

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

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE
COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 30 APRIL 2008**

P R E S E N T

Councillor R. Gater – Chairman

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

In attendance: Clerk - K. Wantling, District Councillors T Elias and G Black and 13 Residents

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Rvd Peter Moseling.

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the District Councillors and residents present.

2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23rd April 2007 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3 BLETCHINGLEY UNITED CHARITIES

D Martin presented the Accounts of the Bletchingley United Charities for the year ended 30 September 2007, which showed a final balance of £3772.96. He confirmed that the organisation was now more publicised, through a talk, an article in the Parish Magazine and a page on the Bletchingley website. He then gave a short overview of the makeup of the Trustees and listed the 4 charities involved. He stated that the object of the charity is the relief, either generally or individually of persons resident in the parish of Bletchingley who are in conditions of need and hardship or stress. These include single parents, elderly and those who have lost a partner through bereavement. The Trustees apply the income of the charities for that purpose by making grants of money or providing or paying for items or services. They do not apply any part of the income directly in relief of rates, taxes or other public funds. Some examples of purchases include kitchen appliances, carpets and Christmas vouchers. Bletchingley is historically considered the poorest parish in Surrey. D Martin confirmed that at present the organisation does not have to apply to the Smith's Charity for funds but does have to justify its expenditure every year. It was noted that Furnistore, whose main premises are in Horley, will collect or receive unwanted items of furniture which are still in good condition. These can then be purchased for a nominal fee from them by anyone on production of a benefits notice. Electrical appliances are sometimes accepted but these need to be checked that they are in good working order before then can be passed on. They are always looking for volunteers.

4 VILLAGE HALL (BLETCHINGLEY) TRUST

Councillor Trotman, Chairman of the Trustees of the Village Hall Trust, presented the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2007, which once again showed a healthy balance being carried into the year 2007. These accounts go to the Charities Commission for vetting. Councillor Trotman explained that the Trust is a Land and Building Owning Trust administered by the Village Hall Management Committee. The Village Hall is leased to Bletchingley Parish Council on a 35 year full repairing lease. There is a good rental income

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from the properties, all of which are currently let. The rental income is used to raise monies for the long term rebuilding fund. The Trustees are responsible for managing the Community Centre. Councillor Trotman gave a brief explanation of the makeup of the Trustees of the Village Hall (Bletchingley) Trust. The current balance is £89,236.93. Income is from property rental and investments. Expenditure this year was mainly due to replacing the central heating and hot water system in the Community Centre and renewing the big window in the Blue Room. The Community Centre Income relates to rents and charges, and expenditure is mainly due to general running costs normally incurred with a building, eg rates, water, electric etc.

5 BAGAGED

Mr Bolitho passed on apologies for Mr Napper and thanked the Council for allowing BAGaged to make their accounts public. Copies of the approved accounts for the year ended 31 March 2008 were available. The skate ramp extension has now been completed to include sections for the younger generation and the whole of the surface area replaced. The tarmac surface would be replaced in due course by TDC. It is currently being very well utilised by all ages. After all expenditures, there was a balance of £2802.07. Future expenditure was anticipated on goal posts and bicycle racks.

The Chairman congratulated BAGaged on their work and continued enthusiasm for engaging the youth of the village. TDC were thanked for their continued support with this facility. It was confirmed that the insurance of the skate park was covered by TDC as it was on their land.

The accounts were audited and correct.

6 REPORT FROM BLETCHINGLEY IN BLOOM

Mrs Cock gave a brief history about the set up of Bletchingley in Bloom and its progress to date. The idea had been to improve the village and try to bring communities together. The efforts last year had been rewarded, not only with a visual improvement in the village and a bringing together of the community but in a Silver Gilt Award and several individual awards of merit. This year we needed to work harder to maintain that standard. Mrs Cock expressed her thanks to TDC and SCC and the Parish Council for all their support and funding. The team had arranged their own fundraising events, which had been successful. The first for this year was the scheduled plant sale on the 10th May outside the Whyte Harte.

Judging was scheduled for the 1st July this year and Bletchingley would be judged on its flowers, environment, bio-diversity and public awareness. To this end, a Heritage Tree Survey had been undertaken and a talk done at St Catherine's School with a planted copse on the grounds. This year the planted daffodils throughout the village had been very well received and more would be planted to fill in the gaps. There had been 13 entries for the village sign competition and 10% of the village had voted. The winning entry was that designed by Rvd Peter Moseling. Projects this year included work at the Skills Centre in developing a Sensory Garden with the help of children from Hawthorns school and the first phase of planting at Stychens Close and litter picking mornings. This year the allotments would be included in the judges' tour. Mrs Cock thanked all the volunteers for their help and dedication.

Mrs Cock and her team were thanked for their work and were particularly commended on the lovely daffodil displays in the spring.

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7 REPORT FROM WHITEHILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Chairman presented the report on behalf of the Whitehill Residents' Association, which represents over 30 properties and is always proactive with local issues affecting Whitehill. This association was originally established in the 1960's to maintain Hextalls Lane initially and then was later extended to include the Conduit and Whitehill Lane. Flytipping remained a constant problem, although TDC continued to try to remove reported flytipping in a timely manner. Neighbourhood Watch was now in its 2nd year. The Association were unanimous in their opposition to the WBB/Tarmac applications.

The resurfacing of the remaining 2 lanes on the anti-clockwise section of the motorway has been approved and is currently in the schedule for resurfacing.

8 REPORT FROM SPORTS ASSOCIATION

Councillor Trotman reported on behalf of the Sports Association, which is formed of the sports clubs that use Grange Meadow. TDC own the land under a trust. The turnover of approximately £5000 is due mainly to rent and rates. Football is doing very well with 2 Saturday sides and 1 Sunday side. They would like to have access to a second field but the one above St Catherine's School has drainage problems and the goal posts need to be redesigned to conform with new safety regulations. The Pavillion is now doing very well and is a very active social centre. Other clubs involved in the Sports Association are the Bowls Club, Rifle Club and a new Model Car Racing Club.

The Cricket Club has folded due to numbers being too low and as a result not being able to meet the expenses. The cricket square has been redone and will be maintained by a local resident. It is hoped that visiting teams will utilise the green and that new players can be found to form a new team.

The Sports Association only has a liaison relationship with the Skate Park.

9 REPORT FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH/POLICE LIAISON

Councillor Bridger reported on Neighbourhood Watch ("NW") and Police Liaison. The NW AGM in January 2008 had been well attended by the police and some 70 residents. Regrettably the Chairman Mr Tunstall had retired. It was however agreed that the NW should continue and that Area and Street Co-ordinators continue to maintain a good communication link. Thanks were expressed to both Area and Street Co-ordinators for their continued efforts. The bi monthly Police Panel meetings and monthly Police surgeries are now up and running and it is hoped that these will continue to be supported. The countryside alert newsletters produced by PC Shrapel are forwarded to Area Co-ordinators and are generally provided on the website as well as on the notice boards. PC Shrapel has revived the Pub Watch Scheme and meetings with Pubs are planned/have taken place. PC Shrapel and PCSO Sheppard have been very active in the village and residents have felt more assured by their presence. The Parish Council is updated each month on reported crimes. The Christmas and New Year period, as well as Halloween were relatively quiet times. PC Shrapel and a colleague helped with stopping the traffic for the Remembrance Sunday Service parade and a 2 minute silence. Their help was gratefully appreciated.

Two matters of concern are a possible police authority budget cut, which could result in having to reduce police presence in towns and villages and the suggestion that many incidents reported could relate to outsiders causing the crime.

PC Shrapel and PCSO Sheppard were thanked for their efforts and support. Residents are asked to continue to be vigilant and report crimes or irregularities and be particularly careful

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about leaving valuables visible in cars.

10.1 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman thanked all Members of the Bletchingley Parish Council for their continued dedicated and talented work and support over the past year. The Chairman also thanked the clerk for her work over the past year. Accounts have now been computerised for two years and are now available on the website demonstrating total transparency. The Chairman also thanked County Councillor Myland and District Councillors Elias and Black for their support over the past year.

Bletchingley in Bloom, steered by Pamela Cock deservedly celebrated a Silver Gilt award last year and the Parish Council is delighted to continue to support Bletchingley in Bloom for the 2008 South East in Bloom entry. The team were congratulated for all their efforts.

Planning errors for WBB at North Park Quarry, together with the Tarmac application are still of major concern to the Council. Bletchingley Parish Council remains totally committed to fighting against the applications, with the help of The Quarry Observation Group ("QOG") who remain a force to be reckoned with. Bletchingley Parish Council are dismayed and concerned over the past actions of Surrey County Council's Planning Committee and the past and current misrepresentations of the facts by their Executive Planning Officer. We await the outcome of the second Planning Committee on the 28th May 2008.

The Chairman thanked the Village Hall Management Committee for their hard work in looking after one of the best assets of the village.

Police liaison is high with a very professional and dedicated team in PC Shrapel and PCSO Sheppard. Thanks also go to the District Inspector for Tandridge, Inspector Elaine Burtenshaw who has endeavoured to make her district the best. The recent acquisition of a high tech CCTV camera for Bletchingley is confirmation of this commitment.

The legal action of Herrtage –v- Bletchingley Parish Council/Surrey County Council remains ongoing as Mr Herrtage has failed to pay the costs awarded by the County Court. We have been informed that Surrey County Council have settled out of court with Mr Herrtage, although we are not privy to details. The next hearing at Guildford County Court is on May 15 and 16 2008. Through legal Counsel, we will be pursuing an enforcement action for an order for the sale of 100 High Street as Mr Herrtage has failed to pay the outstanding costs awarded by the Court. Interest is accruing on a daily basis until the costs awarded are paid in full. Mr Herrtage's actions have left Bletchingley Parish Council with no alternative other than to pursue this case to its conclusion.

The Chairman paid tribute to Hugh Lane Davies, a resident for over 40 years and a well known artist in watercolours, who passed away last year. His artwork of Bletchingley is a fitting legacy to a respected local resident who loved Bletchingley.

10.2 FINANCE

Councillor Bridger presented the Bletchingley Parish Council Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2008. These accounts are now computerised. The Clerk was thanked for her continued dedication to maintaining accurate accounts. The precept last year was increased by £1,500 due to a number of increased costs. However, at the budget meeting in November 2007 the precept was set at the same level for 08/09.

Councillor Bridger highlighted expenses incurred during the year, which may be of interest: upgrading of the Stychens Lane Playground equipment, including installation of a new picnic table to replace a vandalised bench; contributions towards Bletchingley in Bloom for various

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projects, including clearance of vegetation behind the White Post Bus Stop; Website revamping costs to provide a more informative site for the village residents; contribution of £500 towards the redecoration of the village hall. The remainder of the expenses were due to usual expenses incurred with the upkeep of the cemetery, CCTV systems and various groundwork maintenance projects done on a regular basis. The Parish Council are grateful to DA Landscaping for the continued high standard of maintenance at the Cemetery.

There was an increase in income from the cemetery due to an increased number of memorial works and a purchased grave. Income from the website had increased due to more advertising. The Parish Council received £150 incentive fee from the Inland Revenue for the Clerk completing the Employer Annual Return online. The Council assisted the Village Fair by providing a Hog Roast, which had provided an income of £296 before deducting costs.

Donations were given to Oxted Citizens Advice Bureau and Tandridge Voluntary Service Council.

The Clerk completed her “Working With Your Council” course and her salary was adjusted accordingly. A breakdown of General Administration fees was provided and earmarked funds contained within the total reserves were detailed.

These are final, subject to audit, with no foreseen material changes to be made. These accounts, together with the relevant notes will be produced for the Internal and External Auditors. The accounts will then be open to the public to view. The Clerk will post the dates that the public can view the accounts on the Parish Notice Board. The accounts are produced on a receipts and payments basis.

A question was raised relating to the Notes to the Accounts. The clerk confirmed that the figures used for the assets were those used by the insurance company for replacement values.

10.3 ALLOTMENTS

Councillor Moore presented the Allotment Accounts, which showed a deficit of £644.69, down from last year. There are 23 allotments that are let out to residents at an annual rent of £15 per annum and £13.50 for persons in receipt of retirement pension or unemployment benefit. Rates were increased last year after being retained at the previous rate for some 4 years. The allotments are generally well maintained and there is usually a waiting list. Following renewal at the end of March, there is still one on the list and 1 for 2009. The Council will be holding the Best Kept Allotment competition again this year and letters have been sent out. It is hoped that this year the allotments will be included in the Bletchingley in Bloom entry.

10.4 PLANNING

Councillor Martin reported on the Planning activities over the past year. This is always the most popular section of any of the meetings. Bletchingley Parish Council has a statutory right to be consulted on all planning applications. As a statutory body, the Parish Council has to base any objections on valid planning objections. The planning process exists not to stop any new developments, but to try to ensure that any developments are in keeping with the local area and enhance the village. A Planning Committee has now been set up to ensure that planning applications are dealt with twice a month to ensure comments are returned to TDC within the 14 day deadlines. The recent “Wish List” for developments has been publicised by TDC. Bletchingley Parish Council will be objecting to the Redhill development on the basis that the approach roads are not suitable for the increase in traffic. Councillor Martin expressed thanks on behalf of Bletchingley Parish Council to Howard Cundey and their staff for their continued service in making plans available to the public for viewing. This is done

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free of charge. All plans can also be viewed directly through the Tandridge Online Planning Facility.

10.5 FOOTPATHS & BRIDLEWAYS

Councillor Trotman made available the 2 footpath maps detailing all routes and a map showing the boundary of Bletchingley Parish. Footpaths continue to be maintained by Surrey County Council (“SCC”) and in the case of rural footpaths, by the adjoining landowner. Any problems are reported by the Clerk to SCC. Residents are urged to report any problems relating to footpaths to the Clerk. SCC try to cut all footpaths at least once each year in rural areas. The WBB restoration plans show the introduction of a new public footpath. Enquiries were made as to whether footpaths could be walked in conjunction with “Beating of the Bounds”. Any comments should be forwarded to Councillor Butler on this point.

10.6 TRANSPORT / ROADS

Councillor Munday thanked fellow Councillors and the Clerk for their support in his first year. Recent meetings attended have included proposed developments of Redhill aerodrome and Gatwick Airport and LORDS (Lorries on Rural Detour). LORDS is making progress at county level with SCC taking notice of information presented to it in chamber. A form is now available on the website which can be used to record lorry nuisance movements within the village.

The Community Speedwatch programme was initiated last May. A team of volunteers were trained to use the equipment. More volunteers are welcome and training will be given. There are several speedwatch sights in Bletchingley, which have been approved by Surrey Police. The site attended at any one time is picked randomly. The presence of the yellow tabard jackets does slow drivers down. The speed gun can monitor at long distance and in both directions, both from and to the detector. The speedwatch members are periodically supported by uniformed police who can hand out on the spot fines.

Councillor Munday also noted that he acted as liaison between the Parish Council and the Bletchingley Village Fair Committee.

10.7 CEMETERY

Councillor Tatnell presented the Accounts for the Cemetery. Income had increased mainly due to there being more memorial work and a purchased grave. The resultant deficit of £4071 was smaller than that of the previous year. Expenditure was down, mainly due to a reduction in length of the maintenance schedule to 9 months. This has however been restored to 12 months.

Looking to the future, several options are being investigated to find more spaces. Councillor Tatnell gave a brief update on the recent article in the Parish magazine relating to the wooden cross belonging to 2 German pilots. The cross is now located at the East Surrey Museum as the remains were removed some time back to the Cannock Chase war graves cemetery.

10.8 MINERALS / ENVIRONMENT / TREE WARDENS

Minerals has been a very busy year with North Park Farm Quarry at the forefront. Thanks were expressed to Quarry Observation Group (QOG) for their dedication to helping the community fight not only to conserve the Green Belt but to resist the incursion of industrial developments into designated areas of the countryside. Many shortcomings of the County Planning Authority (CPA) have been highlighted and this is currently being examined by the Ombudsman for maladministration of the developments at North Park Farm.

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Tarmac: An open public meeting with QOG was arranged on March 20th in the Village Hall to discuss the Tarmac application. This was well attended. The history behind the original planning decision and subsequent decision that the application should be reheard on 28th May was provided. Negotiations have been taking place with the MD of WBB Minerals (WWBM) and the Vice President of WBB's parent company, Sibelco.

WBBM: The retrospective application by WBBM to retain the as-built processing building and works was finally submitted despite an extensive number of breaches. This is also due to be submitted before the planning committee on 28th May. Members of the WBBM liaison groups representing BPC, GPC, GVA, QOG and District and County Councillors have all resigned in protest at the actions of WBBM and would not be attending the liaison meetings on 29th and 30th April.

Star Energy: Despite objections, permission was granted to Star Energy to drill up to 3 appraisal wells in the Bletchingley Gas Field in the Greenbelt fields of Kings Farm on Tilburstow Hill Lane, Godstone. Should sufficient gas be found, it is intended to pipe to the National Gas Grid, 10km away at Tatsfield. A second well will soon be drilled and planning permission has been sought to extend the time for the "temporary appraisal development". Another application is being submitted for a site at Albury.

Surrey Minerals Local Plan: The new draft plan has been published and the consultation period begun with a deadline for comments of 6th June. SCC are concentrating on silica sand, aggregate facilities, oil and gas production and clay for brick works. Of the three sites identified, namely (i) Pendell, a continuation of North Park Quarry; (ii) Chilmead Farm in Cormongers Road; and (iii) Betchworth, the first at Pendell road is favoured due to the existing processing plant and the fact that no new haulage route would need to be constructed. The Parish Council will shortly be contributing their comments to the Plan online.

Waste Disposal: Notice has just been received that plans are being made by SITA for a Waste-to-Energy Facility (or incinerator) for household waste at Trumps Farm, Longcross. A public examination held earlier in the month will be followed by submission of the completed application.

10.9 RECREATION / VILLAGE AMENITIES

Councillor Moore reported on Stychens Lane playground, which is maintained by the Parish Council. The playground is inspected on a monthly basis by Councillor Moore and is currently in good order. Expenditure over the last year of £1768 has been necessary to ensure equipment is compliant with Health and Safety Standards and also to replace a vandalised seat with a new picnic table. Tandridge DC currently ensure that the annual ROSPA safety inspection is undertaken.

10.10 BLETCHINGLEY VILLAGE WEBSITE

The Clerk gave a brief update on the new website which was completed in May 2007. It is now more informative and user friendly. As all amendments are done by the clerk, future expenses are limited to renewal of the annual hosting fee, domain name and economail service. 3 new sections have recently been added to the Parish Council section. These are: Financial documents – to include the accounts; Chairman's Report and Other documents – to include documents like complaints procedure, code of conduct, allotment tenancy, burial regulations, LORDS document and in the future to include the standing orders.

The News and Diary pages are updated when information is received. Please let the Clerk know of any village events or newsworthy items that you would like to go on the website.

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Over the last year the site has received 6679 new visits from around the world, including USA, Australia, Ireland, Canada and others. Google statistics can be used to identify the keywords used in searching the site and in the last few months, “Bletchingley Village Hall” has been included in the top 5 searches.

Expenditure this year of £1374.99 was up due to the redesign. Income from advertising of £450 was also up from last year. As future expenditure is expected to be minimal, it is hoped that within a few years, the website will be self-supporting, if not a source of income.

10.11 CCTV

The Chairman reported on the progress with the proposed sighting of a new metal mickey camera to be situated at the Coneybury Playground. The site had been ratified by the Surrey Police, TDC, SCC and BPC. The actual camera has been purchased by Surrey Police. Infrastructure details still need to be confirmed. The camera will be able to monitor the shopping parade, the school, the high street and other areas in between. The camera is compatible with our existing system. Access to the cameras will be done remotely. The camera will be controlled by either the Caterham or Oxted branch. It is thought that this will give effective extra policing without extra costs. The Parish Council may be asked to contribute towards the system. The Chairman expressed his thanks to Inspector Elaine Burtenshaw for her dedication in pushing this venture forward.

11 ANY OTHER PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS

The Chairman asked if there were any other questions. Nigel Price thanked all the Parish Council for their commitment to the Village. Councillor Trotman thanked the Chairman on behalf of the Parish Council for his continued dedication to the work of the Parish Council.

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 9.15 pm.

Signed Date

Chairman