



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 March 2024 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

Present:

Parish Councillors: Terence Patrick ("Chairman"/ "TP"), Neil Higgins ("NH"), Chris Dean ("CD"), Eric Palmer ("EP"), Jonathan Murphy ("JM"), Jenny Wicks ("JW").
Parish Clerk: Paul Edwards ("Clerk"/"PE")
GBC Councillor: Catherine Young ("CY")

There was 1 member of the public in attendance.

24/031 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Sam Wreford ("SW") and Ann Dickinson ("AD"), SCC Councillor Bob Hughes ("BH") and GBC Councillors Dawn Bennett ("DB") and Ruth Brothwell ("RB").

24/032 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.

JM declared an interest in item 24/036 as his wife is a West Clandon churchwarden.

JW declared an interest in item 24/038 regarding a neighbour's planning application.

24/033 Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting held on February 14th 2024

The meeting approved the minutes of the February meeting without amendment.

24/034 Matters arising from the meeting on February 14th 2024

The following items from the January meeting were discussed:

- 24/018 – Aggressive/noisy dogs – the Chairman noted that he was awaiting a reply from Gary Durrant. CY offered to follow up with GBC if required. JW noted that a neighbour had recently walked their dog passed the site in question and had felt threatened by the aggression of the dogs.
- 24/019 - BT phone box – The Clerk reported that BT are not allowed to remove our kiosk under Ofcom rules but have agreed to repair and fix it; the Clerk will monitor this.

24/035 Council Correspondence Sent and Received

The following topics relating to items of correspondence were discussed:

- Clandon Park NT – with regards to the request from the NT to present to our May meeting, some of the councillors agreed to view the Poppy Room exhibition on 26th March before we decide whether there is enough new information to make it of value to invite them along.
- Pizza van – the meeting agreed that the funds received should be paid into the Parish Council bank account and treated as income to cover future carpark maintenance expenses.
- Litter bins – despite escalations within GBC and support from GBC Councillor Young, GBC are still insisting we pay for litter collections on the bin by the highway in front of the Village hall, though the incremental cost will only be £115 p.a.

24/036 Application for Grant towards Church Annex/Improvements Project

JM answered some questions from other councillors on the Church annex/improvements project and then left the meeting for the debate on this agenda item as he had declared an interest.

There was then an extensive discussion on whether the Council should pledge any funds for the project, including whether it is sensible use of ratepayers money, the value of the community facilities, the impact of a pledge from the Council on other donors and grant bodies, and to what extent improvements to the church could and should happen independently of the annex project.

The Clerk noted that such a grant was allowable under Section 137 but that the overall limit of S137 for the 2024/25 financial year was about £12,100. He added that we have already approved our budget for the 2024/25 financial year and this only included an amount of £2,100 for S137.

CD asked how we would record a grant pledge in our accounts and CY suggested allocating an amount to Earmarked Reserves.

EP proposed we support the church's request and provide a pledge of £5,000. **Resolved:** The meeting agreed to a £5,000 pledge though it should be made clear that Church projects were unlikely to get any other S136 grants from the Council over next two financial years.

24/037 Report on Gosden Hill meeting of 22nd February

CD updated on the meeting with the Executive Head of Planning at GBC. It appears that there have been no meetings between GBC Planning and the developer since August 2023, though the Executive Head indicated that there would be one in late February. However, CY advised that this meeting had not happened, perhaps due to the current focus on the Cathedral site planning appeal; CY agreed to update us as soon as one has been held. JW expressed surprise that GBC Planning were not working closely together with the developer on an ongoing basis.

24/038 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, apart from the application for a pair of semi-detached one-storey houses at Chequers on The Street. The Councillors reviewed the plans and this prompted a number of questions including on whether truly one-storey, the feasibility of the parking arrangements, whether the site is too close to the road and the host property, and whether it is over-development. JM noted that the application did support our Neighbourhood Plan's need for more 2-bed properties, though agreed to draft a note for the Clerk to submit comments to GBC.

24/039 Financial Matters and Approvals

The Chairman referred to Annex C in the meeting papers relating to the payments made since the last meeting totaling £3,448.94 and the meeting approved these.

The Clerk reported that our insurance policy will need renewing shortly and explained that we could not continue with the 'smaller parishes' contract as had a piece of playground equipment that our insurance provider Zurich considered to be a zip-wire. The meeting agreed to renew based on Zurich's quote of £1,303 for 2024/25. NH queried whether there would be an impact on our agreed 2024/25 budget and the Clerk confirmed that it would be about an extra £500.

On a more positive financial note, the Clerk advised that we will shortly be receiving an unbudgeted £2,100 from GBC relating to a CFGS grant request for the new toddler swings purchased in 2022.

The Clerk reminded the meeting that we were still trying to catch up with the correct schedule for the internal audit, that had slipped back during the COVID years. Therefore, he intends to hold our next audit in May/June. This will not impact our finances as the previous audit (1st February) was in the 2023/24 financial year.

24/040 Gosden Hill, Garlick's Arch, Wisley Airfield and other Local Plan updates

CD reported that building had now started in Garlick's Arch and that the Former Wisley Airfield appeal was still being considered. CY expected a decision on the appeal by Easter.

CD noted the forthcoming GBC Local plan review that has been approved and suggested that there will need to be effort from us to provide evidence to the review and to lobby for continuation of West Clandon being within the greenbelt.

24/041 Recreation Ground, Playground and Car Park

EP provided a report:

- Grass maintenance is about to commence on the Recreation Ground. However, following concerns for a resident on the quality of grass cutting at the Meadowlands entrance verge, we should reconsider what support we want to provide on that site. Currently, our contractors have reported that it is difficult to maintain it after SCC have done their (infrequent) cuts which have left the ground in poor condition.
- Following the tree stump and scrub removals, EP has had comments from residents admiring the roadside bank, especially with the daffodils in full bloom.

- There are still two gaps on the recreation grounds for potential tree planting and EP asked the Clerk to consider appropriate tree species for planting whilst we are still in early spring.
- The Memorial Oak on the village green which was planted on the Jubilee of King George V in 1935 has engulfed the iron surround railings and it was decided to leave well alone as any interference might hinder rather than help its continued growth. It would be quite a task to remove the ironwork and it supports the historical plaque in commemoration.
- Quotes are currently awaiting for minor playground repairs.
- The quote of £2,200 for cleaning of the chalk dragon (which excludes any new chalk) appears too much for the Parish Council to support and we should reconsider whether it is worthwhile even continuing ask our contractor to trim around it.

24/042 Footpaths

The Clerk reported that there were no new issues of note apart from the usual winter flooding at the bridge on Green Lane.

24/043 A247 Matters

The Chairman observed that the ditch aside the southbound carriageway approaching the Clandon Crossroads appears blocked with vegetation and mud. The Clerk agreed to inspect it and raise a fault with Surrey Highways.

NH noted that he has been advised by our Surrey Highways Engineer that 'narrow road' warning signs will be installed on Tithebarns Lane this summer.

24/044 AOB

CY queried whether West Clandon would be represented at the inaugural local parishes flood forum on 22nd March. The Clerk stated that he would attend unless another councillor would like to go along.

The Clerk noted that Saturday 20th April is proposed for the West Clandon Clean-up event and the meeting agreed to this date. The Clerk will publicise on the village email network and ask AD to do so on the website; CD agreed to include in the next parish magazine update.

24/045 Date of next meeting

Wednesday, April 10th 2024 at 8pm in the Village Hall. The Chairman noted that he would be unavailable and that Vice-Chairman Dean will run the meeting.

CLOSING

There being no other business to discuss, the Chairman closed the Parish Council meeting at 21.56.