects (historically low)
- Keep S137 and Village Hall budgets as per 23/24.

Resolved: The meeting also ratified the agreement that all the Councillors had made (ahead of the meeting by email) to the Clerk's proposals on our Bank accounts, which was as follows:

- (i) Temporarily transfer the balance of the NatWest Business Reserve account into the NatWest Liquidity Manager account to take advantage of the interest rate differential
- (ii) Open a Unity Trust Bank Business Savings account and then transfer a suitable amount from the Unity Current Account into it (ensuring there is a suitable float left in the latter for day-to-day banking transactions)
- (iii) Once (ii) is in place, close our banking relationship with NatWest and transfer the account balances to Unity.

23/129 Gosden Hill, Garlick's Arch, Wisley Airfield and other Local Plan updates

Beyond the planning matter for Wisley Airfield noted in 23/127 above, the meeting had no further updates.

23/130 Recreation Ground, Playground and Car Park

EP reported that stuck zipwire in the playground had now been freed. He is awaiting results of the annual playground inspection to inform him on any work required for next year.

23/131 Footpaths

SW reported that there was a fallen tree blocking footpath 75 in Clandon Park. The Clerk has reported this to SCC and SW and the Clerk will monitor progress.

23/132 A247 Matters

In addition to the matters covered under item 23/126, the Chairman expressed concern over the carriageway cracking up on the A3 bridge. The Clerk agreed to report a fault to SCC.

Concern was also expressed on the UK Power Networks roadworks sign at Burnt Common stating that Clandon Road would be closed in December. The Clerk agreed to investigate.

23/133 AOB

No further business.

23/134 Date of next meeting

Wednesday, December 13th 2022 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

CLOSING (of the public meeting)

There being no other business to discuss, the Chairman closed the open session of the Parish Council meeting at 21.38.

23/135 Clerk's Salary

In closed session, the Councillors agreed that the Clerk's salary should increase by 7.8% for the 2024/25 financial year.