

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 11 JANUARY 2010**

P R E S E N T

Councillor R. Gater – Chairman

Councillors: PA Glenn, D Martin, N Munday, S-A Ray and R Trotman

In attendance: Clerk - K. Wantling, DC Black, CC Elias and P Cock.

01/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors A Butler, K Bridger and J Moore and DC Myland, PC Shrapel and PCSO Wells. All were welcomed to the meeting.

02/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

03/10 MINUTES

The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 14 December 2009 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

04/10 RESIDENTS' REQUESTS

Gritting of Roads in recent snow – Numerous complaints were received in relation to the lack of gritting of side roads, particularly Big Common Lane and Little Common Lane, which were classed as priority 2 roads. CC Elias gave a brief update on the matter stating that in light of recent events changes were hoping to be made to the priority of certain roads including the upgrading of Big Common Lane/Little Common Lane/Pendell Road section to ensure access between Bletchingley and Merstham, including the Hawthorns is maintained. As these conditions were being experienced across the country, salt resources for all councils were scarce and priority for gritting is having to be given to keeping main roads open in the first instance.

Agreement had been reached between SCC and TDC that TDC groups, such as street cleaning, when not involved in their assigned work, were able to go out and grit areas by hand in these types of extreme conditions.

Salt from the salt bins was being removed by residents and used for their own personal use rather than being kept for the junctions and a salt bin had also been stolen.

Concern was also expressed about the reluctance of the police to close the above roads after they had become impassable with abandoned vehicles.

Councillor Munday praised a resident of Barfields who purchased salt from his own funds and gritted Barfields Road. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Clerk would write a letter of thanks to the resident.

KW

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05/10 REPORT FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

CC Elias reported on the meeting on the 17th December between himself, D Curl of SCC Highways, Councillor Martin and the Clerk to discuss Highway improvements in the Bletchingley.

It was agreed that a crossing at Grange Meadow was the first priority and there were funds available to do a feasibility study this financial year for a crossing with a refuge and hopefully implementation next year. Improvements to the High Street were unlikely without further consultation. The pedestrian crossing at the top of Little Common Lane would be moved further down the hill this year to improve the sightline.

The SCC Highways Community Gang were scheduled to be in the area this week and would be undertaking various outstanding jobs.

06/10 POLICING ISSUES

The Clerk read the police report in PC Shrapel's absence. These ranged from assault to theft and damage to properties. Arrests have been made in relation to the damage to a motor vehicle and the theft of golf buggies and there are ongoing enquiries in relation to 2 assaults.

07/10 MATTERS AND ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM MINUTES

The Clerk's report was noted.

Annual Parish Meeting – A suggested date of Monday 24th May was provisionally agreed subject to availability of the Village Hall Management Committee for their AGM which usually follows the Annual Parish Meeting.

Allotments – Water bills from Sutton and East Surrey Water have been received and the usage does appear to have increased considerably. This will be monitored, including the use of hosepipes.

Hevers Pond – RH & RW Cluttons were chasing their lawyers for a response.

Police Changes – A public meeting about the publicised changes to the Surrey Police is to be held at Centerary Hall in Smallfield on 26/01/10 at 7.30pm. The Clerk was expecting to attend. KW

Village Gateways – Written confirmation from SCC Highways had been received about the installation of the gateways and TDC were in the process of refunding the planning fees. The Clerk would be instructing the contractors to start work on the production of the gateways and signs later this week. KW

War Memorial Damage – A witness statement had yet to be obtained.

08/10 BLETCHINGLEY IN BLOOM

P Cock confirmed that Bletchingley in Bloom would be entering "In Bloom" this year. This had been agreed by an almost unanimous vote. P Cock would be remaining as Chair. The Saturday work party had done a tour of the village in the snow to view areas suggested for improvement. An amenity bed in Rabies Heath Road would go ahead and had been costed for mature plants. Hevers Pond still had earmarked reserves. The Skills Centre would continue to receive support along with St Catherines' School Gardening Club, now to include a monthly session with

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the Special Needs Group. More than 4000 more bulbs had been planted throughout the village. The group would be meeting monthly, with monthly work parties on the 2nd Saturday of every month. P Cock enquired as to whether the Parish Council would continue to support their efforts. It was confirmed that the Parish Council would look favourably on continued financial support. Further project ideas would be requested through the website. One suggestion made was an amenity bed at St Catherines' Cross. The Clerk would e-mail this project idea to P Cock for a future In Bloom meeting.

09/10 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Clerk confirmed that Bletchingley Parish Council had received a donation towards the Christmas Lights under **S139 of the Local Government Act 1972** from the Bletchingley Village Fair Committee. In relation to the purchase and installation of Christmas Lights carried out in December 2009 on the tree behind the Post Office and possible purchase of additional lights, following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT (i) the Parish Council would pay for these (**LGA 1972 s144**) and include the lights on the insurance schedule at a cost of £30.13 which would only be payable on renewal, and (ii) the Parish Council agreed in principle to support the provision of more lights in the tree.

KW

10/10 CURRENT PLANNING ISSUES

10.1. **TA/2009/1499** – Place Farm Barn, Place Farm Road, Bletchingley, RH1 4QR – retention of access & erection of 1.4m high gate & fence (CH).

RESOLVED – No comment.

KW

P Cock, CC Elias and DC Black left the meeting.

10.2. **TA/2009/1536** or **TA/SC/2009/0179/SM** - Land North east of Pendell Farm, Pendell Road, Bletchingley, RH1 4QH - Extraction of sand from an area of some 20 hectares known as Pendell as a western extension to North Park Quarry involving the loading and transfer of sand via conveyor to and the stockpiling of sand at North Park Quarry and associated works including a conveyor bridge and access/maintenance track over Whitehill Lane, and the re-phasing of the western extent of North Park Quarry to enable the transfer of sand from the quarry extension with associated landscaping until 31 December 2020 with restoration to agriculture and nature conservation by 31 December 2022. Diversion of public footpaths 160, 161, 162, and 163 (parts) and the continued temporary diversion of public bridleway 148 (parts). County Determination. (JP)

RESOLVED – Councillor Butler's comments were agreed subject to finalisation and inclusion of additional comments which may be made at the Planning Committee Meeting on the 25th January 2010.

All

10.3. **TA/2009/1530/TCA** - 59 High Street, Bletchingley, RH1 4PB – Fell 3 Lawson Cypress. (JM)

RESOLVED – No comment.

KW

10.4. **TA/2009/1552** - Castle Hill Farm House, Castle Square, Bletchingley - Conversion of existing buildings to provide 4 X 3-bed and 1 X 2- bed dwellings with associated garaging/parking - application to extend time

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limit for implementation of permission 2001/1110. (CH)

KW

RESOLVED – No comment as this was purely an extension for an application that the Parish Council had previously not objected to.

10.5. **TA/2009/1573** - Unit 1, Kennels Farm, Outwood Lane, Outwood - Erection of detached double garage incorporating store. (SF)

KW

RESOLVED – The Parish Council object on the same grounds as that for application TA/2008/1214 in that this is an inappropriate development to start with.

10.6. Any other current planning matters – discussion only

- TA/2009/840 - Stychfield, Stychens Lane, Bletchingley – An appeal has been lodged.

11/10 REPORTS FROM AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

1. Neighbourhood Watch – Nothing to report in the absence of Councillor Bridger. Payment for Hall Hire for Neighbourhood Watch AGM on 16 April 2010 (Local Government Rating Act 1997 s31). Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Parish Council would pay for the hall hire.

All

2. Footpaths and Bridleways: Footpath 290 had previously been diverted between 15 and 20 years ago by the quarry and there was no recollection of its reinstatement plans. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Clerk would request that the original line of 290 be reinstated and added to the Definitive Rights of Way map.

KW

3. Transport: Nothing to report.

4. Speedwatch: Nothing to report

5. Cemetery: It was brought to the attention of the Parish Clerk in December that the holly in the cemetery was being collected. Upon investigation it appears that this has been an agreement, made yearly with previous clerks. Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT future collections of holly in the cemetery would incur a modest charge in order to establish that right.

KW

6. Minerals/Environment – Councillor Butler’s comments on the Pendell Farm Planning Application had been circulated and agreed under Planning Issues.

7. Tree Wardens: A response had been received from Graham Banks of SCC in relation to our report and all issues raised could be left as they were either natural deterioration and/or not in close proximity to footpaths so as to cause a pedestrian hazard. It was also recognised that Councillor Trotman was no longer a tree warden and that the Bletchingley Tree Wardens were Ann Butler and John Gent.

KW

8. Village Hall/Community Centre: There was a possible tenant for one of the buildings and investigations were currently being undertaken on this. Negotiations were also ongoing with a new tenant for the 1st floor offices. There were reports of rats in the Blue Room and actions were being taken to find the source in the first instance.

9. Recreation/Sports Association: There was a Sports Association Meeting scheduled for later in the week and one issue to be discussed was the new fence in front of Grange Meadow as there were several concerns over this and parking.

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10. Allotments: Nothing to report in respect of the allotments. The field rents for 2010/11 were reviewed. The Clerk had researched grazing land prices amongst other Parish Councils and these ranged from between £50 and £100 per acre. Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the rent for Whitepost Field would remain at £400 per annum. The rent at the Old Allotment Field would be increased to £450 per annum to take into account the future availability of water.

KW

11. Street Lighting: The light opposite Brittens Bank was not working. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Clerk would report this.

KW

12. CCTV: The Chairman reported that the CCTV systems were operating normally.

13. Website: Councillor Ray reported that new residents were requesting the e-newsletter, which was being well received.

12/10 FINANCE

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

All

000654	Bletchingley Village Hall	9.00
000655	Mrs K Wantling	649.69
000656	HM Revenue & Customs	74.70
000657	St Catherine's Hospice	100.00
000658	Blachere Illumination	2509.88
000659	Vistec Systems Limited	54.63
000660	Sutton & East Surrey Water Plc	66.43
000661	Sutton & East Surrey Water Plc	23.10
000662	DA Landscaping	<u>504.00</u>
		<u>£3,991.43</u>

The donation to St Catherine's Hospice, which was agreed under minute 170/09 on 14th December 2009, should have been recorded as being made under **LGA 1972 s137** and not LGA 1972 s142.

12.2 The precept for 2010-2011 was confirmed at £35,000 as discussed and agreed under minute 154/09 on 9 November 2009.

13/10 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

The list of correspondence received and previously circulated was noted.

14/10 MATTERS FOR REPORTING OR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDA

Parish Plan – subject to the response from letters being sent out to organisations, this will be on the February agenda.

Emergency Action Plan – In light of the recent snow, it was agreed that the Clerk should contact TDC/SCC about reviewing the draft Action Plan in order to assess what the next action is that should be taken.

Whitepost Field – the Clerk and Councillor Glenn would undertake a visit to the

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Records Office to review documentation relating to the above.

15/10 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Planning Committee Meeting – 25 January 2010

Parish Council Meeting – 8 February 2010

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 pm