

**BLETCHINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE  
COMMITTEE ROOMS ON MONDAY 17 JULY 2006**

**P R E S E N T**

Councillor R. Gater – Chairman

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

In attendance: Clerk - K. Wantling, Mr Hight

**61/06 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Nathanail, County Councillor M. Myland and District Councillors T. Elias and C. Hoskins and PC Howard. No changes were made to the Declarations of Interests.

**62/06 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2006 were approved and signed by the Chairman subject to the following minor amendments: Page 2, War Memorial Flowers replace “Tatnell” with “Butler”; page 7, Village Hall/Community Centre should read “...3 representatives were required as the Parish Council needed to have strong representation on the Committee.”; and page 10, minute 59/06, replace “Tatnell” with “Butler”.

**63/06 RESIDENTS’ REQUESTS**

**Tilgate Common Dog Bin:** Councillor Sutcliffe reported that the dog bin was overflowing and a health hazard.

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Clerk would report this matter to Tandridge District Council. KW

**Rifle Range:** Councillor Bridger reported that whilst the Rifle Range was in the process of being re-roofed, 2 boys had been found throwing missiles from the roof into the Bowls Club during a match. Councillor Butler reported that she had reported the matter to the police and that a crime reference number was available.

**Cemetery Hedge:** Councillor Trotman reported that the Cemetery field hedge was impeding the use of the path that runs alongside the field.

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Clerk would write to the tenant of the field requesting that the hedge be cut back so as not to impede pedestrian access to the path. KW

**High Street Footpath:** Mr Hight reported that there were several trees along this footpath which were overhanging the footpath causing people to duck under the trees in order to continue along the path. The worst of these was a Fig tree. There were concerns for the safety of users of this path, particularly partially sighted or less able people. Mr Hight also expressed concern at gravel from drives migrating onto the path, resulting in the path being “slippery”.

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Clerk would write to the owners of “Wideways House” and “Poplar House” as it was believed that they were the owners of the main problem trees. The Clerk would also put a note in the Parish Magazine asking people to maintain their hedges and trees if alongside public footpaths and roads and also KW

ensure that their drives were maintained if they contained gravel or other migrating material. If no response or action was taken, then contact would be made with Tandridge District Council requesting their help in pursuing this matter.

**Top Path:** The Clerk reported on a complaint received from a resident about the state of the Top Path leading from the recycling station up to Coneybury shops. The hedge needed cutting back and the path needed clearing up.

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Clerk would report this matter to Tandridge District Council, Highways Division. KW

**Street Light No 4, Little Common Lane:** Councillor Sutcliffe reported that the No 4 light in Little Common Lane was obscured by trees and on all day and not on at night. The trees surrounding the light also obscured a road sign on the lamp post.

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

There was nothing to report from County Councillor Myland.

#### **64/06 ACTION POINTS AND MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**Place Farm:** Councillor Butler confirmed that she had attended the last Action Group meeting. The group is now known as “Quarry Observation Group “QOG”. Complaints had been received that the Quarry was using a screening machine after 9.30 in the evening and this was causing a nuisance. Tarmac had given an update on their plans and these were also available on their website. The QOG Chairman was Hamish Beaton. WBB were not actively pushing ahead with the proposed tarmac plant and as yet there were still no plans on the table. The next meeting is to take place on September 18, in the Scouts Hut in Godstone.

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** Councillor Butler would be the Parish Council representative and would check the operation conditions of the plant and report back to the Council. AB

**Little Common Lane Speeding:** The Clerk reported that there was nothing to update on as yet.

**Corner by Howard Cundey:** The Chairman commented on the neat appearance of the corner and congratulated Neil Richards for his work. Councillor Sutcliffe reported that the litter bin and the signs on that corner were damaged.

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Clerk would contact Highways requesting that the bin be replaced and enquire as to when new signage will be issued for the area. KW

**Posh Chocs:** The Clerk reported that a response had been received from the Waterboard confirming that the works had not been completed satisfactorily and they were currently trying to locate an appropriate replacement for the cobbles. The Clerk had already passed on the contact details for Fairalls to the Waterboard. Councillor Martin reported that the stones could possibly be sourced from WBB as it was a waste product from their production.

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Clerk would pass this information on to the Waterboard. KW

**Bowls Club Vandalism:** Councillor Bridger confirmed that there was no further information on the vandalism.

**Pub Watch:** The Chairman expressed concern at the lack of response from publicans.

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** (i) the Chairman would pursue this matter with the police; and (ii) the Clerk would write a chaser letter to the publicans asking for their response. RG  
KW

**Top Path:** The Clerk stated there was nothing new to report on the clearance of the back path to the school.

**Footpath 506:** The Chairman reported that Mr Herrtage had been issued with a Court Summons to attend an Assets Hearing on 7 August 2006 at Guildford Court. The Parish Council had been asked for help in handing over the Summons. Councillor Martin confirmed that this had been done on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July. The Chairman outlined a letter recently received from Mr Nicholls the Solicitor, confirming that the Cost Order to Bletchingley Parish Council would likely exceed £25,000. The solicitors had issued an invoice for the balance to date, in the sum of £14,100, inclusive of VAT. This had been passed to the Insurers for their comments. The Council would await the outcome of the Assets Hearing in August.

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Clerk would contact the insurer for their response to the latest solicitor's invoice. KW

**Stychens Allotment Field:** The Clerk confirmed that no responses had been received to-date from the respective residents. Following a discussion,

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Clerk would write a further letter to the residents stating that the fence would be reinstated in September. If they wished to discuss the matter, they should contact the Clerk to arrange for the Chairman and Councillor Martin to see them in person prior to September. KW

**Police Meeting:** The Chairman reported that he had been unable to get a response from the Inspector at Caterham in order to arrange a meeting.

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Chairman would pursue the matter and respond back to the Council at the September meeting. RG

## **65/06 AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY AND RISK ASSESSMENT**

The Areas of Responsibility for 2006/07 were agreed subject to a couple of minor changes. Councillor Moore would be responsible for Allotments and Recreation / Playgrounds and Councillor Trotman agreed to be responsible for Transport – Rail. Councillor Bridger had previously agreed to be responsible for Finance / Insurance. The Risk Assessment was agreed subject to the above responsibility changes being made.

## **66/06 CURRENT PLANNING ISSUES**

List 24/2006 – Item 15 – TA/2006/824 – Removal of existing mobile home and 6 of the existing loose boxes. Erection of detached bungalow. (outline) – Stubbs Stables, Little Common Lane, Bletchingley.

**RESOLVED:** The Council resolved to object on the basis that this is within the Green Belt area and outside the Bletchingley Settlement Area and not appropriate for dwelling.

List 24/2006 – Item 19 – TA/2006/842 – Insertion of 2 Velux Windows to side

elevation. (Listed Building Consent). – 6-8 Brewer Street, Bletchingley.

**RESOLVED:** The Council consent, subject to the approval of the County Conservation Society.

List 24/2006 – Item 37 – TA/2006/870 – Erection of Conservatory to South Elevation. – Barmoor Cottage, Big Common Lane, Bletchingley.

**RESOLVED:** No comment

*Councillor Martin outlined the planning application and then stood down from any discussion due to an interest as a neighbour in Planning Application TA/2006/872.*

List 24/2006 – Item 39 – TA/2006/872 – Demolition of garage and outbuildings, erection of 3-bed detached dwelling. – Land at 86 High Street, Bletchingley.

A letter of objection from Mr & Mrs Andrews had been circulated to Council members prior to the meeting and was duly noted. The Chairman reported that due to this meeting being held a week later, and the timescale for responding falling due, a response had already been sent to Tandridge District Council as follows:

*“The Council has concerns regarding tree cover, constructing a new building in between two listed buildings and question whether the proposed new development would be in keeping.”*

List 25/2006 – Items 16 & 18 – TA/2006/873 and 875 – Erection of 2-storey rear extension and Listed building consent. – White Hill Cottage, White Hill Lane, Bletchingley.

**RESOLVED:** The Council consent, subject to the approval of the Listed Buildings Department.

List 25/2006 – Item 32 – TA/2006/903 – Erection of detached summer house. - Castle Lodge, Castle Square, Bletchingley.

**RESOLVED:** No comment.

LIST 26/2006 – Item 9 – TA/2006/896 – Erection of various illuminated / non illuminated signs to front and side elevations. - Red Lion, Castle Street, Bletchingley

**RESOLVED:** No comment.

Councillor Tatnell expressed concern about the path in front of the new picket fence outside the Red Lion. There was no kerbside to the path, which could result in people parking in front of the picket fence causing pedestrians to walk in the road.

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Clerk would write to Highways requesting reinstatement of the kerbside by the white picket fence to stop people parking and blocking the path. KW

List 26/2006 – Item 10 – TA/2006/897 – Erection of 2m high close boarded boundary fence and 1.8m brick and stone wall. Erection of shed. - Boundary Cottage, Stangrave Mews, Bletchingley Road, Godstone.

**RESOLVED:** No comment.

List 27/2006 – Item 6 – TA/2006/843 – Erection of stable block comprising 4 loose boxes. – Land at Ivy Mill Lane, Godstone.

**RESOLVED:** No comment.

List 28/2006 – Item 8 – TA/2006/909 – Alterations and extensions to south elevation to incorporate open Byre into residential accommodation – Coldharbour Barn, Coldharbour Lane, Bletchingley.

**RESOLVED:** No comment.

List 28/2006 – Item 21 – 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.

## **67/06 REPORTS FROM AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

**Footpaths and Bridleways:** (i) Councillor Sutcliffe had nothing new to report but enquired about the grass cutting schedule. The Clerk confirmed that an e-mail with the dates had been sent to all Councillors, however this is not what Councillor Sutcliffe was looking for. (ii) Councillor Martin reported that there was a broken stile on footpath 151. The bottom tread was missing. (iii) It was reported that Tilgate Common needed its annual strim and that the hedge around The Pound needed cutting. The Clerk stated that Neil Richards had confirmed that he would do these for the same price as he did them last year. (iv) Footpath 505 between Little Common Lane and Stychens Playing field: Councillor Martin reported that this section of footpath was very overgrown.

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** (i) Councillor Sutcliffe would contact Tandridge District Council direct; (ii) The Clerk would report the problem of the broken Stile. The grid reference for this stile was 325 513; (iii) the Clerk would contact Neil Richards and ask him to put Tilgate Common and The Pound on his list; (iv) the Clerk would report footpath 505 to Tandridge District Council. RS  
KW  
KW  
KW

**Transport:** Councillor Trotman reported back on a meeting attended by 4 Councillors at Gatwick Airport. He handed out a leaflet from BAA Gatwick entitled “Bothered by Aircraft noise? We’re listening”. The meeting had taken place within the offices used by Gatwick personnel and the Councillors were given a guided tour of the area, including how complaints are tracked and how the noise from individual planes was tracked. The current response time is 8 days. Planes generally fly at a level of 3000 feet when over Bletchingley. Councillor Trotman also reported on the Annual Meeting of the Redhill Aerodrome Consultative Committee, confirming that there was possibly some movement towards compromise between parties.

**Cemetery:** Councillor Tatnell had nothing to report. The Clerk reported that she had received a request for a tablet to be placed on an existing grave to commemorate the remains of two people whose ashes had been scattered on the grave without gaining permission from the Council and therefore being recorded in the books. The grave is the recorded resting place of the grandparents. Following a discussion,

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** if there was an existing headstone on the grave, then, subject to the family signing a statement confirming whose ashes had been scattered on the grave, then permission would be granted for the existing headstone to be engraved. The Clerk would pass this message on to the Funeral Directors concerned. KW

In relation to the request to fence behind the bus stop, the Clerk confirmed that a quote had been received from DA Landscaping in the sum of £202 to erect wooden fence

panels. However, the Councillors agreed that it would probably not be long before this was vandalised and therefore an alternative needed to be sought.

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** Councillor Tatnell would investigate the possibility of some form of “green” fencing and obtain quotes for the most suitable plants.

BT

**Minerals/Environment/Tree Wardens:** Councillor Butler reported that she had been unable to attend the latest Minerals meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> July but was endeavouring to obtain the minutes from the same. Councillor Butler briefly outlined a protest letter from Mercers Farm Action Group sent to the Council. She had forwarded a copy of Bletchingley Parish Council’s response to the Council to the Group in order to join forces. In relation to the Waste Plan, Councillor Butler had received a large amount of documentation which needed to be replied to by mid August. The earlier response to the Recycling Awareness System had already been done online and Councillor Butler was now going through the Waste Plan documentation. Councillor Butler confirmed there was nothing to report on trees.

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** Councillor Butler would report to the Council with her response to the Waste Plan once done.

AB

**Village Hall/Community Centre:** Councillor Tatnell reported that the Village Hall Management Committee had received quotes to refurbish the Village Hall and the Community Centre. She reported that both the Chairman and the Secretary of the Village Hall Management Committee had resigned and as yet there were no replacements. The Chairman enquired as to who would be interested in being the 3<sup>rd</sup> Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Management Committee. Councillor Moore volunteered.

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** Councillor Moore be appointed the 3<sup>rd</sup> representative and that the Clerk would write an article in the Parish Magazine asking that anyone interested in the vacated posts to approach members of the Village Hall Management Committee for further information.

KW

**Neighbourhood Watch:** Councillor Bridger had nothing to report.

**Recreation/Sports Association:** Councillor Moore reported that the fence around Stychens Playing field required mending near the gate section. Councillor Martin commented that the fencing was originally supplied by Tandridge. The benches under the trees needed cleaning. The rail beside the steep steps leading up to Stychens Playing Field from Stychens Lane were in need of repair. The Clerk confirmed that RP Hook had been requested to temporarily make safe and put a sign up saying out of use until this could be rectified. A quote was subsequently received in the sum of £850 to completely replace the railing system in compliance with safety regulations. Councillor Moore confirmed that both RoSPA and Tandridge District Council confirmed that Bletchingley Parish Council were legally bound to keep the railing in a safe condition. Councillor Sutcliffe reported that Mr and Mrs Risebridger had approached him stating that they would be happy to arrange for the railing to be fixed at a greatly reduced rate.

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** (i) Councillor Moore would contact RP Hook requesting a quote for cleaning the benches; (ii) Councillor Sutcliffe would approach Mr and Mrs Risebridger to enquire as to whether they would undertake the repair of the railing; and (iii) the Clerk would contact Tandridge District Council to enquire as to whether they would repair the playground fencing as they had installed it.

JM  
RS

KW

**Allotments:** Councillor Moore stated that there had been reports of theft from the allotments, in particular, strawberries. The hedge around the allotment needed cutting. The Clerk reported that she had spoken to some allotment holders enquiring as to whether they would be willing to form a work party to try and cut the hedge so as to provide more security for the allotments from the overlooking properties. Following a discussion,

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Clerk would contact Justin Strange and DA Landscaping asking for quotes for cutting the hedge. KW

**Street Lighting:** Councillor Sutcliffe reported that the light behind the Post Office was on during the day and off at night.

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

**CCTV:** The Chairman reported that the CCTV system is running normally. The new camera over the Whyte Hart had been moved to Church Walk due to scaffolding being erected for building works.

**Web Site:** The Clerk reported that Councillor Nathanail is still trying to access more statistics and enquire as to the feasibility of weblinks from adverts. The Clerk reported that she had 4 new interested parties in advertising. Councillor Moore confirmed that she had 2.

## 68/06 FINANCE

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

Cheque No.

000249	Village Hall	9.00
000250	Mrs K Wantling	453.30
000251	HM Revenue & Customs	3.23
000252	GACC	10.00
000253	Sutton and East Surrey Water plc	17.25
000254	Sutton and East Surrey Water plc	17.13
000255	G W Musson	208.74
000256	DA Landscaping & Garden Maintenance	584.00
000257	Bletchingley Village Hall	<u>275.00</u>
		<u>£1,577.65</u>

**August Payments:** The following payments dated 13 August 2006 were sanctioned and cheques and stubs signed.

Cheque No.

000258	Mrs K Wantling	444.04
000259	HM Revenue & Customs	<u>3.23</u>
		<u>£447.27</u>

**Youth Club:** Councillor Martin handed a cheque to the Chairman in the sum of £2181.61 which was the proceeds from the sale of equipment from the Youth Club due to its closure three years ago. It was requested that this be reinvested in the Village. The Chairman agreed that this would be a good time to look into the possibility of a shelter for the youth of the Village.

**69/06 COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH PROGRAMME**

The Chairman confirmed that he would discuss how to take this forward with the Police at his meeting, once one could be arranged.

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Chairman would report back at the September meeting. RG

**70/06 CORRESPONDENCE**

**TDC – Land at View Point, Tupwood** – Councillor Martin confirmed that the Council had received a reply from Tandridge District Council relating to land known as Viewpoint, Tupwood. TDC had recently registered part of the land and had enclosed a plan indicating which area. Councillor Martin was uncertain as to whether TDC had claimed ownership of the right section of land. He confirmed that there was a legal agreement with TDC that they maintain the land.

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** Councillor Martin make more enquiries into this matter and once ownership issues were resolved, that the land be registered to Bletchingley Parish Council. DM

**SCC – Rights of Way** – A letter from Surrey County Council relating to Rights of Way was discussed. Councillor Martin confirmed that the plans were to try to improve the network for blind, partially sighted and handicapped people. There was some apprehension that some rural paths may end up being urbanised. Following a discussion

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** Councillor Sutcliffe would respond to the letter accordingly. RS

**SCC – County Councillors Local Allocations for 2006/07** – Councillor Bridger reported on a meeting recently attended giving details of the allocations available to each County Councillor; a brief summary of speed management programmes in Tandridge; decriminalisation of parking enforcement; and a brief update on the position of two Youth Forum self-reliant initiatives in Tandridge.

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Clerk would look up previous quotes obtained for the cost of Shelters and produce them at the meeting in September. KW

**71/06 AUGUST SIGNING**

It was agreed that the Chairman, Councillors Bridger and Martin and the Clerk would meet on the 15<sup>th</sup> August to review any planning applications and authorise any cheque signing.

**72/06 COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE – CODES OF PRACTICE**

The Clerk had circulated a Complaints Procedure as suggested by the Internal Auditor to all Councillors. Following a discussion,

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Complaints Procedure would be adopted as part of the Codes of Practice. ALL

**73/06 MATTERS FOR REPORTING**

The Clerk reported that she had received a request from St Catherine's School for support in trying to get a sign for the school put on the main road to indicate where the

school was located.

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Clerk would write a letter of support to Highways and the Education section asking for the school's request for a location sign to be agreed and acted on as the school is not easily visible and identifiable from the main road.

**74 DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – 11 September 2006.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.15pm