

BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at 8pm on Monday 10th March 2014 in the Reading Room, Old Road.

Present: Cllrs Day, Horden, Husband, Pryor and Westwell, District Councillor Paul Potter, and the Clerk. PCSO Ivor Williams attended for item 5.

1. Apologies for Absence

(264) Apologies and reasons for absence were accepted from Councillor Julian Steed and County Councillor Helyn Clack.

2. Declarations of Interest

(265) None.

3. Requests for Dispensations

(266) None.

4. Minutes

(267) Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th January 2014, were agreed. Cllr Husband signed the minutes as a correct record.

5. Community Police Report

(268) PCSO Ivor Williams informed the meeting that 16 crimes had been reported to have occurred in Buckland during the period from 11th November 2013 to 10th March 2014. One communications offence relating to unwanted text messages, a public order offence involving uninvited guests at a party, an approach to an HGV driver from someone keen to arrange transport for people into the UK, four thefts, four burglaries, three instances of criminal damage to vehicles, one set of cloned number plates, one failure to pay for fuel and one occurrence of fly tipping.

6. Planning

New Planning Applications

(269) MO/2014/0175: Retrospective application for erection of a detached stable block at Buckland Heights, Walton Heath, Tadworth, KT20 7HZ. No comment.

(270) Buckland Estates had provided Council with details of an application that had recently been submitted to MVDC for a two storey extension to 2 Dungates Lane, Buckland, RH3 7BD. While Council had no objection to the plans set out in the information received they noted that the application had not yet been registered. **Action:** Clerk to check for changes to the proposals once this application has been registered and to circulate any changes for comment. Otherwise no objection.

MVDC Planning Notifications

The following application, on which there will not be any consultation, was noted:

(271) MO/2014/0216: Application for a certificate of lawfulness for a proposed development in respect of the erection of a two storey rear extension at The Stables, Sandy Lane, Buckland, RH3 7AA.

The following Local Planning Authority decision was noted:

(272) MO/2014/0048: Remove one Holly tree located on eastern side of vestry and lift crowns of 2 No. Yew trees located on western boundary to give 2.5 metres ground clearance and maintain this clear height of the Yew trees as is necessary on an ongoing basis seasonally. (Work includes the removal of dead and dangerous wood - exempt works.) at St Mary the Virgin Church, Reigate Road, Buckland, RH3 7EA. No objection.

Planning Consultations

- (273) MVDC Planning Policy team, when responding to Council's queries with respect to potential site BTO3 (land to the west of Station Road and South of the A25), had advised that while Betchworth Estates, the landowner, had suggested this plot could support a development of 30-40 dwellings that the site had been judged unsustainable by MVDC. The Planning Policy Officer had agreed that it would be reasonable to expect Highways would have concerns with the need to provide a new access onto the A25. The Officer had confirmed that further consultation will be undertaken when possible new Traveller sites have been identified.
- (274) The Clerk reported that the newly formed Buckland Liaison Group is due to meet later this month for the first time with representatives due to attend from Hanson, Buckland Estates, Surrey County Council, Buckland Parish Council and the Betchworth and Buckland Society. **Action:** Chairman to include initial feedback from this meeting in his address to the Annual Parish Meeting.

7. Amenities

- (275) Clerk confirmed that following the appointment of Burleys to maintain the Village Green, that, with input from Reigate Area Conservation Volunteers, operational guidelines for the work, consistent with the 5 year Management Plan had been agreed. Burleys are due to complete the first cut of the season this week. **Action:** Clerk authorised to arrange for a cheque to be issued upon receipt of an invoice for the number of cuts agreed and completed during March
- (276) It was noted that new **Litter bins** had recently been installed outside the village shop and adjacent to the bus shelter at the top of Old Road. A vote of thanks was recorded for Buckland Deli and Buckland Estates who had funded one of the bins and to MVDC whose parks team had installed both bins.
- (277) A vote of thanks was recorded for John Boyce for allowing one of the Parish Council grit bins to be stored within his driveway for the duration of the SESW work along the nearby footpath between Old Road and Bromley Field.
- (278) Chris Anstey, the stonemason appointed to complete the repair and **re-enamelling of the lettering to the War Memorial** had advised that he hoped to be able to schedule the work to be completed by the end of April 2014. **Action:** Clerk authorised to arrange for a cheque to be issued upon satisfactory completion of the work and to set aside the funds held to pay for the works in a specific reserve unless the work is satisfactorily completed by 31st March 2014.
- (279) Cllr Husband suggested a number of locations around the village green where poppy seeds could be sown subject to the turf being removed and the underlying soil disturbed. While there was broad support for establishing a wildflower area using a strip of land alongside the telephone box and behind the daffodils there were mixed views as to how successful a sowing around the War Memorial might be. Cllr Husband's offer to further develop a proposal for the area immediately around the War Memorial was gratefully accepted. It was noted that preparation of the ground and initial sowings will need to be completed prior to the next meeting of Council. **Actions:** Clerk to circulate updated proposal, and, subject to securing majority support of the councillors, to support Cllr Husband with its implementation.

Installation of Granite Setts alongside the Village Green

- (280) News that an application made to the SCC Mole Valley Local Committee for a £2000 grant towards this project had been approved was gratefully received and a vote of thanks was recorded for SCC Cllr Helyn Clack whose support had been vital.
- (281) Votes of thanks were also recorded for donations of £750 from the Betchworth and Buckland Society and £500 from Hanson in the Community towards this project, both of which have been gratefully received.

- (282) The Clerk had confirmed the appointment of Bill Kear Plant Limited, and it is hoped that the work will soon be completed. **Action:** Clerk authorised to arrange for a cheque to be issued upon satisfactory completion of the work and to set aside the funds held to pay for the works in a specific reserve unless the work is satisfactorily completed by 31st March 2014.

8. Highways, Transport and Rights of Way

- (283) SCC Highways had reported that assurances had been received from Mr Wilson, the resident at the Old Forge that he will be taking steps to replace the broken boundary fencing and to arrange for his garden plants to be cut back to restore sightlines to safeguard the safety of bus passengers using the shelter opposite to Village Shop.
- (284) It was noted that the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) sited adjacent to the A25 and near the Shell garage had been irreparably damaged in a road traffic accident (“RTA”). SCC Highways and their VAS external contractor are liaising and a recommendation is expected shortly. It is understood one option is to relocate the VAS sign sited to the west of the Jolly Farmers. **Action:** Clerk to circulate VAS proposal upon receipt.
- (285) Clerk confirmed that our local SCC Highways Officers are aware that one of the Welcome Gates to the East of the village centre still needs to be replaced following an RTA last summer. Recent damage to the 40mph repeater sign and post opposite the Jolly Farmers, also attributed to an RTA has been reported. **Action:** Clerk to continue to liaise with SCC Highways to secure replacements.
- (286) The Clerk advised Council that while the last two decluttering tasks have not yet been completed by the SCC Community Highways Team that they remain on the list of “outstanding tasks”. **Action:** Clerk to continue to request completion of these tasks.
- (287) The Clerk confirmed that a bid had been submitted under the **2014/15 Highways Localism Initiative** to fund repairs to the footpath that crosses the village green.

Local Bus Service: Route of 32 bus

- (288) Mr. Philip Haynes, a resident in Old Road, had asked Council to give serious consideration to his suggestion for local bus service 32 to be permanently rerouted along the A25 between Old Road, Buckland and Station Road Betchworth.

It was noted that during the recent 4 week closure of Old Road that people unable to catch a bus from “a usual stop” had been required to walk a considerable distance to either Betchworth Post Office or the top of Old Road. Anyone unable to walk such a distance had been forced to take a taxi, secure a lift or defer their journey until the road re-opened.

Council concluded that the current route of the 32 bus, between the junction of the A25 and Old Road and Brockham, provides an extremely valuable service to local residents and businesses. Council resolved to minute its strong support for the current routing of the no 32 bus. **Action:** Clerk to feedback to Mr. Haynes.

- (289) Cllrs Pryor and Horden had attended a briefing on the **2014 Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100 and Classic cycling event** on Thursday 6th March. Kevin Nash had outlined changes being implemented in response to community feedback following last year’s event. Kevin responded, in details, to queries raised and demonstrated a good appreciation of areas of potential concern. It was clear that significant effort has been invested to optimise access arrangements along the route. Community updates, specific to each District will be released and the team are aware of editorial deadlines for the July parish magazines. **Action:** Clerk to provide positive feedback to MVDC with respect to this briefing.

Airports and Aerodromes

- (290) Council welcomed news that the Planning Inspectorate had dismissed an appeal by **Redhill Aerodrome** Management against the decisions by both Reigate and Banstead and Tandridge District Councils to refuse permission to install a hard runway.

(291) The **Airport Commission** had invited comment on its Draft Appraisal Framework, a 128 page description of the various criteria by which the runway options at Heathrow and Gatwick (and perhaps one in the Thames estuary) will be judged. GACC had issued a draft response that had been circulated to councillors. Feedback to the Clerk had indicated broad support for the GACC draft response and this had since been communicated to GACC. No further action currently required.

9. Finance

(292) It was noted that the following **receipts** had been banked:

- (i) SCC Mole Valley Local Committee £2000;
- (ii) Betchworth and Buckland Society £750;
- (iii) Hanson in the Community £500;
- (iv) Buckland Deli £100;
- (v) Buckland Estates £100;
- (vi) £100 sale proceeds for 40 walk booklets.

(293) The following **Accounts for Payment** were approved:

- (i) Surrey ALC Limited £12.00 including £2.00 Vat,
March Clerks Update net of Credit for deferment from November;
- (ii) Glasdons UK Limited £489.33 including £81.55 Vat,
Two replacement litter bins;
- (iii) Bill Kear Plant Limited £696.00 including £116.00 Vat,
Highways Localism –Work in the highways verge;
- (iv) St Mary’s Buckland Reading Room Account £65.00,
13th January 2014, 10th March 2014, 31st March 2014;
- (v) Buckland Parochial Church Council £80.00,
Contribution to cost of electricity re floodlights to the church;
- (vi) Sheena Boyce £367.02,
Second half 1% salary increase, accrued holiday £266.47, mileage £27.95,
reimbursement council expenses £72.60;
- (vii) Sheena Boyce £91.36 including £15.23 Vat,
Reimbursement for equipment purchased to support the cleaning of traffic signs,
using funds received under the 2013/14 Highways Localism initiative.

(294) A Standing Order request, for monthly salary payments of £366.50 (1st month £370.00) to be made to the Clerk for the 2014/15 financial year on the 20th day of each calendar month. The Clerk’s pay is calculated by reference to NALC SCP19 (currently £9,345), on the basis of 8 hours per week and includes an allowance for accrued leave entitlement. It was noted that the Clerk had opted out of the working time directive.

11. Formalities

(295) Clerk advised that Council had received a request from the Friends of St Marys to use the Village Green to hold a May Day Fayre on Monday 5th May 2014 and confirmed that the request includes appropriate references to the guidance note in issue. Council welcomed the application. Cllr Husband’s offer to liaise with the Friends in the approach to and on the day of the Fayre was gratefully accepted. **Action:** Clerk to confirm approval of the request to Duncan Ferns and advise Cllr Husband’s role.

(296) The Betchworth Parish Archives, held in the Meg Ryan Room of the Hamilton Rooms have recently been indexed by a local archivist and some information relating to Buckland Parish has been identified. **Action:** Cllr Day to establish what information is being held and to reaffirm Council’s acceptance of the offer to continue to keep these items within the Meg Ryan Room archive facility.

- (297) A **SALC Guidance Note**, setting out advice for local councils considering subscribing for membership of local campaigning groups had been circulated to Councillors. Council noted that it is currently a paid up member of the Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign and the Surrey Hills Society.

Council concluded that it will continue to consider:

- there to be a need to be part of any group that can provide an educated/expert opinion and balanced information about things of concern to the village;
- information received via membership of such a group prior to reaching its own decision, and, in the case of consultations, shall ensure it remains free to represent the views of the village.

12. Community Support

- (298) Local resident and GP, Dr. Lucy Rawson had asked Council to consider whether more needs to be done to provide community support for Buckland's elderly residents, many of whom live alone.

Following an initial meeting between Cllr Steed and Dr. Rawson, two initial questions emerged – how best, over time, to identify those residents who would appreciate additional support and what form the support should take.

The Clerk reported that during a recent Clerks meeting at MVDC the District emergency response team had advised that when flagging priority residents to the utility companies and emergency services one reference point is the list of Mole Valley residents signed up to the Telecare Service. The Clerk's offer to establish contact with the Mole Valley Telecare Service Team to establish what support it offers was accepted.

Action: Clerk to advise Cllr Steed and Dr. Rawson that Council is happy to support an initiative to promote services that are currently available (e.g. Telecare) and to consider any proposals they wish to put forward to complement those services once those details have been clarified.

13. Annual Parish Meeting

- (299) This year's Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 31st March 2014 at 7,30pm in the Reading Room, Old Road.

Kevin Shilling and Fiona Martin will be attending to provide a Project Update and happy to answer questions relevant to individual residents during the refreshments break. The team has confirmed that Giles Dawkes, a Senior Archaeologist with Archaeology South East and UCL has agreed to share with us, in the context of Buckland's local history, the findings of last summer's archaeological investigations.

13. Forthcoming meetings

- (300) The **Parish Council** confirmed the Annual Meeting will be on Monday 12th May 2014 at 8pm, in the Reading Room and subsequent meetings be held on 14th July 2014, 8th September 2014, 10th November 2014 and 12th January 2015.
- (301) The **Local Forum of Parish Councils** will next meet on Wednesday 9th April 2014 in Leigh. Cllr Husband to attend.
- (302) The SALC (Surrey Association of Local Councils) Forum will be held at Dorking Halls on 1 May 2014. No-one able to attend. It was noted that details of 2014 meetings and training had been circulated to Councillors.
- (303) Cllr Steed and the Clerk will attend a meeting of the **Dorking Rural Highways Forum** on Thursday 15th May 2014;

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Sheena Boyce, Clerk

email: bucklandpc@sheenaboyce.co.uk