

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

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE  
COMMUNITY CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 20 MAY 2009**

**P R E S E N T**

Councillor R. Gater – Chairman

Councillors: K. Bridger, A. Butler, D. Martin, J. Moore, N. Munday, S-A Ray and R. Trotman

In attendance: Clerk - K. Wantling, District Councillors T Elias and G Black and 23 Residents

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P A Glenn.

**1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the District Councillors and all residents present. He briefly described the new format for the meeting and that the usual reports provided by the Parish Councillors were in the Annual Report, which had been available in advance in the village and were also available at the meeting.

**2 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2008 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**3 BLETCHINGLEY UNITED CHARITIES Accounts for year ended 30 September 2008**

D Martin presented the Accounts of the Bletchingley United Charities for the year ended 30 September 2008. The income and expenditure were similar to that of last year. This year examples of the purchases are: 2 fridge freezers, washing machines, carpets and alarm rentals and the Christmas vouchers.

He then gave a short overview of the makeup of the Trustees and listed the 4 charities involved. He stated that the object of the charity is the relief, either generally or individually of persons resident in the parish of Bletchingley who are in conditions of need and hardship or stress. This usually fills the gaps that statutory authorities cannot help. Details of the Charity and its work are publicised in the Blechingley Magazine and at various talks given by D Martin. Information is also presented to the recipients of vouchers.

**4 VILLAGE HALL (BLETCHINGLEY) TRUST Accounts for year ended 31 December 2008**

Councillor Trotman, Chairman of the Trustees of the Village Hall Trust, presented the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2008, which once again showed a healthy balance being carried forward of £111,535.59. These accounts go to the Charities Commission for vetting. Councillor Trotman explained that the Trust is a Land and Building Owning Trust administered by the Village Hall Management Committee. The Village Hall is leased to Bletchingley Parish Council on a 35 year full repairing lease. There is a good rental income from the properties, all of which are currently let. The rental income is used to raise monies for the long term rebuilding fund, which has a goal of £150k. The Trustees are responsible for managing the Community Centre. Councillor Trotman gave a brief explanation of the makeup of the Trustees of the Village Hall (Bletchingley) Trust. Income is from property rental and investments. Expenditure this year was mainly due to decorating and repairs in the

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Community Centre. The Community Centre Income relates to rents and charges, and expenditure is mainly due to general running costs normally incurred with a building, eg rates, water, electric etc. The accounts are audited and sent to the Charity Commission.

## **5 BAGAGED Accounts for year ended 31 March 2009**

Mr Bolitho passed on apologies for Mr Napper, the Treasurer and thanked the Council for allowing BAGaged to make their accounts public. Copies of the approved accounts for the year ended 31 March 2009 were available. The only expenditure this year was £100 given towards a youth activity involving the skate ramp. Income was down due to the low interest rates. The final balance was £2757.22. It is 10 years since the project started and discussions are taking place about the restructuring of the committee and setting up of a small trust to maintain the skate ramp. A donation would also be made to Bletchingley Playground Friends for the playground project proposed at Grange Meadow.

The Chairman congratulated BAGaged on their work which had resulted in the provision of an asset well used by all the youth. Mr Bolitho stated that he had received many congratulations on the skate park facility from past users from around the world, not just in Bletchingley.

## **6 PARISH PLANS**

Mona Johansson, the Community Services Manager of Surrey Community Action gave a presentation on Community Led Planning on behalf of Pari Dhillon, also of Surrey Community Action. Handouts of the presentation were available. Surrey Community Action is a countrywide charity that supports voluntary and community activities in Surrey by providing advice, training and information.

A Community Led Plan, Parish Plan or Village Appraisal as they may be known would provide Bletchingley with a vision for the next 5 to 10 years. It involves the whole community and can be a tool used to influence planning issues in Bletchingley. Over 40 Parish Plans are in existence or being undertaken in Surrey and around 5000 in the UK. In July, there would be a dedicated member of Surrey Community Action working solely on Parish Plans. To produce a Community Led Plan required the setting up of steering and working groups with representatives of all parts of the community and delivery partners, like the Parish Council and District Council and Surrey County Council. There were various ways to encourage community participation, such as workshops, questionnaires, suggestion boxes etc. The results then needed to be analysed and actions priorities and a draft plan produced for consultation. The benefits to the village would be a proactive village with increased community spirit. The plans can help obtain funding from external sources and helps focus the Parish Council resources. It also provides robust evidence of what the community needs. Some of the results from the production of Parish Plans can be seen in Chobham with the high street modifications, the Shamley Green Community Speedwatch, Hambledon Community Shop and Headley Affordable Housing scheme to name a few.

Surrey Community Action could support parishes undertaking parish plans by providing a toolkit, training, signposting, resources and funding advice and provide the support of a Community Development Worker. Funding of the Parish Plan could be through the parish council precept, Awards for all, local businesses i.e. sponsorship, printing, banners etc and by using County Councillor allocations.

The next steps would be to decide whether Bletchingley wanted to undertake a Community/Parish Plan, and if so, to publicise the project to recruit volunteers for the steering group. Further advice and guidance could be sought from Pari Dhillon of Surrey

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Community Action.

The Chairman thanked Mona Johansson for delivering the presentation and asked those present for their views. It was noted that there were already active groups in the village and why create more. Some of those active groups would soon be needing new volunteers to replace those wanting to step down and therefore renewed interest in the village was sought. Those interested in forming a steering group to take this matter forward were requested to get in touch with the Clerk with contact details to gauge whether there was enough interest to pursue the idea of a parish plan for Bletchingley.

*Mona Johansson left the meeting.*

## **7 BLETCHINGLEY PLAYGROUND FRIENDS**

Kim Wantling gave an update on the progress of Bletchingley Playground Friends. A display was available which showed the results of the questionnaires completed by the Children at St Catherine's School and The Hawthorns School through their School Councils. Also on display were some of the plans incorporating the views of the children. The idea was to provide Bletchingley with a playground in Grange Meadow, to replace the old one by the Coneybury Shops. Following new guidelines from Play England it was now thought more appropriate to try and incorporate a mix of natural play elements as well as structural play elements. The new site would result in reduced parking space for the Sports Association users, but it had been agreed by Tandridge District Council as a compromise that they would supply CCTV to cover the whole location and undertake some improvements to the remainder of the car parking spaces. Funding for the CCTV had now been agreed and details were being finalised on this.

Since the set up of the group in March last year, Bletchingley Playground Friends has managed to secure £33,169 from different sources. A list was available for viewing. The project requires funding of between £50k and £80k. Tandridge District Council would be confirming the amount they would be able to put towards the project by the end of June 2009.

A Swimathon was scheduled for Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> May, kindly hosted by The Hawthorns School. Residents were asked to show their support either by swimming or by coming along and supporting the swimmers or by sponsoring a swimming team.

Bletchingley Playground Friends hoped to have either the whole project in situ by the end of summer 2009 or at least part of it in situ. All support was gratefully received and those who had already supported the cause were thanked for their support. Anyone requiring more information could contact Kim Wantling for more details.

## **8 REPORT FROM WHITEHILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

The Chairman presented the report on behalf of the Whitehill Residents' Association, which represents over 30 properties and is always proactive with local issues affecting Whitehill. This association was originally established in the 1960's to maintain Hextalls Lane initially and then was later extended to include the Conduit and Whitehill Lane. Flytipping remained a problem, although the restriction gateways have limited the amount of fly tipping. Through traffic is also a problem when at speed, but leaving stretches of road network unmade deters many. The Association wishes to extend their thanks to those who assisted in defeating the WBB/Tarmac proposals, in particular, Bletchingley Parish Council and QOG for their determination.

The resurfacing of the remaining 2 lanes on the anti-clockwise section of the motorway are still due for MSA coating and on the agenda but no dates are known. Landowners bordering

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the motorway on Whitehill are aware of the environmental survey carried out by the DOT, which is an obvious precursor to the proposed extra two lanes. The DOT has confirmed that should the widening go ahead, it will be within the existing road boundary.

## **9 QUESTIONS**

The Chairman opened this section of the meeting stating that this was now the opportunity for residents to ask the councillors questions on anything, whether on the reports in the Annual Report or in general. Nigel Price complimented the Parish Council on the production of its first Annual Report. Councillor Trotman admitted to a slight error on the Footpath report, which referred to the Parish Council adopting Footpath 506. The Parish Council had registered its ownership of Footpath 506, not adopted it and therefore Surrey County Council were still responsible for the maintenance of the footpath.

Councillor Martin reported that Surrey County Council had produced a plan showing measures for traffic calming through the centre of the village. These plans were available for viewing at the meeting and all were encouraged to view the plans and make comments. He detailed some of the proposed plans, which included improvements to the junction by the Prince Albert, the relocation of the bus stop further up the street towards Longhursts and others. This was an opportunity to comment on the proposed plans, which need to be sent to County Council. The plans would be left at Howard Cundey for further viewing.

**Parking Issues** – residents complained about the inconsiderate parking in Barfields, particularly near the junction with Tilgate Common and Crescent Road. Often, emergency and refuse vehicles were unable to get down due to the parking. The introduction of the yellow lines at the junction of Barfields with the A25 had improved parking issues at this junction. It was felt inappropriate to put yellow lines further down the road. One resident volunteered to keep a log of inconsiderate parking occurrences and to take photos. It was acknowledged that this was not an easy situation to resolve. The Parish Council would be happy to support the complaints if a portfolio of evidence could be provided. District Councillor G Black was thanked for her support when contacted by the resident making the complaint. Motorists needed to be more considerate. It was also hoped that the new PCSO would soon be on the beat and therefore able to monitor this situation more closely.

**CCTV** – a query was raised as to the use of the CCTV system and its relevance in detecting crime in the village. The Chairman confirmed that the CCTV system was there for the benefit of the village and when incidents occurred, which might have been detected on the cameras, an attempt would be made to retrieve these. Obviously narrowing the time frame down meant that the cost of the realtime download was kept to a minimum. Recent downloads had unfortunately not provided any evidence due to the lapse of time before download and also the inability to give accurate time frames. It was unfortunate about the continued plant vandalism and Bletchingley in Bloom were asked not to get discouraged.

**Football** – Councillor Trotman reported that the football season had now finished with the Bletchingley team winning at Crawley. There would be six aside tournaments between the 26<sup>th</sup> May and the 7<sup>th</sup> July.

**Tilgate Common** – Several residents complained about the ongoing building/landscaping works at Cleves in Bletchingley, including the resulting dust problems and ongoing noise and the frequent bonfires. There was concern at the length of time this development was taking and the type of works that were being undertaken, some of which had planning permission granted retrospectively. It was suggested that in order to assist with enforcement issues, a log of timings of the works etc needed to be kept and then reported to the Environmental Health

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Department. The Parish Council agreed to write to the owner of Cleves to say that the works are affecting the lives of residents and ask for a time frame for the completion of the works. It was pointed out that work was sometimes undertaken 7 days a week and that at least 5 different households were represented who were affected by these works.

**10 ANY OTHER PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS**

The Chairman, on behalf of the Community and the Parish Council, thanked Nigel Price for his service to Neighbourhood Watch over the past years. Di Turner presented him with a gift.

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 8.45 pm.

Signed ..... Date .....

Chairman