

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 13 OCTOBER 2008**

**P R E S E N T**

Councillor R. Gater – Chairman

Councillors: K Bridger, A Butler, D Martin, J Moore, N Munday, B Tatnell and R Trotman

In attendance: Clerk - K. Wantling, DC G Black, PC Shrapel, P Cock – Bletchingley in Bloom, D Turner – Neighbourhood Watch, Mr Birt and O Evans – Surrey Mirror.

**134/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from DC T Elias. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

**135/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No changes were made to the Declarations of Interest.

**136/08 MINUTES**

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2008 and the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2008 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**137/08 RESIDENTS' REQUESTS**

**Footpath 506** – It was reported that rubble had apparently been left in Footpath 506. Councillor Martin would do a site visit and report back.

**Footpath 151** – The style near Dormers Farm was missing and the ploughing of the adjoining land appeared to have destroyed the footpath. Following a discussion,

**IT WAS AGREED THAT** the Clerk would report this to SCC Highways. KW

**Bus Stop – moss covering** – Some clearance of the moss in front of two of the bus stops appeared to have been undertaken but not completed. This would be covered later in the agenda

**Give Way Sign – Barfield Junction** – It was reported that this sign was lying on the ground. Following a discussion,

**IT WAS AGREED THAT** the Clerk would report this to Highways. KW

**Whitehill Lane Building Works** – Residents of Whitehill Lane were concerned by ongoing building materials and works appearing on a new site in Whitehill Lane. A widened entrance has been made and building materials and a large container and digger have been found on part of 9 acres of agricultural land and which appears not to relate to any planning application. A formal letter of complaint had been received by the Whitehill Residents Association. A TDC enforcement officer had previously visited the site but found nothing of concern. Following a discussion,

**IT WAS AGREED THAT** DC Black would investigate and report back. DC B

**Dog Fouling** – This appears to once again be on the increase. Further posters would be put up. The Clerk would obtain further copies.

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*The Chairman welcomed PC Shrapel and O Evans from the Surrey Mirror.*

KW

**Footpath 199** – This path was very overgrown. Following a discussion,  
**IT WAS AGREED THAT** the Clerk would report this to SCC Highways.

KW

## **138/08 REPORT FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

DC Black had nothing to report from Tandridge District Council (TDC).

Councillor Butler asked DC Black to confirm who would be the representative from TDC on the WBB/Sibelco Liaison Sub Committee. DC Black stated she would report back with the name of the representative.

DC Black reported on a recent meeting attended between DC Elias, Black, CC Myland and Highways. This would be held on a regular basis every couple of months. It had been confirmed that the yellow lines would be painted within this financial year. The provision of “Unsuitable for Heavy Goods Vehicles” signage for Sandy Lane was also discussed and dismissed as not being suitable as they were only advisory, whereas width restriction signs already in place were enforceable.

## **139/08 POLICING ISSUES**

PC Shrapel read the police report, which highlighted 18 reported crimes between 8 September to 13 October 2008. This was up from the 13 reported for the same period last year. They included: motor vehicle damage; graffiti; motor vehicle plant theft – 5 persons arrested and 4 charged at this stage; burglary – for which a warrant had been executed; possession of drugs; damage to Golf Club wooden gate; damage to property; assaults in Coneybury; robbery at the Post Office – ongoing CID investigations and video identity available; theft of large dog kennel; theft of property; theft of property from vehicle; damage to fencing; damage to property at Bowls Club; and dog worrying incident. The report was handed to the Clerk.

PC Shrapel reported on increased sheep worrying incidents by dogs in the Tandridge and Lingfield areas and stressed that dog owners were required to be responsible for their animals at all times as farmers were within their rights to take action against any animal found worrying their livestock.

In relation to the damaged tombstone, action against 2 youths was currently being processed. The ongoing late night disturbances at St Mary’s was now a neighbourhood panel issue. Police response had been good but it was realised that a firmer approach was now required as the problem did not appear to be going away. The Chairman confirmed that the camera was due to be relocated to the Whyte Harte but that it would still be available to cover that area. PC Shrapel stated that there would be increased patrols over the Halloween period. PC Shrapel was informed of a private Halloween function in the Village Hall and one at the Church.

The CCTV camera had been viewed in relation to the Post Office robbery, but unfortunately no evidence was found. The police had agreed to pay for this evidence retrieval.

PC Shrapel handed out Halloween posters. The Clerk confirmed these were available on the website for download. PC Shrapel reported that PCSO Sheppard was still on light duty and a return date unknown. Interim cover would be sought.

The Chairman thanked PC Shrapel.

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*PC Shrapel left the meeting.*

**140/08 BLETCHINGLEY IN BLOOM**

Mrs Cock reported that Bletchingley in Bloom had received a higher level of Silver Gilt at the award ceremony on 3 September. The certificate was given to Councillor Tatnell for placing in the Village Hall. One of the items the judges commented on was the lack of involvement with schools. The St Catherine's Gardening Club would be restarted in January. A wildflower bed had been prepared in the corner of the school, visible to all approaching the side gate from the footpath. 75kg of bulbs had been planted in the village at the weekend. Phase 2 of the perennial amenity bed was scheduled to start on 8 November. A fundraising event with a flower arranging demonstration was arranged for 4<sup>th</sup> December. Regular work parties were scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month and agendas were displayed in various places throughout the village. The tree on the green closest to the front of The Red Lion pub was causing sightline problems for people gaining access to the A25 from either side of the green. The tree was also partially obscuring the view of the Village Sign from the Nutfield side. Following a discussion,

**IT WAS AGREED THAT** the Clerk would instruct DA Landscaping to undertake pruning of this tree to improve sightlines for traffic.

KW

7.1 Hevers Pond - It was confirmed that Mr D Roberts was developing a framework with the help of SARG and other interested nature bodies, for the work to be undertaken. All parties were pleased with that progress being made in relation to the licence from the owners. Councillor Trotman presented copies of a draft Licence to all councillors to go with the Heads of Terms. Following a discussion,

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the draft Licence would be presented to RH & RW Cluttons for their comments. The draft Heads of Terms was agreed, subject to the approval of the Licence and that the Parish Council would pay the £50 annual fee. The Clerk would forward the draft Licence to RH & RW Cluttons for their comments and report back in due course. It was also agreed that once in place, proper written instructions would be given to Bletchingley in Bloom to proceed with the work at Hever's Pond on behalf of Bletchingley Parish Council.

KW

7.2 Funding - Mrs Cock requested confirmation of continued support from Bletchingley Parish Council and enquired as to whether funding would be made available for 2009 Bletchingley in Bloom. Following a discussion,

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Parish Council would continue to support Bletchingley in Bloom and confirmed that £500 would be made available for 2009 Bletchingley in Bloom under LGA 1972 Section 137.

All

**141/08 MATTERS AND ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

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

**Stychens Lane Playing Field** – Following reports of recent litter at the bottom of the field,

**IT WAS AGREED THAT** the Clerk would make a further site visit with DA Landscaping and obtain a quote for the clearance of the brambles to open up the area and report back at the next meeting.

KW

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*DC G Black left the meeting.*

**Village Gateways** – The Clerk reported on the Limpsfield in Bloom gateway planter. No information had yet been received from either SCC or Godstone PC in relation to the installation of the Godstone gateways. The Clerk would continue to pursue this. KW

**Road Sweeping Pilot Scheme** – The Clerk reported that Godstone PC did not employ anyone for this purpose. Road sweeping was already done on a regular basis as was litter picking. It was hoped that arrangements for a representative of TDC to undertake a “Litter Talk” to the children of St Catherine’s school could be arranged. KW

**Bletchingley Playground Friends** – The Clerk gave a brief update on the progress of the group. The funding application to the Big Lottery had been refused. TDC were no longer able to provide the funding they had hoped for the next financial year due to the Play England funding no longer being available to them. More talks were under way in relation to the re location to Grange Meadow, including talks with the Sports Association. There was a possibility of the playground being installed in stages. Further sources of funding were being sought. Following a discussion,

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** a detailed plan/proposal needed to be put to the Parish Council before a decision could be made in relation to funding but that the Parish Council supported the idea in principle. KW

#### **142/08 CURRENT PLANNING ISSUES**

**9.1 TA/2008/1321** – 49 Barfields, Bletchingley – variation of Condition 2 of Planning Permission TA/2003/1110 dated 22 September 2003 to allow change of external materials. KW

**RESOLVED** - No comment.

**9.2 TA/2008/1211** – 3 Red Gables, Hextalls Lane, the Conduit, Bletchingley – erection of single storey rear extension.

**RESOLVED** – No comment. KW

**9.3 – TA/2008/1402/TCA** – 3 Town Mead, Bletchingley - Fell 1 x Leyland Cypress

**RESOLVED** – No comment. KW

Correspondence from Woldingham Parish Council requesting our experience of the amount of detail provided with planning applications. Following a discussion,

**IT WAS AGREED THAT** the response to Woldingham would state that the Planning process is in the process of change following government guidelines. It was believed that there would be less information provided in future applications. When additional detail was required for specific applications, then this was requested at the time of making a comment. KW

**Gypsy and Traveller Sites** – It was confirmed that the arrangements proposed by TDC were those being enforced by South East Regional Assembly. Bletchingley’s response to the consultation and to TDC was that whilst it felt some sites should be situated near existing sites, half of the requirement should be shared by other locations. Any applications to build a site on green belt would still have to go through the normal planning process allowing for comments to be made to individual requests.

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*Mrs P Cock left the meeting.*

**143/08 REPORTS FROM AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

**1. Neighbourhood Watch:** Councillor Bridger reported that in addition to PC Shrapel's earlier report, the ongoing nuisance issue by the Church was causing distress to neighbouring residents. The issues related to late night noise, verbal abuse, revving of motorbike engines and intimidation of gangs ranging from 4 to 15 in numbers. It was noted that PC Shrapel confirmed that patrols would be increased and that more positive action would be taken against repeat offenders. It was also noted that weather was not always a deterrent. The Chairman confirmed that Inspector Elaine Burtenshaw was aware of the situation and was encouraging more positive action and that parents of repeat offenders would also be notified. A discussion followed in relation to the different peer groups in the village.

**2. Footpaths and Bridleways:** Councillor Trotman reported on a request to join the Ramblers Association. Following a discussion, it was agreed that this was not required as the Parish Council were already a member of Open Spaces Society which covered similar issues.

**3. Transport:** Councillor Munday confirmed that he was planning to attend the GACC AGM on 13 November and would report back. The new buses were much improved.

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the bus service routes in Tandridge District should be publicised on the website and also put on the notice board. KW

**Moss at Bus Stops:** - It was noted that some of the moss had been cleared. Following a discussion,

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Clerk should request DA Landscaping to complete the removal of the remainder of the moss at the two bus stops in question and reduce the bill accordingly. KW

**4. Speedwatch:** Councillor Munday reported that he was aware of 2 new trained members.

**5. Cemetery:** Councillor Tatnell updated the council on a site meeting between the Clerk and herself to discuss additional clearance work at the cemetery. Some of this would be undertaken during the winter months when the grass maintenance was not an issue. The Clerk confirmed that she had spoken to DA Landscaping and requested that consideration be given to adding additional clearance days to the schedule for the next financial year.

**6. Minerals:** Councillor Butler read from the Minerals Report. WBB is now known as Sibelco UK. The retrospective application has now been permitted subject to 31 conditions covering all aspects of the operation. These included, noise, dust, effects of quarrying on the water table, traffic haul route and the distance to the top of the aquifer. In light of new relations with Sibelco, previous objections have been withdrawn, but 2 spoke at the meeting, namely CPRE, who requested that the buildings be painted an appropriate green tone and QOG emphasised the need for monitoring dust and enforcing the conditions.

A new Liaison Committee has now been set up with a constitution and a schedule giving terms of reference on dust. The committee would be represented by Sibelco UK, SCC, TDC, Bletchingley PC and Godstone PC, Godstone Village Association

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and QOG. CC Myland would chair the meeting, which would meet quarterly, starting on November 17<sup>th</sup>. A sub committee would meet 6-weekly to monitor data starting on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. The proposed Sibelco UK Dust Control plan was more stringent than the SCC plan.

In relation to Bridleway 148, it was hoped that an application to divert this would give a similar result to imposing a stand-off of 100m between the quarry face and the nearest residence at Place Farm.

QOG would be having a roast and bonfire on the 9<sup>th</sup> November to celebrate the refusal of the Tarmac application. Councillor Butler and the Chairman were both thanked for their dedication and continued hard work in helping to bring about the improved working relationship with Sibelco UK.

**Tree Wardens:** The Clerk reported on the request from the Village Fair Committee for the use of the power supply at Clerk's House for the proposed Christmas Tree Lights on the adjacent tree. Following a discussion,

**IT WAS AGREED THAT** Councillor Trotman would approach the Curate for permission to utilise the power supply at the property.

RT

**7. Village Hall/Community Centre:** Councillor Tatnell reported on the lifting floor. Dyno Rod had been called in to clear the drains. A charity evening was proposed to raise funds for the works required. A meeting was scheduled for next week with a representative of Bletchingley Players and a member from Cave Theatre to review the lighting on the stage. Wendy Hook had agreed to clean the chairs in the Community Centre and Rob Hook had agreed to clean the light diffusers in the Community Centre.

**8. Recreation/Sports Association:** Councillor Moore reported that the Playground Inspection Report had been given to the Clerk and all was in order. Councillor Trotman updated the Council on a recent meeting of the Sports Association. Clubs were struggling with rising costs and low membership. It was hoped that the cricket square would be in a playable condition for travelling teams in time for the next season. The Sports Association were in favour of the playground proposal subject to discussions with TDC relating to parking and security.

**9. Allotments:** Councillor Moore confirmed that the allotments were at present in a generally poor state with some of the plots now starting to lose their correct boundary markings. Following a discussion in relation to the state of the long section of hedge next to the flats,

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Clerk would instruct DA Landscaping to undertake cutting of the hedge for the agreed fee of £225.

KW

The Clerk confirmed that a skip had been ordered for delivery on 20 October by TWS Recycling for a fee of £115 plus VAT. Following a discussion,

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** this be ratified and that allotment holders be notified accordingly.

KW

**10. Street Lighting:** Nothing to report.

**11. CCTV:** All CCTV systems are working. Metal Mickey is scheduled to be relocated to the Whyte Harte. The Police CCTV system is awaiting a date from EDF for the electricity supply. A query was raised in relation to an item on the invoice from RP Hook in the sum of £105. It was agreed with RP Hook that this

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would not be paid as it was not an appropriate charge.

**12. Website:** The Clerk reported on recent positive comments on the website, from a local resident and from as far away as New Zealand.

**144/08 FINANCE**

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

000505	Bletchingley Village Hall	12.00
000506	Mrs K Wantling	611.78
000507	HM Revenue & Customs	74.01
000508	BDO Stoy Hayward LLP	334.88
000509	Sussex Associations of Local Councils	170.38
000510	DA Landscaping	756.00
000511	RP Hook	<u>1080.00</u>
		<u>£3039.05</u>

*D Turner and O Evans left the meeting.*

11.2 – To consider and agree a contribution for 2009/10 towards Bletchingley Playground Friends proposal to renovate the Coneybury Playground. Following the earlier discussion,

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Parish Council supported the idea but wanted to see a detailed proposal and plans before making a decision. All

**145/08 CONCLUSION OF AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008**

The Notice of Conclusion of the Audit was received and would be placed on the noticeboard the following day. (i) In response to the query relating to the level of Fidelity Guarantee cover, following a discussion,

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the cost of increasing the insurance to cover the temporary increase in held reserves was disproportionate to the risk and therefore at this time the level of cover would not be increased over the £30k already insured. All

(ii) In response to the Internal Auditor's identified risk relating to the adoption of the revised Model Publication Scheme, following a discussion,

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the newly publicised scheme would be put on the November agenda for adoption in advance of the 1 January 2009 deadline. KW

**146/08 FOOTPATH 506**

Nothing new to report.

**147/08 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

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

14.1 Surrey Community Action To decide whether attendance at the Surrey Rural Housing Conference on Friday 14 November 2008 in Shere Village Hall, 9.30 am to 2pm is necessary and if so who is nominated. Following a discussion,

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** as the Parish Council do not hold any land within the KW

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settlement land that could be utilised for housing, there was no need to send a representative to the conference at this time.

14.2 Peter Ainsworth – Sustainable Communities Act – To decide if a meeting with the local co-ordinator should be arranged to discuss how the above Act affects the Parish Council. Following a discussion,

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Clerk would make further enquiries as to whether the meeting could be held during a Parish Council meeting and report back.

KW

14.3 Communities and Local Government (CLG) – Consultation re Communities in Control – inviting views on the proposed new procedure which will enable authorities to make certain byelaws without the need for scrutiny by the Secretary of State and about proposals for a new enforcement regime for byelaws – Comments invited by Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November. Following a discussion,

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Parish Council did not feel it appropriate to comment as it has no experience in operating byelaws. It is, in principle, in favour of simplifying the laws.

KW

#### **148/08 MATTERS FOR REPORTING OR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDA**

The Council was updated on the proposed adoption of the telephone Kiosk in Brewer Street from BT for £1. Electricity would be charged to the Parish Council on an unmetered rate, currently approximately £17 per year for the supply of electricity to the lighting in the kiosk. Residents in Brewer Street had been approached for their views and were in favour of this adoption. Following a discussion,

**IT WAS AGREED THAT** the Parish Council should proceed with the adoption process due to time constraints. This would be added to the agenda for the November meeting for ratification.

KW

The Clerk enquired who would attend the ESPLG meeting due to take place on 13 November 2008. Councillor Tatnell confirmed she would attend with the Clerk.

BT  
KW

#### **149/08 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

**Planning Committee – 27 October 2008**

**Parish Council Meeting – 10 November 2008**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.28 pm