ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting is to be held on Monday 19th May 2014
at the Community Centre at 7.00 pm

A G E N D A

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. To confirm the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22 April 2013
3. To receive the Accounts of Bletchingley United Charities for the year ended 30 September 2013 – Presented by David Martin
4. To receive the Accounts of the Village Hall (Bletchingley) Trust for the year ended 31 December 2013 – Presented by Anthony Cock
5. To receive White Hill Residents’ Association Report – Presented by Chairman SAR
6. TAG A25 – What we do - Presented by Cllr Ann Butler
7. Community Defibrillator and First Responders – Presented by Daniel Holland of South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
8. An opportunity to ask questions of the Parish Council.

All reports from Councillors areas of responsibility are contained in the Annual Report which is available at the meeting or in advance from Longhursts or by contacting the Clerk. Copies of the accounts are also available on request.

Councillors:
Sally-Anne Ray – Chairman
Patricia Ann Glenn – Vice Chairman
Linda Baharier
Ann Butler
Anthony Cock
Koula Crawley-Moore
Dick Kiss
Paul Tarrant
Robert Trotman

Bletchingley Parish Council
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Rabies Heath Road
Bletchingley
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RH1 4PN
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Email: info@bletchingley.org.uk
Website: www.bletchingley.org.uk
Chairman’s Report

The last year has flown by and as can be seen in the attached report, the Parish Council have been busy! For the year 2013/14 this has included:

- The installation of new Allotment gates in Little Common Lane as well as six CCTV cameras in communal areas in the centre of the village to help reduce crime.
- The provision of a Public Access Defibrillator sited at St. Catherine’s school. This offers Bletchingley villagers 24/7 access to a defibrillator before an ambulance arrives and can literally mean the difference between life and death.
- Tree, Hedge & vegetation clearance at Tilgate Common, Little Common Lane Allotments and the Cemetery to improve overall amenity as well as to remove any trees that were deemed unsafe.
- Set up of a Winter Snow Angel scheme including provision of suitable tools, salt and volunteers ensuring pavements are cleared of snow and ice, allowing people to access local services.

I would like to thank our councillors (Parish, District and County), the Clerk as well as all local volunteers for the time and effort they give freely to the community. This includes the helpers for the above Winter and Footpath schemes, the Youth Club, the Village Hall Committee, the Village Fair committee, Bletchingley in Bloom, Neighbourhood Watch, Speedwatch, BAGaged to name but a few who all help make Bletchingley such an enjoyable, pleasant and safe place to live.

Councillor Sally-anne Ray, Chairman

Affordable Housing

Following the two consultation events held in April 2013, a few sites were added to the list of those already deemed worthy of further work by TDC and a second visit to potential sites was undertaken with a representative from TDC housing, the County affordable housing enabler and a potential developer, English Rural Housing.

However, TDC decided last autumn to assess a number of possible sites for its own affordable housing schemes across its area, including Bletchingley. Consequently, the Parish Council decided to await the outcome of the TDC assessment before planning any specific projects.

In the meanwhile, background work is continuing with English Rural Housing to study the economic viability of sites identified as worthy of further work so as to be ready to go forward with an appropriate project in the light of TDC’s decisions.

Councillor Robert Trotman

Allotments

The Parish Council is responsible for 2 sites. The yearly rent remains the same for a third year at £30 per plot. Both sites have two taps and water is supplied free of charge. Currently there are 7 vacant plots; 5 at the Little Common Lane site and 3 at the Stychens Lane site. Anyone interested in taking on a plot this year please contact the Parish Clerk.

To increase security, at the Little Common Lane site, both gates were replaced with palisade security gates and allotment holders retained the same lock key for convenience. The Little Common Lane allotments incur a cost of hedge cutting annually and this year there was the added expense of cutting the trees that were deemed unsafe.

Allotment Competition

The Council ran its annual competition for the Best Kept Allotment. All allotment holders were automatically entered into the competition, unless they specifically asked not to be, and this proved to be very successful.

Councillor Koula Crawley-Moore
Historic Sites at risk

Bletchingley Castle is a little known but very important historical monument and part of Bletchingley’s history. Unfortunately, the monument is now a “considerably significant” at risk scheduled monument. It is 1 of 26 properties in Surrey on the 2012 Heritage At Risk.

Another historic site that might be at risk is the Prince Albert, after its sudden closure and then finding it was put up for sale with a possibility of change of use to a private house.

If residents are interested there are various ways this could be saved for the Community.

One of them is as a co-operative pub, a link here to the Plunkett Foundation who helps with the setting up of this - http://www.pubs.coop/

What do people think? So is there anyone out there who is interested in setting this up?

Councillor Linda Baharier

CCTV

The summer of 2013 saw the installation of six CCTV camera’s which are sited in the centre of the village and aimed at communal areas such as the Village Hall car park, the War Memorial, Church House and the Bus Stop. We would like to thank Lawrence’s and the Village Hall for helping to fund 2 of the cameras.

A beneficial side effect of the new camera system is that this also means that users of the Village Hall now have access to wifi!

CCTV

Finance

Bletchingley Parish Council have pleasure in submitting the draft accounts for the year ended 31 March 2014, at the same time expressing our thanks to the Clerk for her continued dedication in maintaining accurate accounts. The Clerk will post the dates for public viewing of the accounts on the Parish Notice Board at the appropriate time.

The Parish Council reviewed the current precept in January and agreed that it was not necessary to increase it for the coming year.

Councillor Patricia Ann Glenn

Cemetery

The deficit in the Cemetery Account this year is £3,459 an increase of £859 above last year’s deficit.

For the first time we have introduced an area specifically for the interment of ashes. As is the case with graves, all applications for purchase of an ashes plot should be made to the Clerk. The regulations in relation to such plots are set out in the Cemetery Regulations.

A survey of the trees in the Cemetery has been carried out recently, fortunately no urgent work was found to be necessary, there are, however, recommendations for some work to be carried out during the coming 12 months.

Councillor Sally-anne Ray
During this financial year the Parish Council have supported BaGaged by helping them to replace the cycle ramp in Grange Meadow, have completed the installation of a new CCTV system to protect the Parish’s assets, tree /vegetation clearance that has been undertaken at the Little Common Lane Allotments, Tilgate Common and Cemetery and continued to support Bletchingley in Bloom.

The income during the year has slightly fallen from allotment rents and the cemetery. The Parish Council assisted at the Village Fair by providing a Hog Roast, which was well received by the public.

Expenditure was largely in line with forecast except for additional expenditure on new gates to the Little Common Lane Allotment and CCTV for additional cameras, offset by a shared usage contribution. Also the Council has spent money on the provision for Winter Maintenance.

During the year the Parish Council continued to make repayments for the total borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board £27,000. Capital repayments of £5,457 have been made during the year leaving a balance to be repaid of £7,675

The Parish Council during the year under the category S137 made donations towards the community defibrillator, St. Catherine’s Hospice, the poppy wreath, Victim Support and CPRE membership.

We have also donated sums to the Citizen Advice Bureau and Surrey Crimestoppers.

Councillor Anthony Cock

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To this end, the Parish Council held a meeting in November 2013 with officers from the Surrey footpaths team outlining the minor maintenance works that could be undertaken and tools for such work were provided. This meeting was attended by local residents, of whom 11 agreed to become Volunteer Footpath Wardens. The remainder agreed to walk paths and report back any issues. The Clerk is arranging for detailed maps to be provided to all volunteers and is preparing a list of areas of responsibility, so that all the footpaths will be inspected once a year and any problems reported.

In the high winds experienced earlier this year 3 areas on the Greensand Way were blocked by fallen trees. The responsibility for clearing such obstructions lies with the owner of the land where the trees were planted.

The Parish Council continues to be grateful for the reporting of problems to it by parishioners and these are always followed up by the Clerk reporting them to Surrey County Council.

Councillor Patricia Ann Glenn

Environment & Mineral Issues

Sibelco:- North Park Quarry:- The recent heavy rainfall reduced dust-generation, which resulted in fewer complaints from residents, but delayed all work in the quarry.

The Government Gas Fuel Pipe running across the site was replaced at the end of last year; enormous vehicles bringing the new pipes caused short term problems in Church Lane. Conveyor culverts have been installed beneath footpaths 148 and 149, and the surface compaction, which caused some noise disturbance, has been completed. Footpath 149 should open soon, but footpaths 142 and 121 are likely to remain closed for some time.

Restoration of the worked quarry faces continues. The slump in the market for sand resulted in less quarrying and more material was taken from stock-piles. However, now the
Building industry is recovering and demand for industrial sand has risen. A planning application will be submitted, probably in May, to extend working permission until 2020; this would allow production of a further 100,000 tons of sand a year from North Park Quarry. As wetter winters are expected in future, and flooding has been a problem, the sand will be extracted in three-month seasonal campaigns, rather than continuously year-round.

**Pendell Quarry:** The community liaison committee went on a site visit in April. The diverted footpath 160 has been surface-consolidated and is now open. The sand conveyor system to the processing plant at North Park Quarry should be fully connected soon. Phase 1 of quarrying will begin with top-soil stripping and archaeological surveys. Bunds will be built along the southern boundary with Hawthorns. Dust gauges have already been installed at Hawthorns, White Hill Lane, Pendell Farm and Spynes Mere. Sand excavation is expected to start in July.

Sibelco’s community programmes have included work with Warlingham School and the Orpheus Centre and sand supplied for local playgrounds.

**Mercers South Quarry:** The Parish Council has objected to a planning application submitted by J&J Franks to quarry building sand from Mercers South, on Nutfield Marsh. Originally this site was rejected by the County Planning Authority as the access on Cormongers Lane was judged inappropriate. However, a new access has been planned directly onto the A25 just west of the M23 bridge. This will relieve Nutfield from much of the traffic, but now 85% of the HGVs, some 150 movements a day, would drive through Bletchingley and Godstone. This is our major objection. As most of the sand lies below the water-table, dewatering will be required. This aquifer supplies our drinking water and because of the risk of ground water pollution, we have supported objections by Sutton and East Surrey Water. A number of properties in Nutfield and also in Bletchingley could be subjected to disturbance from noise and lights, loss of visual amenity, vibration and probably dust. A dust management plan has been requested. If permitted, sand extraction would be expected to continue until 2026.

**TAG-A25:- HGVs:** An investigation into the source of the HGVs on the A25 has shown that Patteson Court, BIFFA’s site in Cormongers Lane, now appears to be the only waste site in this area of the SE, serving Kent, East & West Sussex and South London as well as Surrey. Until the end of 2014 a maximum of 600 daily HGV movements is permitted, decreasing in 2015 to 400 when an area of landfill restoration is completed. Currently, a new soil-recycling facility is being built there. Work here is expected to continue until December 2030.

SITA’s extended waste depot at Earlswood on the A23 should now be helping to increase recycling, reduce landfill waste and thus lessen the use of the BIFFA site and the associated traffic.

The unlit bollards and potholes on the A25 between Godstone and Redhill have been repeatedly reported to County Highways. The bad weather and financial cuts are blamed for lack of progress.

**Roadworks:** The water-main replacement in Nutfield by Sutton & East Surrey Water Company, which began in July last year, was scheduled to finish by the end of March, but delayed by bad weather. An emergency repair to the gas-main then intervened. This main was also repaired last year following damage from heavy vehicles driving on the pavements, due to the inadequate width of the carriageway. At the end of April the A25 in Nutfield was finally cleared of works.

**Air Quality:** There are concerns about the poor air quality on the A25, mainly due to high levels of nitrous oxide from exhaust fumes and particulates (PM10s). These substances can cause heart disease and cancer. Unlike Reigate & Banstead, Tandridge Council says that there is no local air quality problem and therefore
has imposed no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). Our comment in the Tandridge Local Plan Consultation was for air pollution to be included in Policy D22. DEFRA is requiring local authorities to work together to improve air quality and will issue new official guidance by mid-2014.

**Accidents, Cycle Route and Road Safety:**
All accidents on the A25 continue to be recorded with photographs when possible. HGVs are a particular danger to cyclists, and a new safer cycling route is currently being sought between Redhill and Godstone. To increase road safety, the speed limit has been reduced both east and west of Bletchingley.

**Redhill Aerodrome:** The hard runway application with its subsequent appeal have been refused.

**Tandridge Local Highways Committee:**
TAG-A25 continues to press the Tandridge Local Highways Officer for another meeting. Concern has been expressed over the increasing size of HGVs, from 26 to 40 tons. While larger loads may decrease vehicle movements, the increase in weight, vibration and emissions counteracts any advantage.

Our MPs for both Tandridge and Reigate & Banstead are to be asked for an update on the Department of Transport’s actions on our requested improved access to the M23 at Redhill.

**Councillor Ann Butler**

**Neighbourhood Watch/Police Liaison**

**Di Turner remains, as ever, the backbone and driving force of the Bletchingley Neighbourhood Watch (NHW). Without Di’s efforts and enthusiasm it is unlikely Bletchingley would be as safe or low in crime as it is currently.**

Policing areas have changed as a result of government reorganisations and Bletchingley, Nutfield and South Nutfield has been combined with Godstone, South Godstone and Blindley Heath. Officers in the areas have also been moved. PCSO Lorraine Wells, who has worked very hard for us over the past 5 years, has been moved to Caterham on the Hill and PC Alice Bennett has also been sent elsewhere. Both will be very greatly missed but Lorraine is an especially hard loss. She has worked incredibly hard, was a real friend and support to all she came into contact with.

We are however gaining TWO experienced officers who know the area well having both worked nearby. PC Andy Harvey and PD Tristan Barnett. Our new PCSOs are Hayley Norman, Vicky Seymour and Kerrie Skeet.

Di Turner is on the Tandridge District NHW committee, headed by ex-policeman Mark Howells who was based at Caterham. The NHW coordinator for Clerks Croft (Cynthia Gent has moved away) and Andrew Clay (who filled a long-standing gap in Nightingale Way but now has walking difficulties) are no longer representing their roads. If you can step in please let Di Turner know she would be very pleased to hear from you. The Coordinator for the central parts of Bletchingley is also likely to be moving soon creating another vacancy.

**Councillor Ann Butler**

**Village Hall/Community Centre**

Jeremy Lund is now the secretary. The Chairman will be relocating to Caterham but is willing to stay on as Chairman. New urns have been ordered for both the Village Hall (“VH”) and the Community Centre. A new hearing loop has been fitted in the VH. In the ex-doctors' surgery room, a hatch through into the VH has been fitted as a bar conversion. New red curtains are planned for the VH windows. The Velux windows have been made water-tight, but this week a leak was reported in the VH roof.

In the Community Centre the walls will be painted and there will be new notice boards with possibly a high picture-rail for hangings.
You’ll all have heard that the Crawley man who robbed the PO has been to court and is awaiting sentence, an excellent result pulling local and national media together to gain a conviction. Crime generally in Bletchingley is however very low particularly for the early part of the year. However we should all remain vigilant. If you can help with NHW or would like to volunteer to be a street coordinator please phone Di Turner on 01883 743598.

Councillor Paul Tarrant

Planning

The Parish Council has statutory rights to be consulted by the District Council on all planning issues determined by the District and County Council within the parish.

Planning issues are normally the longest item on the Parish Council agenda and one which is most often of interest to inhabitants. The Parish Council is obliged to respond to planning submissions within 3 weeks of the validation of the application by the District Council and for this reason the Parish Council considers applications at the Full Council meeting (usually the second Monday of each month) and again at Planning Committee meetings (usually on the last Monday of each month).

It should be made clear that the Parish Council does not decide planning issues, but rather comments to the District Council using its local knowledge. This can be important in contentious applications as an objection by the Parish Council may help ensure that an application is then considered by the full planning committee of the District Council and not by the council officers alone.

In recent times there have been some significant changes in the planning system, most notably the introduction of “Permitted Development”. This takes some householder applications out of the normal planning system, although it is wise to consult with the planning authority to ensure that they are satisfied the proposals are compliant and that a “Certificate of Lawfulness” can be granted to avoid any future controversy about the works. Recently the government has temporarily extended these rights to make somewhat larger developments ‘Permitted’.

This government’s emphasis on “Localism” also has the potential to bring significant changes by allowing greater control at parish level. Bletchingley Parish Council is aware of the possibilities presented by this opportunity, but has no plans at present to pursue this.

All planning applications relating to the parish are held in Howard Cundey Estate Agent’s office in the village and can be viewed by any interested party (except when the papers are taken for review at Parish Council meetings). We are grateful to Howard Cundey and their staff for this service, which saves parishioners a trip to Oxted to see the applications. All planning applications can also be viewed on Tandridge District Council’s website.

Councillor Dick Kiss

Recreation

TDC regularly undertake full playground risk inspections of the Stychens Lane Playground and the playground at Grange Meadow.

Although the playground is not used to the extent of Grange Meadow, it is still a useful commodity for the children living at the western end of the village.

Councillor Paul Tarrant

Sports Association

The Sports Association comprises all the sports clubs that regularly use Grange Meadow. The Meadow is owned by Tandridge District Council under a deed of trust and the main part of the Meadow is leased to the Sports Association. TDC appoints three local trustees.
to oversee the lease arrangements and the clubs’ use of the Meadow. The skateboard ramps and the children’s playground are not included in the leased area.

The officers of the Association are: Chairman – Robert Trotman; Secretary and Treasurer – Christine Bolshaw; and Gill Black is the nominated District Councillor for the Association. The Trustees are: Peter Friend, Robert Trotman and John Trott. The clubs currently involved are the Football Club, the Bowls Club, the Rifle Club and the Model Car Racing Club. Sadly, it has not proved possible to find a cricket club to take over the old cricket ground so the Trustees have decided to convert the ground into a second football pitch as two other football clubs have started to play regularly at Grange Meadow. Hopefully this will encourage some junior football too.

The clubs (through the Association) pay the rent and rates charged by TDC, which amount in total to over £4000 per year. TDC looks after the general upkeep of the ground and maintenance of the basic fabric of the buildings. All internal maintenance (including doors and windows) and any special pitch requirements have to be provided by the clubs, in addition to the costs of their own sporting activities as well as insurance, gas, electricity and water.

The main pavilion includes a substantial bar and social area, which is leased to a manager, to support the football club (the other clubs having their own separate buildings). All clubs would welcome new members, playing or non-playing. Please contact initially Christine Bolshaw (Tel: 01883 743 000 or e-mail: chrisbolshaw@hotmail.com).

The main issues being addressed by the Sports Association currently are: (i) the need for resurfacing of the access road and the car parking area beyond the playground; (ii) the provision of some lighting along the access track; and (iii) the conversion of the former cricket ground into a second football pitch. All three require considerable expenditure.

The Association has no financial reserves so funds have to be found from elsewhere. Although TDC are the ultimate Trust owners of the whole site, because of current budget restrictions they are unable to contribute financially at present but have spread scalpings on the surface of the access road and part of the car parking area as a temporary measure during the year.

It is hoped to combine the surfacing and the lighting in one project (funds permitting). The football club’s pavilion social club is organising fund-raising activities and applications compiled by a member of the Bowls Club are being submitted to grant-making bodies.

Councillor Robert Trotman

Transport and Community Speedwatch

Speedwatch was put on hold during the wet and windy weather in the early part of 2014. Despite this, there have been a few sessions, with one in Rabies Heath Road logging over 30 vehicles travelling in excess of 35mph. Not only is speeding dangerous for pedestrians and other motorists, but the noise caused when vehicles hit potholes and manhole covers is thoroughly annoying to nearby residents, especially in the High Street.

If you can help with speed watch or would like to volunteer please phone Di Turner on 01883 743598. Training is provided.

Councillor Paul Tarrant

Tree Management

Following a review of Tilgate Common last year and high winds and gales earlier this year the Parish Council have set up a plan to actively manage the trees in areas where we retain responsibility. The active management includes: Tilgates Common, The Cemetery, Stychens Field and the allotments at Little Common Lane and Stychens sites.
Work has included substantial clearance at Tilgate Common. Here all the trees have been surveyed and we have details of the immediate requirements which will be developed later into a 3 year Management Plan. The overall aim is to open up the area and to improve to overall amenity value of the common. A similar approach will be adopted at the cemetery where over grown hedges have been reduced and a tree survey has been completed.

At the Little Common Lane Allotments the removal of some unstable trees to the north of the site will have been completed by the time you read this. This work together with the new gates should substantially improve the area. At Stychens some limited tree work has been completed to deal with storm damage. Due to the open nature of the area and reduced risk a Management Plan is not required at this stage.

Councillor Paul Tarrant

Website

There were over 14 thousand visits to the Bletchingley Village website in the last year.

(www.bletchingley.org.uk/ )

The most popular pages still being the Village News and Village Diary which are continuously updated and are also sent out via a monthly e-newsletter. Advert revenues were £475 and once hosting costs were taken out, resulted in a net profit of £350 which added to the Parish coffers.

Villagers who wish to be added to the e-letter distribution list or provide news or give notice of events in Bletchingley please contact

sally.ray@btinternet.com  Councillor Sally-Anne Ray

Clerk’s update

Footpath  Volunteers have signed up to the scheme to keep Bletchingley Footpaths open.

Hevers’ Pond  burst its banks this year with all the rain leaving the footpath flooded for nearly 2 months.

Bletchingley Youth Club  continues to attract new members and currently has an average attendance of 14 each week. The age range now tends to generally be years 9 to 11. We are desperately short of volunteers and would encourage anyone interested in getting involved to come along to one of our Thursday sessions and see what it is all about. It would be a shame for this facility to fold through lack of support after only 3 years. Please contact me for more details if you are interested in joining our merry band.

Bletchingley in Bloom  continues to get the full support of the Parish Council in maintaining their existing projects which enhance the village. The bulbs this spring have been lovely and bright and welcoming to the village. The Parish Council are grateful to Tandridge District Council for their continued support with the clearance of collected rubbish following Bletchingley in Bloom work parties which are held each month.

I would like to thank all Councillors for their continued support and look forward to another good year.

Clerk Kim Wantling
## Bletchingley Parish Council
### Receipts and Payments Account for year ended 31 March 2014

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<tr>
<td>Telephone/Broadband</td>
<td>253.57</td>
<td>364.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Maintenance</td>
<td>708.52</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Payments</strong></td>
<td>50,568.15</td>
<td>53,906.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS) for the year</strong></td>
<td>1,426.84</td>
<td>5,945.47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Don’t forget to come to the

Annual Village Meeting

Monday 19th May 2014
Community Centre from 7.00 pm

SPEAKERS:

Daniel Holland

Volunteer Development Co-ordinator
Paramedic Practitioner for South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
Community Defibrillator and First Aid Responders

Ann Butler
“TAG A25 – What we do”