

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 10 DECEMBER 2007**

P R E S E N T

Councillor R. Gater – Chairman
Councillors A Butler, D Martin, J Moore, B Tatnell, R Trotman

In attendance: Clerk - K. Wantling, District Councillor (DC) Elias and DC Black, PC Shrapel and PCSO Sheppard, K Tunstall and D Turner – Neighbourhood Watch; P Cock – Bletchingley in Bloom and D Birt – Resident.

161/07 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Bridger and Munday.

162/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No changes were made to the Declarations of Interest.

163/07 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2007 were approved and signed by the Chairman subject to the following minor amendments: page 2, last paragraph of minute 149/07, replace “TDC” with “SCC”; page 6, paragraph 6 – Minerals, remove the sentence “There were still no facilities for washing the sand.” and replace “TDC” with “SCC”; paragraph 8 – Recreation/Sports Association, amend “table table” to read “picnic table”.

164/07 RESIDENTS’ REQUESTS

Barfields - A resident had reported that last Friday, a refuse lorry had experienced great difficulty accessing Barfields due to inconsiderate parking. The police had been notified and details of the vehicle had been passed on. The police confirmed they would approach the owner in relation to the inconsiderate parking.

For Sale Vehicle - A Volvo, with a “for sale” sign had been parked outside “Travelling Light” for some time. PCSO Sheppard confirmed that the vehicle was taxed until the end of the year and was therefore legal and it was not yet an offence to have 1 vehicle with a for sale sign in front of your property. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED THAT the police would wait and see if the tax was renewed.

Church Lane – this was reported as being overgrown resulting in reduced width of the road. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Clerk would write a letter to Highways requesting that the vegetation is cut to restore Church Lane to the correct width.

KW

A25 Noise Levels – Mr and Mrs Pierson of Horseshoe Cottage were complaining about the level of noise of heavy traffic travelling along the A25 outside their property. Mrs Pierson was currently taking medication to relieve the stress caused by the problem and is now keeping a log of the times that the noise occurs, usually

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around 2am, 4am and 6am. It is thought that most of this noise results from the heavy vehicles travelling over the gas main and drain covers, which were lower than the road level. Mrs Cock also stated that there was a drain cover on the A25 outside her property, which was lower in the ground, resulting in increased traffic noise. It was thought that the majority of these vehicles use the Tilburstow Hill site. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Clerk liaise with the Clerk of Godstone to suggest joining forces in writing a letter to Highways requesting that the covers be raised to road level and that the use of noise reduction road surface be considered, particularly where the A25 runs so close to residential properties.

Star Energy – gas exploration - Mrs Cock commented on a recent article in a paper relating to the gas operations in the area and enquired if the Parish Council were aware of it. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council were aware of the exploratory gas operation as the planning application had been granted. Access to the site would be via Godstone Farm.

165/07 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MYLAND

Nothing to report in CC Myland's absence.

166/07 POLICING ISSUES

PC Shrapel updated the Council on the 15 reported crimes since the previous meeting. (14 reported ones for the same period last year). These ranged from damage to vehicles and theft of navigation systems from the vehicles to theft of pedal cycles and assaults. This is usually a time when theft from vehicles increases and PC Shrapel warned people to be particularly vigilant about leaving valuables visible in the car. The weekly countryside newsletter provided by PC Shrapel is now available on the website. PC Shrapel was thanked for these updates.

The Chairman updated on a recent conversation with Inspector Burtenshaw relating to concerns that the monthly surgeries would be cut. He confirmed they would not, but enquired as to whether the Council were happy for the surgeries to take place prior to the monthly meetings. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED THAT this was a good idea and that the use of the Doctor's surgery for this purpose would be looked at.

The Chairman thanked PC Shrapel and PCSO Sheppard for attending the meeting. Due to Councillor Bridger's absence, the Neighbourhood Watch section would be addressed under Areas of Responsibility.

167/07 BLETCHINGLEY IN BLOOM

Mrs Cock thanked BPC for their continued support for the Bletchingley in Bloom project, particularly for the offer of sponsoring the sign. £300 of funding left over from last year was earmarked for a survey of Hevers Pond, currently being discussed. A heritage tree survey was being launched where residents were being asked to identify interesting/old trees in Bletchingley. These trees would then be dated and form part of the entry. Place Farm was noted as containing an ancient woodland. SCC could be contacted for a list of all trees with Tree Preservation Orders. The two schools had also been invited to take part in the competition, although at present, only Hawthorns had expressed an interest. Mrs Cock enquired

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whether the Council could provide general funding rather than fund the village sign. It was easier to obtain funds from outside bodies for specific projects, such as the village sign. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED THAT as long as the projects could be specified and that invoices were produced in the name of Bletchingley Parish Council then the Council would continue to provide the promised support.

All

PC Shrapel, PCSO Sheppard, DC Elias and DC Black left the meeting.

168/07 MATTERS AND ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Litter Bins - The Clerk reported on the progress of the request for additional litter bins. TDC had stated that the bins would cost £200 plus £100 for installation. It was suggested that bins could be sponsored. The Clerk was still awaiting a response from TDC to a further request for support, particularly in relation to the requested bin between Coneybury and St Catherine's Cross. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED THAT the number of bins present would be identified and that additional bins would then be discussed again. The damaged bin surround at the Church would also be discussed at a later stage.

KW

Village Gateways – Councillor Martin produced original documentation relating to the request for the new gateways.

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Clerk would use these to continue to pursue the original request for new gateways.

KW

Bus Shelter – one quote had been received so far and the insurance company and police notified of the claim and damage. The Clerk would investigate the state of wood left over from the last bus shelter as to whether this could be used to keep repair costs down. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED THAT further investigations would be made and quotes obtained for blocking in the glass section on the Redhill side and replacing the other side with a smaller panel of glass.

KW

The remainder of the Clerks report and Action Points were duly noted.

169/07 CURRENT PLANNING ISSUES

The minutes of the first Planning Committee meeting held on 26 November 2007 were approved and signed by the Chairman. Councillor Martin reported that due to the Christmas and New Year holiday period, there would be no December Planning Committee meeting and that the next was scheduled for 28 January 2008.

TA/2006/1788/D3 – Details of restoration and aftercare schemes submitted pursuant to conditions 32 and 33 of Planning Permission Ref. TA/2006/1788 for the construction of a hydrocarbon testing facility for up to 3 years of operation (County Determination) – Kings Farm, Tilburstow Hill Road, South Godstone. This application is on the internet for viewing.

RESOLVED: No comment

TA/2007/1917 – Demolition of Sunroom and Garage. Erection of infill extension to rear elevation and detached double garage – Brownhill Cottage, Outwood Lane, Outwood.

RESOLVED: No comment

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P Cock left the meeting.

TA/2007/1634 – Demolition of detached garage and part demolition of single storey rear extension. Erection of single storey side extension and detached double garage – Stable Cottage, Springbottom Lane, Bletchingley. Papers for this application had only just been received.

RESOLVED: No comment.

Below is a list of delegated action taken by TDC in relation to planning applications.

TA/2007/1521 – The Old Dairy, Brewer Street, Bletchingley – Approved

TA/2007/1436 – Jct of Mitcheners Lane / Outwood Lane, Bletchingley – Approved

The Redhill Redstone Rotary Club will be doing House to House collections in Bletchingley and Nutfield on 17 December 2007.

170/07 REPORTS FROM AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

1. **Neighbourhood Watch:** Mr Tunstall reported that he would be retiring as Chairman of Neighbourhood Watch at the AGM on 8 January 2008. There was no replacement Chair, but it was believed that the 3 strong co-ordinators would maintain Neighbourhood Watch. Mr Tunstall proceeded to give his views on the crime in the village. He stated that whilst the police did what they could to “cure” the crime with the evidence they had, more effort was needed to try to prevent the crime in the first place. He thought that this was the responsibility of the residents rather than the police. Mr Tunstall’s efforts in this area, were thought by some not to be in the remit of Neighbourhood Watch. Following several meetings with a cross section of residents, including problem families, Mr Tunstall had managed to get the I-Bus to attend every week except during holidays, and the Connexions bus. He felt that a thriving community resulted in a better standard of health and productivity and reduced levels of crime and fear. One idea to revive the sense of community involvement, particularly in Coneybury, was to move the play area to the central green. This had met with objections from most of the residents surrounding the green. As an alternative, installing some picnic tables and benches was suggested. This met with approval from the Council. A suggestion was made to involve the Education Committee and arrange events such as coffee mornings for mums with children. The youth shelter idea was again raised and the Clerk suggested that the area between St Catherine’s school and the recycling area would be a suitable location, away from residential property, yet, with some work, visible from the main road and not isolated.

D Turner gave her views, stating that the police were very visible and being proactive with the surgeries and panel meetings. The I-bus, which attended Coneybury on Tuesdays between 4 and 5pm was well attended. She also suggested that a noticeboard near the Coneybury Shops would provide a good information point.

The Chairman thanked Mr Tunstall for his work as Chairman of Neighbourhood Watch. A discussion then followed in relation to the holding of an open forum at St Catherine’s school to discuss the idea of the relocation of the play area. It was also suggested that the Rector be involved in the discussions.

IT WAS AGREED THAT (i) the school and the Rector be approached about the

RT
KW

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idea and (ii) that school be asked for their views on the suggested sighting of the youth shelter and that the owner of the sight in question be confirmed.

2. **Footpaths and Bridleways:** Nothing to report.

3. **Transport:** The clerk read a brief note from Councillor Munday in his absence stating that the LORDS meeting was well attended and that SCC Highways were aware of the volume of traffic on the A25. The noting of problem roads that could benefit from restrictions was discussed. Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT Councillors Trotman and Munday would meet to identify the roads and mark the same on a map for submission back to LORDS.

4. **Speedwatch:** Councillor Martin confirmed that a temporary gun had been provided to Mr Martin and that members of the Speedwatch team planned to go out in the near future.

5. **Cemetery:** Councillor Tatnell reported that she had not yet removed the memorial for the German Airmen.

6. **Minerals:** Star Energy – Work was progressing as planned. Only one borehole is planned for the first assessment of gas extraction potential and a new very small quiet Italian drilling rig will be arriving in the new year. The Albury planning permission had been refused and no appeal would be made.

Tarmac – A visit was made to SCC to inspect the files on WBB and Tarmac. The Enforcement Officers' papers relating to the monitoring of the site were all missing. These have been requested. The application has been delayed due to a procedural error as the plan should have been referred to GOSE as it is a departure from the Development Plan for this area, being Green Belt. The next consultation will now be the 23rd January 2008. Following advice from Brian Wood, local developer and approval from the Parish Council, a letter was sent to Brendan O'Keeffe of GOSE asking for the plan to be called in. The reply stated that if SCC decided to permit the plan, then it would be referred to the Secretary of State. The views of the Parish Council would be taken into consideration. QOG are currently pursuing the issues of dust and risk of aquifer contamination. 3 new drawings have been submitted relating to the water table, with the nearest borehole site located at Brewer Street, Place Farm (just north of the M25). DC Beaton is to meet with Robert Muir, Tandridge's Senior Environmental Officer to ask for more information on how he has qualified and quantified the emissions for the WBB and Tarmac applications.

WBB – The retrospective planning application has now been received by SCC. It is thought that this will be discussed at the WBB liaison meeting due to take place on Tuesday at 6.30pm at the Godstone Village Club. The Chairman would check if he was able to attend. Councillor Butler stated that she would be meeting with Gary Stringer of WBB on Wednesday morning. There is concern about the level of silt in the water pumping from the quarry into the balancing lagoons. This is causing more of a change in the lagoon contour than anticipated. Councillor Trotman reported that one of the policies saved by TDC was that of the Areas of Great Landscape Value.

7. **Village Hall/Community Centre:** The Boiler in the Community Centre had been repaired. There were now two more rentals. Quotes had been received for the redecoration of the Community Centre and it was hoped that this work would start in January.

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NM

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8. **Recreation/Sports Association:** The Clerk confirmed that she had received two verbal quotes for the installation of the picnic table and that both were for under £200. Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT CHIPS Engineering would be asked to undertake the work.

KW

In relation to the Sports Association, Councillor Trotman reported that the cricket pitch would be let out to visiting teams. The 2nd Football team now consisted of a majority of Bletchingley players. There was some interest in cricket at the school.

9. **Allotments:** The Clerk confirmed that a response had been received from the tenant of Plot 17 stating that work would be undertaken. An answer had not been received from the tenant of plots 1 and 2. Some work had been undertaken to clear the overgrown stretch of hedge and tree, but further tree clearance was still required. It was noted that some tenants held two plots. Following a discussion

IT WAS AGREED THAT the clerk would write letters to the tenants holding two plots giving them notice that due to the size of the waiting list, from renewal, it would no longer be possible to hold two plots, and (ii) a chaser letter would be sent to the tenant of plots 1 and 2 requesting a response by return.

KW

10. **Street Lighting:** No 2 Church Lane is still on all day. The lamp column situated at the bottom of Barfields on the footpath that links Barfields (by the flats at the bottom) to Little Common Lane (by William IV) is out.

IT WAS AGREED THAT these would be reported to SCC.

KW

11. **CCTV:** Nothing new to report and no more news from the police re their CCTV proposal. The latest power surge had resulted in Metal Mickey needing resetting.

12. **Website:** Nothing new to report.

D Turner left the meeting.

171/07 FINANCE

The following December payments were sanctioned and cheques and stubs signed.

000411	Bletchingley Village Hall	12.00
000412	Mrs K Wantling	596.16
000413	HM Revenue & Customs	44.54
000414	Tandridge Voluntary Service Council	100.00
000415	Sussex Associations of Local Councils	35.25
000416	The Society of Local Council Clerks	15.35
000417	DA Landscaping & Garden Maintenance	472.00
000418	The Society of Local Council Clerks	<u>102.00</u>
		<u>£1377.30</u>

Internal Auditor's Report: 3. Stychens Lane Playing Field – The Parish Council are only in possession of a composite agreement. The original had been mislaid after registration at the Land Registry. The existing Deed ends in 2009 when it will be reviewed. The Parish Council hold the freehold subject to fulfilling the covenants. If the covenants are broken, ownership could be revoked by the owners of Five Ways.

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1. Fidelity Guarantee – Following a discussion,

KW

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Clerk would enquire as to the premium for increasing the fidelity guarantee cover to £30k and report back at the next meeting for a final decision.

2. Asset Register – the clerk would amend the asset values to a nominal amount of £1.

KW

4. The Clerk confirmed that she was in possession of the Local Councils' Guidance & Accountability Guidance but that this was currently under review with new material coming out in 2008.

172/07 FOOTPATH 506

The Chairman read out the wording to be included in the next Parish Magazine issue. The latest Defence Statements cited that Mr Herrtage's family name and address had been put in the public domain by the Parish Council. The lawyers have confirmed that there are no grounds to his Defence Statements and are currently producing a counterclaim. In relation to the latest correspondence from the ICO relating to the Freedom of Information complaints, the Chairman had obtained an apology from the head of the unit for the incorrect production of 2 claims for the same item. The Chairman also confirmed that the information being requested is confidential, although Bletchingley Parish Council have chosen to produce some of the information. The remainder is being withheld as it is privileged information. A copy of the letter Mr Herrtage sent to the insurers has been forwarded to the ICO to confirm that Mr Herrtage is in possession of the information being requested.

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, additional information be discussed "In Committee".

Mr Birt left the meeting.

173/07 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Open Spaces Society – to consider a request for funding – Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT no additional funding to the annual membership fee be provided at this stage.

KW

Surrey Council for Voluntary Youth Services – Letter updating on the new services being offered to support the work of voluntary youth organisations across Surrey including leaflet. Following a discussion

IT WAS AGREED THAT this information would be passed on to Mr Bolitho in the first instance.

KW

TDC – Planning & Environment Committee – 12/12/07 – Core Strategy – Revised Submission Draft (DP). Following a discussion

IT WAS AGREED THAT this information be passed to Councillor Martin to review.

KW

SCAPTC and SALC Autumn Bulletin – Councillor Trotman enquired as to why

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SCAPTC did not plan any meetings with the police for Surrey. Following a discussion

IT WAS AGREED THAT Councillor Trotman would draft a letter for the Clerk to forward to SCAPTC.

RT/
KW

174/07 MATTERS FOR REPORTING OR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDA

The Clerk confirmed that TDC had received no requests for an election to fill the vacancy and that the Parish Council could therefore proceed to co-option to fill the vacancy. A response was awaited from one resident and another resident was suggested and would be approached. This would be placed on the January agenda.

175/07 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Full Parish Council –14 January 2008

Planning Committee – 28 January 2008

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.40pm