

Mickleham Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting held at 7:30pm on 11th November 2020

Venue	Held Remotely via Zoom
Chair	David Ireland (DI)
Councillors	Jane Brown (JB), David Ottridge (DO), Graham Clark (GC), Andrew McNaughton (AM), Will Dennis (WD)
Clerk	Trevor Haylett
Attending	District Councillor Elsie Rosam (ER), Kayleigh Hunter (KH), John Lowes (JL), Feena Graham (FG)
Item No.	
1	<p>Opening Formalities</p> <p>(921) Apologies – County Councillor Hazel Watson (922) Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensations – None (923) The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2020 – proposed by Will Dennis and seconded by Jane Brown - were approved.</p> <p>(924) Chairman’s Comments – David Ireland first welcomed Feena Graham who would be succeeding Trevor Haylett as Clerk immediately following the meeting. He explained that David Kennington had agreed to take over from Judy Kinloch (JK) as tree warden with Elsie Rosam assisting. JK had returned home after a period in hospital and was progressing well. The Speedwatch group had been active before the current lockdown and hoped to resume the following weekend while the hedges in Dell Close had been cut during the half-term holiday. DI had met with Stuart Ansell of Box Hill School and had obtained the figures for car-parking spaces there that the Parish Council had been asking for. There are 87 car park spaces on site; there are 91 full-time members of staff and 39 part-time. 140 permits were issued last year and the average number of cars on site per day is 100, leaving the School about 13 spaces short of what was needed at the beginning of the day.</p> <p>WD said in relation to Minute (909) that several signs remained at the Headley Lane entrance to Mickleham Hall, some of them misleading, and with the departure of James Cartwright, it might be appropriate for the PC to take advantage of the interregnum and try and engage with the owners about the signs. WD said he had been told about a helpful contact at Surrey County Council and he would try and approach them for assistance.</p>
2	<p>Finance & Formalities</p> <p>(925) David Ottridge had circulated the accounts and payments. Retrospective payments: £254.40 (Kings Landscapes – mowing in September) and £390 (Andrew Clark - various strimming and hedgetrimming). New payments: £254.40 (Kings Landscapes – mowing in October); £217.95 (Clerk’s expenses to today’s date which includes six months Zoom payments). The payments were approved.</p> <p>The bank reconciliation to 11th November had been circulated and was approved. When the new payments had cleared, the bank account will show a balance of £10,927.08. The total amount, including the bus shelter fund, is £15,486.18.</p>

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	<p>(926) DO had circulated a number of governance documents including the Risk Register and also the Code of Conduct which were both unchanged from when they were last accepted. They were both re-adopted. WD asked for more time to consider the updated Financial Regulations and Standing Orders and it was agreed to include those on the agenda for the January meeting.</p>
3	<p>Open Forum</p> <p>(927) WD mentioned that Juliet Hornby was organising a carol singing event on Friday 18th December between 5pm-6:30pm, starting in Batchelor's Yard and ending in the churchyard and wanted the PC to be aware of it. The event is dependent on what restrictions were in place at the time.</p> <p>WD also referred to a suggestion made earlier in the year to encourage closer links and ideas between the PC and the Parochial Church Council. The PCC had now set up a sub-group, St Michael's Church Community Group, chaired by Mark Day, with the aim of becoming more widely involved in the community. WD had been invited to join the group as a link with the PC, although it is not a formal PC appointment. Their first initiative was 'Living Advent Calendar Windows' whereby 27 households will light up a window each day before Xmas and the second is to relaunch Helping Hands, a voluntary organisation run by Mary Banfield and Frances Presley which provides drivers to help the elderly and others with their shopping or medical appointments. It will be run in conjunction with the PC's WhatsApp group to test if there is a need for the service.</p>
4	<p>Planning</p> <p>(927) There were two significant matters to consider. The first concerned the Dairy at Warren Farm Barn where the National Trust were seeking to amend the planning condition which prevented them from seeking rentals on the open market. Currently it was used for long-term volunteers to live there. David Kennington had written to the PC objecting to the plan and explained that the Friends of Box Hill were also considering a formal objection which was a significant departure for a group whose raison d'être was to support the National Trust facility. Graham Clark said he wouldn't object and asked what harm could there be in making the property open to the general public; it didn't preclude them from continuing to use it for volunteers and it was well known that the National Trust was struggling with a financial crisis. It was decided not to raise any objection.</p> <p>DI had been asked by a Norbury Park resident to draw attention to a suggestion by SCC to create a kitchen garden at the Bothy where vulnerable young people, under the guidance of the Youth Offer and Youth Offending Team, would be encouraged to develop practical and personal skills. Katie McDonald of SCC had earlier explained at a meeting with DI that a Master Plan for the estate was being developed, addressing current issues and considering how to enhance visitors' experience. She promised to consult the PC at every stage and hoped that the details would be released before Christmas. DI said there was little the PC could do until the Master Plan was published and a planning application submitted but it was clear the future</p>

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	<p>of Norbury Park would become a big issue for both the PC and the community and would change things considerably there.</p> <p>It was also stated that the next consultation on Future Mole Valley had been delayed until the summer of 2021.</p>
5	<p>Co-Option of New Councillor</p> <p>(928) Following the retirement of Judy Kinloch, the PC undertook a statutory process to test if there was any demand in the parish for an election to fill the casual vacancy. Nobody came forward with that request so applications were then invited from candidates wanting to be considered as a co-opted Councillor, a role with the same status as an elected Councillor. Kayleigh Hunter and John Lowes came forward and both addressed the meeting, separately, about why they wanted to become a Councillor and what they could bring to the role. They were two impressive presentations and the candidates were thanked for their interest in the role. Councillors then held a confidential session in which they discussed what the candidates could offer before returning to an open session to vote on their preferred candidate. The majority of votes were cast in favour of KH who was duly elected to the PC.</p> <p>Having returned to the meeting, DI told the candidates that they had created a problem because Councillors wanted to elect them both and didn't want to lose JL's skills. DI explained that a working party would be needed to consider the community's big issues of which the Norbury Park development was one and hoped there could be a role in it for JL if he was happy to accept.</p> <p>DI and JL agreed to speak later in the week.</p>
6	<p>Coronavirus Update</p> <p>(929) DI invited JL, with his medical background, to comment on the latest figures which showed that currently Mole Valley had the highest incidents of infection in Surrey. JL said it needed to be placed in the context that in comparison with the rest of the country the figures were still relatively low.</p> <p>WD said the WhatsApp group had increased slightly in numbers and requests for people to help collect prescriptions etc would start up again. He felt there would be more traffic on the channel of a Helping Hands nature and the village would be leafleted with details.</p>
7	<p>Traffic Issues including Parking and Noise</p> <p>(930) DI said there had been a number of related discussions and meetings in recent weeks. On 7th October a petition initiated by Kirsten Johnson was presented to SCC and had been well received. As a result a working group had been set up with another meeting fixed for 19th November. A preparatory meeting had been held earlier in the week and one outcome was that the village might have to hire the noise monitoring equipment itself to be able to provide evidence to support the complaints.</p> <p>A meeting was also planned with the lease-holders of Rykas Café where some of the</p>

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	<p>problems arose to see if there was anything that could be done from their side.</p> <p>DI had attended a chairman's networking meeting in which there was a presentation from the Police on the issue of dangerous driving, speeding and excess noise in Surrey and Sussex. Four lines of attack had been highlighted: (i) Operation Crackdown had been launched to spot attacks in particular locations; (ii) encouraging Community Speedwatch; (iii) piloting the use of drones to film instances of dangerous driving which can trigger an immediate Police response; (iv) the first handheld noise recorders have been purchased by Surrey and Sussex which can be used to support court action.</p> <p>WD agreed that the initial meeting of the working group had been encouraging with Councillors fully supportive but said the response from SCC officers was disappointing. He felt it was important that the momentum the Parish Council had initiated be maintained and that officers be pressed as to what had been achieved between meetings.</p> <p>AM reminded Councillors that a lot of the problems occurred at night and wondered what effect the drones could have at that time of day.</p> <p>The Clerk asked about the parking controls document that was discussed at the egm on 21st October and is due to be submitted by the end of the month. AM suggested that the outgoing and new Clerks work on a narrative to accompany the maps he had produced.</p>
8	<p>Litter Problems</p> <p>(931) This problem remained unresolved and DI explained that he and his wife had started emptying the two green litter bins in the Recreation Ground themselves. The bins used to be regularly cleared but not any longer, with MVDC insisting that they had never been part of their contract.</p> <p>The Clerk said there had been a further email discussion with MVDC that day and they had provided a contact number for their contractor. Kirsten Johnson had asked MVDC in reply whether they could empty the bins until the spring when some funding might become available. ER said she would investigate and try and help.</p>
9	<p>Bus Shelter</p> <p>(932) There was a proposed delivery date for the week beginning 30th November and DI once again thanked all those who had contributed with donations. The Parish Council would retain their details but will respect the wishes of those who preferred to remain anonymous.</p>
10	<p>Additional Matters/Meetings/Reports</p> <p>(933) DI thanked the outgoing Clerk, TH, for his contribution and support over the last five years and said a farewell celebration would be held when the current restrictions allowed. In turn TH wished good luck to FG, KH and JL and thanked all Councillors, and particularly the chairman, for their friendship and support.</p>
11	<p>Future Meetings</p>

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	<p>(934) The 2021 meetings are scheduled as follows: 13th January; 10th March; 12th May (Annual Parish Council Meeting); 14th July; 1st September; 10th November</p>
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The meeting closed at 9:30 pm