

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 12 OCTOBER 2009**

P R E S E N T

Councillor R. Gater – Chairman

Councillors: K Bridger, A Butler, PA Glenn, J Moore, N Munday, S-A Ray and R Trotman

In attendance: Clerk - K. Wantling, DC Black, DC Myland, CC Elias, PC N Shrapel, PCSO L Wells, D Turner (Neighbourhood Watch) and D Birt.

129/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Martin. All were welcomed to the meeting.

130/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No changes to the existing Declarations of Interest were made.

131/09 MINUTES

The minutes and confidential minute of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14 September 2009 were approved and signed by the Chairman. The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 28 September 2009 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

132/09 RESIDENTS' REQUESTS

Traffic Lights in the High Street – Councillor Bridger was concerned that there appeared to be no liaison between Surrey County Council (SCC) and the utility companies and that no warning about these lights on the A25 had been given. It was confirmed that the works were being carried out by Sutton and East Surrey Water and they are responsible for any signage, not SCC. DC Black would check and report back. D Birt reported that it was unclear where the pedestrian crossing was at Little Common Lane as a result of these works. DC Black would also make enquiries about this.

DCB

DCB

The Clerk reported on behalf of a resident who had complained by e-mail about the noise resulting from a loose manhole cover on the A25 near the junction with Barfields. This had been reported at a previous meeting. The Clerk also reported on 2 other residents complaints about noise and shaking properties as a result of heavy lorries going over other damaged or sunken manhole covers. Following a conversation,

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Clerk would table the manhole covers concerned and e-mail C Pearse at SCC with a copy to CC Elias. The Clerk would send a reply to the resident who raised the e-mail complaint.

KW

KW

Any reports of flytipping should be passed directly to R Cole at Tandridge District Council (TDC).

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133/09 REPORT FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

DC Myland apologies for previous absences and only had 2 issues to bring to the attention of the Parish Council. The last North Park Quarry Community Liaison Group meeting had been very successful. There were new plans at Gatwick Airport for more flights, which whilst it may not affect Bletchingley greatly, would likely have an effect on the M23 due to the increased traffic. DC Myland would be attending the GACC (Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign) meeting on the 13th November at 7.30pm at the Gatwick Manor Hotel, Crawley and welcomed any others to attend.

CC Elias reported that he was aware that an enquiry had been made about the ownership of the cobbles outside Longhursts. The Minerals Plan was now out formally for consultation and it highlighted the fact that the Pendell site is identified for its silica content. In relation to the £6000 previously mentioned that was allocated to each County Councillor, CC Elias reported that this was currently awaiting legal confirmation of its feasibility. CC Elias confirmed that he was actively looking into the relocation of the 30 speed marker in Little Common Lane and had circulated to the Clerk the Winter Programme which was out for review. This could affect our previous requests for additional salt bins. Under the current speed management review, Bletchingley has no listed items. The meetings between CC Elias and the Highways Teams are constructive. The Community Gang deals with any smaller urgent matters such as overgrown vegetation, potholes etc but they are only allocated to the area every 9 weeks.

The Chairman confirmed that at present Whitehill Lane is dry and does not appear to have any drainage issues.

DC Black reported that residents in Godstone Road have requested that the 30 speed marker is moved to the start of the Village, i.e. before the Chevington Villas.

134/09 POLICING ISSUES

PC Shrapel reported on the 11 crimes for the period since the last meeting, compared to 20 reported for the same period last year. These mainly consisted of damage to motor vehicles and damage to property. There was one relating to theft and a male is currently being dealt with for this offence. In relation to the past robbery at the Post Office, 1 person has been charged and the 2nd is due to be charged. Both are currently in custody. Burglary of dwellings in Tandridge is high and tends to occur during the daytime. Night time burglaries tend to be related to the theft of high performance vehicles. The Roads Policing are also patrolling the area. PC Shrapel reported on the common sense required when purchasing items from ebay following a person reported as paying for a vehicle on ebay without seeing it and then not receiving the vehicle.

During Halloween and Fireworks, there will be extra patrols as with last year. PC Shrapel was made aware of the Church's Halloween Service following the success of the one held last year.

The Targeted Patrol Team had been teaming up with local officers and this has resulted in a larger coverage.

The Chairman thanked PC Shrapel and PCSO Wells for their continued work.

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DC Black, DC Myland, CC Elias, PC Shrapel and PCSO Wells left the meeting.

135/09 MATTERS AND ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM MINUTES

The Clerk's report was noted.

Bletchingley Playground - Work on the new playground had started and the Open Day was scheduled for the 21st November. The Clerk enquired as to whether the Parish Council would have some form of presence to try to gain more interest in the Parish Plan and the response was positive.

Rural Affordable Housing – Letters and questionnaires would go out in November and a report would be produced for the February meeting. Advance advertising of the questionnaires would be available on the website and in the Parish Newsletter.

Village Gateways – An application is being made to the Tandridge Local Committee for funds for this, and will include the removal of the then redundant existing signs. The planning application would be processed shortly.

KW

Hevers Pond – Documents had been returned to RH & RW Cluttons with our comments and we were now awaiting their response.

Allotments – The borrowing approval information was on the agenda for discussion.

Councillor Training Sessions – These had been well attended and the feedback very positive.

SCAPTC AGM – This had been attended by Councillor Trotman and the Clerk and had been informative, including the 3 workshops attended.

Action Points - In relation to the outstanding points, items relating to the Wooden Bus Shelter and Sandy Lane would be removed as there was nothing more that could be done on these two items. In relation to Church Lane vegetation, due to the other road closures in the area, it was now not envisaged that there would be any cutting of the roadside vegetation until Spring 2010.

KW

The sunken manhole covers would be added to the list.

KW

136/09 CURRENT PLANNING ISSUES

8.1 **TA/2009/691** – 30 Gayler Close, Bletchingley, Surrey, RH1 4RG – erection of rear conservatory (MB)

RESOLVED – No comment.

KW

8.3 **A25 Bletchingley High Street highway improvements** – To comment on the proposals put forward by SCC Highways for improvements to the Bletchingley High Street. The Clerk read the comments submitted by two residents on the above proposals. Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Parish Council would comment as follows:

KW

Bus Stop and Pedestrian Crossing: - The proposed new location for the bus stop on the north side would affect deliveries to Longhursts and the Post Office and also remove some of the high street parking spaces. It would also result in the loss of a large amount of the existing cobble paving. The new location for the pedestrian crossing near the existing bus stop would also reduce the number of car parking spaces. The Parish Council therefore propose that the existing bus stop is retained in its current location and the new pedestrian crossing is located outside Travelling

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Light.

Junction improvements – It was felt that the improvements to the junction with Outwood Lane and Church Lane were appropriate.

An additional pedestrian crossing was requested for outside Lawrence the Auctioneers.

8.2 **SCC/TA/2009/0063** – North Park Farm Quarry, North Park Lane, Godstone, Surrey – Details of a Dust Monitoring Scheme and Dust Action Plan pursuant to Condition 8; details of a Biodiversity Action Plan pursuant to Condition 26; and details of a written scheme of archaeological investigation submitted pursuant to Condition 30 of planning permission ref: TA08/0185 and RE08/0255 dated 25 September 2008. Councillor Butler read from her report, which had been forwarded to the Clerk. Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Parish Council had no comment to make at this stage as there was no new material, which had not previously been discussed. The Parish Council would however, formally request that the application be determined by the Planning and Regulatory Committee rather than under delegated powers.

KW

8.4 Any other current planning matters

The Clerk reported that TDC were seeking views on the future reuse or redevelopment of the Marie Curie Hospice. Following a discussion, it was felt that Bletchingley were not local enough to comment.

Planning Application TA/2009/1212 would be up for discussion at the next Planning Committee Meeting. The Chairman stated that he had a personal interest as Chairman of the Whitehill Residents Association and as a Whitehill resident. He briefed the councillors on the history surrounding the use of the site and confirmed that the Whitehill Residents Association had written to TDC objecting to the application.

The following applications would also be heard at the next Planning Committee Meeting: TA/2009/1138, TA/2009/481 and TA/2009/1159.

137/09 REPORTS FROM AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

1. Neighbourhood Watch – Councillor Bridger reported on the Drive Smart Campaign, which is due to start. This is linked up with other agencies. A report would go on the website about this. There appears to be little disturbance at present around the Church gate and bench. A Street Dance session has been started up once a week in the Village Hall and is well attended. Both the Youth Bus and the I-Bus are again visiting Bletchingley. D Turner was thanked for her part in making this happen. The issues surrounding Clare Cottages is ongoing and 2 residents had attended the earlier Police Panel meeting in relation to this. Complaints were still being received in relation to the works at the Rolls Royce garage despite promises to ensure that conditions would be met. There are still vehicles with for sale signs on the road. Councillor Bridger proposed to leave it for one month to assess the progress and report back. There was also mention of a pipe coming out of a window of 94 High Street and causing a possible trip hazard on the footpath. Councillor Munday confirmed he would investigate this on his return after the meeting.

KB/
SAR

KB

NM

2. Footpaths and Bridleways: No comment.

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3. Transport: Councillor Munday reported that LORDS were currently trying to arrange for the Goods Vehicles Act 1995 to be amended so that local knowledge or roads and existing businesses can be used before the granting of Operator Licences.

4. Speedwatch: Nothing to report.

5. Cemetery: The winter maintenance programme was discussed and the possibility of mapping the cemetery and the repair of the fence behind the bus stop. Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT DA Landscaping should continue with the winter maintenance programme of additional vegetation clearance once the grass cutting stops. DA Landscaping would be instructed to repair the fence behind the bus stop for the agreed sum of approximately £155. DA Landscaping would also be asked to undertake a 2 day trial mapping of an area of the cemetery so as to gauge possible costs should this be a viable option. These 2 days would be instead of the regular maintenance days initially.

KW

D Turner left the meeting.

6. Minerals/Environment/Tree Wardens – Councillor Butler had nothing further to report.

7. Village Hall/Community Centre: Councillor Munday reported that the stage electrics were in the process of being repaired.

8. Recreation/Sports Association: Councillor Trotman reported that the cricket club who had expressed an initial interest in the pitch is now waiting until the next autumn before making a decision. The Football Club is currently doing very well, winning all games.

9. Allotments: Councillor Moore stated that she had received several positive comments in relation to the Parish Council's purchase of the allotments. The Chairman read a letter received that day from Hedleys in relation to unknown Covenants relating to the Thames Water land. Legal confirmation had been sought that as long as the Parish Council do not breach any of the covenants, then they would not be liable for any repairs to the pipelines noted in the covenants. A check on the depth of these pipelines would be made. It was felt that legal costs for this purchase would be in the region of £300 and would be borne by the Parish Council.

To agree the sum requested for Borrowing Approval which will include the £10000 purchase price of the Little Common Lane allotment site and associated costs and the costs involved in the creation of the additional plots in the Old Allotment Field in Stychens Lane. To agree the source of funds if Borrowing Approval is given. (LGA 1972 S124 and s126). Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Borrowing Approval Form would be for the sum of £17k over a period of 5 years and that the Public Works Loan Board would be the source of funds should Borrowing Approval be given.

Mr Birt left the meeting.

The Clerk confirmed that the water meter had been installed for the Old Allotment Field and that the pipework appeared to be sound apart from the tap. The water was currently turned off.

10. Street Lighting: The light opposite William IV was still covered by trees and the nearby Give Way sign was also covered by the overgrown tree vegetation. With

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the onset of winter, this matter needs to be attended to urgently. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Clerk would report these as urgent.

KW

11. CCTV: The Chairman reported that the CCTV systems were operating normally. The Contractor is working very well with the Parish Council. The CCTV camera has now been changed back to a 96 hour loop.

12. Website: Councillor Ray reported the website had received its highest hits on the days after the news of the allotments future. It is hoped that the site will be moved to the new platform in about 6 weeks by the web designer at his own cost. This will give the Parish Council more freedom on the inclusion of new pages etc.

138/09 FINANCE

10.1 The following October payments were sanctioned and cheques and stubs signed.

All

000617	Bletchingley Village Hall	12.00
000618	Bletchingley Community Centre	60.00
000619	Mrs K Wantling	686.97
000620	HM Revenue & Customs	74.70
000621	Cash	87.39
000622	J Moore	30.00
000623	BDO Stoy Hayward	460.00
000624	Surrey County Playing Fields Association	10.00
000625	Sussex Associations of Local Councils	402.50
000626	Viking Direct	59.72
000627	Vistec Systems Limited	89.13
000628	DA Landscaping	917.00
		<u>£2,889.41</u>

10.2 To approve the Clerk's attendance at the SLCC Regional Conference for the South East to be held on 11th November 2009 at Uckfield at a cost of £49 plus VAT. An additional 2 councillors could attend for an inclusive price of £125 plus VAT. (LGA 1972 s111). Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk and Councillor Trotman would attend the SLCC Regional Conference on the 11th November 2009.

KW
RT

10.3 To agree which councillors will attend the Power of Wellbeing Training provided by SCAPTC at Centenary Hall, Smallfield, Burstow on Tuesday 20th October, 7.30pm to 9.00pm at a cost of £5 plus VAT per councillor. (LGA 1972 s111). Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT as only one councillor was available that we should wait to see whether another session could be arranged at a more convenient date. The Clerk would make enquiries.

KW

139/09 CONCLUSION OF AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009

The Notice of Conclusion of the Audit was received and would be placed on the noticeboard the following day. (i) In response to the only issue raised relating to the

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level of Fidelity Guarantee cover, following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the cost of increasing the level of fidelity insurance is disproportionate to the risk in light of the financial controls and procedures that the Parish Council has in place and reviews yearly. Therefore at this time the level of cover would not be increased over the £30k already insured.

140/09 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

The list of correspondence received and previously circulated was noted.

141/09 MATTERS FOR REPORTING OR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDA

13.1 ESPLG (East Surrey Parishes Liaison Group) Meeting on 28 October 2009 at 7.30pm at TDC Offices. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED THAT Councillor Trotman would attend with the Clerk.

RT/
KW

The Chairman briefed the Council on a letter received from Elaine Burtenshaw enquiring about whether the Parish Council would consider Bletchingley becoming a “No Cold Calling Zone”. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED THAT in principle, the Parish Council would agree to this subject to receiving further information which would be discussed at a later meeting.

All

142/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Planning Committee Meeting – 26 October 2009

Parish Council Meeting – 9 November 2009

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.00 pm