

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 08 SEPTEMBER 2008**

P R E S E N T

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

In attendance: Clerk - K. Wantling, CC M Myland, DC G Black, PC Shrapel, D Roberts –
Bletchingley in Bloom, D Turner – Neighbourhood Watch, Mr Goswell – Village Fair Committee
and Mr Birt.

117/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor J Moore, DC T Elias and PCSO Sheppard.
The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

118/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No changes were made to the Declarations of Interest.

119/08 MINUTES

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 26th August 2008 and the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th July 2008 were approved and signed by the Chairman. It was noted that minutes of the Planning Committee meeting which was held on 11th August 2008 in the absence of a Parish Council meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman of the Planning Committee at the meeting of the 26th August 2008.

120/08 RESIDENTS' REQUESTS

Realignment of fencing on Conduit – The Chairman reported that a 50 m stretch of metal fencing along the conduit had been realigned incorrectly, resulting in a narrowing of the bordering bridleway 147. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Clerk would report this to Philippa Gates at SCC Highways. KW

Footpath 22B – The style and finger post have been removed from footpath 22B at the junction with Hextalls Lane (Grid Ref: 333 533). This has resulted in horses being allowed to travel along the footpath. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Clerk would report this to Philippa Gates at SCC Highways. KW

Coneybury Surveillance – Following on from recent events surrounding Coneybury enquiries were made as to whether CCTV surveillance could be installed. It was suggested that the Parish Council could utilise its redundant CCTV camera for this purpose. PC Shrapel confirmed that the location was currently under police surveillance and enquiries ongoing. The Police Taskforce and CID were also involved. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED THAT PC Shrapel would enquire as to how the police could PC S

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

assist with the matter and report back before a decision was made on CCTV surveillance. It was also agreed in principle that the Parish Council would be willing to share the costs involved with TDC and provide a camera depending on the outcome of the police advice.

All

Outwood Lane Parking – Complaints had been received about inconsiderate parking outside Sackville Cottages which resulted in reduced sightlines and at times inability to use the footpath with a buggy.

PC S

IT WAS AGREED THAT PC Shrapel would look into this matter.

121/08 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MYLAND

CC Myland reported that the Council has received the Inspector's report on the Examination into the Core Strategy. The Inspector concluded that, subject to the Development Plan Document being changed in accordance with his report that it is sound. Once checking is complete, this will be available for viewing on the TDC website.

Bletchingley Playground Friends' application for funding would be discussed at the next SCC Local Committee meeting.

CC Myland asked the Chairman to update on the progress of recent meetings held with WBB. These were held in confidence and without prejudice to try to let all parties meet and talk openly and resolve issues amicably. Attendees included representatives from WBB, Quarry Observation Group (QOG), Bletchingley PC (BPC) and Godstone PC (GPC). An agreement in principle had been reached to go forward subject to the Tarmac issue being resolved. An agreement was being drawn up between WBB, QOG, BPC, GPC and Godstone Village Association. Following a meeting earlier in the day attended by the Chairman and CC Myland, some wording issues were still to be resolved but a press release confirming that Tarmac was "out" would hopefully be released on Friday. Ongoing dust issues were to be dealt with by the introduction of new equipment and cameras to monitor the dust levels and cameras to monitor the movement of traffic out of the haul route.

CC Myland and all fellow councillors complimented the Chairman on his commitment to this and attributed the successful outcome to this commitment.

Various highway issues were discussed including the awaited yellow lines, the lack of the road markings outside the Red Lion, moss issues by the two bus stops at the western end of the village and the highway improvement scheme for the High Street. CC Myland confirmed that these were in the pipeline but would try to get more information and report back.

MM

122/08 POLICING ISSUES

PC Shrapel gave apologies for PCSO Sheppard who was currently on light duties in Caterham and looking forward to coming back onto the beat. He read the police report, which highlighted 24 reported crimes from the 14th July to the 8th September 2008. This was down from the 27 reported for the same period last year. They included: assault; burglary; theft of plants, mobile phone and theft from a motor vehicle; property damage; threats to cause criminal damage; arson; damage to a tombstone and damage to a sign. The report was handed to the Clerk.

Residents were asked to be aware that forged £20 notes were circulating around the

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

South East.

The DVLA have confirmed that as from 01/09/08 there is a 5 day exemption from the offence of not displaying a valid vehicle licence tax disc. This only covers the first 5 working days at the beginning of the month in which the tax disc commences and ONLY when an application for a new tax disc HAS BEEN made BEFORE the previous one has expired.

The theft of copper, lead and diesel is still increasing.

The Chairman thanked PC Shrapel.

PC Shrapel and CC Myland left the meeting.

123/08 BLETCHINGLEY IN BLOOM

Mr Roberts gave apologies for Mrs Cock who was currently on holiday celebrating Blethingley in Bloom having received a higher level of Silver Gilt at the award ceremony on 3 September. The Clerk confirmed that there was still no advance on the draft agreement for Hevers' Pond but that the owners had confirmed that they were happy with the idea of Hevers' Pond being "managed". The Clerk would try to get an update on the agreement and report back in due course.

KW

Mr Roberts left the meeting.

124/08 STREET SWEEPERS

A discussion followed about the possible introduction of a street sweeper scheme in the village. It was felt that this was a highway responsibility. If a dedicated person was to be employed that would involve large costs and contracts etc. The Clerk confirmed that some parishes did this using a minimum wage of £7 per hour on a set number of hours per week. It was suggested that a general contractor could be employed as a general handyman on a job driven basis. Following the discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT (i) further enquiries would be made of Godstone Parish Council as to what they are doing and (ii) make enquiries of our current ground works contractor as to whether he is willing to undertake the work and enquire about costs involved.

KW
KW

125/08 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Mr Goswell of the Village Fair Committee stated that they wished to brighten up the village at Christmas time using subtle lighting and were asking for the support of the Parish Council. Three possible locations had been identified for the display of lights. These were at the top corner of Grange Meadow near the Prince Albert, the tree by the Old Butchers House and a possible siting outside the Whyte Harte. TDC had confirmed that they had no objections and that SCC Highways had no objections either. Suitable electric sources would have to be found. The Village Fair Committee would pay for the electric usage of the lights. Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT (i) the Parish Council supported the idea and the locations and would endeavour to help with the location of electric points and help with any planning issues; and (ii) the Clerk would make enquiries of Godstone Parish Clerk in relation to their Christmas lights and get back to Mr Goswell with the information and or contact details.

All
KW

Mr Goswell left the meeting.

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

126/08 MATTERS AND ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM MINUTES

The Clerk's report was noted and those items requiring action were on the agenda later.

Village Gateways – The Clerk asked if this could be raised again as past details were very sketchy and the original request submitted to SCC may need to be revised in light of the fact that Bletchingley in Bloom would like planters at the gateways. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Clerk would make enquiries of SCC as to their costings for the installation of gateways. KW

QOG Donation – The Clerk confirmed that the agreed sum of £500 plus VAT in respect of Bletchingley's portion of the legal fees incurred in fighting the WBB claim had been issued in August to the legal firm instructed.

Bletchingley Playground Friends – The Clerk gave a brief update on the progress of the group. Some funding was currently being agreed by the High Sheriff Youth Awards. A decision was still being awaited from the Big Lottery funding application. TDC were also considering moving the location to Grange Meadow but this was still under discussion. Further updates would be provided when available.

St Catherine's School Sign – This was now in situ and thanks went to DC Elias and DC Black for their part in pursuing this. The Clerk confirmed that the additional sign to be located in the place of the currently redundant sign underneath "St Catherine's Cross" was also in the process of being pursued by one of the school governors.

127/08 CURRENT PLANNING ISSUES

11.1 TA/2008/1158 – Coldharbour Farm Cottage, Coldharbour Lane, Bletchingley – Erection of front porch.

RESOLVED - No comment. KW

11.2 TA/2008/840 – The Works, Church Walk, Bletchingley – Demolition of building. This has been **Granted** by TDC.

DC Black left the meeting.

128/08 REPORTS FROM AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

1. Neighbourhood Watch: Councillor Bridger reported that the school holiday period had been a very bad time for crime. Late night noise at the Churchyard from youths in gangs of up to 6 at any time had been complained about and police had attended on numerous occasions. A grave stone had been badly damaged during daylight hours. Targeted areas seem to have been St Mary's Walk, Coneybury and Kenrick Square. An increased police presence had been noticed. Reports of underage drinking had been received in relation to area surrounding the Sports Club at Grange Meadow, together with adults driving vehicles away from the Sports Club after drinking. PC Shrapel is aware of some of these concerns. The Chairman confirmed that the CCTV camera is currently located on Church House. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED THAT Councillor Trotman would speak to the landlord of the Sports Club about the concerns expressed and the situation would be monitored. RT

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

D Turner left the meeting.

2. Footpaths and Bridleways: Councillor Trotman had nothing to report.

3. Transport: Councillor Munday raised concerns about the number of lorries utilising the laybys in Bletchingley for their stops. This was of particular concern in Overdale where they were at times causing an obstruction. As it is not illegal to park in a layby the Parish Council could not do anything. If anyone does notice a parked vehicle causing an obstruction then this should be notified to the police.

4. Speedwatch: Councillor Munday had nothing new to report.

5. Cemetery: Councillor Tatnell confirmed that she would be meeting with the Clerk the following day to discuss maintenance issues at the cemetery. It had been reported that some residents felt that the cemetery was not being maintained appropriately. The Clerk stated that she had met with the contractor and discussed the undergrowth clearance to be scheduled during the winter months when there was no longer a need to cut grass. A resident had complained about overhanging trees and the resultant leaf fall. The Clerk enquired as to whether this might be a job that is undertaken as part of the clearance work in the winter months. This schedule would be drawn up following the meeting on Tuesday. The Cemetery Management Training Course attended by the Clerk and Councillor Tatnell was felt to have been very worthwhile, although it had raised some issues which were now being dealt with, particularly in relation to the transfer of ownership of the rights of burial in plots for subsequent generations.

6. Minerals: Councillor Butler thanked the Chairman for his hard work in facilitating an agreement with WBB and related parties. Dust issues now appear to be under control. However, hydrology issues still need to be resolved. Councillor Butler read the latest planning response (circulated earlier to all councillors) sent on behalf of Bletchingley Parish Council in relation to the planning application. It confirmed that the Parish Council were happy with the latest issues but expect SCC to monitor operations appropriately. QOG have sent a more detailed letter to SCC Planning Department stating that it is important for them to involve the Environmental Agency. The Chairman gave a brief history on how the issues had escalated and stated that in the end, common sense had prevailed with the help of continued local pressure from the local communities involved.

7. Village Hall/Community Centre: Councillor Tatnell reported that there were two TENS available. Following a discussion with a Bletchingley Players representative, Councillor Tatnell stated that the lighting rig had been intended only for the use of Bletchingley Players and that only a set number of lights were allowed on the rig at any one time. The Chairman updated the councillors on the history behind this discussion and original complaint raised about the lighting rig infrastructure. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED THAT Councillor Tatnell on behalf of Bletchingley Village Hall Management Committee should contact a firm whose details had been provided by Councillor Munday and ask for advice on the health and safety issues surrounding the lighting rig.

BT

8. Recreation/Sports Association: Councillor Trotman declared an interest as a Trustee of **Grange Meadow** (who benefit directly from the liability insurance) and withdrew from the debate and voting. The Clerk confirmed that the renewal terms were the same as those of last year subject to a few minor changes to description and

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

usage, which had been agreed by the insurance company. Following a discussion,
IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the insurance policy with CBC UK Limited for Grange Meadow would be renewed for a further year at a premium of £420.

All

The next meeting of the Sports Association was on 8th October at 8pm in the Bowls Club.

The Clerk confirmed that she had received the Playground Inspection Report in relation to Stychens Lane Playground from Councillor Moore and all items were satisfactory and in good order subject to refuse bins being emptied. The site at the bottom of the field appeared to have not been disturbed again.

9. Allotments: In Councillor Moore's absence the Clerk confirmed that final judging of the allotments would take place on Wednesday 10th September with announcement and cup presentation taking place at the Bletchingley Horticultural Show this Saturday. Three plots did appear to have had little or no work done to them and the Clerk would be writing letters to the tenants. Prices for skips had now been obtained at £90 plus VAT for a 3 cubic yard skip and £120 plus VAT for a 4 cubic yard skip. The Clerk would make enquiries as to the most appropriate time for a skip to be left at the allotments and report back at the October Council meeting.

KW

10. Street Lighting: Nothing to report.

11. CCTV: Nothing to report on the police CCTV system. All CCTV systems are working.

12. Website: The Clerk reported that all renewal premiums had been received. An enquiry had been made by the Adult Education Centre in relation to advertising as an organisation and events. Following a discussion,

KW

IT WAS AGREED THAT subject to the workload required on advertising diary events, that this should be considered the same as other village activities already advertised and as such done free of charge.

129/08 FINANCE

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

000498	Bletchingley Village Hall	15.00
000499	Mrs K Wantling	711.24
000500	HM Revenue & Customs	23.81
000501	Open Spaces Society	30.00
000502	Viking Direct	57.21
000503	CBC UK Limited	420.00
000504	DA Landscaping & Garden Maintenance	<u>1254.00</u>
		<u>£2511.26</u>

13.2 – CiLCA Training Course for the Clerk – to approve the Clerk's attendance at a residential CiLCA Training Course on 24-25 October at a cost of £170.38 plus fuel expenses of 40p per mile on a round trip of about 100 miles. Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the expenses for the Clerk's Residential CiLCA Training Course, including fuel expenses were agreed.

All

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

130/08 FOOTPATH 506

The Cost Orders incorrectly drawn by the Courts were now all signed off and the Final Hearing had been reapplied for. It was thought that this might be in November.

131/08 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

A list of all correspondence received was circulated with the papers for information and only those requiring action are noted below.

1. SCC – Surrey Countryside Access Forum – to discuss and approve if appropriate the nomination of a council member to join the Forum. Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT at present there was no councillor available to join the forum and it was thought that this was not necessary at this stage. KW

2. Surrey Crime Stoppers – To consider and approve a request for a grant for 2009/10 (Local Government and Rating Act 1997 s31). Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT a donation of £50 would be made to Surrey Crimestoppers in the 2009/10 financial year. KW

3. Letter of complaint from Castle Place – to agree a formal response. A copy of the letter had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. The history surrounding the original resident's request was given to the Council. Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the minute accurately reflected the resident's request at that time. However, following further investigation it is now understood that the services reported about were for another property in the complex rather than Castle Place. The matter was raised by a resident and was therefore felt to be of interest to the Parish Council and its residents particularly as this stretch of road is the only access for a number of residents. A formal response to reflect the resolution above would be sent to the original complainant KW

4. To agree a response to Godstone Parish Council's letter relating to the concern about maintenance levels of highways by Surrey County Council. As the Parish Council have raised the same issues with Highways on several occasions,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would write a letter of support to Godstone Parish Council. KW

132/08 MATTERS FOR REPORTING OR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDA

Councillor Martin reported that he had been asked by the Historical Society to arrange for a Parish Council representative to make a presentation on the history of the Parish Council at the Historical Society meeting on 12th March 2009. Councillor Martin would prepare the historical information. The Chairman agreed in principle that he would do the representation. DM
RG

Councillor Martin notified the Council that on the 27th September he would be guiding a group of about 40 people from the Domestic Buildings Research Group (DBRG) around the village. The DBRG would be having their AGM in the Village Hall that day. DM

The Clerk informed the Parish Council on a recently received Response form for the

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

Partial Review of the Draft South East Plan entitled “Somewhere to Live: Planning for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the South East.” It was felt that there was already one large settlement in the Parish and another two others in neighbouring parishes and therefore that any more should be located in other areas.

Councillor Trotman reported on an issue raised at the SCAPTC AGM held in July, which related to CPRE membership by Parish Councils. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Clerk would make enquiries of other Clerks in relation to this and report back at the next meeting.

KW

133/08 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Planning Committee – 29 September 2008

Parish Council Meeting – 13 October 2008

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.30 pm