

Please note these are draft minutes until approved and signed at the next meeting.

**BLETCHINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE  
COMMITTEE ROOMS ON MONDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2007**

**P R E S E N T**

Councillor R. Gater – Chairman

Councillors K. Bridger, A. Butler, D. Martin, N. Nathanail, B. Tatnell, R Trotman

In attendance: Clerk - K. Wantling, PCSO Davis, County Councillor (CC) M Myland and District Councillor (DC) T Elias, Mrs P Cock - Bletchingley in Bloom, Mrs D Turner and Mr K Tunstall – Neighbourhood Watch, Mr K Bolitho, Mrs P Jones and Mr R Miles

**16/07 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Moore, and DC Hoskins and PC Hazel. No changes were made to the Declarations of Interests.

**17/07 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2007 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**18/07 RESIDENTS' REQUESTS**

The Chairman noted the new agenda format and informed the councillors and residents present that he, as chairman, would not be limiting requests to 10 minutes. Following a discussion, it was unanimously agreed that the 10 minute limit would be removed from future agendas.

**Overhanging Trees** – Councillor Martin reported that the trees on the southern boundary of the A25 opposite Nos 90 to 120 High Street contained several dead branches which could pose a problem to passing traffic.

**IT WAS AGREED THAT** the Clerk would write to Highways enquiring as to whether they could clear the trees of debris. KW

**Proposed withdrawal of 411 and 409 Buses** – Mr Bolitho highlighted the fact that the withdrawal of the already reduced service would severely impact on Bletchingley residents, particularly the elderly, disabled and those without vehicles. He had spoken to CC Myland who confirmed she would write on behalf of the Bletchingley residents. Following a discussion, the Chairman agreed that the public transport situation had deteriorated and confirmed that the Parish Council show support with appropriate correspondence.

**IT WAS AGREED THAT** the Clerk would write to Nutfield and Godstone asking for their support and then contact CC Myland. KW

*Councillor Nathanail arrived apologising for late arrival due to rail travel. Richard Miles arrived.*

**St Catherine's School Signage** – An enquiry was made of CC Myland as to why there was still no positive response in relation to the request for school signage. CC Myland confirmed that Highways had informed her that there was no where to put the sign and suggested that the school put forward suggestions. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council were currently in the process of approaching the High Sherriff

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for support with this issue and would report back on progress.

**19/07 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MYLAND**

CC Myland confirmed that she would support the residents in relation to the withdrawal of the 409 and 411 bus services. She gave a brief outline on Surrey County Councils' position in relation to under funding from the Government in relation to other areas. She confirmed she may be able to help with funding towards Bletchingley in Bloom. CC Myland enquired as to the response from Nutfield in relation to the Speedwatch Scheme. The Clerk confirmed that no response had been received to date. CC Myland would raise the issue with Nutfield Parish Council. Road maintenance would not be up to speed until at least November – this was due to funding issues. CC Myland confirmed that the issue in relation to Whitehill Drains was also being hampered by the fact that Surrey County Council budget was cut by 50% last year. Tandridge District Council had objected to the recent planning application by Star Energy. CC Myland confirmed that she hoped to attend the QOG meeting planned for next week relating to the Tarmac Proposal which she confirmed was not yet a planning application.

Mr Bolitho enquired as to the pavement outside the Coneybury Shops. The Clerk confirmed that TDC had reported that these were the responsibility of the shop owners and not TDC and that the shop owners had been notified.

DC Elias reported that a resident had complained about lorries and cars using Little Common Lane and Sandy Lane as a “rat run”. Sandy Lane was notoriously narrow and the use of it by HGVs was speeding up the erosion process. Surrey County Council had undertaken a traffic survey about 4 years ago. CC Myland confirmed she would see if there was anything Highways could do in relation to a one way system.

DC Elias enquired as to a response in relation to the Outwood Lane Bridge issue. CC Myland stated that Highways had no statistics that could validate the provision of some form of signage. Councillor Martin confirmed there had been one fatality last year within 200yds north of the bridge and 1 serious accident about 2 years ago. CC Myland stated that she would ask Highways to revisit this issue in light of the incidents raised. Councillor Nathanail enquired as to whether CC Myland could provide statistics.

DC Elias confirmed that Bletchingley in Bloom should approach Tandridge District Council for funding.

**20/07 POLICING ISSUES - Update**

PCSO Davis gave an update on her discussions with the youth at Clare Cottages. All ages played well together. They had requested that the overgrown bike ramps in the field behind the top play field be cleared so that they could start using the ramps. This field is currently owned by Tandridge District Council and has been left uncleared in the past to discourage use by motorcyclists. PCSO informed the Council that extra patrols were in operation to try to detain the persistent motorbike offenders and once caught the Section 59 could be used. She was in the process of arranging a talk to take place in about 2 months in the village, about the necessity for bike protection and responsible riding. She would be assisted by a motorbike racer who had been involved in a motorbike accident and had photos of accidents. A discussion followed about the regulations surrounding playing football on greens. Several of the youth around Clare Cottages were using the I-Bus which was proving to be very popular.

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**IT WAS AGREED THAT** DC Elias would clarify the legal position with Tandridge in relation to playing on the greens and report back.

DCTE

PCSO Davis reported that the police were in the process of issuing some ABC's (Acceptable Behaviour Contract). A refusal to sign an ABC would result in evidence towards an ASBO. The contract was valid for 6 months and would then be reviewed and re issued if needed. This was viewed as a way of stepping in before problems get to go on record.

PCSO Davis also confirmed that she had undertaken speed checks along the High Street after 9.30am for up to 1.5 hours. The results had shown that the majority of vehicles during this period had been travelling within the speed limit. Heavier duty vehicles often sounded faster than they actually were. She proposed to do this on a regular basis.

*CC Myland left the meeting.*

The Chairman thanked PCSO for her continued dedication to Bletchingley. Next month's Police Surgery would be on the revised date of 13<sup>th</sup> March.

*PCSO Davis and Mr Bolitho left the meeting.*

## **21/07 BLETCHINGLEY IN BLOOM**

**High Street Gorse** - Mrs Cock gave a progress report on the work undertaken at the weekend by the team on the gorse bushes outside the Britdens Cottages. Councillor Martin confirmed that his builders would undertake to reinstate the loosened bricks. Replanting with appropriate plants would take place in 2 weeks time. Work on the Howard Cundey Corner would take place on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March. The privet would stay but be cut back and other appropriate planting would be introduced. She was currently undertaking a costing of the plants and would be asking Howard Cundey for a contribution. St Catherine's School would also be participating in this section. It was highlighted that the work party volunteers had been harangued unnecessarily during the work.

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Clerk would approach S Cunnah of Highways for the provision of cones while the work was being undertaken.

KW

**Hevers Pond** - the managers had agreed that a survey could be undertaken. The cost of this would be £300 for the Zoologist's services, physical sampling and testing and the provision of special nets. Reigate Scouts had requested that they could be involved in the project. Mrs Cock wanted to see if any local youth would be interested in helping. This could all go to help build Hevers Pond up as a County Treasure and enquired if maybe the Parish Council could at a later date supply a sign to this effect. There was some urgency with the undertaking of the survey so as to limit the disturbance to the existing wildlife. Mrs Cock felt that any clearing of the pond would also need to be undertaken under licensed approval

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Clerk would check with the pond managers, RH & RW Clutton as to whether they would be prepared to fund the survey. The Parish council decided that it was not appropriate for them to spend £300 on this particular project.

KW  
All

**Rugosa Hedge** – The Bletchingley in Bloom team would at this stage just lower and clean and tidy the rugosa hedge.

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The Church were active in their living churchyard. Mrs Cock was seeking public liability insurance of £2 million at a cost of £54, through the RHS who covered “In Bloom” projects. The Chairman briefed on a tentative positive response received from WBB in relation to funding. The Chairman enquired of Mrs Cock as to expenses to date. So far these were £38 and £54 for the insurance. Following a discussion,

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** a fund of £500 (under Section 137 of LGA 1972) would be available from the Parish Council if no other funding became available. All plant invoices were to be addressed to Bletchingley Parish Council for payment. This would enable the Parish Council to reclaim the VAT element of the invoices. Councillor Bridger requested Mrs Cock approach CC Myland direct for the funding.

DC Elias enquired as to whether the railings exposed by the removed gorse bush could be painted. Following a discussion,

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Clerk would approach Highways for permission and once received, the Parish Council would authorise the painting of the railings and funding of the paint required. KW

## **22/07 CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR**

The Chairman welcomed Richard Miles to the meeting. Councillor Trotman proposed the co-option of Richard Miles as Councillor to Bletchingley Parish Council and Councillor Martin seconded the proposal.

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** Councillor Miles be c-opted as Councillor to Bletchingley Parish Council.

Councillor Miles signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and the Undertaking to observe the Bletchingley Parish Council Code of Conduct. The Clerk provided Councillor Miles with his papers for the meeting.

*Mr K Tunstall joined the meeting.*

Councillor Butler gave a brief report on the recent SCAPTC meeting for New Parish Councillors that she had attended and passed a copy of the handout to Councillor Miles. The Clerk reported that she was in the process of obtaining 9 copies of “The good councillor’s guide” and would hand these out once received.

*DC Elias and Mrs Cock left the meeting.*

## **23/07 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

The Chairman brought forward this section of the reports from areas of responsibility to enable Mr Tunstall to update on progress.

Mr Tunstall gave a detailed report of the progress of Neighbourhood Watch and what appeared to be the continued lack of support/communication from the police. He confirmed that PCSO Davis was doing a very good job but this was not enough. He did not believe that the police’s stance re information was correct. He believed that it was the Neighbourhood Watch’s duty to know details of what was going on as they were in a good position to monitor progress. The Chairman expressed the Parish Council’s wish that Mr Tunstall not give up, and asked for his patience while the new Inspector Burtenshaw introduced herself to the Parish Council and then to Neighbourhood Watch.

Mr Tunstall distributed copies of the newsletter, along with a questionnaire for the

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Bletchingley Youth. He expressed a view that adults who liked engaging with the youth needed to be found to head activities to keep the youth of the village engaged.

*Mr Tunstall left the meeting.*

It was noted that PCSO Davis was getting married on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March. The Parish Council wished her well. The Chairman briefly updated Councillor Miles on the history behind the police support and neighbourhood watch.

## **24/07 MATTERS AND ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

The Chairman briefly went through the points on the Clerks report which highlighted progress on issues raised at the previous meeting.

**Junction of Church Lane and A25** – Councillor Bridger briefly updated the council on a recent Surrey County Council Tandridge Local Committee Meeting attended where there had been a deputisation of residents with a yellow line request. Highways had stated that the assessment costs were greater than the need. The Parish Council agreed that in this instance, yellow lines were not the answer.

**IT WAS AGREED THAT** the Clerk would enquire of PC Hazel as to the outcome of his request of residents not to park cars on the junction. KW

Councillor Butler reported that SCAPTC run a mediation service for Councils that “fall out”.

**Stychens Lane Footpath Railings** – The Clerk would enquire as to a completion date for this. KW

**High Street Hedge** – This will be removed from the Action Points as it had been cleared by the Bletchingley in Bloom team. KW

**Street Light behind Post Office** – This will be removed from the Action Points as it has now been fixed. KW

**Damaged Road Sign – A25 by Little Common Lane** – This will be removed from the Action Points as it has now been fixed. KW

**Footpath Plans** – Copies of the plans had been supplied free of charge by Councillor Martin’s son.

**IT WAS AGREED THAT** the Clerk would write a letter of thanks to Nick Martin. KW

## **25/07 COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH PROGRAMME**

The Clerk reported that no response had been received from Nutfield to date. A discussion followed on the different speedwatch options available.

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Clerk would enquire of Surrey Highways about the feasibility of installation of a 30 flashing sign. KW

## **26/07 CURRENT PLANNING ISSUES**

List 2/2007 – Item 12 – TA/2007/5 – Demolition of Garage. Erection of 2-storey side extension – Somerstone, 7 Sunnybank Villas, Godstone Road, Bletchingley.

**RESOLVED:** No comment

List 2/2007 – Item 13 – TA/2007/7 – Erection of first floor extension to front/side

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elevation (Listed building consent) – Little Tilgates, Little Common Lane, Bletchingley.

**RESOLVED:** No comment.

List 2/2007 – Item 14 – TA/2007/8 – Erection of first floor extension to front/side elevation – Little Tilgates, Little Common Lane, Bletchingley.

**RESOLVED:** No comment.

List 4/2007 – Item 14 – TA/2007/51 – Erection of single storey rear extension – Greensands, Outwood Lane, Bletchingley.

**RESOLVED:** No comment.

List 4/2007 – Item 26 – TA/2007/72 – Demolition of WC and store. Erection of single storey rear/side extension and porch to front elevation. (Listed building consent) – Cleves Cottage, Place Farm Road, Bletchingley.

**RESOLVED:** The Council would like to draw attention to the fact that there is some confusion between the views of the Historical Society and the Planning Department in relation to cubic capacity. Would it be possible for these two areas to talk together to try to help the applicant.

KW

List 4/2007 – Item 41 – TA/2007/92 – Demolition of garage. Erection of 2 x 2-bed & 2 x 3-bed terraced houses with associated access and parking (outline) – Land r/o 1-4 Lambert Cottages, Rabies Heath Road, Bletchingley.

**RESOLVED:** The Council have been informed that there is a density issue in the original covenant and would like to draw this to the attention of the Planning Department.

KW

List 5/2007 – Item 3 - TA/2002/183/D2 – Details of restoration and landscaping pursuant to condition 26; details of a drainage scheme pursuant to condition 29; details of a scheme for the removal of existing sand storage and dispatch silos and associated plant and hard standing located to the east of north park lane pursuant to condition 31; and details of a biodiversity action plan pursuant to condition 33 of planning permission ref: TA02/0183 and RE02/0268 dated 19 July 2004. (County determination) – North Park Farm Quarry Sandpit, North Park Lane, Godstone.

**RESOLVED:** No comment.

List 5/2007 – Item 14 - TA/2007/43 – Erection of single storey rear extension (certificate of lawfulness for a proposed development) – 11 Barfields, Bletchingley.

**RESOLVED:** No comment.

List 5/2007 – Item 30 - TA/2007/114/TCA – Re-pollard 9 Lime Trees – Land between 86 and 92 High Street, Bletchingley.

**RESOLVED:** No comment.

List 5/2007 – Item 34 - TA/2007/118 – Demolition of garage, erection of part two storey and part single storey side extension – 14 Tilgate Common, Bletchingley.

**RESOLVED:** No comment.

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## **27/07 REPORTS FROM AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

**Footpaths and Bridleways:** Councillor Martin handed responsibility for footpaths over to Councillor Miles. Councillor Martin reported that Bridleway 153 at the junction with footpath 541, grid reference 338531, had a large hawthorn lying across the track. Bridleway/Footpath 296 by Lodge Farm which is NT land is now impassable by foot. The grid reference is 339469. Following a discussion,

**IT WAS AGREED THAT** the Clerk could report (i) Bridleway 153 to Surrey County Council and (ii) Bridleway 296 to National Trust at Polesdon Lacey or Swindon. KW

The Clerk would provide Councillor Miles with a copy of the Definitive List for Footpaths and Bridleways. KW

**Transport:** Councillor Trotman had nothing to report other than the earlier mentioned removal of Bus Services 409 and 411. The Clerk would be writing to Nutfield and Godstone for their support.

**Cemetery:** Councillor Tatnell reported that DA Landscaping was continuing with the maintenance programme and was currently clearing the bottom section of the cemetery. The Chairman confirmed receipt of the 2007/08 contract for the cemetery maintenance. This was the same as last years. Following a discussion,

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the contract be approved and the services of DA Landscaping be retained for another year.

**Minerals/Environment/Tree Wardens: WBB:** The retrospective planning had not been received. The current planning application was the related work to remove the old despatch site. There was no application from Tarmac as yet. There was some concern that this would arrive before the retrospective plans from WBB. The next QOG meeting would take place in 2 weeks at The Hawthorns School. Tarmac have apparently been told not to attend the meeting by WBB. A question was raised as to who would be in control of Tarmac if their planning application went ahead.

In view of the special confidential nature of the matter to be discussed, it is advisable in accordance with the provision of the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Freedom of Information Act 2005, the matter be discussed when the public and press have withdrawn. A discussion followed.

**Star Energy:** Councillor Butler had attended the recent public exhibition which on the surface looked very promising – only an appraisal development for 3 years after which all would be restored. However, the small print said that if gas was found, the 1965 Gas Act would be invoked. The Planning application would be considered in March, along with the Albury application.

**Waste Plan:** This was up for consultation again. Documentation had been received from the Clerk and would be reviewed and responded to accordingly.

**Trees:** Nothing to report on trees.

**Village Hall/Community Centre:** Councillor Tatnell reported that following confirmation of donations of £800 from Tandridge DC, £2000 from Surrey CC and £500 from the Parish Council, redecoration work would go ahead. A start date had not been confirmed. Discussions were in progress with a possible new chairman and prospective candidates had been identified for the position of secretary.

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**Neighbourhood Watch:** Councillor Bridger had nothing to add to the earlier discussion.

**Recreation/Sports Association:** Councillor Trotman reported on the Youth Shelter in Councillor Moore's absence. The recommendation was that the proposals needed to be "wider" than just a youth shelter. In relation to the Sports Association, the Cricket Club is suffering. Costs are high and the club is small. They will be looking for support in the near future. The Football Club was doing well and was placed in the local Crawley League. The current Chairman is looking to stand down.

**Allotments:** Nothing to report.

**Street Lighting:** No 2, Church Lane is on all the time.

**IT WAS AGREED THAT** the Clerk would report this matter to the relevant authority. KW

**CCTV:** The Chairman briefed the Council on recent happenings with the Metal Mickey now located at the Whyte Hart. The present camera in the Metal Mickey was not the Council's, but would remain there until the correct camera was found. The DVR screen had been located and purchased for £50. In relation to the recent India Village incident, the Chairman stated that no admissible evidence could be found on the camera system. This further confirmed the need for a support system at this location. One option would be to install a programmable fixed camera on the "reck". This would need planning permission and grants would need to be sought from Tandridge and Surrey Police. The cost would be in the region of £8000 for the camera and a further £8000 for the infrastructure. A discussion followed re the issues surrounding the India Village incident. Councillor Martin stated that the Council would need to know the costing for the purchase of the camera, as well as the running costs before decisions could be made. Councillor Bridger reported that any resources for 2006/07 would not be rolled forward to 2007/08. Following a discussion

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Chairman would make further enquiries as to costing and funding. RG

The Chairman briefly reported on the insurance company's request for surge and lightning protection for the CCTV system and a discussion with the contractor who maintains the system. It was thought that the installation of lightning protection for the whole system would be too costly and surge protection was already in existence.

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Chairman would contact the insurers with this information and would report back with their response. RG

It was suggested that all Councillors visit the India Village for a meal and that DC Elias, Mr K Tunstall and Mrs D Turner attend. Wednesday 28 February was agreed and it was suggested that the Clerk contact Ms J Hill of the Surrey Mirror to publicise the act of support for the India Village.

**Website:** Councillor Nathanail handed out a proposal and print out of a mock up of the planned website. He asked all Councillors to review the proposal and get back to him with their responses. The Clerk helped clarify a couple of misunderstandings in the interpretation. The revised website would mean that there would be no future updating costs, only the annual hosting fee and it would provide the residents with more up to date information about what was happening in the Village. If the existing number of advertisers remained, the initial set up fee would be recouped within 3 - 4

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years. Following a discussion

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Council agreed to authorise progress and expenditure of up to £1350 for the work in reshaping the website. All

## **28/07 FINANCE**

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

Cheque No.

000310	Village Hall	9.00
000311	Mrs K Wantling	460.70
000312	HM Revenue & Customs	7.38
000313	R Gater	389.31
000314	R P Hook	990.00
000315	ALIT Solutions Ltd	58.75
000316	Bletchingley Computer Services	20.00
000317	D A Landscaping & Garden Maintenance	<u>504.00</u>
		<u>£2,439.14</u>

**Allianz Cornhill:** Following a discussion.

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Chairman would finalise the insurance claim re the replacement CCTV equipment damaged by lightning. RG

**Maintenance Contract:** The Clerk confirmed that the 07/08 proposal provided by DA Landscaping for miscellaneous work in the Village was the same as for 06/07. Following a unanimous vote,

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** DA Landscaping be retained for another year to undertake the miscellaneous maintenance work in the village. All

**Clerk's Annual Salary Review:** The Chairman confirmed that the Clerk had satisfactorily completed a year as clerk and suggested an increase in hours and a salary increase in line with the 2006/07 National Salary Award for Local Council Clerks – Part time hourly rates, payable from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006. Following a discussion,

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2007 the clerk's contracted hours would increase from 13 to 14 hours per week and her salary would move from SCP 15 @ £7.622 to SCP 21 @ £9.348 also with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2007. All

The Chairman also stated the future need to discuss the possible provision of computer facilities for the clerk.

## **29/07 CORRESPONDENCE**

**SCC – Surrey History Centre:** A request for help with information for planned website on “Exploring Surrey's Past”. Following a discussion,

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Clerk would forward this to Richard Fowler of the Historical Society for his attention. KW

**Saturday Ventures Association (SVA):** Discuss contacts to provide to SVA. Following a discussion,

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**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Clerk would provide contact details for St Catherine's School, Hawthorns School and the Orpheus Centre.

KW

**Surrey Calor Village of the Year 2007 – Competition:** to agree whether to submit an entry. Following a discussion,

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** no entry would be made due to the existing "Bletchingley in Bloom" entry.

**Review of Areas of Great Landscape Value in Surrey:** to approve who will complete and return the brief questionnaire. Following a discussion

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** Councillor Butler would be responsible for completing and returning the questionnaire. The Clerk handed over the relevant documentation.

AB

**Tandridge Voluntary Service Council:** – to consider request for £500 donation. Following a discussion,

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** no donation would be made.

### **30/07 MATTERS FOR REPORTING OR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDA**

**Annual Parish Meeting Date:** Following a discussion,

**IT WAS AGREED THAT** due to the timing of the election, the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Monday 23 April. The Clerk would make the necessary bookings

KW

It was also brought to the attention of the Council that the scheduled April meeting fell on a bank holiday. Following a discussion,

**IT WAS AGREED THAT** the 12<sup>th</sup> April meeting would be brought forward to the 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

KW

### **31/07 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 12 March 2007.**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 12.10am