

**BLETCHINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE
COMMITTEE ROOMS ON MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2006**

P R E S E N T

Councillor R. Gater – Chairman

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

In attendance: Clerk - K. Wantling, County Councillor (“CC”) Myland, District Councillor (“DC”) Elias, PC Hazel, PCSO Davis, Mr Birt and J Hill – Surrey Mirror

94/06 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Apologies for absence were received from DC Hoskins and Inspector Whitcombe. The Chairman informed the Council that Councillor Sutcliffe had resigned from the Council. No changes were made to the Declarations of Interests.

95/06 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2006 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

96/06 RESIDENTS’ REQUESTS

The Chairman thanked Miss J Hill from Surrey Mirror for attending the meeting.

CC Myland’s Report: CC Myland reported that Tandridge had 2 traffic wardens for the area and requested that residents park appropriately and observe waiting times. Should parking problems become an issue, then it was hoped that the traffic wardens would deal with the matter. The Local Development Framework which is being adopted will affect planning issues. Redhill Aerodrome Ventures were holding a consultation on Tuesday in relation to their planned building of a Village at the Aerodrome. Unfortunately, CC Myland was unable to attend. On the 12th and 13th January there would be further planned consultation meetings on the effect on the environment. The Quarry Observation Group (“QOG”) had meet with WBB to discuss the rectification of several breaches of planning issues. Surrey County Council’s Highways department was now located in Leatherhead. CC Myland passed the Clerk the contact details. CC Myland would continue to chase outstanding issues on the Ongoing Matters List produced by the Clerk.

Whitehill Drains: The Chairman gave a brief update on this issue. The gulleys had still not been drained. This issue has been ongoing for 4 years and always becomes a problem in wet weather, particularly in the winter time with ice.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT CC Myland would further chase the issue.

MM

97/06 ACTION POINTS AND MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Field behind Coneybury Estate: The Clerk confirmed that the burnt out vehicles were still present. Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT (i) Councillor Trotman would furnish the Clerk with contact details of the landowner, RMC Estates. (ii) These in turn would be passed to PC Hazel for him to contact the landowner direct to arrange removal of the vehicles.

RT
KW/PC

Road Closure for Remembrance Day: PC Hazel had effected a traffic calming situation to facilitate the Memorial Parade on Sunday 12th November. This had been willingly respected by all road users for the short duration of the parade. The Chairman thanked PC Hazel on behalf of the Council for his part in facilitating the honouring of Remembrance Sunday.

Tony Elias entered the meeting.

Old Allotment Field Fencing: The Chairman reported that apart from one letter from Mr Duda, which had been responded to, no further correspondence had been received from the solicitors for residents in Stychens Lane. Mr Duda's gate would be repositioned when the fence was realigned and he would continue to have access whilst a tenant of the field. This right of access would terminate if the lease was ceased. The Clerk confirmed that the contractor would be carrying out the fencing at the end of November. The Chairman would be on hand whilst the work was being undertaken.

Grange Meadow Seat: This seat had now been very professionally repaired by DC Elias and his son, with the provision of materials from Fairalls. The Chairman expressed his thanks to all concerned. Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would find out what the excess on the insurance premium would be and the Council would then decide whether to adopt the seat in the future.

KW

Footpath Leading to Tilgate Common: The Clerk confirmed this was now repaired and would be removed from the Ongoing Matters List.

Top path between Coneybury and Recycling: The Clerk confirmed this has finally been cut and would be removed from the Ongoing Matters List.

Damaged Road Sign: Mr Birt confirmed that this was still damaged.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would chase this matter.

KW

High Street Shrub: This was still not cut.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT CC Myland would chase again.

MM

Overhanging High Street Trees: Councillor Bridger confirmed that the situation had been improved and would be removed from the Ongoing Matters List.

Whitepost Field Substation: The Clerk confirmed that the substation had been fenced and would be removed from the Ongoing Matters List.

St Catherine's School Signage: The Clerk enquired of CC Myland as to the progress of this request. CC Myland confirmed she was still dealing with this but had no news at present and hoped to have something to report in December.

98/06 FOOTPATH 506 UPDATE

The Chairman said there was nothing new to report. The solicitors and Council were still awaiting the list which was apparently being held up due to the workload of Guildford Crown Court.

99/06 POLICING ISSUES

Councillor Bridger updated the Council on a meeting attended by himself, the

Chairman and Inspector Whitcombe at Caterham Police Station on Friday 3rd November. The Chairman and Councillor Bridger had given Inspector Whitcombe an overview of past incidents and the consequential apparent lack of police support. Inspector Whitcombe confirmed that in the case of Bletchingley, our area was designated to PC Dan Hazel who is highly regarded for his previous work in Hurst Green and PCSO Sian Davis who is a new recruit to the force. Inspector Whitcombe is fully aware of the problems experienced in Bletchingley and has requested that volunteers from the area who are interested in being trained as Community Support Officers come forward. The Chairman and Councillor Bridger felt that the meeting was an overall success and that the Council looked forward to a better relationship between the Police and the residents of Bletchingley. The Chairman confirmed the need to see representation on the streets and not just in cars.

PC Hazel gave an update on recent activity in the area. The India Village were no longer experiencing racial problems. The youth of the village were being advised to stay off the streets or risk police involvement, in return for assistance with providing alternative activities. The youth of Barfields and Claire Cottages were being very positive towards this approach. PC Hazel would task the PCSO Davis with the continued scooter issues of pavement riding and inappropriate road use. An approach being used was, if caught twice, the vehicle would be removed and scrapped. This had worked well in other areas. PC Hazel believed that intervention as well as helping to create alternatives was the key to good behaviour. The idea of forming a youth 5-side football team had been well received by locals, especially the prospect of playing against a police team.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT Councillor Trotman would pass the details of the Football Club contact on to PC Hazel to help with the 5-side football team. RT

DC Elias reported to PC Hazel the fact that bikes were using Coldharbour Lane as a “run through” and recently there had been an incident where one young youth had gone through his fence and damaged one of the vehicles parked in his drive. PC Hazel confirmed that inappropriate use of the road without the relevant paperwork was in contravention of the Road Traffic Act Section 59 and therefore punishable.

In relation to the recent attempted abduction, the CID are following lines of investigation and PC Hazel is hopeful of a positive outcome in due course. St Catherine’s School had been duly notified and a “Stranger Danger” talk would take place at the school. With the advance of DNA testing, it is hoped that the DNA sample taken from a coat will prove helpful in the investigation.

PCSO Davis highlighted the fact that she was carrying out monthly workshops in the Village on the 1st Tuesday of every month. This was at present only in term time, but she was happy to continue during holidays as well if a suitable venue could be found.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would ensure that this workshop was publicised in the Surrey Mirror as well as in the Parish magazine. KW

Councillor Trotman enquired as to whether PC Hazel was aware of a recent break in at the Bowls Club. PC Hazel was not.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT (i) PC Hazel would check his CIS system and (ii) Councillor Bridger would e-mail PC Hazel with information once he was in contact with the Bowls Club organiser. PC/KB

The Chairman noted that Inspector Whitcombe was very positive towards the Pubwatch Scheme and enquired as to PC Hazel's approach and timescale. PC Hazel confirmed that he would be contacting the pubs to try and get interest in the scheme. He would obviously like to get this up and running as soon as possible.

CC Myland, DC Elias, PC Hazel and PCSO Davis left the meeting.

100/06 CURRENT PLANNING ISSUES

List 41/2006 – Item 22 – TA/2006/1477 – Remove brick insert & hearth in kitchen. Remove plain tile & brick canopy to fireplace in living room & remove paint to expose brickwork. Remove ceiling to bedroom. Repairs to chimney stack – White Hill Cottage, White Hill Lane, Bletchingley.

RESOLVED: No comment

List 42/2006 – Item 19 – TA/2006/1463 – Erection of stable block comprising 4 loose boxes – Land at Ivy Mill Lane, Godstone.

RESOLVED: No comment

List 43/2006 – Item 1 – TA/2001/1110/R – Conversion of existing buildings to provide 4x3 bed and 1x2 bed dwellings with associated garaging/parking – Castle Hill Farm, Castle Square, Bletchingley.

RESOLVED: Before permission is renewed, the junction at the top of Castle Hill needs careful consideration because a further 6 flats have been agreed at Castle Place which will exit their drive at the top of Castle Hill which has very poor sight lines when coming up the hill.

KW

List 43/2006 – Item 19 – TA/2006/1521 – Erection of single storey rear extension – Parkstone Cottage, Little Common Lane, Bletchingley.

Councillor Nathanail removed himself from the meeting due to a prejudicial interest in the application as owner of the property.

RESOLVED: No comment

Councillor Nathanail was recalled to the meeting.

List 43/2006 – Item 24 – TA/2006/1536 – Conversion of barn to provide 4-bed dwelling including lowering of internal ground floor level – Lake Farm, Pendell Road, Bletchingley.

RESOLVED: No comment

List 44/2006 – Item 33 – TA/2006/1574/EIA/C – Variations to conditions to extend the date of completion by approximately 13 years and to surcharge the site with additional waste to achieve a suitable restoration profile. (Environmental impact assessment by adjoining authority) – Patteson Court Landfill, Cormongers Lane, Redhill.

RESOLVED: No comment

Miss J Hill left the meeting.

List 44/2006 – Item 38 – TA/2006/1582 – Regrading of land to create four fishing lakes from reused material with associated single storey building as clubhouse/bait

shop and screened parking area – Land adj to Warwick Wold Road & M25, Merstham.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council believes that this is not an acceptable proposal for the disposal of 10000 c metres of illegally tipped waste material. The site should be totally cleared and then any new proposals for the site can be considered on their merits. Any commercial development of this site needs to have regard to the poor vehicular access, proximity to the motorway and the high visibility of the site in an area of ONB. The applicant has previously applied to construct a bund at this site on the grounds that traffic pollution makes it hazardous for the safety of his horses, similar problems would therefore apply to a fish farm.

KW

List 45/2006 – Item 10 – TA/2006/1598 – Erection of first floor extension to south west elevation – Hermitage Lodge, Hextalls Lane, Bletchingley.

RESOLVED: No comment

List 45/2006 – Items 31 **and** 32 – TA/2006/1630 **and** 1631 – Removal of Stairs. Erection of 2-storey rear extension to accommodate stairs. Replacement window to right flank. Alterations to kitchen ceiling to replace previous floor repair. (Listed Building Consent) **and** Erection of 2-storey rear extension – White Hill Cottage, White Hill Lane, Bletchingley.

RESOLVED: No comment

Babcock Networks Ltd – Proposed H3G Base Station at Bletchingley Golf Club, Church Lane, Bletchingley, RH1 4LP. *Councillor Martin withdrew from the discussion due to prejudicial interest as an investor in Babcock Networks Ltd.* The Chairman reported on a pre-application consultation letter received in relation to the above. The Chairman confirmed he had sent a response to Babcock Networks Ltd outlining Bletchingley Parish Council's view of opposing all telecommunication masts in an area of outstanding natural beauty and greenbelt land and close to residential areas. Following a discussion

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT Councillor Tatnell would e-mail the Chairman with any information in relation to sale movements in the vicinity of the Bletchingley Golf Club.

BT

101/06 REPORTS FROM AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Footpaths and Bridleways: As Councillor Sutcliffe had resigned there was nothing to report. Following a discussion

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT (i) Councillor Martin would temporarily fill this vacancy and (ii) the Clerk would contact Mr Sutcliffe to obtain contact details for Mr & Mrs Risebridger to enquire as to whether they were still interested in repairing the hand rail near Stychens Lane Playground.

DM
KW

Transport: Councillor Trotman had nothing to report on Transport other than he would be attending the GACC AGM on 15 November. Councillor Bridger was passed contact details for Gatwick Airport to enable him to report recent very low aircraft traffic experienced above Castle Close.

Cemetery: Councillor Tatnell reported that the Bus Shelter had now been painted by Adshel and the fence repaired by Neil Richards. The Clerk circulated revised Cemetery Regulations. The Clerk enquired as to whether the maintenance of the

cemetery would continue through winter. It was agreed that more work was still required to be done to finish the facelift of the Cemetery. The bins had improved the litter situation in the cemetery. Recent improvement work had been undertaken with the approval of the Clerk on a family grave. Following a discussion

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT (i) the Cemetery Regulations be approved and signed by the Chairman; (ii) the maintenance would continue for 12 months this year and then revert to the 9 month maintenance programme for 2007/08.

KW
KW

Minerals/Environment/Tree Wardens:

Waste Plan – The alternative site proposals list Godstone Depot as the closest to Bletchingley. This is close to Bay Pond. A Civil Engineer has reported that the proposal for this site would have a detrimental effect on the water aquifers. Copyhold still remains a greenbelt site and therefore only to be used for maintenance and storage. No further comments are needed as yet. A public examination is due to be held on 15 December to discuss all documentation. The Council have already commented in writing and therefore do not need to attend the meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT Councillor Butler would reiterate the Council's concern for the protection of the greenbelt area.

AB

WBB – The Quarry Observation Group “QOG” now have a website and letterhead and are being invited to all WBB meetings as a group. At the last meeting requested by WBB, QOG and Surrey County Council “SCC” attended to discuss several breaches of planning regulations. It was highlighted that the SCC Planning Department have been negligent in ensuring all conditions are met. QOG have asked that in the first instance, the original planned building be erected and underground conveyor belts installed. This would reduce the noise and pollution level. WBB was asked about TARMAC concerns. No clear response was given. The situation will be monitored.

Star Energy – The proposed gasfield plan in Bletchingley is one that will need to be monitored carefully, especially in relation to planning breaches. Star Energy propose to construct 2 appraisal wells to see if there is any gas in the field. The rigs are reportedly small and quiet and the required access is temporary and would be restored to its original condition once the appraisal was completed. Star Energy are convinced there is something workable in Bletchingley and if this is the case, reserves could be connected by pipeline to the National Grid. A discussion then followed about the Star Energy appraisal application for Albury Park near Guildford. Godstone Parish Council do not appear to be worried about the application. Star Energy are reportedly threatening to use the 1965 Gas Act which would mean they do not have to go to local authorities for planning permission. This act has never been used before for natural gas. The Clerk passed Councillor Butler a letter from Green Issues inviting attendance at the 2nd Stakeholder Forum meeting due to be held on 28 November between 4 and 6pm.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT Councillor Butler would attend the meeting.

AB

Councillor Butler had nothing to report on tree wardens.

Village Hall/Community Centre: Councillor Tatnell reported that Geoff Moore sponsored by CC Myland, had applied to SCC for £2000 towards the cost of redecorating the Village Hall and this will be considered towards the end of February. Mr Coppard will be liaising with the Rector to arrange a date, which will be

advertised, for dedicating the Memorial Boards in the Village Hall. Councillor Martin is researching names from the 2nd World War for a further memorial board. Councillor Trotman expressed concern that there are still no replacements for the Chairman and Secretary of the Village Hall Management Committee. They have both confirmed that if necessary they will remain in their chairs until the AGM in May.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Parish Council and the Village Hall Trustees needed to continue looking for suitable candidates.

All

Neighbourhood Watch: Councillor Bridger had notified Inspector Whitcombe of his concerns for the Neighbourhood Watch and stressed the need to find a new Chairman for the Neighbourhood Watch. No response had been received to date from the Village Magazine report.

Recreation/Sports Association: Councillor Moore reported that she had attended a meeting with BAGGAGE where she had outlined costings and what the Parish Council were looking for in a youth shelter. The Chairman had not been receptive to the idea due to possible vandalism of the Skate Ramp and Bletchingley Players Hut as a result of the suggested location. Costings were in the region of £2.5k to £6k. It was suggested that the Smallfield youth shelter be looked at for ideas. Following a discussion

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT Councillor Moore contact PC Hazel with the idea for his help and then propose a site meeting with the Trustees of Grange Meadow and PC Hazel.

JM

Councillor Martin notified the Council of a proposed Race Night in the Village Hall on Friday 17 November. The Clerk enquired as to whether strimming of the Tilgate Common path could be included in the budget for next year.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would enquire as to costs prior to the next meeting.

KW

Allotments: Councillor Moore reported that two allotments appeared to be falling into disuse. The Clerk confirmed that the water had been turned off and that the hedge was scheduled for cutting in a couple of days.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would write to the two allotment holders in relation to their apparent non cultivation.

KW

Street Lighting: Nothing to report.

CCTV: The Chairman reported that the metal mickey was still undergoing repair. A replacement for the damaged recorder had not been decided. Total outstanding costs were in the region of £600 plus VAT. The insurance company had been advised, but until a decision was made, no claim would be made.

Website: Councillor Nathanail gave a brief update on running costs for the website and the fact that the website was now up to date with all the latest changes. However, the Parish Council were still reliant on the web designer for any changes or additions and this was proving costly. The Council needed to think about moving to a different platform where the Parish were then in charge of any changes. Councillor Nathanail had made several enquiries and had received some unbiased views of the site. Mr Birt raised the point that there was no link from Tandridge District Council's ("TDC") website to the Bletchingley Parish Council. Following a discussion

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT (i) Councillor Nathanail would make further costing enquiries for moving to a CMS platform and come back to the Council at the next meeting with the findings and (ii) the Clerk would check with TDC about a link.

NN
KW

102/06 FINANCE

The Chairman signed the document produced by the Clerk which set out the details of her salary modification agreed on 11 September 2006. This was produced to ensure all paper work records were complete.

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

Cheque No.

000284	Village Hall	9.00
000285	Mrs K Wantling	460.70
000286	HM Revenue & Customs	7.42
000287	Surrey County Playing Fields Association	10.00
000288	Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	25.00
000289	R Gater	115.00
000290	Peter Frost	147.60
000291	D A Landscaping & Garden Maintenance	<u>504.00</u>
		<u>1,278.72</u>

Internal Audit: The Clerk outlined the report produced by the Internal Auditor following the Interim Audit. In relation to the War Memorial valuation, the Clerk is awaiting contact details of a suitable valuer. Fidelity Guarantee – concern was expressed that our level of cover is not enough. VAT Return – the Clerk confirmed that this would be done on a more timely manner in future. Following a discussion

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Council were still happy with controls currently in place and did not feel the need to increase the Fidelity Guarantee above what it already was.

All

Reference Material for Clerk: The Clerk informed the Council that her course had requested that “the Bible” be the correct edition, currently 3 behind and the price for replacing this was around £60.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk should purchase the updated edition of Local Council Administration.

KW

103/06 CORRESPONDENCE

Bletchingley in Bloom: A letter had been received from Pamela Cock asking for donations to the project. A response had been sent saying that if figures were produced the Council would consider an application. No figures had been produced prior to the meeting. The Clerk reported that St Catherine’s School had expressed an interest in maintaining the “Howard Cundey Corner” on a trial basis.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would notify the School that this suggestion was welcomed but that any major changes be notified to the Council first.

KW

East Surrey Community Mediation: The letter had previously been circulated to all Council members. Following a discussion

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT at the Clerk would invite the group to attend a meeting

KW

to give a presentation.

Tandridge District Council – Parish Review relating to changes to boundaries. The Clerk confirmed that a request had been made and she had been told that plans would probably not be available until April.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would make a further request for earlier sight of these plans due to the election in May next year. KW

Top Path: The Clerk reported that the School had a plan with details of the proposed footpath changes which were scheduled to take place in the near future.

104/06 MATTERS FOR REPORTING OR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDA

Councillor Resignation: The Chairman confirmed that Roger Sutcliffe had resigned as Councillor, leaving a vacancy prior to the election. A previously interested party was still interested.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would need to notify TDC of the vacancy so that it could be advertised as a matter of course. KW

Memorial Wreaths – Councillor Martin reported that the wreaths laid at the memorial were falling over and enquired as to whether the Legion could put a wire around the memorial to secure the wreaths in place.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT Councillor Martin would arrange for this. DM

105/06 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 11 December 2006.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 11.04pm