

**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 SEPTEMBER 2009**

**P R E S E N T**

Councillor R. Gater – Chairman

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

In attendance: Clerk - K. Wantling, DC Black, CC Elias, O Evans (Surrey Mirror), P Cock (Bletchingley in Bloom) and 21 residents.

**113/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from PC Shrapel and PCSO Wells and Councillor A Butler would be arriving later. All were welcomed to the meeting.

**114/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No changes to the existing Declarations of Interest were made. Councillor Trotman declared an interest in relation to a Finance item. This would be identified further under that section.

**115/09 MINUTES**

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 24 August 2009 were approved and signed by the Chairman. The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13 July 2009 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**116/09 RESIDENTS' REQUESTS**

**Parking in the High Street** – It was reported that there were still problems with parking in the High Street near the Church. The Clerk confirmed that this had been reported at the last Planning Committee meeting and that the issues had been raised with both the TDC Planning Department and the Police.

**117/09 REPORT FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

CC Elias confirmed that he would be having his 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting with David Curl (the SCC Highways Manager) this Friday. Good relations were being forged and outstanding issues tackled. CC Elias reported that there was a proposal that each County Councillor was allocated £6000 for their division to spend on Highway matters. His proposal was that he be allowed to delegate the spending powers of this sum to each of the parish councils, i.e Bletchingley Parish Council be allowed to decide how to spend the £2000. This was awaiting approval. The second round of yellow lines was scheduled to be implemented in the near future. The use of police to try to reinforce the parking measures would also be used in the problem areas. In relation to the various speed review matters, the change in speed limit for Outwood Lane was on the list for review, as was the relocation of the 30 speed marker in Little Common Lane to before the junction with Big Common Lane. Councillor Martin noted that the yellow lines recently painted at Barfields were already crumbling. CC Elias would look into this. The issue of the crossing point at the top

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of Little Common Lane was also discussed. This needed to be moved 6ft further down the road so as to improve sightlines for pedestrians crossing the road. DC Black recalled the original discussions held with Highways and Parish Council members. The Clerk would send a note to CC Elias re the above matters. DC Black reported that Garden Composting was soon to be rolled out to Bletchingley.

KW/  
TE

#### **118/09 POLICING ISSUES**

In PC Shrapel's absence, the Chairman read the police report provided. There were 14 reported crimes since 13<sup>th</sup> July compared with 26 for the same period last year. They ranged from damage to property and vehicles to theft and 1 burglary. There were ongoing concerns at Clare Cottages, which were being dealt with by police and TDC Housing.

#### **119/09 ALLOTMENTS**

In light of the number of residents attending the meeting as a result of concerns relating to the items concerning Allotments, the Chairman brought this matter forward.

**To consider putting in a bid for purchasing the existing allotment site from Thames Water, which is proposed to be put to auction on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2009.**

The Chairman gave an update explaining the above matter. Thames Water, who own the land wrote to the Parish Council at the end of August informing them of their decision to put the land up for sale at auction. The Parish Council, concerned about the future of the allotments immediately entered into private discussions with Thames Water to discuss the purchase of the land. Following consultation with all Councillors a first bid was placed which was refused and the response to a subsequent bid is currently awaited from the Board of Directors at Thames Water. The Parish Council would not provide any figures at present due to speculation but did confirm that the Parish Council were taking advantage of the good rapport with Thames Water. Some residents confirmed that they would be happy to help contribute if it would assist in ensuring the allotments remained within the Parish. The Auctioneers to be used by Thames Water had done their own valuation of the land. The Chairman confirmed that the decision of the Parish Council to purchase the land had been unanimous on both purchase prices offered. The website would be updated with the result as soon as it was known and the press would be notified.

**In light of the above, to consider all costs involved with the creation of additional allotments at the Old Allotment Field, Stychens Lane.** The Parish Council is obliged to supply allotments. The demand for these has grown consistently over the last few years, both in Bletchingley and across the country. Initial costs obtained of £6000 would be required to re-establish 10/12 allotments in a small section of the Old Allotment Field. In light of residents concerns to this development, the Parish Council has taken on board the need for vehicular access. Whilst the Parish Council is not legally obliged to apply for planning permission for this development, they have sought it as a formality and are currently awaiting the result. Whilst the Parish Council confirmed its commitment to undertake this work, implementation may have to wait.

The financial expenditure required for both the purchase of the existing allotment land and the creation of the additional allotments would be a financial drain and

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would be paid for by all residents indirectly through the precept.

*Majority of residents left the meeting. Councillor Butler arrived.*

## **120/09 BLETCHINGLEY IN BLOOM**

Mrs Cock reported that Bletchingley had received a Silver Gilt Certificate at the Bletchingley in Bloom Awards, along with 9 Certificates of Excellence, 2 to St Catherines' School Gardening Club and the Skills Centre and 7 to individuals. No one in the Large Village category had achieved a Gold award. Recommendations for improvement had been given and would be taken on board. Mrs Cock confirmed that she was technically standing down. The core team of 15 members would continue with the good work but had still not decided whether to enter the competition next year. The work party dates would be scheduled shortly with the first being further spring bulb planting. Work on Hevers Pond would give additional weight to an entry on the environmental issues. It was noted with sympathy that Dr Julia Wycherley, who had assisted with surveys of the pond in the past had recently passed away. The Parish Council congratulated the Bletchingley in Bloom team on the award, which was a credit to all their hard work.

CC TE left the meeting.

**7.1 Hevers Pond – to discuss further the draft Licence to Occupy for Hevers Pond** – Councillor Glenn briefed the council on her proposed changes to the Licence which had been reviewed by Roger Taylor of Hedleys. The original proposal put forward for Hevers Pond by David Roberts should be put forward as an annex. A copy of the plan referred to needed to be obtained. Where there is reference to the Licence to Occupy being personal and not assignable, additional wording to include those authorised by the Licensee needs to be included. Following advice from the insurers and the RoSPA information on open water spaces, the reference to the life saving equipment needs to be deleted or the pond fenced. Reference to “clean and tidy and damage free” needs to be amended to “keep in an appropriate format”. A response from RH&RW Cluttons needs to be obtained in relation to a letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> June 1992 as to what works were carried out. The Chairman thanked Councillor Glenn for the work. Following a discussion,

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** Councillor Glenn would draft a letter to RH&RW Clutton for the Clerk to send, along with the amended draft Licence. The Council would then await a response.

PAG/  
KW

**7.2 Village Sign – to consider costs involved for the supply and installation of village gateposts (LGA 1972 s144)** – The Clerk had provided a breakdown of the 4 costs provided for the above work. Following a discussion,

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Colin Ford Bespoke Joinery Ltd should undertake the work but at a date to be indicated later in the year following further budget reviews. The letter “t” in Bletchingley would be used. Colin Ford would curve the top of the posts as indicated. It was agreed that the sign would not include the words “Please drive carefully”. Colin Ford would arrange for samples of most suitable lettering be provided to the Clerk for decision. Planning Permission would be required.

KW

KW

*4 residents left the meeting.*

## **121/09 MATTERS AND ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

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The Clerk's report was noted and most items were to be discussed under specific agenda items.

The Clerk reported that work on the new playground in Grange Meadow was hopefully due to start early in October. All monies had now been received. Details of the opening ceremony to be organised by the company doing the installation would be provided once known and a competition would be arranged for the children at both the local schools to design the playground notice boards.

The Clerk reported that she was now in possession of the guidance published by the Ministry of Justice and would provide a copy to Councillor Glenn. KW

Councillor Trotman requested that one outstanding issue relating to the dropped curb be placed back on the Outstanding Matters List.

## **122/09 CURRENT PLANNING ISSUES**

9.1 **TA/2009/897** - Sandhills, Outwood Lane, Bletchingley, RH1 4LS - Various internal alterations to ground, first and second floors (Listed Building Consent). (AS)

**RESOLVED** – No comment subject to approval of County Conservation Department.

9.2 **TA/2009/742** - Rose Cottage, Lower South Park, South Godstone, RH9 8LF - Erection of single storey side extension. (RME)

**RESOLVED** – No comment.

9.3 **TA/2009/840** - Stychfield, Stychens Lane, Redhill Demolition of dwelling. Erection of dwelling and detached garage. (VR)

**RESOLVED** – The Parish Council would like to draw attention to the following areas: (i) This area has recently been identified as a possible site for affordable housing; (ii) In view of comments made by TDC when the Risebridger plot was developed, this plot is too large for just one property; (iii) the access is unsuitable for heavy vehicles.

9.4 **TA/2009/1035** - Furze Barn, Kennels Farm, Outwood Lane, Bletchingley, RH1 4NJ - Erection of detached double garage incorporating store. (SF)

**RESOLVED** – No comment.

9.5 **TA09/0601** – North Park Farm Quarry, North Park Lane, Godstone – Details of an additional turbo Chieftan Powerscreen pursuant to Condition number 3 of planning permission ref: TA08/0185 and RE08/0255 dated 25 September 2008. (SK)

**RESOLVED** – The Parish Council has no objection in principle, but are concerned about the generation of more noise and dust and expect there to be mitigation of any such issues.

9.6 Any other current planning matters

In relation to the Local Development Plan there are currently 4 Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) that have been saved. They are: (i) Conversion of buildings in the Green Belt; (ii) Lingfield Village Design Statement; (iii) Bletchingley Conservation Area Appraisal; and (iv) Lamb's Business Park.

A response to the A25 Scheme should be discussed, if appropriate at the next full Council meeting. The Clerk has the original and a copy will be left at Howard

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Cundey. The reason for pursuing the creation of the safer crossing point is that 2 elderly residents have been killed at this point in the last few years. A copy of this particular section will be added to the website and invite comments.

TA/2009/184 – Land at Stone Farm, Warwick Wold Road, Merstham – Excavation of land and erection of 3-bed dwelling – TDC have decided to REFUSE permission.

Notification received of an appeal to the Secretary of State relating to Land at The Plantation, Springbottom Lane, Bletchingley.

*3 residents left the meeting.*

## **123/09 REPORTS FROM AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

**1. Neighbourhood Watch** – Councillor Bridger was concerned that neither PC Shrapel or PCSO Wells had been available for the residents meetings in Church Walk last week. There is an ongoing issue re noise levels and indecent urinating by the Lych Gate. In relation to Clare Cottages, further evidence needs to be collected to help build a strong case to assist the police and TDC housing in relation to neighbour issues.

**2. Footpaths and Bridleways:** To comment on proposed temporary diversion of Public Bridleway Nos 142 & 148 (Bletchingley). Following a discussion,

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Parish Council had no comment.

KW

**3. Transport:** Councillor Munday reported on what appeared to be a regular occurrence of a noise issue relating to heavy road haulage, doing excessive speeds, particularly on a Thursday night, usually between the hours of 1-3 am.

**IT WAS AGREED THAT** the Clerk would report this to PC Shrapel.

KW

**Gatwick Airport – Draft Noise Action Plan – to consider comments.** Following a discussion,

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Parish Council had no comment.

KW

**National Highways and Transport Network: Public Representative Survey – to consider and approve response given by Councillor Munday.** Following a discussion,

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Parish Council would submit the comments given by Councillor Munday.

KW

**4. Speedwatch:** The Community Speedwatch Team had been requested to step up their speedwatch sessions, particularly during September. It was reported that there is a marked increase in the incidents of driver aggression at these speedwatch sessions.

**5. Cemetery:** Councillor Glenn reported that the Cemetery was looking neat and tidy. She would be raising an issue relating to prone Yew tree roots with the contractor. The fence post behind the bus stop needs to be put upright again. Following a discussion,

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Clerk would enquire as to whether DA Landscaping could undertake this work.

KW

**6. Minerals/Environment/Tree Wardens – North Park Farm** – Councillor Butler had provided a report, which the Clerk had circulated prior to the meeting. The next meeting of the Dust Sub Committee would be in 6 weeks time and then

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resume at 3 monthly intervals. Councillor Martin agreed that he would act as the BPC representative at the next North Park Quarry Community Liaison Committee Meeting scheduled for the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2009 in the absence of Councillor Butler and the Chairman.

**Tree Wardens** – Councillor Trotman reported that he had attended a site visit of Tilgate Common with the Junior Tree Warden and pictures had been taken. Councillor Trotman would provide a report to the Clerk for submission to CC for advice.

RT  
KW

**7. Village Hall/Community Centre:** The next meeting was scheduled for later in September. Quotes had been received in relation to the stage electrics. These needed to be discussed further with the Theatrical group as to whether they meet their requirements. Councillor Munday reported that he had tested the loop system and found it faulty. Further testing is required. Councillor Butler reported that the WI had been successful in applying for funds from SCC for the purchase of a screen to be placed in the Village Hall later this month. Councillor Trotman reported that there were now two tenants who had left. Both properties would be inspected before further lettings undertaken. 76 High Street was now in receipt of a Heat Efficiency Certificate.

**8. Recreation/Sports Association:** Councillor Moore had provided the Clerk with the bi-monthly Playground Inspection report, which indicated that all was in good working order. Councillor Trotman reported that there may be a possible new tenant for the cricket pitch and that the skate park was well utilised by people coming from some distance to utilise the facility in Bletchingley.

**9. Allotments:** The Allotment Cup had been presented by John Bishop to Derek Coppard.

The purchase of the existing Little Common Lane allotment site had already been discussed earlier in the meeting.

In view of the special confidential nature of the matter relating to the purchase of the allotment land at Little Common Lane, it is advisable in accordance with the provision of the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Freedom of Information Act 2005, additional information be discussed “In Committee”.

In relation to the creation of the additional allotments and the commitment of the Parish Council to undertake the work, following a discussion,

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** (i) the Parish Council would agree in principle to undertake the works this year, subject to the TDC Planning; (ii) the Clerk would arrange for the water meter to be installed to check the viability of the existing water pipe; (iii) Councillor Martin would draft a letter for the Clerk to send in response to the letter of objection received by a local resident to this proposal.

All  
KW  
DM/  
KW

The Clerk would also make enquiries about submitting a bid to SCC for funds for the gateways.

KW

**10. Street Lighting:** The light opposite William IV was blinking. The light on the corner by Grange Cottage, near the gate entrance to Grange Meadow was on during the day. Following a discussion

**IT WAS AGREED THAT** the Clerk would report these faults.

KW

**11. CCTV:** The Chairman reported that the CCTV systems were operating

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normally. Recent download of footage had not revealed any evidence. It was reported that the new TDC CCTV system located at the Sports Club in Grange Meadow had been used to capture footage of an incident, which was used to identify the perpetrator.

**12. Website:** Councillor Ray reported on the proposed move of the website to a new platform at the expense of the company who designed the site. This move would enable the Parish Council to have more control over its content and changes. Feedback on the website had been very positive. The new pages mentioned for North Park Quarry were on hold until the move to the new platform as there would be no cost incurred then. A recent letter relating to broadband forwarded by the Clerk to councillors had been reviewed by Councillor Ray. It appeared that this would not be appropriate to Bletchingley as broadband was already available in the village and this was only appropriate for those remote areas without that access.

## **124/09 FINANCE**

Councillor Trotman noted an interest in the payment to CBC UK Limited on the basis that this payment was for the public liability insurance required to Grange Meadow of which he is a trustee and Chairman of the Sports Association who occupy Grange Meadow.

All

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

000610	Bletchingley Village Hall	15.00
000611	Mrs K Wantling	691.98
000612	HM Revenue & Customs	74.70
000613	Open Spaces Society	40.00
000614	CBC UK Limited	420.00
000615	DA Landscaping	2124.25
000616	Vistec Systems Limited	<u>391.01</u>
		<u>£3,756.94</u>

11.2 Confirm receipt of £8,500 from Surrey Community Action, 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. Installation to be completed by the end of 2009.

**RESOLVED:** As above.

All

11.3 To comment on the proposed SCAPTC subscriptions for 2010/11.

**RESOLVED:** No comment.

All

## **125/09 TRAINING**

To consider hosting 2 training sessions for new and experienced councillors to be held at the Bletchingley Village Hall in October and to be open to all Parishes. (**LGA 1972 s111**). Following a discussion,

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Bletchingley Parish Council would host the two sessions.

All

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**126/09 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

The list of correspondence received and previously circulated was noted.

13.1 To approve the draft questionnaire and covering letter to be sent to all households in Bletchingley in relation to Rural Affordable Housing and the appropriate method of distribution. Following a discussion,

KW

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the covering letter and questionnaire be approved and that the postage of £300 for second class post be approved.

13.2 To consider a request to invite a speaker from St Catherine's Hospice to a future Parish Council meeting to provide information about their services. Following a discussion,

KW

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the speaker be invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting in 2010.

13.3 To consider BT's request to adopt the red telephone kiosk in the High Street and consider the response to their request to know how the community is using the existing adopted kiosk. Following a discussion,

KW

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Parish Council would not consider adoption of the High Street BT Kiosk at this stage.

13.4 To agree a councillor responsible for completing the Local Development Framework - Sustainability Appraisal of Settlements - Settlement Audit Questionnaire requested by Head of Planning Policy at TDC. Following a discussion,

KW

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** Councillor Martin's comments provided to the Clerk be submitted.

13.5 To confirm supporting the inclusion of Local Councils in the Sustainable Communities Act by writing a letter to our MP. Following a discussion,

KW

**IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Clerk would write the letter of support along the lines of the draft provided, on behalf of the Parish Council.

**127/09 MATTERS FOR REPORTING OR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDA**

Nothing to add

**128/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

**Planning Committee Meeting – 28 September 2009**

**Parish Council Meeting – 12 October 2009**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 11.00 pm