P R E S E N T

COUNCILLOR R. GATER – CHAIRMAN
COUNCILLOR R. SUTCLIFFE – VICE CHAIRMAN
COUNCILLORS K. BRIDGER, E.A. BUTLER, D. MARTIN, N. NATHANAIL
B. TATNELL, R. TROTMAN

Also Present: County/District Councillor M. Myland, P.C. Henderson, 1 Resident

In Attendance: Mrs. J. Moore – Clerk

240 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Doe.

241 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 10th January 2005 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

242 RESIDENTS’ REQUESTS

**Accident Avoidance – Stychens Lane:** A Resident sent in a copy of a letter written to Surrey Highways concerning hazards and potential risks of accidents involving vehicles entering and leaving the Adult Education Centre in Stychens Lane, and parking of vehicles in Stychens Lane by drivers attending the centre.

A discussion followed, and it was agreed that this is a hazardous area. Councillor Martin pointed out that it was the responsibility of the Centre to paint white lines at the entrance, to force drivers to slow down.

**RESOLVED:** To write to the Adult Education Centre asking them to paint double white lines at the entrance to the Centre.

**Trees in the High Street:** Mr. Lane Davies wished to draw attention to the damaged guards and condition of two of the trees outside the Whyte Harte, and asked if funds were now available for replacement of the guards. He was concerned that the bent metal guards are damaging one of the trees, and if it were to die, there would be further costs to be met for a replacement. The Chairman responded that, whilst acknowledging his concern for the trees, funds will not be available until the matter of the Appeal made to the High Court by Mr. Heritage is resolved, as there are legal costs still outstanding. A discussion followed to consider temporary remedial measures.

**RESOLVED:** The Tree Wardens to pay a site visit, and assess the possibility of replacing the wooden stakes and securing the trees with a band to keep them away from the metal guards.
Bus Shelter: Mr. Lane Davies also reported that the inner wooden lining of the bus shelter appeared to be warping and coming away from the exterior frame. The Clerk inspected the shelter, and stated that this was indeed the case.

RESOLVED: To contact the builder, M. Wratten, to inspect and repair the bus shelter as necessary.

Sheltered Flats in High Street: The Warden of the Sheltered Flats, 64 – 78 High Street, reported that there had been two attempted break-ins into these flats, and requested that a padlock be placed on the back double gates as a deterrent. Councillor Trotman advised the Council that these flats come under the responsibility of the Trustees of the Village Hall, and he considered that a padlock should be supplied.

RESOLVED: The Trustees to contact the Warden and agree to the provision of a padlock on the back double gates.

243 REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MYLAND/P.C. HENDERSON

Councillor Myland reported on Tandridge District and Surrey Council matters and distributed notes to the Councillors. The Chairman again raised the question of the blocked drains in the White Hill area, and the fact that bad accident last month was primarily due to the icy road surface due to the drains overflowing, and also that Surrey had not instituted a salting facility which impounded the problems. Councillor Myland stated that she would again raise these matters with Surrey Highway Authority.

Councillor Bridger reported that the lighting in the central islands was still not in place. Councillor Myland reported that Surrey is still having difficulty in liaising with the electricity authority to arrange for these installations. Councillor Butler expressed concern that the traffic calming measures along the A25 were having no effect, especially with empty sand lorries driving at speed through the village.

Councillor Martin suggested that 30mph repeater signs along the High Street could be a possible solution. Councillor Myland was sympathetic to these problems, and would again bring them to the attention of Surrey Highways.

P.C. Henderson reported that he is also covering Godstone for a colleague on a temporary basis. Recently there have been problems of youthsr congregating around Nutfield Railway Station, and also in Godstone. An Action Forum has been set up, to meet every two months to address these and other issues, and it had requested that the police marshal these two trouble spots. The next Action Forum is to be held on March 23rd in Overdale at 8pm.

P.C. Henderson also reported that there recently been a fatal accident in Rabies Heath Road, which he considered to be a dangerous, badly lit road. Councillor Myland reported that a petition had been raised concerning a traffic dip in that road.
The Chairman advised P.C. Henderson that regarding Footpath 506, Mr. Herrtage had put in an Appeal to the High Court concerning the recent judgement against him; the result of which will be known at the end of February. The Council is therefore awaiting this result before asking Surrey to institute a new barrier on the chicane principle. If Mr. Herrtage continues to drive along this footpath, in spite of this recent judgement, the Council will have no alternative but to ask the Police to take action.

243 MATTERS ARISING

Godstone School Expansion: A reply has been received from Surrey County Council to the Council’s letter of objection to this expansion, giving details of the time and dates of the Planning and Regulatory Committee Meetings, when interested parties may attend and put forward their objections. These were passed to Councillor Butler.

Footpaths & Bridleways: A reply has been received from Philippa Gates, Footpaths Officer stating that the posts and markers referred to will be re-instated. However, nothing much can be done concerning the muddy state of the paths at this time of the year.

Vote of No Confidence: The Council took a Vote of No Confidence in Councillor Herrtage at the last Meeting, and wrote to the Chairman of Tandridge D.C, Councillor A.P. Brown., stating that she had not attended any Council Meetings for the past two years, and she had assisted her husband taking the Council to court over the Right of Access along Footpath 506. The defence of the court case had cost the Council money, leading to contracts being suspended and works cancelled.

A reply was received from Councillor Brown, stating that while he understands the Council’s frustration, the legal position regarding Councillor Herrtage is, that once a Councillor is elected, he/she cannot be removed by the Council except by a set procedure relating attendance at District Council Meetings. Councillor Herrtage was elected to serve a four year term, which does not expire until 2006.

Footpath 506: The Chairman reported that Mr. Herrtage has put in an Appeal to the High Court against the recent Judgement at Guildford Crown Court. The result of this Appeal will be known by the end of February.

CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

RESOLVED: In view of the special confidential nature of the above matter to be discussed it is advisable in accordance with the provision of the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Freedom of Information Act of 2005, the matter be discussed when the public and press have withdrawn.
Councillor Trotman declared an interest in this Application and left the Meeting.

RESOLVED: No Comment

RESOLVED: To object on the grounds that the size of the proposed building inappropriate in this setting.

RESOLVED: To object on the grounds that the proposed construction could be turned into a 2nd dwelling.

RESOLVED: No Comment

RESOLVED: No Comment, but to remind the Planning Department that when the Managing Director attended a Council Meeting to explain the Club’s plans, he had agreed to re-design the entrance to the Golf Club to reduce congestion and re-direct traffic.
LIST 5 – ITEM 1 - VARIATION OF CONDITION 22 HOURS OF PLANT CONSTRUCTION) OF PLANNING PERMISSION REF: TA/2002/183 & REF: 02/0268 DATED 19 JULY 2004 TO ALLOW PLANT CONSTRUCTION WORKS WITHIN THE AREA OUTLINED IN RED ON THE SITE PLAN (FIGURE 1) TO BE CARRIED OUT BETWEEN 0700 TO 1900 HOURS MONDAY TO SUNDAY FOR A TEMPORARY PERIOD EXPIRING 31 OCTOBER 2005 (COUNTY DETERMINATION) – NORTH PARK FARM QUARRY, NORTH PARK LANE

RESOLVED: No Comment

LIST 5 – ITEM 8 – INSTALLATION OF 7500 LITRE OIL TANK ON CONCRETE BASE – WYHCROFT HOUSE, SOUTH PARK LANE.

RESOLVED: No Comment

LIST 6 – ITEM 1 – DETAILS OF AN ARCHITECTURAL INVESTIGATION PURSUANT TO CONDITION 34 OF PLANNING PERMISSIONS TA/02/183 & RE/02/268 DATED 19/7/04 (COUNTY DETERMINATION) – LAND AT NORTH PARK FARM QUARRY, NORTH PARK LANE.

RESOLVED: No Comment

LIST 6 – ITEM 15 – ERECTION OF CONSERVATORY TO REAR ELEVATION (APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF LAWFULNESS FOR A PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT) – 30 CLARE COTTAGES.

RESOLVED: No Comment

LIST 6 – ITEM 38 - PRUNE TO REBALANCE DISFIGURED WEEPING PEAR AND CROWN REDUCE MAGNOLIA BY 25% - MALDONS, PENDELL ROAD.

RESOLVED: No Comment

246 REPORTS FROM AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Footpaths & Bridleways: Councillor Sutcliffe reported that the South Back Path, Footpath 178 is very muddy and a resident has reported a fallen tree over the path.

RESOLVED: To report this matter to Tandridge Footpath Officer.

Transport: Councillor Sutcliffe suggested that as the damage to the bus shelter roof was thought to be caused by a bus, they should be held responsible for the repair costs. A discussion followed;

RESOLVED: To write to East Surrey Transport concerning their responsibility for the roof damage, sending them of copy of the invoice for the repair.
Cemetery: Councillor Tatnell reported that the bins were again overflowing with dead flowers and other refuse. The refuse is normally cleared by the contractor from March through to October. However, Mr. Richards had agreed to clear the refuse free of charge whenever he was on his way through the village during the winter months, but this does not seem to be a satisfactory arrangement. Councillor Tatnell also reported that the concrete path around the cemetery is covered in moss and could be considered dangerous as it is very slippery. A discussion followed.

    RESOLVED: i) To ask Mr. Richards to quote for clearing the rubbish from the cemetery on a monthly basis from November to March
    ii) To ask him to also quote for cleaning the path.

Minerals/Environment/Tree Wardens: Councillor Trotman declared a personal interest in this matter as his son-in-law is a Land Agent for a company managing one of the farms in the Nutfield area. He therefore left the Meeting. Councillor Butler reported on her comments submitted on the Council’s behalf on the Surrey Minerals Development Framework 2004-2016. The main objections being the inclusion in Potential Mineral Zones 61, 25, 73 and 74 of areas of Designated Landscape Value, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and to these plans being very environmentally sensitive. Councillor Butler submitted her full report, a copy of which is on file.

Village Hall/Community Centre: The Village Hall Management Committee had sent in a letter, dated 26 January 2005, to the Council, requesting Retrospective Permission for Fund Raising from Bletchingly Parish Council as Trustees.

    RESOLVED: To grant Retrospective Permission to the Committee for Fund Raising.

In Councillor Doe’s absence, the Clerk reported that the recent Clothes Show and the Ball had raised £730, which would be put towards the repair of the village hall floor. The Chairman offered his congratulations to the Management Committee, in particular to Councillor & Mrs. Doe for their hard work in organising what had been a very successful event.

Neighbourhood Watch: Councillor Bridger reported on the recent Neighbourhood Watch Meeting which had been very well attended. Residents had reported that motor bikes are still being driven over Grange Meadow, and the suggestion was made for the erection of a stile in the Coneybury area in order to prevent bikes coming from that area, but PC Henderson said this would prevent wheelchair access. An increase in graffiti and illegal dumping was also reported, the problem being that the Council will only remove it graffiti public property, leaving householders to remove it themselves. However, Tandridge Council will collect unwanted items for a small fee. Councillor Bridger stated that there was a very positive response the Action Forum, as mentioned by P.C. Henderson, where votes were taken on which matters were considered to have the greatest priority. Since the last meeting he had dealt with burnt out vehicles and dumping in Kings Cross Lane and Coopers Hill Road. The principal concern is the gathering of youths around Nutfield Railway causing great concern to local householders.
The problem of identifying these youths was that the CCTV cameras are under the jurisdiction of the Railway. Debbie Hale reported that authentic callers from SEEBOARD were calling on local householders, suggesting that they change suppliers, and were being most persistent. Councillor Bridger was concerned that these salesmen had everyone’s address, which could be a security risk.

Recreation/Sports Association: Councillor Nathaniel reported that the playground appeared to be in a good state, apart from some algae on the ground surface.

RESOLVED: To ask Mr. Hook to submit a quote for cleaning the ground surface of the playground.

Sports Association: Councillor Trotman reported on a letter received from Mr. Robert Frith, previously Chairman of the Sports Club and a Trustee expressing great concern at the poor financial state of the Sports and Social Club. Mr. Frith was asking if the Parish Council could take over the management of the Club, and also if the Council could offer some financial support, but Councillor Trotman felt this was not possible. Councillor Trotman reported that whilst the Social Club no longer exists, the bar is still being used by the sports teams, and the outstanding debt of £15,000 to Fullers Brewery has been stabilised, as they have agreed to a repayment of £200 per month from the bar takings. Councillor Martin suggested that the Sports Association should hold a fund raising event, such a Race Night. Councillor Sutcliffe also suggested that perhaps they could also apply to the Village Fair Committee for some funding. A discussion followed.

RESOLVED: i) To write to Mr. Frith thanking him for his valued service to the Sports Club, but advising him that the Council is unable to offer any financial help, especially at this time. ii) To also advise Mr. Frith that the Council cannot become involved in the management of the Sports Association. iii) To write a letter on the Association’s behalf to the Village Fair Committee requesting a donation.

ALLOTMENTS: The Clerk put forward a suggestion that perhaps the Council might consider a donating a Bletchingley Parish Council Cup for the Best Kept Allotment, as there are some excellent allotments at the moment, and this could be a means of generating more enthusiasm. The appointment of a Judge could be discussed at a later date, but perhaps it could be in conjunction with the Horticultural Society. A discussion followed, and there was a general positive response.

RESOLVED: i) The Council to offer an Annual Cup for the Best Kept Allotment, depending on the response. ii) The Clerk to send out letters, with this year’s Rental Agreements, inviting allotment holders to participate in the competition.
Street Lighting: Councillor Trotman reported that street light number 3 at the east end of the high level path from White Posts to the re-cycling area is not working.

247 FINANCE

The following payments were sanctioned and cheques and stubs signed.

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£859.05

Interim Internal Audit Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2005: The Clerk presented the Interim Audit Report, which stated that controls, procedures and accountability were tested and risks reviewed. The tests reflected that records were detailed, accurate and can be relied upon.

248 MATTERS FOR REPORTING OR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDA

Councillor Martin reported that a series of cars had been parking around the War Memorial and by the side of the Post Office, blocking pedestrian access to the Post Office. There are regularly two parked cars up for sale in this area. This can be a problem for the elderly or infirm, as it necessitates them walking on the cobbles to gain access to the Post Office. A discussion followed.

RESOLVED: To write to the properties in the area around the War Memorial and adjacent to the Post Office, suggesting that if they are parking in this area, they should move them elsewhere as they are causing access problems to the Post Office.

E.S.P.I.G. The Clerk reported that the Chairman of Burstow Parish Council, had put forward the suggestion that each Parish Council should host the 3 ESPLG Meetings on a yearly basis, instead of the present system of moving on to the next Council after every meeting. The Clerk reported receiving many letters from Councils disagreeing with this proposal. A discussion followed.

RESOLVED: The Council wishes to maintain the present system of moving on to the next Council after each Meeting.
INDUCTION OF NEW VICAR: The Council has received an invitation to attend the Licensing of the Reverend Peter Moseling as Priest in Charge of St. Mary’s Church on Tuesday 12 April 1005.

RESOLVED: Two Councillors to accept the Invitation

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 14th March 2005

The Chairman closed the Meeting and 10.35 pm

Signed…………………………..                        Dated…………………………..