

**BLETCHINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE
COMMITTEE ROOMS ON MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2006**

P R E S E N T

Councillor R. Gater – Chairman

Councillors K. Bridger, A. Butler, J. Moore, N. Nathanail, R. Sutcliffe, B. Tatnell

In attendance: Clerk - K. Wantling, County Councillor M. Myland, District Councillors T. Elias and C. Hoskins, PC D. Hazel and residents Mr Munday and Mrs Silk

75/06 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Martin and Trotman and Inspector Witcombe. No changes were made to the Declarations of Interests.

76/06 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17th July 2006 were approved and signed by the Chairman subject to the following minor amendment: Page 6, Village Hall/Community Centre replace “had resigned” with “were resigning effective from 31st March 2007”.

The Minutes of the Chairman’s Sub Committee meeting held on 15 August 2006 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

77/06 RESIDENTS’ REQUESTS

Little Common Lane: Councillor Moore reported that the holly hedge by the allotments needs cutting.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would check if this was part of the allotment hedge currently being quoted on for cutting. KW

Tuns Cottage: Councillor Sutcliffe reported that the Reverend had enquired about 3 large bags of rubbish outside Tuns Cottage on the corner of Church Lane. These had been there for quite a long time.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would look into this matter. KW

2 Minutes Silence: The Clerk had received a request from Mrs Price for stopping traffic in Bletchingley for a 2 minutes silence on Remembrance Day. PC Hazel stated he would be happy to look into the matter and do what was necessary. Councillor Elias said that the contact at Tandridge for these types of matters was Mrs Trish Bloxham. Councillor Butler enquired as to whether Nutfield had requested the same and whether we could make it a joint effort. County Councillor Myland noted that Nutfield’s requests had previously been turned down.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk and PS Hazel would each enquire as to the feasibility of a traffic stop for a 2 minute silence. KW/PC

Grange Meadow Seat: The Clerk reported on a broken seat in Grange Meadow. Following a discussion as to the liability for repairing the seat,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would check with both the Bletchingley KW

Sports Association and Tandridge as to who was liable for repairing the same.

Cemetery Hedge: Councillor Sutcliffe enquired as to when the Cemetery Hedge was due to be cut. The Clerk reported that it was on DA Landscaping's Schedule but that she would get an estimated date for the cut.

Police Support: District Councillor Hoskins enquired as to the state of affairs at the India Village. PC Hazel reported that this particular area was one of his key items to deal with. The Chairman proceeded to outline previous discussions with Surrey Police in relation to an agreed joint CCTV camera initiative for this location and brought PC Hazel up to date with the subsequent lack of support from the Surrey Police in relation to the CCTV camera system. As a result, crimes were still taking place due to lack of follow through with police support. Initially, Bletchingley had 2 Community Support Officers who had for the first 4 months shown a presence, since then, nothing. PC Hazel said that he had only recently taken over Bletchingley and Nutfield, having come from Oxted/Hurst Green. He worked closely with Tandridge District Council and had good results in his previous post. He hoped to do the same with Bletchingley. He briefed the Council on the Targeted Neighbourhood Policing policy ("TNP"). This consisted of 3 tiers: (i) Neighbourhood response from local PC; (ii) 24 hr Response Unit; (iii) Investigative Unit. The Chairman acknowledged this but enquired why Bletchingley had seen no uniforms on the pavement in the past, stating that the Village required a presence. He also enquired whether the Community Support Officer was dedicated to Bletchingley? Councillor Bridger reported that due to the lack of police support, the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme had lost both its Nutfield and Bletchingley Chairs and as a result, had been disbanded. He asked whether PC Hazel could try to revive the Neighbourhood Watch by restoring its trust in Surrey Police support. PC Hazel confirmed that there is one full time Community Support Officer dedicated to Bletchingley. He proposed to be out and about and make himself known to the Village. PC Hazel reassured the Council about recent police activity in the area and stated that this was Surrey Police working with Tandridge District Council and the local community. The Chairman stressed the Council's frustration at previous lack of support from the Surrey Police and hoped that it would improve. Mr Munday updated PC Hazel on various incidents he had personally experienced where there had been a lack of support from the Police. One in particular, had taken a letter to the local MP to get a reaction from the Police. Councillor Butler reported that during the August holidays, a young child playing in Stychens playground had been shot in the back with a plastic bullet from someone firing from behind the Old People's Home. It had taken 25 minutes for the police to respond. Luckily the child had only been bruised, but it could have been worse.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT (i) PC Hazel would check with the Surrey Police in relation to the CCTV camera system; (ii) the Chairman and PC Hazel would meet to discuss CCTV camera and policing issues in greater detail; and (iii) PC Hazel promised to serve Bletchingley well, make his presence known and report back to the Council with updates.

PC
RG/PC
PC

District Councillor Elias and PC Hazel left the meeting.

Red Lion Noticeboard: Mrs Silk produced a photograph of a notice board on display outside the Red Lion which caused pedestrians to walk dangerously close to oncoming traffic.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT County Councillor Myland and District Councillor

MM/CH

Hoskins would deal with this.

Footpath leading to Tilgate Common: Mrs Silk produced a photograph of the entrance to the footpath leading to Tilgate Common which clearly showed one of the top bars missing. This has been missing since June and was reported to Tandridge District Council. As the bar is down, it now allows motorcycles to use the path which is dangerous for pedestrians.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would pass the previous request on to County Councillor Myland to chase. KW/MM

High Street Hedge: Councillor Nathanail enquired as to when the bush on the corner of Little Common Lane and the High Street would be cut back. County Councillor Myland replied that Tandridge thought it was the responsibility of the owner. Mrs Silk said she did not own it and did not mind if it was cut down to improve visibility for both car and pedestrian users.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would pass the previous request on to County Councillor Myland to chase. KW/MM

Damaged sign in traffic island: Mrs Silk produced a photograph showing the continued disrepair of the sign damaged back in May. It is currently still wrapped in yellow tape, apparently awaiting a new pole.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would chase Highways to get this repaired. KW

Mrs Silk left the meeting.

78/06 ACTION POINTS AND MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Whitepost Field: The Clerk reported that a response had been received from the tenant of the field stating that she was currently trying to locate another contractor to cut the hedge as her previous contractor had left the country. She had also enquired as to the close boarded fencing that was supposed to be surrounding the sub station in the field. Currently there was none and recently there had been signs around the sub station reporting that weed killer had been sprayed. Her ponies had access to this and she was concerned for their welfare.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would write a letter to EDF to ask that the close boarded fencing be erected as soon as possible as agreed in the lease conditions originally supplied. KW

High Street Footpath: The Clerk reported that letters had been written to the two residents concerned and no response had been received. The Chairman stated that the Council needed to ensure that this was attended to from an insurance point of view.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would pass the address details of the owners concerned on to County Councillor Myland to chase through Surrey County Council. KW MM

Top Path by Coneybury: The Clerk reported that she had reported the matter to Tandridge and received a response number and had subsequently chased the lack of response last week with still no news as to when it would be done.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would pass the information on to County Councillor Myland to chase. KW MM

Street Light No 4, Little Common Lane: Councillor Sutcliffe reported that the

Horse Chestnut had been crudely cut around the light, but that it was still not able to illuminate the area sufficiently. The road sign could only be seen if you were standing directly in front of the light.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would pass the previous request on to County Councillor Myland to chase.

KW
MM

Place Farm: Councillor Butler reported that she would be attending a meeting on the 18th and had been informed that something would be happening at the meeting. As yet, she was unaware of what that something was.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT Councillor Butler would report back at the next meeting.

AB

Pub Watch: The Clerk confirmed that there had been no responses to the second round of letters which this time had been posted. The Chairman expressed concern at the lack of interest from the publicans and as a result, for now there would be no Pub Watch scheme. The Council had tried.

Footpath 506: The Chairman updated the Council on the 506 Court Case. Mr Herrtage had attended an Assets Register Hearing and a Payment of Monies Hearing. The Guildford County Court has made an Order that Mr Herrtage of 100 High Street, Bletchingley, pay the assessed costs of the original County Court Hearings. The payment orders that have now been made by the Court total £23,309.26. Interest is running on this total amount at a flat rate of 8% equalling a daily rate of £5.11 interest. The Bletchingley Parish Council have now taken steps to enforce payment of these orders. The Council have not yet been informed of the Schedule of Payment nor details of the Asset Register. The Chairman stated that in the event of no monies being received or no new evidence being submitted, then the Council would have to agree to a lien on the Herrtage family home. In relation to the Insurers query re payments, the lawyers have written to the insurers to try to settle all of their queries.

Stychens Old Allotment Field: The Chairman highlighted a letter recently received from Messrs Harris & Co, who had been instructed by Miss Mackie. Their request to postpone a decision until October was agreed. The Clerk had sent a response letter stating the same and giving details of the Land Registry Certificate Number to enable them to obtain their own copy of the title deeds. Councillor Martin had sent an e-mail stating that the field was in a greenbelt area and as such the Council had no authority to authorise non agricultural use of the land.

Tilburstow Hill Gas field: County Councillor Myland updated the Council on the Tilburstow Hill gas field saying that an assessment was currently being undertaken to decide whether the gas should be piped out or taken out by vehicles. There was going to be a meeting on Tuesday night between 4 and 5pm in the Parish Council room in the White Hart, hosted by the company representing the Gas Company. She requested that those able to attend do.

County Councillor Myland left the meeting.

Risk Assessment: The Clerk requested that the document previously circulated be agreed and minuted. Once a few minor amendments were made,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Risk Assessment be agreed and dated.

KW

Community Speed Watch: Councillor Bridger enquired as to whether he could attend the meeting with the Chairman and the police.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT both the Chairman and Councillor Bridger would meet with PC Hazel and Inspector Witcombe.

RG/KB/
PC

79/06 CURRENT PLANNING ISSUES

List 34/2006 – Item 7 – TA/2006/1093 – Erection of rear conservatory – 10 Clare Cottages, Bletchingley.

RESOLVED: No comment

List 34/2006 – Item 22 – TA/2006/1210/TCA – Fell 1 x Sycamore and Crown clean 1 x Beach tree. (Trees in a conservation area) – Church of St Mary The Virgin, Church Walk, Bletchingley.

RESOLVED: No comment

List 34/2006 – Item 40 – TA/2006/1239 – Continued use of building A and change of use of building B to Class B8 use – Waterhouse Farm, Ivy Mill Lane, Godstone.

RESOLVED: No comment

List 34/2006 – Item 42 – TA/2006/1241/TCA – Pollard Goat Willow to Approx 2.13 metres from ground level. (Trees in a conservation area) – 55 High Street, Bletchingley.

RESOLVED: No comment

List 35/2006 – Item 19 – TA/2006/1256 – Change of use from annexe to 1-bed studio – Castle Hill Farm, Castle Square, Bletchingley.

RESOLVED: No comment

List 36/2006 – Item 5 – TA/2006/1249 – Demolition of single storey rear addition. Erection of 2-storey rear extension and front porch – 8 Sackville Cottages, Outwood Lane, Bletchingley.

RESOLVED: No comment.

80/06 REPORTS FROM AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Footpaths and Bridleways: Councillor Sutcliffe reported that Footpath 505 from Little Common Lane to Stychens Lane Playing Field was overgrown and in need of attention.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would report the problem to Tandridge District Council. KW

Transport: No report in Councillor Trotman’s absence. Councillor Butler reported that she had recently e-mailed BAA Gatwick complaining about a low flying plane. She received a detailed response within 10 days (should have been 8) with details of all flight paths within the time frame that she had complained about. One plane could be clearly seen as flying just outside the normal flight route. The resulting comments from the Council were very complimentary of the system.

Cemetery: Councillor Tatnell reported that the “green” option for the screening behind the bus stop would not be viable, especially with the current water shortage and drought conditions. Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would (i) write to Addshell enquiring as to

whether the backing to the current bus stop could be opaque and (ii) obtain quotes to repair the existing chain link fence. KW

The Clerk reported on a letter received from Steven Mears Memorial Centre requesting permission for a specific size of memorial with kerbs. The size of the memorial stone was outside the limits set in the Parish Council Regulations and kerb stones are not allowed.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would respond to the letter stating that the current size of the memorial stone would not be allowed and that kerb stones were not allowed. KW

Minerals/Environment/Tree Wardens: Councillor Butler reported that she would be attending a meeting on 18th September for the Quarry Observation Group. In relation to the Surrey Waste Plan, she confirmed that comments had been submitted on-line on 16 August 2006 and acknowledged by post on 17 August 2006. The existing plan includes alterations and suggestions previously made. The comments this time were only invited in relation to “soundness” of the plan and detailed a list of 9 tests of soundness which, dealt mainly with the process of preparation, the conformity with other local and regional plans, the extent of consultation and omissions of content, not the actual content itself. One suggestion made was in relation to Recycling plastics – i.e. develop markets for use of recyclable products.

Copyhold Site: This has been categorised under Policy WD2 as “a potentially suitable location for recycling, storage, transfer, materials recovery and processing facilities (excluding thermal treatment). All previously raised points of objection have been mentioned, though not yet considered sufficiently important to have removed the site from the list.

Nothing on trees.

Village Hall/Community Centre: Councillor Tatnell reported that the Clerk’s Board needed updating and that this should be done when the redecoration was underway. The Chairman outlined a letter received from the Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee requesting a donation of £1000 to cover the shortfall for the Village Hall refurbishment. £500 of this would go towards a ramp on the car park side to aid wheelchair access. Councillor Moore abstained from any discussion due to personal conflicts. It was agreed that it has been a long time since any previous donation towards the Village Hall. Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Parish Council would approve a £500 contribution towards the redecoration works. If it later proved necessary due to Health and Safety requirements, to install a ramp access point on the car park side, then a further £500 donation would be agreed. All

Neighbourhood Watch: This was already covered earlier. Councillor Bridger confirmed that there was enough of a “skeleton” remaining to reconstruct the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme at a later stage.

Recreation/Sports Association: Councillor Moore reported that she had sent a report to the Clerk which commented that the park seats at Stychens Playground and near the Red Lion were in need of cleaning. The tree in the playground still needed to be pruned to a reasonable height off the ground. Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would (i) contact Tandridge District Council KW

enquiring as to whether they would undertake the pruning of the tree, and (ii) obtain quotes for washing the benches.

Youth Shelter: Councillor Moore suggested that this needed a committee as it would result in a large expenditure and needed to also include the youth of the village in the design decision. The Chairman reported that there was already a donation towards the Youth Shelter of £2181.61 from the closure of the Youth Club. Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT Councillors Moore, Nathanail and Trotman would form the Youth Shelter Committee and that they would report back at the November meeting. JM/NN/
RT

Allotments: Councillor Moore reported that Justin Strange had won the Allotment Cup for 2006 and that Tara Wantling would receive a Certificate of Merit. The Clerk reported that No 18 had become vacant but that there were 2 on the waiting list. In relation to the hedge, a quote had been received from DA Landscaping for the sum of £938.00. The Clerk had approached Chris French who had stated that a tractor hedge cutter was not suitable for this job. The Clerk was currently awaiting a response from Tandridge in relation to ownership of the hedge and whether they would be prepared to contribute towards the cost of cutting the hedge.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would obtain two more quotes for the October meeting when a decision would be made. KW

Street Lighting: Councillor Sutcliffe reported that the light behind the Post Office was still out of synch, coming on some time around 3pm.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would report the matter to Tandridge. KW

CCTV: The Chairman reported that during a recent lightning strike, the digital recorder at Lawrences had burnt out. The older camera recorders also needed replacing. The metal mickey was now located at the Clerks House for a short period after which, it would return to the Whyte Hart. The CCTV Contract would remain on the same pricing as last year.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would check whether the digital recorder would be covered under the existing insurance policy. KW

Web Site: Councillor Nathanail reported that the website is being resubmitted to the 3 main search engines. Old minutes are now available and there has been an increased uptake in advertisers thanks to the Clerk. Councillor Nathanail is currently exploring the increased use of web links between advertisers and our website. He suggested that we could put more Village comments/Village activities on if they were submitted in time for the monthly uploading of the meeting minutes. Recent hits had included ones from America and Luxemborg. The Bletchingley website is more advanced compared to other Parish websites. Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT Councillor Nathanail would further explore the issue of website access. NN

81/06 FINANCE

September Payments: The following payments were sanctioned and cheques and stubs signed.

Cheque No.		
000266	Village Hall	9.00
000267	Mrs K Wantling	486.75
000268	HM Revenue & Customs	3.23
000269	Open Spaces Society	30.00
000270	Village Hall (Bletchingley) Trust	300.00
000271	D A Landscaping & Garden Maintenance	894.00
000272	SLCC	10.00
000273	CBC UK Limited	420.00
000274	Cash	<u>99.65</u>
		<u>2,252.63</u>

Clerk's Probation Period and Remuneration: Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk's Probation period was over. Her salary would remain on the SCP 15 level but be brought up in line with the current revised scales. The updated scale would be £7.846p per hour. This would be reviewed in January for implementation in February, along with the hours worked.

The Chairman outlined a training Course the Clerk wished to undertake – Working with Your Council – The Knowledge at a cost of £195.00.

KW

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk could undertake the course.

82/06 CORRESPONDENCE

Getting to Grips with the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 The Clerk gave a very brief overview of what could be expected if the Parish Council were to adopt this Act. Only a designated person who had attended the required training course would be able to exercise the rights outlined in the Act. The Council would also have to accept that if a case went to Court, it would probably end up costing money. Trying to apprehend anyone in the act of dropping litter or not clearing up after their dog is not an easy task. Following a discussion

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT at the present time the Council were not prepared to make use of the new powers offered by the Act.

Outwood Parish Clerk Letter asking or support for the M23 noise.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would write a letter confirming support from the Bletchingley Parish Council.

KW

Village Map

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would enquire as to whether copies of a Village Map would be available for each of the Councillors.

KW

83/06 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 9 October 2006.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.30pm