

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 MARCH 2007**

P R E S E N T

Councillor R. Gater – Chairman

Councillors K. Bridger, A. Butler, D. Martin, R. Miles, J. Moore, B. Tatnell

In attendance: Clerk - K. Wantling, PC Hazel, PCSO Davis, District Councillor (DC) T Elias, Mrs P Cock - Bletchingley in Bloom, Mrs D Turner and Mr K Tunstall – Neighbourhood Watch, Mr D Birt, Mrs L Jessup and Mrs G Reynolds

32/07 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Nathanail and Trotman, and DC Hoskins. No changes were made to the Declarations of Interests.

33/07 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2007 were approved and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following minor alterations: Page 6, Resolution for Planning Application TA/2007/72 – replace “Historical Society” with “Historical Buildings Adviser”; page 7, under Star Energy heading, 2nd sentence, insert the word “sufficient” after “if” and insert the words “to permit development of a gas storage system in the green belt” after the words “would be invoked...”; page 9, resolution for Clerk’s salary, replace “£7.622” with “£7.846”.

34/07 RESIDENTS’ REQUESTS

The Chairman reported that the recent wet weather had resulted in slippage on the banks in Whitehill Lane. Signs had been put up. However, the resultant build up in silt had narrowed the road. Uprooted trees, which were cleared from the road had been thrown back on the banks rather than being removed. A large pot hole had formed half way down Church Lane. Near the entrance to Place Farm, the roadside growth was encroaching on the road.

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Clerk would write to Highways requesting that the Whitehill Lane section by the slippages be widened back to its original width and that the pot hole encroaching undergrowth be reported. KW

Parking – Barfields/A25 Junction – Mrs Jessup reported on the parking issues near the junction with the A25. PCSO Davis reported that during walks, she had put notes on cars incorrectly parked. This did not appear to have a lasting effect. PC Hazel reported that he would knock on doors, trying the education route first. If the problem persisted, then enforcement would take effect. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Parish Council would await the outcome of PC Hazel’s intervention before deciding what to do next. All

Skip – Mr Birt asked the Parish Council if it had any objections to the placement of a skip on a strip of waste land on the opposite side of Crescent Road while work to his roof was undertaken. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Parish Council could see no reason to object as it was All

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only short term and should not affect any neighbouring property owner.

35/07 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MYLAND

DC Elias had nothing to report in CC Myland's absence, but would be present to answer any questions raised.

36/07 POLICING ISSUES - Update

The Chairman gave a brief overview on previous policing issues and a recent meeting hosted by DC Elias with Inspector Burtenshaw, the Chairman and Councillor Bridger. Inspector Burtenshaw was made very aware of ongoing issues in the Village and told that the Parish Council were not happy with past police support and hoped that this would now improve. The CCTV system had been discussed at some length at this meeting and the result was a planned meeting on the 23rd March to look at a possible designated position by the "Rec" above the India Village for further investment in the CCTV System. Surrey Police and Highways would also be present at this meeting. If this meeting results in a definitive yes for suitability, then the Parish Council would be making claims from the "pot" with the help of CC Myland and DC Elias. There were time limits to claiming these funds, hence the urgency for this meeting to take place.

The Chairman reported on an incident the previous Thursday after midnight when a bottle was thrown through the window of the Whyte Hart. PC Hazel was aware and currently making enquiries. The Chairman reported that CCTV images were available for PC Hazel to see if a suspect could be identified.

In relation to the motorbikes, a discussion followed as to the best way to try to catch the offenders without incurring danger to the public and staying within the restraints of the law. Mr Tunstall suggested a meeting with co-ordinators and the police be held to discuss the best way to tackle this problem. PC Hazel said that apprehending the offenders was short term. Long term, the police were trying to arrange ways to bring youth on board with services to take them off the streets. PC Hazel also noted that the helicopter, as a last resort, could be called upon. The landowner had installed fencing to ensure he was not liable for any damage to person or property, even if the fencing was cut.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT PC Hazel and PCSO Davis would liaise with Mr Tunstall, Chairman of Neighbourhood Watch, to arrange a meeting to discuss various issues.

PC/
PCSO
/NW

PC Hazel and PCSO Davis left the meeting.

37/07 BLETCHINGLEY IN BLOOM

Mrs Cock said that the work of the team was now very visible with Brittens bank planted, railings painted and the Howard Cundey corner cleared. Councillor Miles had very kindly cleared the unwanted plant waste. The pole, now with a recently replaced bin, had been removed and was left on the side to be reinstated after planting if necessary. The planting of the Howard Cundey corner would take place on the 24th and Howard Cundey had agreed to donate £200 towards the costs. Mrs Cock had attended the "In Bloom" seminar at which it had been stressed that planting needed to be water wise. The Gardening Club would hopefully be resurrected at St Catherine's school. Judging would take place on the 4th July in the afternoon. This would consist of a walk around and viewing the portfolio and then returning to the Village Hall for tea to see further pictures of all the projects undertaken at their various stages. At least

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two representatives from the Parish Council would attend. Various competitions were taking place, pub competition, art competition and flower arranging. Hevers Pond had been cleared, although the cleared rubbish still needed to be removed from the site.

Mrs Cock enquired as to the best contact for arranging for pavement cleaning and litter collection, particularly in time for the judging. The litter around Coneybury was particularly bad, with only 2 litter bins available. DC Elias suggested that Keith Masters at TDC was the best contact for pavement clearing.

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Clerk would contact Keith Masters to enquire if the clearing and litter picking could be done with the judging date in mind.

KW

The Parish Council congratulated Mrs Cock and her team on their excellent work to date.

Mrs Jessup and Mrs Reynolds left the meeting.

The Chairman enquired as to the funding raised so far. He confirmed that WBB had formally confirmed a donation of £1500 on a match funding basis, but they were prepared to donate more. So far, including the donation of £500 from the Parish Council, Bletchingley in Bloom had been promised over £1100. A bank account had been set up for future use. £800 from SCC had yet to be approved.

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Clerk would e-mail Mrs Cock a copy of WBB's letter.

KW

Councillor Martin enquired about the projected height of the proposed wildflower bank outside the Hairdressers. Mrs Cock confirmed that the planting would not affect the sight line for the road users. The Clerk reported that she had arranged with Highways for the verges containing daffodils not to be cut until early May.

38/07 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Mr Tunstall outlined the three pronged effort of Neighbourhood Watch: i) to help bring perpetrators of crime to book and support victims; ii) help prevent crime by warning potential victims and helping them guard against crime; and iii) tackle the causes of crime.

He noted the lack of involvement for the youth of the village. With the help of DC Elias, a Residents Association/Neighbourhood Watch Committee for Clare Cottages had been set up to regulate the football and other activities on the green and also tackle other issues of dog fouling and litter. It is hoped that this will forge stronger community spirit and bring peer pressure on those with antisocial behaviour. Work is in progress with trying to find the best way of engaging with the youth of the village.

The new series of the NewsWatch was distributed recently. It was found that some residents were not reading the newsletter, in particular, those with limited vision. Printing some of the newsletters in larger print was discussed, as well as co-ordinators visiting the more vulnerable personally to ensure they are aware of any dangers and help them guard against crime.

Mr Tunstall expressed concern at the lack of communication between the police and Neighbourhood Watch. PCSO Davis is a new and valued member and PC Hazel is more visible, but was this enough? DC Elias commented that he was impressed with the new Inspector Burtenshaw and suggested that the Parish Council and Neighbourhood Watch give her a chance to improve the current impression of the police role in Bletchingley. He also stressed that the police, like other organisations,

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have to follow strict regulated and detailed protocol. A discussion followed.

The Chairman confirmed that Inspector Burtenshaw was under no illusion that the Parish Council would take the matter further if relationships and policing did not improve. He was disturbed to hear that Neighbourhood Watch had not received a request for a meeting and would chase this matter up. RG

Councillor Bridger congratulated Mr Tunstall on behalf of the Parish Council on the first edition of the Neighbourhood Newsletter.

Mr Tunstall, Mrs Cock and DC Elias left the meeting.

Councillor Bridger enquired as to whether the CCTV could be used in relation to the damaged windows in the bus shelter. The Chairman confirmed that it could, subject to a time frame being identified.

39/07 MATTERS AND ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM MINUTES

St Catherine's School Signage – there was no response from the High Sherriff. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council could install a sign but would have to pay. Following a discussion

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Clerk would chase for a response. KW

30 Marker in Little Common Lane – the response from Highways had been negative. Following a discussion

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Clerk would ask Highways for this matter to be reconsidered at its next Highways meeting. KW

Pavement outside Coneybury Shops - it was confirmed that the owners had been notified by Highways of the need for the pavement to be tidied up. As this was private land, nothing more could be done at this stage.

Red Lion Kerbside – it was confirmed that as there had been no kerb prior to the refurbishment, there was little more that could be done and as such would be removed from the Action Points. KW

40/07 COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH PROGRAMME

The Clerk commented on a report received earlier that day from the Surrey Mirror that showed figures proving that accidents on the A25 in Bletchingley had increased since the cameras were introduced. The Clerk reported on some financial information received from other parishes that had installed flashing 30 signs. Following a discussion considering the pros and cons of a flashing 30 sign and the Community Speedwatch programme, it was agreed that the mobile gun would be more cost effective.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would make further enquires as to exact costings for the speed gun and ask for volunteers to operate the guns to come forward. This would be done through an article in the Village Magazine. KW

41/07 CURRENT PLANNING ISSUES

List 7/2007 – Item 1 – TA/2003/1748/A – Variation of Section 106 Agreement of Planning Application TA/89/1360 dated 28/10/91 (Amended by agreement dated 05/08/2004) to alter the extent of the amenity land – Clock Cottage, Pendell Road, Bletchingley.

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RESOLVED: No comment

List 7/2007 – Item 11 – TA/2007/110 – Erection of 2-storey rear extension incorporating relocation of conservatory – 6 Rabies Heath Road, Bletchingley.

Councillor Martin highlighted objections made in a letter received from the owner of No 7, Rabies Heath Road.

RESOLVED: The Council had no objections subject to ensuring that the objections of the neighbour were examined before a decision was made. KW

List 8/2007 – Item 14 – TA/2007/184 – continued use of building A and change of use of building B to Class B8 use – Waterhouse Farm, Waterhouse Lane, Bletchingley.

RESOLVED: The Council object on the grounds that the area should be green belt, and is already suffering from urban belt and should be opposed. The use was made redundant by the owners building an additional barn near Rabies Heath Road. KW

List 8/2007 – Item 20 – TA/2007/204 – Demolition of cloakroom and porch. Erection of single storey front extension and external alterations to existing utility room. Extension to car park to provide a total of 5 car parking spaces – The Rectory, Outwood Lane, Bletchingley.

RESOLVED: No comment.

List 8/2007 – Item 21 – TA/2007/206 – Erection of 2 x 3-bed semi detached houses with associated parking – Land adj to 38 Barfields, Bletchingley.

RESOLVED: No comment.

List 9/2007 – Item 6 – TA/2007/184 – continued use of building A and change of use of building B to Class B8 use (Amended Address) – Waterhouse Farm, Ivy Mill Lane, Godstone.

RESOLVED: The Council object on the grounds that the area should be green belt, and is already suffering from urban belt and should be opposed. The use was made redundant by the owners building an additional barn near Rabies Heath Road. KW

List 10/2007 – Item 3 – TA/2007/150 – Demolition of bungalow. Erection of 3-bed bungalow – Rose Cottage, Lower South Park, South Godstone.

RESOLVED: No comment.

List 10 – Appeal – TA/2006/986 – Erection of detached double bay carport and retention of timber pergola - Land east 4 English Cottages, Oakwood Road, Warwick Wold.

RESOLVED: No comment.

Mr Birt left the meeting.

42/07 REPORTS FROM AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Footpaths and Bridleways: Councillor Miles had nothing to report. Councillor Martin reported that Bridleway 157, grid reference 316538 had two hawthorn trees on the path. The land is reportedly owned by Surrey Wildlife Trust.

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Clerk could report this. KW

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Transport: Nothing to report in Councillor Trotman's absence. The clerk confirmed that the wooden bus shelter now had both panes of glass broken. Following a discussion

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Clerk would obtain costings to replace both panes of glass with a stronger grade. KW

Cemetery: Councillor Tatnell had nothing to report

Minerals/Environment/Tree Wardens: WBB: Councillor Butler reported on the recently attended WBB Liaison meeting at which plans for the removal of the old dispatch plant and associated site restoration were discussed, along with the retrospective planning application, which would now probably not be ready until September/October. The Tarmac application was discussed and concern was expressed that this application was likely to be received before the retrospective plans. Gary Stringer denied negotiating with Tarmac or re-designing the processing plant with Tarmac's plans in mind.

Tarmac: Councillor Butler and Hugh Lane-Davies met with Tarmac and the planner and were shown the Tarmac Plans for North Park Farm, which would not be finalised until March. The process of the plant was described and pictures of the buildings shown. All processes would take place under cover and therefore no noise or dust. These buildings are considerably larger than those of WBB. The plant would be located near the south of the quarry floor and would therefore be very visible from the A25. A further meeting of 10 QOG members and TARMAC, chaired by the Bletchingley Parish Council Chairman, would take place on 19th March.

Star Energy: The 3rd Stakeholder meeting was held on 7th March, at which the main topic appeared to be the presentation of the results of the survey done at their exhibitions. It was felt that these were not accurate, as not all attending the presentation had protested as they thought it would do no good. They confirmed they would call upon the 1965 Gas Act to determine the plan if and when a gas storage plant is built.

SEERA Partial Review of Draft SE Plan: Councillor Butler gave a brief overview of this and stated that the comments needed to be in by March 30th. However, in her view, this required specialist knowledge and therefore she did not feel that it could be commented on.

Waste Plan: Comments were required to be made by March 30th. Of the 6 sites originally designated as suitable for incinerators, 3 have been removed, but considered appropriate for waste recycling and storage. A new appraisal system is now being used for allocating sites. This takes into account factors such as habitat, biodiversity, transport etc. She felt that at this time there was no need to respond but would check again later.

Councillor Butler confirmed she had completed and sent off the form relating to Areas of Great Landscape Value that had been handed to her at the previous meeting.

Trees: Nothing to report on trees.

Village Hall/Community Centre: Councillor Tatnell reported that appointment details were being finalised with the prospective new chairman, Robert McCarthy. Nothing had yet been finalised in relation to the position of secretary. The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from Geoff Moore, current chairman of

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Village Hall Management Committee, asking for the £500 donation to be finalised at the April 2nd meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT a cheque would be issued in favour of the Village Hall Management Committee for the sum of £500 as agreed in Minute 80/06, at the meeting held on 11 September 2006.

KW

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

Recreation/Sports Association: Councillor Moore had presented the Clerk with an inspection report of the Stychens Lane Playground. She confirmed that the playground was looking rather “tatty” and some items needed replacing. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Chairman and Councillor Moore arrange to meet at the playground to discuss what needed doing.

RG/JM

The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted another contractor, CHIPS Engineering Services to quote on the repair of the railings. As the quote had come within the original agreed amount of £200 (minute 11/07, meeting held on 8 January 2007), she had confirmed that the work could be undertaken and this was scheduled to be completed on Tuesday 13th March.

Allotments: Councillor Moore confirmed that there was a lot of activity at the allotments. The Clerk reported that there was currently a waiting list of 7 people. Renewal letters had been sent out and so far only one had come back as being vacated. Following a discussion about the suitable location for an additional allotment site, and related costs in setting it up,

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Clerk would approach Mr Duda with the idea of portioning off about ½ an acre from the field he currently rents and turning it into allotments.

KW

Street Lighting: No problems were reported.

CCTV: The Chairman noted that this had been covered under the policing section. In relation to the claim resulting from the lightning strike, the Chairman had spoken to the insurers and had been requested to write to the underwriters specifically about the surge protection for the CCTV system.

Website: In Councillor Nathanail’s absence, the Clerk confirmed that a meeting had taken place between Councillor Nathanail and J Neil. The clerk had only that evening received the draft Specification for the website and as such only had one copy to hand. The Chairman briefly went through the specification. Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Council agreed the specification.

All

43/07 FINANCE

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

Cheque No.

000318	Village Hall	9.00
000319	Mrs K Wantling	584.21

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000320	HM Revenue & Customs	49.39
000321	R P Hook	125.00
000322	Hedleys Solicitors LLP	564.38
000323	Chancery Legal Services Limited	437.80
000324	Clarke & Spears International Limited	279.18
000325	The Society of Local Council Clerks	85.00
000326	Pamela Cock	<u>39.08</u>
		<u>£2,173.04</u>

The new bank mandate was signed authorising Richard Miles as a signatory and removing Roger Sutcliffe as a signatory.

Clerk's Laptop: The Chairman suggested that the Council should make some form of contribution towards the use of the Clerk's laptop and make possible provision for the purchase of a dedicated laptop. Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Council would make an equipment allowance payment of £250 per year to the Clerk for the use of the laptop. This would be reviewed on an annual basis.

All

Parish Councillor Declarations Form: The Clerk reported that a new book needed to be purchased prior to the next elections.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk could purchase the book

KW

44/07 FOOTPATH 506

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 "In Committee"

44/07 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk confirmed that all correspondence had previously been circulated to the relevant councillors for their information.

The Clerk had received the letter from Outwood Parish Council relating to the Noise Level on the A23 which the Parish Council had agreed to support at the meeting on 11 September 2006, minute 83/06. Following a discussion

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Clerk could sign the said letter on behalf of Bletchingley Parish Council.

KW

45/07 MATTERS FOR REPORTING OR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDA

Parish Councillor Training: The Clerk highlighted training to be provided for councillors by SALC. This would however cost £50.00 plus VAT for each Councillor. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Clerk would enquire of Tandridge District Council to see if they were providing any training for new councillors.

KW

46/07 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 2 April 2007.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.48 pm