

BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at 8pm on Monday 13th January 2014 in the Reading Room, Old Road.

Present: Cllrs Day, Horden, Husband, Pryor, Steed and Westwell and the Clerk.

1. Apologies for Absence

(226) None.

2. Declarations of Interest

(227) None.

3. Requests for Dispensations

(228) None.

4. Minutes

(229) Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th November 2013, were agreed. Cllr Husband signed the minutes as a correct record.

5. Community Police Report

(230) PC Loraine apologised for being unable to provide crime statistics citing challenges collating the information. **Action:** Clerk to circulate crime stats upon receipt of the same from PC Loraine.

6. Planning

MVDC Planning Decisions

The following Local Planning Authority decision was noted:

(231) MO/2013/1537: Cut back branches of one Beech tree that overhangs boundary with Little Oaks and reduce the height of a group of Douglas Fir trees to match smaller trees near house at Little Perrow, Old Road, Buckland. RH3 7DY. No objection.

Planning Consultations

(232) MVDC published a draft **New Housing and Traveller Sites Draft Policy Document** and is inviting consultation input – closing date 7th March 2014. It was noted that while no potential sites had been proposed within Buckland three small sites had been included within Betchworth. **Action:** Clerk to submit a consultation response with respect to proposal site BTO3 which relates to land to the west of Station Road and South of the A25. The response to query access to the site, sustainability of the site and to establish what agreement has been reached with the landowner as to its availability for new residences.

(233) Following consultation with councillors, a response had been submitted to the consultation on a revised **Draft Housing Allocation Policy**. The response had welcomed the changes being brought in to help address local concern that the previous housing allocations scheme did not allocate sufficient weight to those applicants with a strong link to the local area - particularly across the rural areas of Mole Valley and had expressed the hope that the draft scheme would receive the support of the MVDC Executive.

7. Amenities

War Memorial

(234) Cllr Day advised he had agreed to contribute to a 3B's (Buckland, Betchworth, Brockham) War Memorial Commemorative Display that will be held in Betchworth Memorial Hall over the first weekend of November 2014.

(235) Cllr Husband reported that he hoped to be able to circulate draft poppy planting schemes (artistic impressions) by the end of January. **Action:** Cllr Husband.

- (236) The Clerk had circulated quotes obtained for completing the proposed installation of granite setts alongside the Village Green and War Memorial and advised that an application for matched funding had, with the support of Cllr Helyn Clack, been submitted to the SCC Mole Valley Local Committee. **Actions:** Clerk to contact Trevor Cooke to establish whether The Betchworth and Buckland Society might be willing to contribute towards the cost of installing the granite setts. Clerk to confirm appointment of Bill Kear Plant Hire, conditional upon confirmation from SCC that the request for matched funding has been approved. All to consider potential donors to minimise the project's need to be funded from the precept.

Maintenance of the Village Green as an area for recreation

- (237) Duncan Gregory (DG Tree Services) had completed work to prune the willow tree at the start of December and it was noted that the Clerk had relayed to Duncan the very complimentary feedback received from a number of local residents.
- (238) A vote of thanks was recorded for Cllr Day who had effected the safe removal of parrots feather from the pond. It had proved necessary to purchase a new set of waders (the older waders had perished) at a cost of £61. 97. Cllr Day's offer to store the waders was gratefully accepted.

8. Highways, Transport and Rights of Way

- (239) The Clerk advised that a follow up bid for funding, submitted under the **Highways Localism Initiative** had been successful. A sum of £580 had been approved to fund a tidy-up of the Highways Verge outside the boundary of The Old Forge and Bill Kear Plant Hire had now completed the task.
- (240) It had been suggested that maintenance of the Highways Verge around the Old Forge would be much simpler if the boundary line were to be cleared of vegetation and the broken fencing mended. A number of local residents had expressed concern that as hedging to the front of The Old Forge obstructs sightlines for people waiting for a bus travelling east towards Reigate drivers increasingly encounter people standing in the highway. **Action:** Clerk to write to Surrey Highways to request appropriate action to be taken to "complete the tidy up" of this area of highways verge and to restore sightlines for passengers using the bus shelter.

Sutton and East Surrey Water ("SESW") New Pipeline

- (241) It was noted that UK Power Networks had commenced work in Old Road to clear their supply cables from the route of the new pipeline and that provided the work is completed by Friday 17th, Clancy Docwra will commence working from within Old Road on Monday 20th January 2014 and hope to have completed the section along the footpath from Bromley Field and across Old Road by 10th February 2014. The Clerk had relayed Council's dissatisfaction re: the unwillingness of the SCC Streetworks team to consult with the Parish Council prior to granting a four week road closure of Old Road to SCC Streetworks Management and Cllr Helyn Clack. Council recorded disappointment that SCC allows the Streetworks team to operate in a way that appears to dismiss the potential for local communities to make a meaningful contribution.
- (242) It was noted that the Countryside Access Team had advised that the Footpath Closure Orders temporarily affecting routes 472 (between Old Road and the Cricket Pitch to the rear of the Red Lion) and 471 (from A25, just to the East of Shell Buckland to Rectory Lane) had been extended to the earlier of completion of the works and 26th June 2014.

Decluttering Initiative

- (243) Cllr Steed reported that SCC Highways had now completed the majority of the changes to traffic signs set out in the Decluttering Initiative. Peter Shimadry (SCC Highways Engineer) is following up two small tasks and has asked Highways Maintenance to allocate resource to clean the illuminated bollards in the centre of the A25 carriageway on either side of the pedestrian crossing. **Action:** Clerk to write a letter of thanks once the outstanding tasks have been completed.

(244) The Clerk had recently circulated a copy of the latest SCC Policy governing requests for new traffic signs and Council expressed its support for the aims, objectives and parameters set out in the Policy Document. **Action:** Clerk to provide the information to any interested parties.

Airports and Aerodromes

Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign (“GACC”)

(245) The GACC newsletter, circulated to Councillors on 3rd January 2014, had made reference to the following ongoing issues:

- (i) **Review of airspace across south east England:** While the GACC response acknowledges that consultation on basic principles is a good thing GACC goes on to say that it would be completely wrong for this to replace consultation on the eventual flight-path proposals. GACC had requested the support of its members for its assertion that there must be a second consultation on proposed flight-paths, when they have been worked out, to provide an opportunity for anyone living in an area that will become subject to noise to comment. **Action:** Clerk to submit letter of support.
- (ii) **Department for Transport Stage 2 consultation on night flights:** GACC has requested the support of its members for its demand for night flight quotas to be reduced to 2013 recorded levels. **Action:** Clerk to submit letter of support.
- (iii) **Inclusion of wide spaced second runway at Gatwick on short list of options in the Airport Commission Interim Report:** On 16th January the Commission is set to publish the criteria upon which the two short listed options will be assessed and a consultation will run until 28th February 2014. **Action:** Clerk to circulate consultation material to Councillors and all to provide feedback in sufficient time to enable a response to be submitted.
- (iv) **Gatwick Airport Revised Noise Plan:** GACC had submitted a robust response to this unexpected and short dated consultation and it is hoped that the Airport Management’s attempt to defer any attempts to reduce noise pollution until post 2018 will be rejected by Government.

Redhill Aerodrome

(246) The Public Inquiry had commenced on Tuesday 7th January 2014 and Buckland Parish Council had been included in a list of elected representatives opposed to the building of a hard runway on the green belt site and who were voicing support for the views of local people to be given precedence in this matter.

9. Finance

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

- (i) D G Trees £360.00 including £60.00 vat,
Pruning the willow tree;
- (ii) Information Commissioner £35.00,
Renewal of Data Protection Act Registration;
- (iii) Universal Textiles £61.97,
Purchase of a set of waders for use in the pond;
- (iv) Mattree Tree Care £1140.00 including £190.00 Vat,
Highways Localism – Hedging work;
- (v) Sheena Boyce £83.45,
Reimbursement for council expenses.

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

- (i) Highways Localism grant of £580.00 from Surrey County Council.

Budget and Precept Request for the period April 2014 – March 2015

- (249) The Finance team at MVDC had written on 20th December 2013 to confirm that Council tax support grants will be provided for the 2014/15 financial year to offset what would otherwise be a reduction in precept as a consequence of the localisation of council tax benefits that first took effect on 1 April 2013.
- (250) Draft financials circulated to Councillors highlighted a year on year increase in committed costs of £1250. Council, having reviewed the current year forecast and draft budget resolved to set budgeted expenditure for the 2014/15 financial year at £10,750 (2013/14: 9500). Council adopted the remaining assumptions and acknowledged and resolved to approve the explanatory notes. **Action:** Clerk to confirm approval of the appointment of Burleys to undertake maintenance of the Village Green as reflected in the proposed Budget.
- (251) MVDC Executive had, on 17th December 2013, resolved to recommend Council approve concurrent grants for 2014/15 being set to equal 75% of the cost being incurred by Parish Councils on tasks that would be a MVDC responsibility were it not for the existence of those Parish Councils. Buckland will, on this basis, receive £1875 towards the cost of maintaining the village pond and green as an area of recreation for the 2014/15 financial year (2013/14 £1200).
- (252) With the increase of £675 in concurrent grant offsetting just over half of the £1,250 increase in budgeted expenditure, Council resolved to increase the precept request by £575 to £8,875. (2013/4: £8300). The precept request form was duly signed by Cllrs Husband and Steed. **Action:** Clerk to return the precept request to MVDC.

10. Formalities

Buckland Parochial Charity

- (253) Councillors had been provided with a copy of the latest published accounts for the year to 30th September 2013, as recently lodged with the Charity Commission;
- (254) Cllr Day advised that the nominative Trustees hope to shortly appoint a new Co-opted Trustee following Revd. Carol Coslett appointment to her new role in Merstham and that Ann Adams has agreed to Chair the Trustees.

11. Consultations

- (255) A link to each of the following consultations had been notified to residents within a Parish Update and forwarded to Richard Wheen, Editor of the Parish Magazine:
- (i) **Surrey Hill AONB Management Plan 2014-2019**
 - (ii) **Surrey and Sussex Healthcare proposal to be a foundation trust**
 - (iii) **Surrey County Council's consultation on school admission arrangements** for 2015;

No further action required.

- (256) Council had received an approach from the **Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership** to attend (at short notice) a consultation event to help shape their strategy for the next four years. The invitation had been declined.

It was noted that Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) are the public private partnerships with responsibility for driving forward growth in local areas.

Following a report by Lord Heseltine last year (“No Stone Unturned”), LEPs have been given new and wider responsibilities for creating Strategic Economic Plans to establish the priorities for all issues that impact on growth including skills, employment, business and innovation, transport, housing and other infrastructure.

LEPs have also been given the job of creating plans for the new EU Structural and Investment Funds programme which replace the current schemes from 2014 and will be able to access a new Local Growth Fund that will become available from 2015 to fund major transport and infrastructure projects.

12. Meetings and events

(257) SESW had agreed to provide speakers to attend the **Annual Parish Meeting** to share with the village what was discovered during the archaeological investigations and to provide a project update.

(258) The Clerk had attended a meeting of **Mole Valley Clerks**, held at Pippbrook on 12th December 2013 at which the following topics had been discussed:

- (i) The Mole Valley Family Support Programme, which forms part of the National Troubled Families Programme that seeks to target intervention at families with complex needs;

Information had been forwarded to the Buckland Parochial Charity.

- (ii) The launch of a £10m fund (the Personalisation and Prevention Partnership Fund) which aims to support community led initiatives designed to enhance the provision of services to older and/or vulnerable adults;

Cllr Day had suggested to the Reading Room Committee that consideration be given to requesting a grant to facilitate the installation of WiFi to enhance the offering at the Hall and to provide the opportunity for an IT help group to be established to support members of our community (mainly older individuals) who have yet to “get on-line”.

- (iii) MVDC plans to advertise for and appoint a new contractor to undertake ground maintenance across the district for a 5 year period commencing 1 January 2015.

The Clerk advised that while MVDC does not currently maintain any areas within Buckland, should an agreement be reached between MVDC and SCC for MVDC to become responsible for the maintenance of the verges alongside the A25, the MVDC Officer completing the review will contact the Parish Council. The Parish Council would then have an opportunity to decide whether to leave all responsibility for the works with MVDC, to assume responsibility for monitoring performance of the MVDC contractor for works completed in Buckland, or to become responsible for the said maintenance in return for an annual funding payment. **Action:** Clerk to maintain a watching brief.

13. Forthcoming meetings and events

(259) The **Parish Council** confirmed that the next meeting will be held on Monday 10th March at 8pm, in the Reading Room and that subsequent meetings will be held on 12th May, 14th July, 8th September and 10th November 2014.

(260) The 2014 **Annual Parish Meeting** will be held in the Reading Room, Old Road at 7.30pm on Monday 31 March 2014;

(261) The Clerk is to attend a meeting of **Mole Valley Clerks** at Pippbrook on Thursday 20th February 2014 and a **SALC Clerks Update** meeting on Tuesday 4th March 2014 (rearranged from 8th November).

(262) Cllr Pryor and the Clerk will attend a briefing on the **2014 Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100 and Classic cycling event** at Pippbrook between 6.30pm and 8.30pm on Thursday 6th March 2014.

(263) 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 9.45 pm.

Sheena Boyce, Clerk

email: bucklandpc@sheenaboyce.co.uk