

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

**BLETCHINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE
COMMITTEE ROOMS ON MONDAY 12 JULY 2010**

P R E S E N T

Councillor R. Gater – Chairman

Councillors: K Bridger, A Butler, PA Glenn, D Martin, J Moore, N Munday, SA Ray and R
Trotman

In attendance: Clerk - K. Wantling, Mr Birt, Mrs P Cock, Mr G Pearson, PC Shrapel, PC Dewitt
and PCSO Wells.

98/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received and accepted from County Councillor Elias and District Councillors Black and Myland.

99/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Trotman declared a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to agenda item 15.3 on the grounds that he was a Trustee of the Alms House Trust.

100/10 MINUTES

The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 14 June 2010 were approved and signed by the Chairman. The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 28 June 2010 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

101/10 RESIDENTS' REQUESTS

Hedge at Stewards House – This was in need of cutting as it was overhanging the footpath. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED THAT Councillor Martin would arrange for the hedge to be cut. DM

Old Allotment Field - Ragwort – The Clerk reported that she had received a complaint about the ragwort in the Old Allotment Field. This was the responsibility of the tenant who had been contacted and had confirmed that they would be undertaking a ragwort pulling session in the next few weeks. This would also be done at the Whitepost Field.

Salt/Gritting complaint – the Clerk updated on an e-mail received complaining about the service provided over the last winter re the salt/gritting procedures, particularly in relation to the rural sub roads such as Outwood Lane. A response on the current situation had been obtained from CC Elias which confirmed that in the present financial climate there was unlikely to be any change to the number of priority roads to be salted this winter and Outwood Lane was not one marked as a Priority 1 or 2 road. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Clerk would (i) look into the cost of providing a salt bin, to be located near the entrance to “Sandhills” in Outwood Lane and (ii) look further into the possibility of bulk storage of salt/grit within the Parish. KW
KW

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Potholes in Little Common Lane, Big Common Lane and Pendell – Councillor Moore provided a rough sketch to the Clerk showing the location of potholes that needed to be reported. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Clerk would report these.

KW

Pavement – Church Lane – A complaint was made by a local resident about the state of the pavement in Church Lane near the A25. The uneven surface of this section of path made its use very hazardous, particularly by those with prams etc. It was hoped that the presence of red dots at certain points meant that repairs were on the schedule.

102/10 REPORT FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Nothing new to report.

103/10 POLICING ISSUES

The Chairman welcomed the police to the meeting. PC Shrapel introduced PC Avi Dewitt who would be working in Bletchingley for the next 5 weeks and was one of his replacement candidates. A decision as to his replacement had yet to be confirmed. His retirement date was scheduled for the 28th July.

PC Shrapel read from his report, which consisted of 14 crimes between the period 14/06/10 and 17/07/10. It was thought that 10 out of the 14 were as a result of catapult incidents. The other 4 related to attempted burglary at the Bletchingley Golf Club, an assault in Kenrick Square, scratch damage to a vehicle and an arrest following an arson attack at a property in Brakey Hill.

PC Shrapel thanked the Parish Council for their support during his term of service. He commented on the fact that he felt Bletchingley residents supported and got involved in local policing, particularly the Neighbourhood Watch. He thanked all residents and Neighbourhood Watch members for their support. The Chairman thanked PC Shrapel for his presentation on the street and for improving communication links between the police and the Parish Council and local residents. It was acknowledged that this was still being maintained by PCSO Wells. The regular police presence was acknowledged as being the best deterrent to crime.

Councillor Bridger enquired as to any update on the progress of police cameras. PC Shrapel confirmed that whilst the cameras were available, he was making a presentation case for the need for the cameras in Bletchingley, particularly by the Bowls Club and Sports Pavillion as there were cost implications, particularly in relation to the installation. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Chairman would speak to Inspector Burtenshaw confirming again that the Parish Council were willing to help financially support the provision of the cameras.

RG

PC Shrapel and Dewitt and PCSO Wells left the meeting.

104/10 BLETCHINGLEY IN BLOOM

Mrs Cock thanked all councillors for their presence on the day and for the free use of the Community Centre for meetings and the use of the Village Hall for judging day. The Chairman had spoken to the judges about the new allotments and the

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progress of Hevers Pond. The judges had been very interested in all aspects of the village and the tour had been difficult to fit in with the time constraint of 1.5 hours. New areas had been introduced into the tour, including Town Mead and Castle Square. It was believed that more residents had done their part to make their areas look good for judging day. The results would not be known until judging day on the 10th September at Gillingham. As yet, there was no one available to attend. The judges had indicated that Bletchingley could receive a similar or better award to that of last year. The display was excellent and thanks were given to Anthony Cock for his part in the administration to make the display what it was.

The future of Bletchingley in Bloom is unclear but it was felt that residents are beginning to pull together and take pride in their village. The next meeting in September after the ceremony will decide the fate of the group.

Mrs Cock thanked the Parish Council for their perseverance in getting Hevers Pond to where it is now and hoped that whilst earlier interested members may have pulled back, that interest could be rekindled, particularly with SARG and Surrey Wildlife.

Thanks were given to all involved with making Bletchingley in Bloom a success and this included Surrey County Council and Tandridge District Council, particularly with their support for arranging for the collection of the cleared vegetation and rubbish after each work party and for the street cleaning.

The Chairman thanked Pamela Cock and stated that Bletchingley in Bloom had indeed been an asset to the village.

105/10 HEVERS POND

A response had been received from RH&RW Cluttons with amendments which had taken into account some of our points. A request was made to remove all references to life saving equipment and the need to put up a sign stating no swimming and details of the charges referred to. The subsequent draft had all references to life saving equipment removed. The reference to “no swimming” could be incorporated into the Information Board to be erected. There were currently no known charges. Councillor Martin reported that during the world war, there had been an incident of a young child swimming in the pond getting into difficulty and having to be rescued by a wounded soldier. Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would reply back to RH&RW Cluttons requesting final copies of the Licence to Occupy for signature by the Clerk.

KW

The Parish Council and Pamela Cock commented on the success of finally getting this agreement in place. Pamela Cock would, once the document was signed, write to SARG to inform them of the progress.

106/10 PARISH PLAN

The stall at the Village Fair had been a great success with all ages putting their views on the map of the village. The responses received represented a large proportion of the village. The results were still being pulled together and would be produced in a report for circulation in due course. Some of the ideas presented reinforced those already under consideration, such as affordable housing and the

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crossing at Grange Meadow. Another that came up more than once was the need for a cash point. A large number of those attending the stall wished to be updated on progress and some were willing to join the committee.

107/10 LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE – IMPLICATIONS FOR PARISH COUNCILS

An e-mail had been received from SCAPTC informing Parish Councils of the spending reductions in local authorities and how this was likely to affect services delivered in parishes. SCC had acknowledged that substantial funds had been cut from their budget. Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT until the Parish Council had full details of what services were likely to be cut, no decision could be made as to how best to consult the local community for their views as to which projects they might like the Parish Council to take on board. This would obviously have the effect of increasing the precept if any proposals were made. As elections were being held next year, this could be another way of putting forward proposals to the public for consideration.

All

IT WAS ALSO RESOLVED THAT the Clerk should seek from SCC Highways drawing specifications for the crossing at Grange Meadow so as to assess the likely costs involved and decide on the best way to progress this as SCC had confirmed there were no funds available at present to complete this project.

KW

108/10 MATTERS AND ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM MINUTES

The Clerk's report was noted and there were no changes to the outstanding Action Points.

Whitepost Field has now been correctly registered with the Land Registry. The Hog Roast was well received and after takings were taken into account, the final cost for this provision was £311. The high path fence has been repaired. The Oak at Boterys Cross has had the ivy cut away from the main trunk. Tandridge District Council paid for the Lime Trees at St Catherines Cross to have their crowns lifted. The Youth Club has its grand opening on the evening of the 22nd July. The allotments are now all occupied and paid for.

A query was raised as to whether it was appropriate to put up horticultural notices on the allotment gates. The Parish Council agreed that this could be done subject to prior approval from the Parish Council. Allotment holders were still requesting sheds taller than 4ft to enable them to stand items up in them, or the possibility of a communal shed. The Parish Council stated that if allotment holders wanted a communal shed, they needed to be aware of the risks associated with this and would need to provide the Parish Council with full details of what they wanted and be prepared to pay for it. The Parish Council considered that at this present time they had incurred enough expenditure on the allotments and would not incur any additional expenditure not already accounted for.

The Clerk confirmed she had also undertaken a search of locally held archives to identify the whereabouts of important contracts etc. Storage costs for the originals still in the Parish Council possession needed to be obtained, such as from Hedleys and the Bank.

KW

HGV signs – the Clerk would order the signs previously agreed and arrange a site meeting with Councillors Trotman and Munday to confirm site locations.

KW

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Pamela Cock left the meeting.

109/10 CURRENT PLANNING ISSUES

There were no planning applications to be heard.

12.1 An e-mail had been received from P Mason at TDC informing the Parish Council of changes being made to the planning application process. He also offered to provide training to the Parish Council. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Clerk would obtain details of the length of the training and then arrange the training session either at a Full Council meeting or Planning Committee meeting, depending on the length of the session. KW

110/10 REPORTS FROM AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

1. Neighbourhood Watch – Nothing to add to the Police report given earlier in the meeting.

2. Footpaths and Bridleways: Footpath 178, grid reference 323/505 had a fallen tree from Castle Place blocking the path.

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Clerk would report this to SCC Footpaths. KW

3. Transport: Councillor Munday updated on an e-mail received from a resident about speed in Little Common Lane. CC Elias had confirmed that the speed review for Little Common Lane had been agreed and was on the schedule to be implemented. It was hoped this would address some of the speeding. Little Common Lane was not suitable for Speedwatch sessions. There was also reference to the fact that the resident had received a letter from TDC stating that the lane was not suitable for recycling by BIFFA. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED THAT a letter be sent to the resident updating him on the speed limit review and to request a copy of the letter from TDC to ensure that there is no plan to drop any recycling service from Bletchingley. KW

Councillor Moore again reported the low hanging branches in Little Common Lane, which were being broken off when large lorries passed underneath.

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Parish Clerk would report this. KW

4. Speedwatch: Speed of lorries travelling through the village at 4am. The police had agreed to implement spot checks in the early mornings. Councillor Munday confirmed he was in possession of the equipment and it was ready to be used.

5. Cemetery: Some of the whips behind the bus stop had died due to the dry weather. There was also a low hanging branch in the far corner, which needed to be removed. There was a young tree located in one of the newer graves. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED THAT (i) the Parish Clerk would contact the relatives responsible for this grave and enquire as to why the tree was planted and request that it be removed; and (ii) the overhanging branches would be dealt with. KW

Mr Pearson left the meeting.

6. Minerals/Environment – The original letter to SCC requesting that the consultation be put on hold was agreed and a response had been received stating that SCC were still planning on continuing with the consultation process. A further draft letter addressed to Alan Stones of SCC was circulated, again

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requesting that the Surrey Minerals plan needs to be withdrawn immediately until a review has taken place. Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the original letter was accurate and the subsequent draft letter was again reaffirming the need for the plan to be withdrawn. The Clerk would send the letter to Alan Stones with copies to other interested parties.

KW

In relation to the Revised Environmental Report on Strategic Environmental Assessment/Sustainability Appraisal, this consultation ends on the 6th August prior to the next meeting. Draft comments had been circulated to all members in advance of the meeting. The responses were only in relation to the revised items, namely:– Transport consideration – the data used was based on old data; Hydrological Considerations – Mercers Farm/Pendell – this needs urgent reassessment following advice from Sutton and East Surrey Water that no further mineral extractions should be permitted at these sites; SEERA – cilica sand needs to be kept for industrial uses such as glass rather than used on non-constructional aggregate markets; Air Quality – there needs to be an acknowledgement that the small particles PM10 and below are well-known to cause serious health problems and the MPA needs to ensure that its monitoring and enforcement standards are improved. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED THAT Councillor Butler would send the response by dialogue on the internet as circulated. It was also agreed that Councillor Trotman would draft a letter for the Clerk to send to TDC Environmental Health Officer (exact contact to be obtained from CC Elias or DC Black) requesting a general meeting to discuss concerns relating to dust issues and monitoring.

AB

RT/
KW

Draft Aggregates Recycling Development Plan Document – this is being revised in light of comments received and an invite has been issued to attend a meeting. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED THAT Councillor Butler should attend the meeting.

AB

North Park Quarry – the next Dust Sub Committee meeting was scheduled for 14 July and the Full Liaison Committee meeting for the 28th July. A request was being made for Tim Johns, Head of Hawthorns school to be invited to join the Full Liaison Committee.

7. Tree Wardens: Councillor Butler had been unable to attend the recent AGM. Nothing to report.

8. Village Hall/Community Centre: There was an issue relating to the cleaning of the premises, which was in hand and spot checks were being made. The wasps next in the Community Centre walls had been dealt with. The Village Hall Management Committee would be considering the changes to the Licensing Rules and would make their comments in due course. An initial review indicated that the newly relaxed requirements were better than the old ones.

9. Recreation/Sports Association: Nothing to report.

10. Allotments: The plots in Stychens Lane were very well tended. A request had been made from the tenant of No 2 Little Common Lane to have the Apple Tree and Oak in the corner trimmed. Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would enquire as to the ownership of the

KW

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Oak and get a quote for the trimming of the 2 trees. The Clerk would also check the costings incurred so far against the allotments and report back. The provision of the skip was agreed.

KW
KW

11. Street Lighting: No 2 at the top of Brakey Hill was not working. The Clerk would report this to SCC.

KW

12. CCTV: All systems were running normally.

13. Website: The site had been moved to the new platform rather suddenly. It was proving more flexible with the ability to download additional pictures and pages more freely. Familiarisation with the new site was in progress and Councillor Ray would provide the Clerk with a training session in due course.

111/10 FINANCE

14.1 The following July payments were sanctioned, cheques and stubs signed.

All

000722	Bletchingley Village Hall	12.00
000723	Mrs K Wantling	718.82
000724	HM Revenue & Customs	118.28
000725	Robert McCarthy	121.00
000726	Hedleys Solicitors LLP	347.75
000727	Vistec Systems Limited	167.44
000728	The Surrey Hills Society	15.00
000729	Sutton and East Surrey Water Plc	126.05
000730	Sutton and East Surrey Water Plc	58.99
000731	Sutton and East Surrey Water Plc	13.50
000732	The Flying Pig Spitroast Company	311.00
000733	Digital Office Solutions	45.99
000734	L G Wantling	387.75
000735	DA Landscaping	<u>1,047.00</u>
		<u>£3,490.57</u>

14.2 The following August payments were sanctioned, cheques and stubs signed. These were dated 9 August 2010.

All

000736	Mrs K Wantling	718.62
000737	HM Revenue & Customs	118.48
000738	R Gater	<u>125.00</u>
		<u>£962.10</u>

112/10 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

The Correspondence list circulated was noted.

15.1 To consider a request from Surrey Crimestoppers for a grant for 2010/2011 (**Local Government and Rating Act 1997 s31**).

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT a donation of £50 would be made.

KW

15.2 To consider a request from East Surrey Museum for a grant to improve access and reception Room (**LGA 1972 s145(1)(d)**). Councillor Bridger had made a site visit and following a discussion,

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IT WAS RESOLVED THAT a grant of £100 would be made towards the costs.

15.3 To agree a response to the Perkins Almshouse Trust. Councillor Trotman reaffirmed his declaration even though this was only an informal discussion. It was agreed that Local Housing Trusts should be encouraged to work more closely with local communities. Councillor Trotman gave a brief explanation of the organisation in that it mainly catered for the elderly, currently had 1 Alms house in Bletchingley and was only open to elderly widows/spinsters who live in the Parish and who have a residential need. Their rents are currently set to keep in line with those of TDC. Following a discussion,

KW

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would write a letter to the Perkins Almshouse Trust welcoming their knowledge and interest in affordable housing, but not at the expense of losing control over the occupancy. The Clerk would also obtain details from Mona Johansson about the possible affordable homes sites indicated and the number of houses being looked at, particularly in relation to the vacant land near St Mary's Walk. It was believed that access to this land is controlled by the company that developed St Mary's Walk. An approach would be made to the Rector to make enquiries about the access. Ideally, a mix of elderly and younger people was thought appropriate.

KW

RT

113/10 MATTERS FOR REPORTING OR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDA

16.1 The Clerk was authorised in consultation with the Chairman and at least one other Councillor to deal with any urgent matters arising in August and that the Planning Committee were authorised to deal with any general purpose issues at a meeting scheduled for the 9th August if appropriate.

114/10 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Planning Committee Mtg – 26 July 2010

Planning Committee Mtg – 9 August 2010 (No Full Council Meeting in August)

Planning Committee Mtg – 31 August 2010 (Tuesday TBC)

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.20 pm