

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 14 DECEMBER 2009**

P R E S E N T

Councillor R. Gater – Chairman

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

In attendance: Clerk - K. Wantling, DC Black, DC Myland, CC Elias, PC Shrapel, PCSO Wells, D Turner, D Birt and B Hubery.

158/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

159/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

160/09 MINUTES

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 30 November 2009 were approved and signed by the Chairman. The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 09 November 2009 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

161/09 RESIDENTS' REQUESTS

Dog Mess – This appears to have become an issue again along Rabies Heath Road and other areas of the village. The Clerk would initially obtain more notices from TDC for displaying in suitable locations.

Hand rail at Tilgate Common – the Clerk had received a request from a resident for the installation of a hand rail at the start of the footpath into Tilgate Common from Crescent road. The Clerk would make initial enquiries on costings and speak to TDC before reporting back to the Parish Council at a future meeting.

KW

162/09 BLETCHINGLEY HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS

The Chairman brought this matter forward to allow CC Elias to be present. Councillor Martin briefed the Council on the need to prioritise the improvements requested to the highway improvements planned for Bletchingley. CC Elias had arranged a meeting with D Curl from SCC Highways on Thursday and wanted Bletchingley Parish Council to send a representative. Some of the possible improvements were discussed, namely a crossing in the High Street, with an island refuge, probably by Travelling Light and the relocation of the crossing point on Outwood Lane junction with A25. The bus stop would stay in its current position.

Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT (i) Councillor Martin, who had the most knowledge of past highway improvement requests would meet with CC Elias and D Curl and the Clerk on Thursday 17 December 2009; (ii) the first priority would be a crossing at Grange Meadow; (iii) the other improvements would be discussed on

KW
DM

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site before priorities could be agreed, allowing more time for consultation on the schemes.

D Birt entered the meeting.

The Police confirmed their support in principle to the crossing at Grange Meadow. CC Elias was thanked for his part in arranging the meeting and for his actions in making the speed marker change in Little Common Lane become a reality in the near future. CC Elias confirmed that he had a good working relationship with D Curl of SCC Highways who was very proactive and keen to get outstanding issues dealt with.

163/09 REPORT FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

DC Myland reported on the Minerals Plan that needed to be commented on by the end of Friday 18th December. The size of the resultant lorries using the A25 were likely to be 2.7m wide by 18m long. A co-ordinated response from Godstone, Nutfield and Bletchingley was being arranged. The consultation documents were large and technically difficult.

There were 3 named sites that affected this area. The biggest issue was thought to be the resultant heavy traffic using the A25. Councillor Butler confirmed that she had circulated the draft response to be given on behalf of Bletchingley Parish to all members for their agreement. These would be discussed later in the agenda. B Hubery from Godstone Parish Council confirmed their main issue that they would jointly support was the traffic. It was noted that these responses were to provide representation so that when an enquiry is called, those who have sent in responses will be called upon to attend.

DC Myland requested that any planning application sent to TDC Planning be copied to her so that she is aware of local planning issues.

DC Black reported that the Plough signs were now in the hands of enforcement and legal action was being taken against the owners.

CC Elias confirmed that the 30 speed marker in Little Common Lane would be relocated in the near future to the junction with Big Common Lane so as to incorporate Big Common Lane as well. The Tandridge Local Committee had agreed to contribute £1500 towards the costs of the Village Gateways. CC Elias would also chase SCC Highways for confirmation that planning permission for the gateways was not required.

TE

164/09 POLICING ISSUES

PC Shrapel updated on the issue of funding cuts faced by the Surrey police in April. The Surrey Police, through various measures including review of police buildings and natural wastage, hoped to provide an extra 200 constables to boost neighbourhood police support. This could have the effect of doubling the number of Tandridge police officers. Reported crimes in the last month would have only been 7 if it had not been for the 10 reported crimes on the 2nd December relating to damage to motor vehicles and house windows. There were 14 reported crimes for the same period last year.

PCSO Wells was thanked for her support at the Grange Meadow Playground

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opening on the 28th November.

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

The Parish Council also thanked Bletchingley Playground Friends for their part in the creation of Grange Meadow Playground.

165/09 MATTERS AND ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Councillor Martin reported on a possible solution to the drainage issues in Whitehill Lane, which had been raised by a resident. These would be mentioned at the Highways meeting scheduled for Thursday.

DM

The Clerk's report was noted.

Bletchingley Playground/Parish Plan – The opening went very well. A cheque from Bletchingley Playground Friends had been received and payment to Playworld Systems would be made.

Village Gateways – CC Elias had arranged for the Tandridge Local Committee to agree to a contribution of £1500 towards the gateways. Final confirmation that planning permission for this highways matter was not required was still awaited.

Highway Issues – Machine patching in the Bletchingley high street would be undertaken some time in January. The salt bins were scheduled for checking and filling this month.

Hevers Pond – The Clerk would be chasing for a response from RH & RW Cluttons.

KW

Allotments – Monies from the Public Works Loan Board would be received in the account on the 14th December. Hedleys had supplied the legal documents which were scheduled for signing later in the meeting. The Clerk would make enquiries as to when the Old Allotment Field should be prepared for the new allotments. The tree that needed to be removed would be done when the ground conditions improved. Consideration would need to be given to the use of allotment sheds on the new site although the Little Common Lane site restrictions meant no sheds could be used.

KW

Cemetery – the tree had been cut down. The winter clearance schedule had started and more overgrown sections of the cemetery were being cleared. The Parish Council could consider the use of youth volunteers, with the help of Vinolved to assist with these clearances. The Clerk would be making more enquiries.

KW

War Memorial Damage – BIFFA's insurance company had responded requesting proof of the damage. A witness statement is being sought for forwarding to the insurance company.

Annual Parish Meeting – Further suggestions for speakers for the Annual Parish meeting were the Fire Service and the Police Inspector.

166/09 CURRENT PLANNING ISSUES

- 9.1. **TA/2009/1429/TCA** – St Mary's Walk, Bletchingley - Cut back branches from group of Sweet Chestnut & Field Maple to fence line. Crown reduce 2 Rowan, 2 Robinia & 1 Whitebeam by 25%. Formative prune 1 Maple. Prune back branches from 1 Beech tree which overhang driveway & sub-

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station by 40% in length & prune remaining canopy to prevent contact with telegraph pole. (JM)

KW

RESOLVED – No comment.

9.2 Any other current planning matters – discussion only. Councillor Martin reported on another application that was likely to fall over the Christmas period in relation to Place Farm Barn – TA/2009/1499. It was felt that this was unlikely to be contentious and could therefore wait until the next meeting in January as there was no December Planning Committee meeting.

TA/2009/382 – Land at Whitehill Lane, Bletchingley – Erection of barn for storage of agricultural machinery, silage hay and stock retention with alterations to tracks and entrance gates. – REFUSED.

All

Councillor Trotman made the PC aware that all Operator Licensing requests for commercial vehicles over 3.5 tonnes were only notified in local newspapers. The PC were not notified and therefore all councillors needed to be aware of this and review their local papers for any applications.

167/09 REPORTS FROM AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

1. Neighbourhood Watch – The Neighbourhood Watch AGM was scheduled for the 16th April 2010 in the Community Centre and the Chairman confirmed he would chair the meeting.

2. Footpaths and Bridleways: Nothing to report.

3. Transport: Nothing to report.

4. Speedwatch: 3 Speedwatch members and the Clerk had attended the lunch provided by Surrey Police for Community Speedwatch groups.

5. Cemetery: The tree had been cut and the clearance being undertaken was opening out previously overgrown sections. A discussion followed in relation to the viability of mapping and it was suggested that the Clerk visit the Records Office to obtain a duplicate copy of the burial records, which would hopefully hold details of the paupers' graves. The Clerk would obtain costings for an additional fence support behind the bus stop.

KW

KW

6. Minerals/Environment – Councillor Butler had circulated the proposed comments in relation to the Surrey Minerals Plan. B Hubery stated that Godstone PC's only comment was in relation to the traffic issues this plan would cause. The deadline for submission was Friday 18th December. In relation to: the Aggregates Recycling Document the recommendation was that the Copyhold Works be removed from the Plan; the Primary Aggregates Document – Recommendation – remove Mercers Farm from the Plan; Restoration Documents 1 and 2 – No comment suggested; Core Strategy Document – 3.37 – *on need for protection of AGLV's* – supported; 3.46 – *on need for very special justification for workings in the Green Belt* – supported; 5.20 – Understood that silica sand deposits vary in quality and 40% is not used in glass making. The use of the high percentage being used for recreational and sports purposes appears to be highly questionable; Policy MC8 - Recommendation – remove Chilmead Farm from the Plan; 6.35 – the cumulative effects of any two of the following sites (Pendell Farm, Mercers Farm, Chilmead Farm and Cormongers Works) being worked at the same time would be unacceptable on the grounds of too heavy an HGV load on the road networks,

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unacceptable noise levels, reduction in air quality and loss of environmental amenity to local residents; Policy MC14 – whilst this policy appears sound and legal and is strongly supported, there is little confidence due to past experience on the ability of the County Planning Authority to ensure conditions and planning consents are met and enforced; 9.26 – Bletchingley PC supports this and hopes the County Planning Authority ensure the staff are trained to effectively monitor and enforce policies.

Health issues derived from air quality need to be built into the environmental aspect. More consideration needs to be given to the road traffic disturbance and the size of the lorries that would be used on the A25.

A joint letter signed by local organisations highlighting the above issues is to be sent to SCC Planning Department. The Clerk would coordinate the signatures. Councillor Butler was thanked for her expertise in putting together the response, which was agreed by the Parish Council and could be submitted on Friday 18th December. KW AB

Sibelco UK - At a recent informal North Park Quarry Community Liaison Committee Meeting it was noted that the Dust Plan and Pendell Application needed to come out together and it was thought this would be after the New Year.

7. Tree Wardens: The report on Little Common trees was circulated to all councillors. Following a discussion, KW

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Clerk would forward a copy of this to Graham Banks at SCC for instruction on what actions if any are required.

8. Village Hall/Community Centre: Nothing to report.

9. Recreation/Sports Association: The new fencing on Grange Meadow improved the look of Grange Meadow. The Football Club was nearly at the top of the league. Discussions were being undertaken about the feasibility of “Dug Outs” for the different teams and any associated planning issues.

10. Allotments: (i) To discuss and approve an increase in the allotment rents for 2010/2011. Following a discussion, All

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT rents would be increased to £20 and £25 respectively per plot. Only those on income support/benefit would be entitled to the reduced rate. This was agreed by a vote of 6/2.

(ii) To sign the legal documentation relating to the purchase of Little Common Lane Allotments and confirm the payment details to Thames Water. (**Agreed minute 137/09 – 12/10/09 (LGA 1972 s124 and 126)**) Following a discussion, All

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Sale Contract and Transfer documents be signed by the Clerk and 2 Councillors. Thames Water would be paid through its solicitors the sum of £10,410.66, which was the purchase price and costs for search fees. Hedleys estimated that their fees for the above sale would be in the region of £450 plus VAT plus registry fees and other disbursements.

(iii) To approve the appropriate repayment system for PWLB Loan. Following a discussion, All

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the direct debit form for the £17,000 loan repayment to the Public Works Loan Board be signed by 2 councillors. Payments

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would take place on the 14th June and 14th December each year until the final payment on the 14th December 2014.

11. Street Lighting: A light on the High Path was not working. Following a discussion, KW

IT WAS AGREED THAT the Clerk would investigate and report this.

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

13. Website: Councillor Ray was congratulated on her website newsletters. It was still hoped that the site would be migrated to a new platform by the current website designer. Alternative solutions were however being investigated.

168/09 FINANCE

11.1 Confirm receipt of £17,184.52 from Bletchingley Playground Friends, donated to Bletchingley Parish Council under **S139 of the Local Government Act 1972**. This money is to be used only for the purchasing of playground equipment and its ancillary costs, which have been agreed and ordered, for the proposed playground in Grange Meadow, which has been completed and was opened on 28 November 2009. All

B Hubery left the meeting.

11.2 The following December payments were sanctioned and cheques and stubs signed. All

000640	CANCELLED	0.00
000641	Bletchingley Village Hall	12.00
000642	Mrs K Wantling	705.31
000643	HM Revenue & Customs	74.50
000644	Mrs K Wantling	70.00
000645	Oxted Citizens Advice Bureau	100.00
000646	Surrey Community Action	35.00
000647	Peter Frost	110.00
000648	The Society of Local Council Clerks	118.00
000649	L G Wantling	138.00
000650	DA Landscaping	659.00
000651	Turners Hill Tree Surgeons	184.00
000652	Playworld Systems (Europe) Limited	41,037.19
000653	Gordons Partnership LLP	<u>10,410.66</u>
		<u>£53,653.66</u>

11.3 Internal Auditor's Report – to receive the report from the internal auditor following the interim internal audit on 10/11/09 and to note the recommendation. Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Internal Auditor's comments relating to the updating of the Asset Register had been considered and were in the process of being updated and checked for accuracy with the help of Hedleys solicitors. KW

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169/09 PARISH PLAN

To discuss committee representation further to ensure Bletchingley parish residents are equally represented. Councillor Ray confirmed there were at present representations from Barfields, Coneybury and the centre of the village. Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT Councillor Ray would draft a letter to organisations such as WI, Horticultural and Historical Societies, Sports Association, Neighbourhood Watch, Whitehill Residents Association and local businesses.

170/09 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

The list of correspondence received and previously circulated was noted.

13.1 Land Registration query relating to Land at Godstone Road, Bletchingley – to confirm actions taken. Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the appropriate actions had been taken. Further searches would be undertaken in relation to the involvement in adjoining land ownership and Councillor Glenn would review the documentation and report back.

13.2 Freedom of Information Request by G Burley & Sons Limited – to confirm actions taken. Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the appropriate response had been given.

13.3 Letter from St Catherine's Hospice requesting a grant – to consider what actions should be taken. Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT a donation of £100 would be given and would be paid at the next meeting (LGA 1972 s142). KW

13.4 Request from Steve Shaw @ Local Works to support the Sustainable Communities Act and the Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Bill – to agree appropriate action. Following a discussion,

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT at this time no action would be taken.

171/09 MATTERS FOR REPORTING OR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDA

The Village Fair Committee had recently arranged for some Christmas lights to be installed in the village and installation would be undertaken later in the evening. A suggestion had been made that maybe the Parish Council could support this effort by paying the invoice of £2509.88 (inclusive of VAT) and the Bletchingley Village Fair Committee would give a donation of £2182.50 (exclusive of VAT) to the Parish Council. Following a discussion,

IT WAS AGREED in principle and would be confirmed at the January meeting where payment would be made if appropriate.

172/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Planning Committee Meeting – NO December meeting

Parish Council Meeting – 11 January 2010

Planning Committee Meeting – 25 January 2010

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.10 pm