

Please note these are draft minutes until approved and signed at the next meeting.

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE
COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 24 MAY 2010**

P R E S E N T

Councillor R. Gater – Chairman

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

In attendance: Clerk - K. Wantling, Inspector Elaine Burtenshaw of Surrey Police and Mona Johansson of Surrey Community Action and 15 Residents

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from County and District Councillors, Elias, Black and Myland.

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed Surrey Police Inspector Elaine Burtenshaw and Mona Johansson, the Rural Housing Enabler from Surrey Community Action and those residents present. Agenda items 6 and 7 would be brought forward to enable the speakers to attend other scheduled meetings.

2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 20th May 2009 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3 SURREY POLICE – INSPECTOR ELAINE BURTONSHAW – SURREY POLICING AND THE AFFECTS OF THE CHANGES ON BLETCHINGLEY

Inspector Elaine Burtenshaw explained that she had attended 50% of the Annual Parish meetings for her area. She had now been in post for 3½ years and was expecting to stay. She explained in more detail about the police review and how it would affect Tandridge and why it was taking place. An operational review had taken place resulting in the 11 boroughs/districts being split into 3 areas with 4 functions. This restructure would result in a loss of some of the duplicated higher level staffing/supervision. A review of the buildings is also in the process of being undertaken with a focus being placed on co-habitation with local authorities where appropriate and where police buildings were identified as being no longer fit for purpose.

The above review and ultimate cost savings would result in an increase of 200 police officers on the beat of which Tandridge would see a minimum of 8. The Tandridge Inspector is to stay in Tandridge and Caterham Police station is to stay. It is likely that there will be co-habitation within the Tandridge District Council offices and further “satellite” offices set up. It was confirmed that PC Nick Shrapel would be retiring in July and a new recruit was being sought, hopefully in time for an appropriate handover period. A decision would hopefully be made by mid June. PCSO Lorraine Wells was to stay with Bletchingley and Nutfield. N Price, through the Chair expressed thanks on behalf of the whole village for the services of PC Nick Shrapel and PCSO Lorraine Wells. The benefit of the 8 additional officers would depend on what was happening in the area as they would be used for targeting specific problems, problem areas as they arise and would be prioritised by Inspector Elaine

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Burtenshaw.

Figures showed that crime had reduced in Tandridge over the last year and it was thought this was partly due to the building of Neighbourhood Watch and Countrywatch. Recent events relating to approaches made to girls in other areas have seen the police decide to go public with the news to make residents more aware. It was made clear though that to date no harm had come to any of the girls and there were additional patrols out in those areas and the CID were also involved. The Nutfield murder is the first in Tandridge for this century according to police records and is being dealt with by the relevant police departments. PC N Shrapel who was due to attend the Annual Parish Meeting was in the process of undertaking house-to-house enquiries re the incident.

A complaint was made in relation to the noise of the police/emergency vehicle sirens, particularly on a Sunday afternoon just after mid-day along the A25. Inspector Elaine Burtenshaw stated that all vehicles had to provide a reason for the use of the siren and would therefore arrange to have this recurring issue looked into.

D Turner of Neighbourhood Watch expressed gratitude to Inspector Elaine Burtenshaw for the increased flow of information from the police to local residents through various e-newsletters.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Elaine Burtenshaw for attending.

4 AFFORDABLE HOUSING – MONA JOHANSSON OF SURREY COMMUNITY ACTION ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN BLETCHINGLEY

Mona Johansson briefly explained the events of the last year that had led to a questionnaire being sent out to every household in Bletchingley at the end of 2009 requesting responses on Affordable Housing. A 20% response had been received which is apparently good for a voluntary survey. 65% showed support for an affordable housing scheme whilst 1/3 did not. This again is a typical response. The results showed that there were 17 households in need of affordable housing, where it was difficult for them to enter the housing market. The need for affordable housing to be for local people would need to be written into any agreement. The housing needs were small scale i.e. 2 to 12 homes and needed to be suitably located within the village. There was unlikely to be any increased pressure on local services as the needs identified were from occupants already within the village and using the services.

A survey of other housing schemes had been undertaken and the results had proved very positive, the closest of which was the 2 flats in Nutfield and an affordable housing scheme in Tatsfield undertaken by English Rural Housing.

The next step was for the Parish Council to decide whether to take this further and to identify possible sites. The Chairman enquired as to whether the conversion of an old building could be used for affordable housing. Mona Johansson commented that she was not aware of any as yet. Any location needed to be located outside the settlement boundary to be included as an affordable housing site for planning purposes. Tandridge District Council were happy to support and talk about any suggested schemes.

The Chairman thanked Mona Johansson for attending.

Inspector Elaine Burtenshaw and Mona Johansson left the meeting.

5 BLETCHINGLEY UNITED CHARITIES Accounts for year ended 30 September 2008

Councillor Martin presented the Accounts of the Bletchingley United Charities for the year ended 30 September 2009. The income and expenditure were similar to that of last year.

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This was an independent charity sourced mainly from the Smith Charity. An inspection by the Smiths Charity of the accounts was undertaken in April. The resultant verbal response received was that Bletchingley United Charities was one of the best in Surrey for reaching out to individuals. Referrals for assistance come from other sources, including the District Councils and housing authorities. The accounts are audited by the Charities Commission.

6 VILLAGE HALL (BLETCHINGLEY) TRUST Accounts for year ended 31 December 2009

Councillor Trotman, Chairman of the Trustees of the Village Hall Trust, presented the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2009, which once again showed a healthy balance being carried forward of £126,733. Councillor Trotman explained that the Trust is a land and buildings owning trust. The village hall is leased to the Parish Council on a full repairing lease until 2022 and is administered by the village hall management committee.

There is a good rental income from the properties, all of which are currently let. The rental income is used to raise monies for the long term rebuilding fund, which has a goal of £150k. The Village Hall Management Committee manage the Community Centre but do not have responsibility for it. The accounts are examined by Anthony Cock before submission to the Charities Commission.

A query was raised about the figures for electric and gas, which showed a significant increase over the last year. Councillor Trotman confirmed he would have this checked.

7 BAGAGED Accounts for year ended 31 March 2009

David Holland explained that the officers of BAGaged had changed with responsibility being handed down to the younger generation. James Holland was now the Chair. Congratulations were passed to James Holland for taking on the position and continuing the good work of the group. Unfortunately a copy of the accounts was not available in time for the meeting. However, David Holland confirmed that there was still a positive balance in the account.

On the assumption that maintenance for the skatepark rested with Tandridge District Council, the group no longer had any assets. It was commented that the skate park was a true asset to the village and a credit to BAGaged. A lot of the attraction of this site was the design which was designed by skate park users themselves.

8 REPORT FROM WHITEHILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Chairman presented the report on behalf of the Whitehill Residents' Association., whose ongoing concerns remained to be North Park Quarry and the planned extension and the M25. There is still no start date for the resurfacing of the final 25% of the road surface between Green Lane and Pendell and for the planned widening scheme between Junctions 5 and 7. In relation to the North Park Quarry and its proposed extension, Sibelco have confirmed that all silica extracted from the existing and proposed new quarry will continue to be removed from the existing haul route. Fly tipping remains a constant problem for the Association's road network, although Tandridge District Council have been very proactive in promptly removing any reported fly tipping.

9 QUESTIONS

The Chairman opened this section of the meeting asking if the residents had any questions to ask of the Parish Council or report anything generally. A copy of the Annual Parish Report had been made available at the local Post Office in advance of the meeting and was distributed at the meeting.

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Village Sign – A resident enquired as to the reason for the positioning of the new Village Gateway sign at Big Common Lane as it was felt that this was poorly sited for anyone approaching the junction from Big Common Lane. It was confirmed that the site had been discussed and agreed with Surrey County Council.

Whitehill Lane Drainage Problem – The drains on the south side of Whitehill Lane were still in need of clearing, particularly in the colder months when ice is present. It was acknowledged that the northern section of the road had been cleared but that the bottom section was more of an issue. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would persevere with this issue and approach Highways again.

10 ANY OTHER PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS

Councillor Ray updated those present on the Parish Plan. The idea of the plan was for the village to set a vision for the next 5-10 years, which would help direct the Parish Council and would influence the District and County Council. At a recent meeting it was acknowledged that there was a need to raise awareness of the process in order to get new faces on board the Steering Group or working parties. This would be done at the Village Fair.

District Councillor Gill Black in her absence was congratulated on her appointment as Chair of the Tandridge District Council Planning Committee.

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 8.15 pm.

Signed Date

Chairman