

BUCKLAND ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2016

MINUTES of the Buckland Annual Parish Meeting held in the Reading Room, on the evening of Monday 25th April 2016 at 7.30pm.

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman, Nigel Husband, welcomed everyone to the meeting and took the opportunity to introduce Councillors Horden, Inwood, Pryor, and Westwell and Sheena Boyce, Clerk, to the meeting and relayed apologies from Cllrs Day and Steed.

The Chairman welcomed County Councillor Helyn Clack, District Councillors Paul Potter and John Muggerridge and our presenters Duncan Ferns, Simon Elson and Ann Adams. It was noted that there were 44 parishioners and 7 members of the public in attendance.

The Chairman advised a change to the usual order of proceedings, advising that rather than break for refreshments part way through the meeting, we would be enjoying post meeting refreshments, funded by a generous donation from Hanson, by way of a parting gift to mark the end of sand extraction in the village.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr James Day, Cllr Julian Steed, Ianthe Cox (Clerk to Buckland Parochial Charity), Fiona and Alan Brindley, Jim Docking (Parish Rights of Way Officer), Carol and Everett Leeds, Anthony and Marie-Claude Eisinger, John Boyce and Simon Humphreys (Volunteer Warden for Surrey Wildlife Trust land in Buckland).

3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2015

These had been displayed on the Parish Council Notice Board, published on the village website, and circulated to Cllrs. The motion to adopt the Minutes as a true and correct record was Proposed by Tim Westwell, Seconded by Iain Laurensen and carried by the meeting. The Chairman signed the minutes.

4. SURREY POLICE

The Chairman advised that whilst Inspector Hamlin had planned to attend the meeting that Surrey Police had advised he is currently convalescing after a minor operation. Post meeting note: operational commitments had led to the officer assigned to attend the meeting being redirected in support of colleagues.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

At the start of the 2015/16 financial year we funded the purchase of heritage cast iron posts using a donation from Sutton and East Surrey Water and, towards the end of the summer the post and rail installation alongside the A25 through the village conservation area became, I feel sure you will agree, much improved.

The British Heart Foundation, having helped, with the support of the local Ambulance Trust, to run two Heartstart Courses for us agreed to provide a cost subsidised Public Access Defibrillator. The Parish Council, aided by a £300 donation from MVDC purchased a cabinet to hold the unit and arranged for its installation on the external wall of the Reading Room. The code for the unit can be obtained from the emergency services operator and anyone calling 999 will also be directed to the location of the cabinet.

Each year seems to bring with it more bureaucracy and this year has proved to be no different. Fortunately our clerk remains alert to opportunities to apply for grant funding and a successful application to the Government's Transparency Fund has enabled the Parish Council to purchase office equipment including a laptop computer and a printer/scanner.

A successful application to the SCC Highways Localism Fund allowed us to clear a build up of soil and vegetation from a section of Old Road around a bend and a great turnout for a Clean for the Queen Event has helped to tidy up the centre of the village and to reclaim sections of footpath and highway. This year we are looking to extend the good work completed to date along the footpaths that run alongside the A25.

A marathon effort on the part of the Reigate Area Conservation Volunteers, who turn out each year, to lead our annual clearance and a good turnout from villagers has helped to improve the health and appearance of our village green and pond. This year we brought in mechanical assistance and, thanks in part to favourable weather conditions, were able to complete works in one hit rather than over two consecutive winters as initially planned. Thank you to each and every person who has turned out to help and we hope to see you again later this year.

This year we are planning to relay the section of granite setts between the War Memorial and the driveway to the Towered Barn on a foundation built to highway standard (to match the section installed two years ago).

We are also working with MVDC and SCC to identify an appropriate location to install a seat for the benefit of those bus customers heading towards Dorking.

We are keen to make sure we enjoy “social meets” alongside “volunteer working parties” and it is good to see a number of events being planned across this summer that show what a vibrant community we live in.

For our part, we have recruited Fiona Brindley, Debbie Jones and Wendy Lane to help us arrange a Big Buckland Picnic to be held on Sunday 12th June, at 4.30pm to commemorate the Queen’s 90th Birthday. We are planning a relatively informal event – simply bring your own food, drinks, picnic rugs or candelabras (as you prefer) and enjoy an evening with other villagers.

Every year I mentioned the email group that the PC send info out to, a large proportion of households have joined, however, if you haven’t signed up please let Sheena know your details so that you can be added to the circulation.

I would like to mention the sad passing last year of Rev. Pattie Vigers who played such an important and vital part in our community and is sorely missed by so many of us.

Lastly a mention of finances; the continued limits being placed on our District and County Councils is forcing Parish Councils (including Buckland) to take steps to ensure they can respond to meet the needs of our community. We have again increased our precept to ensure we can serve you well and to satisfy rules that now require us to build a reserve to cover the cost of a parish council election. Please be assured that we shall continue to work hard to ensure we deliver value for money.

Please do refer to your papers where you will find a copy of Jim Docking’s report on the state of the village’s rights of way (see appendix) and of County Councillor Helyn Clack’s Annual Report (see appendix) to parishes in her division. Please do take the opportunity to approach Helyn during the refreshment break to discuss any issues, concerns or points you may have.

I will conclude by passing you to Sheena Boyce who will present the Parish Council accounts for the Year to 31st March 2016, a copy of which is included in your papers.

6. BUCKLAND PARISH ACCOUNTS

Sheena Boyce presented a summary of the full year accounts compared against budget for the year ending 31st March 2016, copies of which had been made available to the Meeting (see appendix).

The Clerk advised that the majority of council running costs had come in slightly below budget and explained that the main part of the variance arose as a consequence of election costs being saved. Council had been required to budget £2500 and had decided further investment of £1000 in amenity improvements could only be afforded if election costs were not incurred. Accordingly, a positive variance of £2500 was partially offset by £1000 spend on amenity improvements. She explained how Council’s ability to progress initiatives had been helped by this year’s success at securing donations and grants and outlined the impact of projects that span more than one financial year on the cash book accounting.

With no questions asked Sheena indicated she would be happy to respond to any queries during the refreshments break.

7. BUCKLAND PAROCHIAL CHARITY ACCOUNTS

The Chairman referred parishioners to the 2015 Report (see appendix) and to the Accounts for the 12 months to 30th September 2015, printed copies of both documents having been made available to attendees.

The Chairman introduced Ann Adams, Trustee and Chair of the Charity to the meeting. Ann took the opportunity to encourage parishioners to make the Trustees aware of any significant need within the village and to emphasise that all such information is handled sensitively and with discretion.

Ann asked everyone to consider whether they could suggest someone who might be interested in filling the trustee position previously held by Rev. Pattie Vigers and encouraged anyone with ideas to speak to her or to Ianthe Cox. Ann advised that the next meeting of the Trustees will be on 10th May 2016 to discuss the Spring distributions

8. UPDATE ON VILLAGE POND AND GREEN

The Chairman invited Simon Elson, speaking tonight as a Reigate Area Conservation Volunteer, to address the meeting.

Simon summarised the key achievements during the period of the 2011-16 Pond Management Plan. He reminded us how important the eradication of parrot's feather from the pond has been, cited last year's successful clearance of invasive unwanted vegetation (achieved through a combination of mechanical and hand clearing) and referred to new species that had been spotted more recently as a positive indicator of the pond's health.

Looking forward, Simon reported that a 2016-21 Pond and Green Management Plan is being prepared and shared with the meeting that one key aim over the next period will be to encourage everyone to record (photograph, paint or draw!) species of fauna and flora observed on the green and in the pond.

Simon concluded by asking everyone to make sure Sunday 10th July 2016, the date of the next "tidy up event" is marked on their calendars - 10am prompt on the Village Green!

9. UPDATE ON RESTORATION OF PARK PIT AND TAPWOOD QUARRY

The Chairman introduced Duncan Ferns to the meeting and having set the scene by expressing relief that the planning permission submitted by Hanson in June 2010 had finally been determined (and approved) in February 2016 invited Duncan to share his update with the meeting.

Duncan provided a pictorial update of restoration works at Park Pit and Tapwood Quarry to the meeting and proved happy to respond to all the questions that were put. Duncan concluded his update by extending an offer to lead a guided walk around Park Pit and invited anyone interested to book a place with Sheena Boyce.

10. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contribution to this year's Annual Parish Meeting with particular thanks extended to Duncan Ferns and Simon Elson.

He thanked everyone who had made the effort to come along to enjoy the refreshments kindly provided by the "Hanson in the Community Team" and to raise a glass to toast the end of sand extraction in Buckland.

The Chairman, having first invited attendees for any other items or queries, declared the meeting officially closed at 8.45pm.

APPENDIX

**BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL
FINANCIAL REPORT - YEAR TO 31ST MARCH 2016 - SUBJECT TO EXTERNAL AUDIT**

EXPENDITURE		Budget 2015/16 £	Actual 2015/16 £	Variance 2015/16 £
REVENUE EXPENDITURE				
Parish Amenities				
	Village Amenities - Green and Pond	3090	2,676	414
	Amenity Improvement - Post and Rail	0	7,215	-7215
	Amenity Improvement - Public Access Defibrillator	0	991	-991
	Old Road - Verge (Highways Localism)	0	1,272	-1272
	Floodlighting to the Church	300	80	220
	Purchase of grit/salt	300	0	300
	Subtotal	3,690	12,234	- 8,544
Council Running Costs				
	Clerk			
	Salary	4663	4,722	-59
	Training	100	90	10
	Council			
	Regulatory Fees	240	235	5
	Election Costs	2500	0	2500
	Re: Transparency Fund Grant	0	930	-930
	Training	100	70	30
	Subscriptions	295	295	0
	Insurance	320	277	43
	Annual Parish Meetings	40	85	-45
	BPC mtgs - Room Hire	180	160	20
	Travel expenses	150	207	-57
	Office costs (Admin / Comms)	660	767	-107
	Subtotal	9,248	7,838	1,410
	Total Expenditure	12,938	20,072	-7134
INCOME				
REVENUE INCOME				
	Precept	8732	7,982	-750
	MVDC Council Tax Support Grant	750	1,500	750
	MVDC Concurrent Grant	1911	1,911	0
	MVDC Grant re PAD and CFTQ	0	330	330
	SCC Mole Valley Local Committee Grant	0	456	456
	Transparency Fund Grant	0	1,478	1478
	SCC Highways Localism Grants	0	1,272	1272
	Local fundraising and donations	0	382	382
	Total Income	11,393	15,311	3,918
Reserves (Cash at Bank)				
		Allocated	Unallocated	Total
	31 March 2016	2946	6278	9224
	31 March 2015	9150	3121	12271

The Buckland Parochial Charity

Report for 2015 to the 2016 Buckland Annual Parish Meeting

The Henry Smith Charity is for 'the relief of need'. This can be provided either generally or individually to people resident in the Parish of Buckland, as stated in the constitution of 1889. It can be provided as financial help or in the form of a gift to someone who is undergoing a difficult time. The only stipulation is that the recipient must be a resident of Buckland.

The Trustees apply for the Henry Smith Grant each year which amounts to £2500. Buckland is one of 200 such villages who benefit from this generous charity.

Four Trustees were nominated by the Parish Council in May 2015 to serve until May 2019: Ann Adams – Chairman, Philip Haynes – Treasurer, Ianthe Cox – Clerk and James Day. These four Trustees are able to appoint 2 Representative Trustees, Susan Fellows and until recently, Revd Pattie Vigers.

Sadly we have lost Pattie, who had served the Charity for many years and was a fund of local knowledge and wonderful at identifying any needs in the village. We are currently seeking to recruit a new Trustee.

During 2015 the Trustees held meetings in May and November to discuss any parochial need that had come to light and agree the distributions. This resulted in two financial distributions during the year to 10 residents for assistance in the provision of food and fuel bills. There were also two special one off payments during the year plus presents to those who had experienced unfortunate situations. The last routine distributions were made just before Christmas 2015.

The Charity is always willing to help anyone in need in the village. Identifying such a requirement is difficult as it is a very private and sensitive area. Pattie was always our main source of such information. My name and telephone number are on the back of the Parish magazine should anyone wish to contact me.

While the Charity is able to provide limited financial assistance where needed there can be some practical assistance in the form of a useful gift as well. However it is currently not possible to offer a personal transport service at this time as there are no drivers available. Should anyone be able to offer such an arrangement please could they get in touch with a Trustee. All the work provided by the Trustees is entirely voluntary.

The next meeting of the Trustees will be in May 2016 to discuss the Spring distributions and hopefully to welcome a new member.

Ianthe E.M. Cox, Clerk to the Trustees

The Buckland Parochial Charity					
Receipts & Payments Account					
for the year ended 30 September 2015					
2014	<u>Receipts</u>	2015	2014	<u>Payments</u>	2015
£		£	£		£
	<i>Opening Bank Balances</i>			<i>Buckland Residents</i>	
16	Current	72	450	Stores	400
2,295	Reserve	2,218	2,025	Gas/Electricity	1,800
	<i>Other income</i>			<i>Support</i>	
472	COIF dividends*	467	19	Gifts & Plants	26
1	Bank interest	2	500	Other support donation	340
	<i>Grant received</i>			<i>Closing Bank Balances</i>	
2,500	Smith's Charity	2,500	72	Current	6
			2,218	Reserve	2,687
£ 5,284		£ 5,259	£ 5,284		£ 5,259
*COIF Charities Investment Fund - Income Units					
The Charity holds an investment of 1,008.95 income units in COIF Charities Investment Fund, managed by CCLA.					
The value of 1,008.95 shares at 30 September was £11,938.80. (30.09.14: £11,825.50)					
The Trustees have not needed to use their Reserves to enable them to meet special requests for support during the year, enabling them to increase reserve funds to meet any unexpected requests for support.					
A Grant of £2,500 from The Henry Smith Charity has been agreed for the following year.					
The above accounts have been reviewed by me and I confirm they are properly and fairly presented.					
P E Haynes FCA Trustee					
& Treasurer					

Village Rights of Way Team Update: Jim Docking

Alan Pryor, Richard When, Chris Worsley, Martin Cantor, Barbara and Tim Westwell and myself have patrolled all the paths in the parish.

Most of the paths are in a good state. However, the upper paths on the Downs are exceedingly muddy. This has been reported in previous years to the Countryside Officer, but it doesn't seem to be regarded as a matter of priority. Also: three paths have fallen trees yet to be felled, and there's a broken finger post in one place and a broken stile in another.

I have kept the local Countryside Access Officer and Buckland Estate informed of all matters of concern

2015/16 Report to Buckland Annual Parish Meeting in Dorking Rural Division County Councillor Helyn Clack

May I take this opportunity of thanking your Parish Council for all the work they do to support residents, work with other local authorities like Surrey County Council and the many hours your councillors and of course Sheena your Clerk spend in making a difference in our community.

1. I have now served on Surrey County Council for 15 years on behalf of Dorking Rural residents, most of the time I have also been a member of the SCC Cabinet. 2015 was very important for Surrey as we commemorated the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta at Runnymede. I was the political lead for this event at which we honoured with the presence of Her Majesty The Queen and other members of the Royal family along with the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Prime Minister, UK MPs, visiting American and UK dignitaries and importantly many more ordinary folk as well! The day was wonderfully sunny, the London Philharmonic orchestra played and Surrey Children performed the Giants version of King John and the Knights of England sealing the Magna Carta back in 1215. As lead member for this occasion, I was delighted that our planning worked well and so many people enjoyed the day.
2. Within days of this event the Leader of the Council asked me to take on the Cabinet Portfolio of Wellbeing and Health and Co-Chair the Surrey Health and Wellbeing Board which oversees the joint health strategy of the county and leads on integration of Health and Social Care.
3. Residents may not be aware that the County Council delivers Social Services for Surrey residents both for Adults and for Children at a cost of around £570 million Surrey has a population of over 1 million people with a vibrant economy. Surrey has areas of deprivation though and an ever increasing aging population who require services such as community health services, dementia services, enablement services. There are many children and adults living in the county who require specialist assistance for life long and serious disabilities. Our service stations on the M25 also see rising numbers of asylum seekers under the age of 18 who come unaccompanied to the County from countries outside of the EU and who need to be taken into care.
4. The majority of the County Council's budget comes direct from residents paying Council tax, (annexe 1) and this year the government announced it will withdraw all of the Local Government grant by 2020 and this would be fasttracked in Surrey over the next two years. This has left us with an annual funding gap of £50 million.
5. The County Council has over the last four years made efficiency savings of over £300 million. Whilst we wait for the outcome of the business rates review, our efforts for lobbying government for fairer funding has resulted in two one off annual payments of around £12 million.
6. With the approval of Government this year as well as the general increase in Council Tax of 2%, we were allowed a specific ring fenced precept of 2.0% for Adult Social care. This still leaves a gap of £26 million pa. We will continue our transformation public value review to find the rest.
7. We are also preparing a response to the Governments White paper on Education which outlines the intention to 100% acadamise our community schools. I am particularly concerned that this may have an effect on Rural Schools which are currently subsidised by the County Council and the Schools Forum in Surrey and may be unattractive to Multi Academy Trusts and become un-sustainable.

8. The County Council Conservative administration committed £10 million improvement fund in our manifesto in 2013. This has seen considerable improvement to our children's education with OFSTED now rating 92 % of all Surrey Schools as 'Good'. Academies schools are accountable to an appointed Regional Schools Commissioner. It is important that we lobby government to support rural schools for the future of our communities.
9. Another part of my responsibilities as Cabinet Member for Wellbeing and Health is the £38million Public Health grant. This is an important public service aimed at preventative measures to reduce the risk of long term illness. I have spent a lot of time visiting some of our Community Health providers in Surrey and am very impressed with the service and dedication of the professionals involved. Many of these services are provided through our GP surgeries and local 'cottage' hospitals and are important to residents staying well and out of acute hospitals where evidence shows that prolonged stay in acute wards is not good and getting people out of hospital into their own homes with local services helps people live longer and healthier.
10. I also have the EU brief at Surrey County Council, I am President of PURPLE (Peri-Urban Planning in the EU). This lobbying network of over 20 regional members across Europe campaign to make sure that areas like Surrey on the edge of Urban conurbations are not forgotten in the EU world of infrastructure planning. I also sit on the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership European Structural and Investment Funds Board (ESIF) and the Southern England Local Partnership (SELP) which working with Universities and Local Authorities brings opportunities for project funding from the various commissions in the EU. All these groups work together to make sure funding opportunities come our way.
11. Crispin Blunt MP asked me to sit on the Parliamentary Group of local MPs against expansion of Gatwick Airport. This group supported by GACC has a high profile and has led the opposition to plans for a second runway at Gatwick, which would be a disaster for local communities and will continue to make the strong case against Gatwick expansion which would overwhelm the already overburdened transport infrastructure, require thousands of workers to move into the region and inflict residents with more noise and air pollution.
12. Flooding has become a major concern in Surrey and not least in Dorking Rural Division. Currently there are County led Flood Forums in Brockham, Charlwood, Leigh and Ockley. The work these forums do to understand local drainage systems and identify work required to clear blockages and divert flood water away from homes is very valuable and is another example of good partnership working with Parish Councils, District Councils, the Environment Agency, Thames Water and Southern Water and Surrey Highways.
13. The County Council administration's Project Horizon has continued to roll out resurfacing across many of the roads in Dorking Rural Division over the last year. I would be pleased to hear from residents of any roads still needing the Horizon treatment. This coming year we have announced a similar project for improving pedestrian pavements. Again if residents could advise on where we should propose pavements for improvement I will do my best to get them included in this new programme.
14. Most importantly, is the work I do to represent my residents from Dorking Rural at Surrey County Council, raising the rural voice on planning, transport and infrastructure and protecting the green belt and countryside from unsustainable and unwanted development and listening to your concerns making sure you get the services you need.
15. Grants are still available from the County Council through the local Members Allowance Scheme and the Community Buildings Scheme. They have been reduced though so early applications are advised.

Surrey County Council

Where the money comes from

	2015/16	2016/17
Surrey council tax	£598m	£627m
Government revenue support grant and business rates top up	£171m	£139m
Other government grants to support schools and other services	£714m	£697m
Fees, charges and other income	£137m	£147m
Local share of business rates	£44m	£46m
Reserves	£4m	£25m
Total income to the council	£1,668m	£1,681m

How the money is spent

	2015/16	2016/17
Schools and learning	£691m	£692m
Social care and health	£560m	£571m
People, communities and culture	£112m	£109m
Business and consumers	£45m	£50m
Roads and transport	£75m	£73m
Your council (debt servicing for services and infrastructure, local democracy)	£118m	£121m support services for
Environment, housing and planning	£67m	£65m
Total spending on council services	£1,668m	£1,681m

END.