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 14 JANUARY 2008

PRESENT
Councillor R. Gater – Chairman
Councillors K Bridger, A Butler, D Martin, J Moore, N Munday, B Tatnell, R Trotman

In attendance: Clerk - K. Wantling, County Councillor (CC) Myland, District Councillor (DC) Elias and DC Black, PC Shrapel, P Cock – Bletchingley in Bloom, G Woodjetts, and Residents D Birt, Mr & Mrs Mighall, D Roberts and A Grim.

01/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting. There were no apologies for absence.

02/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
No changes were made to the Declarations of Interest.

03/08 MINUTES
The minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2007 were approved and signed by the Chairman subject to the following minor amendments: page 1, last paragraph of minute 164/07, correct spelling of Pierson to Pearson in both instances; page 2, Star Energy, replace “Godstone Farm” with “Kings Farm, Tilburstow Hill Rd, South Godstone”; page 4, last paragraph, replace “sighting” and “sight” with the word “site”.

04/08 RESIDENTS’ REQUESTS
Councillor Trotman declared an interest as a neighbour in an item to be raised under residents requests relating to Rabies Heath Road. Councillor Munday declared an interest in parking issues in Barfields, to be dealt with under Policing Issues. Councillor Bridger declared an interest as a neighbour in planning application TA/2007/2048.

Rabies Heath Road, Dog Fouling – Residents complained about an increased amount of dog fouling over the last 18 months, particularly along Rabies Heath Road between Nightingale Way and Brick Kiln House. A discussion followed as to how best to approach what is a problem across the village. The installation of additional dog bins was costly if they were not going to be used. The Clerk confirmed that dog fouling was always mentioned in the Chairman’s Report in the Parish magazine.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would make some enquiries and that dog warning flyers would be posted through the doors along that stretch of road. The situation would be monitored to see if it improved before further action was taken.

05/08 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MYLAND
CC Myland reported that Wally Coombs, who was Chairman of Nutfield Parish Council for over 20 years, plus District Councillor over 2 terms of office, passed
away over the weekend. His Funeral would be held at 11.00am on Saturday 19th January at Christ Church in Nutfield.

**Tarmac Planning Application** – This was now scheduled to appear before the County Planning Committee on 27 February at County Hall.

**WBB Retrospective Planning Application** – This is not likely to be heard by Surrey’s Planning Committee before May/June.

**Godstone Village School** – The decision to exclude Godstone School from Oxted County has been met with great opposition. A number of meetings are planned for a co-ordinated objection. Councillor Trotman reported that part of Bletchingley was also excluded. This would be discussed later.

**Flooding Task Group** – A Select Committee report, reviewing flooding issues across the County was presented last week. This document makes a number of recommendations based on information collected from all boroughs and districts. It is hoped that work will begin over the coming months based on a prioritised list.

**Redhill Aerodrome – Planning Application TA/2007/1794** for an equestrian centre has been made to TDC. A planned consultative meeting with the Company on 16th January would hopefully provide more details of the application.

**Nutfield Memorial Hall** – The Chairman and Clerk of Nutfield have obtained advice from TDC and visited the newly built Hall in Oxted. A plan was being formulated for the replacement hall and talks with prospective users were taking place. Once plans are available, there will be a public consultation.

**Pot holes** - It was reported that pot holes remained in a bad state of repair on the A25, particularly 2 near the Health Centre between Nutfield and Redhill. Another is located near the bridge between Bletchingley and Nutfield. Recently, work had been undertaken late at night for the installation of cats eyes on the A25. This had created a fair amount of noise, which had disturbed residents’ sleep along the A25. It was acknowledged that this was the best time to undertake the work and that the duration of the disturbance was minimal. It was also acknowledged that it would be beneficial for the Parish Council to receive advance notification of this sort of out-of-hours road maintenance. DC Black again enquired about the low level of the gas main on the A25 outside the property of Mr & Mrs Pearson. CC Myland would make further enquiries.

CC Myland wished all a happy and successful New Year.

**06/08 POLICING ISSUES**

PC Shrapel updated the Council on 9 reported crimes since the previous meeting. These ranged from an assault, to vehicle damage, property damage, burglary and a possession of drugs arrest. Christmas and New Year had been very quiet with only 1 reported incident. Nutfield had however, not fared as well. The evening Police Surgery will, as from February, take place on the 2nd Monday of every month, prior to the Parish Council meeting. This would be held in the Doctors Surgery, located towards the front of the Village Hall. A note of this information should be passed to Angela Price for inclusion in the Bletchingley section of the Surrey Mirror.

A request was made for the Countryside Alert Newsletters provided by PC Shrapel to be made available on the notice board as well as on the website.

**IT WAS AGREED** that the Clerk would post the notices at the same time as
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posting them on the website.

PC Shrapel was notified of the details of two “abandoned” cars, one in Church Lane and the other in Outwood Lane outside Sackville Cottages.

The Neighbourhood Watch AGM had been very well attended. The Chairman, Keith Tunstall was retiring. This would be discussed in more detail under Areas of Responsibility.

In relation to the ongoing parking problem in Barfields, one problem vehicle had been identified and the police were in the process of contacting the owners.

07/08 RESIDENTS REQUESTS CONTINUED – Hevers Pond

Mr David Roberts introduced himself and informed the Council that he wished to open a discussion and receive ideas on how to deal with the future maintenance of Hevers Pond. Recent legislation required authorities to be more aware of biodiversity. Hevers Pond has over the years had repeated maintenance problems. As it is a historical site, spring fed since 1896, Mr Roberts enquired as to how the site may be better maintained in the future. He suggested that all nature bodies should be involved in the plans. It is currently privately owned and managed and enquiries need to be made as to whether the owners would be open to the idea. Money is available through various grants specifically for creating and maintaining areas of biodiversity. CC Myland suggested forming a conservation group. P Cock confirmed that last year Bletchingley in Bloom did some clearance and had £300 set aside for further maintenance and surveys to be done this year. The survey would be managed by Dr Julia Wycherley. Hevers Pond needed planned maintenance in order to be effective. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Council would support the idea, but needed time to consider it further. The Clerk would approach the owners to enquire as to their views on the proposal.

David Roberts left the meeting.

08/08 BLETCHINGLEY IN BLOOM

Mrs Cock reported that the Silver Gilt Award was now proudly located in the Village Hall and thanked the Committee for arranging it.

Village Sign – Agreement had finally been reached that the sign should be located in the green between The Red Lion and Stychens Lane. So far 5 entries for the design had been received. The closing date was 1st February. Voting would be done through the March issue of the Bletchingley Magazine and other outlets.

Future Plans – to create a garden effect on the stretch of ground, in 4 different sections, between the Red Lion and Stychens Lane. Bletchingley in Bloom can fund this and propose to use bold colours. It will however be done section by section. Planning permission would need to be sought.

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Clerk would make enquiries and seek the appropriate permissions and report back to Mrs Cock.

Heritage Trees – this was slowly gaining pace with trees being identified and logged.

Litter Picking – A planned litter picking was organised for 9th February, a Saturday morning, 10am start outside the Village Hall. Mrs Cock would be making the usual
arrangements for litter picking equipment from Mr Barton of TDC.

**Gateway Planters** – the In Bloom team proposed to make planters out of old sleepers to place in front of the gateways. Following a discussion

**IT WAS AGREED THAT** the Clerk would seek the appropriate permissions from Highways and report back.

*PC Shrapel, CC Myland, DC Elias, DC Black and Mr and Mrs Mighall left the meeting.*

### 09/08 MATTERS AND ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM MINUTES

The Clerk read through the report and noted that those requiring action were on the agenda later.

**Litter Bins** – The Clerk confirmed that there were currently 13 bins in total in the village which TDC collected rubbish from.

**Stychens Lane Playground Bench** – The Clerk had taken delivery of this and it would be installed once the weather improved.

The remainder of the Clerk’s report and Action Points were duly noted.

*Mrs Cock and G Woodjetts left the meeting.*

### 10/08 CURRENT PLANNING ISSUES

**TA/2007/1833** – Erection of detached 3-bed house with parking – Land between 61-63 High Street, Bletchingley.

**RESOLVED:** No comment

**TA/2007/1925** – Demolition of conservatory. Erection of single storey side extension to provide orangery and swimming pool. Erection of 1.8m high fencing on 2.1m posts with badger access points at 15m intervals – Roughets House, Roughets Lane, Bletchingley.

**RESOLVED:** No comment

**TA/2007/1948** – Demolition of garages. Erection of 2 x 2 bed and 2 x 3 bed terraced houses – Land to rear of 1-4 Lambert Cottages, Rabies Heath Road, Bletchingley.

**RESOLVED:** No comment.


**RESOLVED:** No comment


All Councillors declared an interest as the land borders the Stychens Lane Playground, which is under the responsibility of the Parish Council.

**RESOLVED:** No comment

**TA/2007/1980** – Change of use from residential to A1 retail use and erection of handrail to front steps – 44 High Street, Bletchingley.

**RESOLVED:** No comment

**TA/2006/1788/D4** – Details of restoration and aftercare schemes submitted pursuant
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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.

RESOLVED: No comment

TA/2007/2048 – Access and gate onto Castle Close together with track from access to stable area (Certificate of Lawfulness for an existing development) – 67 Bletchingley House, High Street, Bletchingley.

Councillor Bridger declared an interest as a neighbour and withdrew from voting.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council express concern about the increase in traffic volume and size, particularly heavy feed vehicles and horse boxes, using a quiet lane. Could controls be put in place over access times.

TA2008/10 – creation of pond – Dower House (Hill House), Castle Square, Bletchingley.

RESOLVED: No comment

Determined Applications:

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

2007/1340 – 2 Brewer Street, Bletchingley – Demolition of Garage, Erection of Garage – Approved (Full)

2007/1638 – 51 Coneybury, Bletchingley – Erection of porch to front elevation and conservatory to side elevation – Approved (Full)

2007/1717/TCA – 47 High Street, Bletchingley – Reduce and reshape crowns by 30% on 2 Holly Trees – Approved by letter

2007/1694 – Little Tilgates, Little Common Lane, Bletchingley – Erection of first floor extension to front/side elevation – Refuse

Appeals:

2007/1243 – Land at Kennels Farm, Outwood Lane, Outwood.

Reigate & Banstead Borough Council re consultation on Planning Obligation and Infrastructure – draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Following a discussion

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT Bletchingley would not comment as this was outside its area. Tandridge DC had their own documents and policies which would be commented on as they arose. The Bletchingley settlement boundary remained unchanged.

Planning Guidance – The Clerk had provided a first draft of a Planning Guidance document. This would be reviewed at the next Planning meeting.

11/08 REPORTS FROM AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

1. Neighbourhood Watch: Councillor Bridger gave a detailed report on the AGM of Neighbourhood Watch which was held on 8 January 2008 in the Community Centre. The meeting was chaired by Mr Tunstall and supported by PC Shrapel, PCSO Sheppard and around 70 residents. Refreshments were provided by the police prior to and after the meeting. Mr Tunstall stood down as Chairman. It was felt that the Neighbourhood Watch should continue and street coordinators and area coordinators maintaining a good communication link. There are many
ideas which need to be discussed to ensure Neighbourhood Watch is maintained. It was suggested that a meeting be held with the Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor Bridger and the Area Coordinators. It was also suggested that letters of thanks be sent to the Mr Tunstall and the 3 area coordinators to thank them for their work. 

IT WAS AGREED that a meeting would be arranged and the Clerk would write the letters of thanks.

A “Sports Day” was suggested to try to bring communities in the village together, possibly to be held in September. Following a discussion

IT WAS AGREED that the idea was a good one and that Councillor Munday should make more enquiries and report back.

2. Footpaths and Bridleways: Councillor Trotman enquired as to whether a footpath working party should be arranged to undertake footpath clearance when required. Following a discussion 

IT WAS AGREED that a provision be made with our contractor to undertake any emergency work when required.

3. Transport: Councillor Munday briefed the Council on the LORDS meeting. SCC appeared to be recognising the work of LORDS. LORDS appear at present to be focusing on the area around Cranleigh and the airport. Councillor Munday informed LORDS of the traffic problems in the Bletchingley and surrounding areas. Councillor Trotman noted that he had not yet met with Councillor Munday to identify the roads and mark the same on a map for submission back to LORDS. Following a discussion

IT WAS AGREED that this meeting would be arranged.

4. Speedwatch: Councillors Munday and Martin reported that due to the recent weather conditions, no speedwatch sessions had been undertaken. The illuminated signs appeared to have some power problems due probably to a charging issue. It was suggested that the scheme should be promoted in the Surrey Mirror via Angela Price’s Bletchingley piece. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED that Councillor Munday would forward some wording to be passed on to Angela Price for insertion into the next issue of the Surrey Mirror.

5. Cemetery: Councillor Tatnell reported that she had removed the cross for the German Airmen. They had been relocated to Cannock Chase, the national cemetery for German Airmen. Following a discussion about the removed wooden cross

IT WAS AGREED that enquiries should be made as to whether it could be housed at the Caterham History Museum.

The Chairman raised the question of whether plans should be made to start using the field set aside for the new cemetery. This had previously been discussed in the late 70s, early 80s and access had then posed a problem to Highways. A discussion took place as to whether some form of survey could be undertaken to ascertain what space was available in the cemetery and how to produce an accurate map showing all marked memorials. The Clerk notified the Council of a memorial that had recently had an additional inscription added but was placed back on the wrong grave. The Clerk confirmed that Stonemans had been informed and that they were in the process of correcting the error and that a letter of apology would be sent to the
relatives of the grave where the memorial had been incorrectly placed.

**IT WAS AGREED** that the Clerk would search the minutes and report back at a later meeting.

6. **Minerals**: WBB and Tarmac – The retrospective planning had been declared invalid and would now not be heard until the summer. Tarmac’s application would now be heard in February before the retrospective WBB planning application. This is now the 3rd deferment and still no answers to the hydrology questions. The Environment Agency has raised no concerns in relation to the groundwater quality and levels and have issued a statement detailing emergency procedures in the event of an accident on the silo site. It does not answer the questions about the dangerous pressure build up inside the silos. The environment agency had no concerns about possible pollution or dilution of the Bletchingley borehole due to its distance from the application site. The Environmental Health Officer at TDC has raised no concerns in relation to the emissions from the dryer plant. DC Beaton will be making enquiries of Robert Muir for the information requested. The PR company is the same for both WBB and Tarmac. At the recent Liaison meeting, WBB confirmed that they did not intend to build any new buildings. All Councillors expressed their thanks to Councillor Butler for her continued dedication to the minerals issues.

7. **Village Hall/Community Centre**: Councillor Tatnell reported that the Community Centre redecoration works would start on Wednesday 30th January. The hall hire charges had been reviewed. Councillor Tatnell notified the Council of her intention to resign from the Village Hall Management Committee. The Treasurer, Paul Sale would also be handing in his resignation. Councillor Tatnell would forward the fees to the Clerk for uploading onto the website.

**Mr Birt left the meeting.**

8. **Recreation/Sports Association**: The Clerk reported that she had taken delivery of the picnic table and that arrangements were in place to get the table installed.

In relation to the Sports Association, Councillor Trotman reported that the Sports Pavillion was doing well. Geoffrey Moore would be taking over responsibility for Treasurer of the Sports Association.

9. **Allotments**: Plots 1 and 2 would be available on renewal. The clearance of the tree was discussed. The Clerk had received 2 quotes, one for £420 plus VAT and one for £260 plus VAT. The Clerk confirmed there were still funds available for this work. Following a discussion

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** Turners Hill Tree Surgeons should undertake the work to remove the tree to hedge height for £260 plus VAT.

10. **Street Lighting**: No problems were raised.

11. **CCTV**: Nothing new to report. Further power surges had resulted in Metal Mickey requiring resetting. The Chairman confirmed that there was still an outstanding issue with the manufacturers of Metal Mickey.

12. **Website**: The Clerk reported on a request from the National Fostering Agency to help them advertise via the website. Following a discussion

**IT WAS AGREED** that this would be discussed later when more information was received from the NFA.
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12/08  FINANCE

Cheque 417 to DA Landscaping & Garden Maintenance for £472.00 was cancelled and reissued (excluding the fee for tree removal which could not be undertaken).

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

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<td>DA Landscaping &amp; Garden Maintenance</td>
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<td>000425</td>
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£2179.28

Cemetery and General Grounds Maintenance: The Clerk provided a resume of the 4 quotations received for the contract, which ranged from £7190 to £12100. The merits and prices of each company were discussed. Following a discussion, IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the services of DA Landscaping, who quoted £7867, would be retained for a further period due to his known dedication and professionalism and his willingness to undertake unusual tasks.

Bus Shelter: The Clerk reported that following a site visit, the wood behind the Village Hall was no longer suitable for re-use on the bus shelter. The original quote of £428.88 (incl VAT) received to repair the bus shelter would be increased by £50 plus VAT to infill the one side panel and additional funds would be required for the refitting of the glass. A further verbal estimate had been received from Mr G Wantling in the sum of £300 to undertake all repairs. Following a discussion, IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would inform Mr G Wantling that he should undertake the repairs to the bus shelter.

13/08  FOOTPATH 506

The Chairman updated the Council on further correspondence from the ICO (previously circulated to members), which requested sight of original insurance documents dating back to 1994. It was thought that these demands were being made of the insurance company as well. The ICO have written to Mr Herrtage stating that there is no conclusion yet but that one is anticipated by the end of February. A further letter from the ICO is in the post to the Clerk. Due process needs to be followed. To date, there is no appointed court date. SCC has a court date of 12th February. It is thought that Mr Herrtage is seeking a set aside for this hearing.

14/08  PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

There were still no interested parties for the above vacancy. Councillor Martin DM stated that he would make enquiries of Mr Brian Miles to see if he would be interested.

15/08  CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED
SCC – Surrey’s Admission Criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools from September 2009 – It was reported that part of the village would be excluded from admission to Oxted School. It was believed that when the senior school in Bletchingley closed down, it was on the understanding that Oxted would always be a secondary school that could be fed into. Following a discussion,

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Parish Council would support the school in their objection to the exclusion. Councillor Trotman would provide some wording.

Street Names – The Clerk explained the reasoning behind the request for a list of street names to be provided to future developers. Following a discussion

**IT WAS AGREED THAT** as names would normally be decided according to appropriateness for location, each request would be considered under its own merit.
If a name was required for the proposed development at 1-4 Lambert Cottages, then the use of “Bristow” was recommended. The Clerk would forward this information on to TDC.

Responses to an e-mail relating to the timings of proposed meetings of Tandridge Parish Councils were discussed and agreed. The Clerk would respond accordingly.

16/08 **MATTERS FOR REPORTING OR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDA**

Annual Review for Clerk’s Salary. Details of the agreed 2007/08 National Salary Award for Local Council Clerks - fee scales was passed to the Chairman for review prior to the February meeting.

The draft of the Standing Orders and attached documents was provided to each Councillor for review prior to discussion at a later meeting.

The increase in Fidelity guarantee premium would be on the February agenda.

A request was made that a letter of thanks should be sent to Inspector Elaine Burtenshaw thanking her for providing the refreshments at the Neighbourhood Watch AGM.

**IT WAS AGREED** that the Clerk would write a letter of thanks.

KW

17/08 **DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Planning Committee – 28 January 2008

Full Parish Council – 11 February 2008

The Chairman closed the meeting at 11.00pm