



# 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 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

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### Present:

Parish Councillors: Terence Patrick ("Chairman"/"TP"), Ann Dickinson ("AD"), Eric Palmer ("EP"), Jenny Wicks ("JW"), Sam Wreford ("SW"), Neil Higgins ("NH") and Jonathan Murphy ("JM")

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

GBC Councillors: none in attendance

SCC Councillor: Bob Hughes ("BH")

There were 3 members of the public in attendance.

### 24/100 Apologies for absence

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

### 24/101 Declarations of interest

TP is an Honorary Alderman of the Borough of Guildford and 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.

### 24/102 Update on Clandon Park NT

JM updated the meeting on his recent site visit to Clandon House. The overall plan is to complete all the construction by end 2028 and install the collections in 2029. They are still undertaking the 'Essential' (strengthening and structure) phases of the development and currently focusing on the brickwork. The next phases will develop the interior including roof, stairs and rooms. No date for next phase planning applications have been given.

The NT have asked for our feedback. The meeting was keen that the community is involved in the development and particularly wanted to be in ongoing discussions about community events and usage. JM agreed to draft feedback for the Council to review.

Resident Chris Barrass discussed the NT's current debates over restoration vs conservation. He suggested that the residents should be informed on forthcoming planning applications so that they could comment; he was happy to act as a conduit for this by setting up a webpage that alerted residents to updates. The Council agreed to communicate this via the parish magazine and our website, directing them to a link to be provided by Chris.

### **24/103 Co-option for vacant Councillor Position**

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

### **24/104 Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting held on July 10<sup>th</sup> 2024**

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

### **24/105 Matters arising from the meeting on July 10<sup>th</sup> 2024**

The following items from the July meeting were discussed:

- 24/090 – The Clerk reported that the dangerous oak tree overhanging Clandon Road has finally been removed.
- 24/096 – NH provided an update on his recent discussions with The Land Trust about improvements required to the Garlick's Arch SANG. NH will continue to monitor progress on this. He also mentioned that The Land Trust had offered to attend a future Council meeting to present on their function and purpose; the meeting agreed that the next Annual Parish Meeting (April or May) would be the most suitable event to do this at.

### **24/106 School Transport to George Abbot School**

BH noted that he has raised the issue of the refusal of a pupil's free school transport from Meadowlands with SCC Children Services team but had received no satisfaction on the matter. 2 appeals by the parents have already occurred without success. The issue has potential to extend to about 10 other Meadowlands residents. Resident Trevor Skerritt, who is also a George Abbot school governor, provided some more background to the issue and noted that the school were very much opposed to SCC's position.

All at the meeting agreed that path 74 was not suitable for children to use to walk to school. JM noted that some conditions of a fit path had not been covered by the SCC representatives during their site visit. Also, the path is currently overgrown so cannot be walked through anyway until it is cleared. He has drafted an objection letter that includes these points and suggested that BH submits this to the Children Services team, which the meeting agreed to. The Chairman suggested that the Parish Council also sends a letter to our MP to make her aware. If all these actions fail, we may need to involve the School Ombudsman.

### **24/107 Council Correspondence Sent and Received**

The following topics relating to items of correspondence was discussed:

- CFGA grants – the Clerk reported that GBC were unlikely to be offering CFGA grants for the 2025/26 financial year.
- VAT – the Clerk advised that the treatment on the use of the recreation ground for sports purposes has changed and any future fees are now exempt. The meeting agreed that the

Clerk should treat such charges accordingly from the August accounts onwards and also explore with HMRC whether any rebates are possible.

- Clandon School of Dance – EP noted that CSD use of the carpark for their Christmas Carol event was fine but that their request for a permanent banner on the Recreation Ground fence was problematic. The meeting agreed and EP will write to CSD accordingly.
- Village Pound – EP reported that he had inspected the Pound. He suggested that it was time to replace the gate (which he thought would cost in the region of £1,000) and will obtain some quotes. Although there is no specific budget for this, we do have ample Capital Projects budget and the meeting agreed that we may use that subject to the final amount. JW suggested we ask if a new gate requires planning permission and the Clerk agreed to ask the GBC Conservation team. The meeting also agreed to continue with the current vegetation maintenance arrangement for the Pound.

## **24/108 Planning Matters**

JM talked through the latest planning applications and rulings. The meeting determined that none needed action from the Council at this point in time.

JM also noted that Hare and Hound Cottage had added documents to their previous application and this included a revised plan for parking. It was agreed that JM would draft further comments for the Clerk to submit to GBC Planning.

## **24/109 Renewal of Ground Lease with RBL**

The Clerk reported that the current 21-year ground lease with the RBL expires in December. JM reported on the legal background to this. The Chairman was concerned about the wellbeing of the club and noted that we are meeting with the Club chairman and secretary on 12<sup>th</sup> September to discuss a new lease. Hedleys Solicitors, who wrote the last contract, have quoted £1,500 for undertaking the legal work on a new one. **Resolved:** The meeting agreed to engage Hedleys.

## **24/110 Financial Matters and Approvals**

The Chairman referred to Annex C in the meeting papers relating to the payments made since the last meeting totaling £1,663.44. These were approved by the meeting.

The Clerk was pleased to advise that the external audit for last financial year has been signed off without comment and the annual accounting process is now completed.

With regards to this year's finances, the Clerk presented the 5+7 management accounts forecast which shows a small surplus. SW noted that there was still no plan to use the £2,000 budget for Village Hall grants; the Chairman agreed to raise this with the Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee and invite him along to a future meeting.

## **24/111 Gosden Hill, Garlick's Arch, Wisley Airfield and other Local Plan updates**

JW updated the meeting on the strategic sites:

- Gosden Hill – the developers have booked to hold a consultation for local residents in the Village Hall on 30<sup>th</sup> October. The Clerk agreed to send a note to the developer's communications agents to let them know that attendance may be impacted by half-term holidays and also that they need to meet with the Council beforehand for a pre-briefing.
- Garlick's Arch – There is a Reserved Matters update to the planning application for Phase 2, though JW felt that there was nothing new us worth commenting on. BH noted that the

end of Burnt Common Lane had recently been widened and that it could become a traffic 'rat-run' if allowed to be permanently opened to traffic; however, he has been assured by Surrey Highways that this will not be the case.

- Wisley Airfield – Waiting for results of the first stage of the Judicial Review.
- Local Plan review – Guildford's annual housing target has been increased by the Government by 48%; this significant increase may need new strategic sites to be identified.

### **24/112 Recreation Ground, Playground and Car Park**

EP provided a report:

- The roadside bank will need a final trim for the year shortly which he will arrange.
- There are no current issues on the Playground. The broken wooden struts on the Playground area fence have now been replaced.
- 2 wooden posts at the carpark have also been replaced; however, cars have now damaged a further 3. EP is looking at other solutions to avoid this continuing problem.
- Glebe Cottage bus shelter – EP has been quoted £400 to remove the shelter, which the meeting approved.

### **24/113 Footpaths**

The Clerk reported that all the planned vegetation cuts have now been completed for the year.

### **24/114 A247 Matters**

SW queried the lack of a mirror at the station exit bearing in mind the new one opposite Oak Grange Road. The Clerk agreed to contact the OGR Association to understand more. On the subject of the station exit, BH noted that a more senior team at Surrey Highways were now examining the traffic safety improvement options. BH has also asked Surrey Highways to undertake a safety check outside Clandon school.

SW noted that Trodds Lane had now been reopened. There was uncertainty as to whether the Clandon crossroads traffic lights have been re-sequenced yet; anecdotally there appears to be less congestion on The Street but there is still the occasional build-up and he asked the Councillors to monitor the area.

### **24/115 AOB**

The Clerk asked whether we still want to install a Christmas tree outside the Village Hall this year and the meeting agreed in principle that we should. The Chairman agreed to follow up with Lee Wong at the garden centre.

The Clerk provided an update on the migration of our email system and website to the new gov.uk domain and IT support service. All the councillors advised that they had been successfully set up with the new email addresses on their preferred devices apart from NH, who was still waiting to be contacted. The Clerk will follow up with NetcomIT.

### **24/116 Date of next meeting**

Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

### **CLOSING**

There being no other business to discuss, the Chairman closed the Parish Council meeting at 22.06.