

## BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at 8pm on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2013 in the Reading Room, Old Road.

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

### 1. Apologies for Absence

(171) Apologies were accepted from District Councillor Paul Potter

### 2. Declarations of Interest

(172) None.

### 3. Requests for Dispensations

(173) None.

### 4. Minutes

(174) Minutes of the Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2013, were agreed. Cllr Husband signed the minutes as a correct record.

### 5. Community Police Report

(175) PC Loraine informed the meeting that 3 crimes had been recorded in Buckland during the period between 9<sup>th</sup> September 2013 and 11<sup>th</sup> November 2013. One failure to pay for fuel at Buckland Shell garage, damage caused when a garage was broken into and an assault involving two employees in a local business.

(176) Cllr Pryor had attended a meeting of the Mole Valley Rural Crime Panel on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2013, at which fly tipping had been the principal issue. Cllr Pryor asked whether councillors were familiar with the rules that apply to waste that is removed from a private property and subsequently fly tipped. PC Loraine confirmed that unless an individual receives an appropriate docket from a registered waste carrier that any items removed remain the resident's responsibility. Council asked PC Loraine to request a local police email bulletin be circulated setting out these points. **Action:** PC Loraine.

### 6. Open Forum

(177) Cllr Husband advised that when he had shared the concern expressed by Mr Covey relating to impaired sight lines at the junction of Rectory Lane and the A25 Reigate Road with Mr Hess that he had accepted Mr Hess's offer to arrange for the vegetation to be cut back by contractors who would soon be undertaking tree work along the boundary of the Old Rectory.

### 7. Planning

#### New Planning Applications

(178) MO/2013/1160: Erection of shed in rear garden of Beeches, Reigate Road, Buckland. RH3 7EB. No Comment.

#### MVDC Planning Decisions

The following Local Planning Authority decisions were noted:

(179) MO/2013/0993/CU: Barley Mow Storage Yard, Old Reigate Road, Betchworth, Surrey. Change of use of part of storage yard to allow the parking of 18 buses in numbered/identified parking bays. Withdrawn.

(180) MO/2013/1070: Erection of two storey side extension at 1 Mount Hill, Buckland Hill, Buckland. KT20 7HZ. Withdrawn.

- (181) MO/2013/1112: Erection of two storey garage and store/office outbuilding following removal of existing garage at Lynchets, The Coombe, Betchworth. RH3 7BT. Approved with conditions.
- (182) MO/2013/1160: Erection of shed in rear garden of Beeches, Reigate Road, Buckland. RH3 7EB. Approved with conditions.
- (183) MO/2013/1289: Crown reduce, by 2 metres, one willow tree situated by pond on Buckland Village Green, adjacent to Rectory Lane, Buckland. No objection.
- (184) MO/2013/1289: Remove a group of Sycamore trees and undertake exempt work to remove two dead Acacia trees and 1 dead Elm tree at The Old Rectory, Rectory Lane, Buckland. RH3 7BH. No objection.

### **MVDC Planning Correspondence**

- (185) At the June meeting, Council had instructed the Clerk to write to Andrew Bircher, Corporate Head of Service for Planning and Partnerships at MVDC to register Council's concern that MVDC's under resourced compliance and enforcement functions are undermining public confidence in the development control process despite the considerable time and effort being invested by officers and members at both District and Parish level. A response had recently been circulated to Councillors.

Mr Bircher had advised that while enforcement is a discretionary service, it is considered an important part of the MVDC planning service. He had reminded Council that the National Planning Policy Framework requires Local Planning Authorities to act proportionately when considering enforcement. He had referred to the minor amendment system that allows applicants to make changes to previously approved schemes and emphasised that planning legislation allows for retrospective applications to be submitted in order to regularise what would otherwise be a breach of a planning application. He had referred Council to the MVDC Local Enforcement Plan, expressed appreciation for the support being provided to the enforcement team and asked for this assistance to continue.

The Chairman reported that Buckland's perception and recent experience appears to be no different to what other Parish Councils reported to the recent Forum of Local Parish Councils.

- (186) Cllr Westwell reported that MVDC had advised "a letter of apology had been sent to Mr. Weston, the owner of Beechwood with a request for him to inform MVDC when circumstances alter" and had apologised to the Parish Council for any confusion caused by "this genuine error of communication and understanding." No further action required.

### **Planning and Licensing Consultations**

#### **J and J Franks Quarry, Reigate Road, Betchworth**

- (187) Surrey County Council (SCC): MO/2013/0855/SM: Construction of building of some 1,000sqm for use as a minerals recovery facility (MRF) incorporating 200sqm of ancillary office and staff facilities; the storage of skips and recovered materials; the creation of associated hardstanding; retention and use of an access and access road; the extension of, and surfacing of, an existing parking area; the creation of a new surfaced driveway and staff and visitor car park with an access from the existing car park, and associated landscaping and water management works, all on a site of some 2.4 ha without compliance with Condition 4 of planning permission MO/06/0577 dated 10th July 2006 to enable the importation of municipal waste into the site for bulking up and transfer at J and J Franks Quarry, Reigate Road, Betchworth, Surrey. It was noted that this application had been approved by SCC Development Control Committee.

- (188) It was noted that Council had duly complied with a request from Mr. Peter Crate, the quarry owner, made under the Freedom of Information Act, for a copy of recent minutes of Council meetings, notes, memoranda, drafts and other written communications relating to the above Application. Mr. Crate had extended an invitation to Councillors to arrange a date to visit the quarry and advised he will be happy to receive any calls, approaches or concerns regarding operations at the Betchworth site from Council or from Buckland's residents. No further action.
- (189) Surrey County Council SCC/2010/0136/SJ: Consultation for additional information submitted by the applicant, Hanson Quarry Products Europe Limited, relating to the planning application for Park Pit and Tapwood Quarry submitted in June 2010. Council had been advised that Natural England had withdrawn previous objections made with respect to the final water level proposed for Park Pit. The Environment Agency had now confirmed, to SCC, that they have no objections to this application. While there are technical issues yet to be fully resolved relating to the redesign of the restoration plan for Tapwood Quarry, SCC and Hanson are now looking to address this aspect separately to enable the application for the time extension to be determined.

## **8. Amenities**

### **War Memorial**

- (190) Council instructed Clerk to obtain indicative quotes to extend the granite setts alongside Rectory Lane towards the gully adjacent to the A25 in time for this project to be considered when the 2014 budget is being reviewed. **Action:** Clerk.
- (191) Cllr Day highlighted the 2014 Real Poppy Campaign, a project affiliated to the British Legion that is encouraging communities to plant poppies to coincide with the centenary of the start of the First World War in August 2014. Potential locations for planting poppies were discussed and the practicalities of preparing areas for planting considered. Cllrs Day and Husband agreed to liaise in order to prepare potential planting schemes (i.e. artistic impressions) for initial consideration at the January meeting with an intention of consulting with the village at the Annual Parish Meeting. **Action:** Clerk to include on future agendas.
- (192) Cllr Day agreed to investigate options for installation of a QR code in close proximity to the War Memorial to enable visitors to link to information to be held on the internet. **Action:** Cllr Day.
- (193) Cllr Day had responded to a request Council had received from the BBC for information about local initiatives that could be included in BBC South East "World War One at Home" regional programmes.

### **Maintenance of the Village Green as an area for recreation**

- (194) With permission from MVDC in place, Duncan Gregory (DG Tree Services) hopes to be able to complete the planned works to the willow tree later this month.
- (195) Andrew Bircher, MVDC had recently advised that a proposal had been drafted for consideration by MVDC Executive that recommends concurrent grants for 2014/15 be set at 75% by reference to evidenced costs. **Action:** Clerk to reflect this proposal as an assumption for the 2014/15 budget.
- (196) Cllr Day alerted Council to the presence of Parrots Feather in the **Village Pond**. **Action:** Cllr Day to liaise with the Clerk to effect safe removal of the plant.

### **Water**

- (197) The Clerk had, on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2013, attended a **SESW presentation** of their Draft 5 year Business Plan, being given prior to its submission to OFWAT. The opportunity to provide feedback on the plan had been highlighted in village updates and a link provided from the village website.

- (198) An update on Water Resources in the South East, forwarded by SESW, had been included in a Parish Update.
- (199) Cllr Horden expressed concern that additional street cleaning needs to be programmed to keep Rectory Lane clear of mud in the area where works vehicles are crossing the carriageway, just south of the railway crossing. **Actions:** All to encourage residents to report any concerns to SESW on 01737 772000. Clerk to relay concern to Fiona Martin, the SESW project engineer.

### Communications

- (200) Following a recruitment effort by Cllr Pryor and Cllr Steed to sign up local residents to the village email group, just over two thirds of the village's residential properties are now accounted for. Cllr Horden had advised he hoped to complete visits in Rectory Lane and Lawrence Lane by the end of November. The Clerk reminded Councillors that a volunteer is needed to visit 32 properties to the East of Lawrence Lane. **Action:** Cllrs Day, Husband and Westwell to consider and respond to the Clerk.
- (201) It was noted that Martin Boyce had taken on the role of webmaster of the village website from Duncan Ferns following a handover meeting with Lynx Design, the company who host the website. Annual hosting costs of £140 will be allowed for in the 2014 budget.
- (202) MVDC had requested material for possible inclusion in the first edition of the re-launched online Mole Valley News. The request had been highlighted to village groups and Cllr Day had submitted information relating to Buckland War Memorial project.
- (203) A number of consultations and/or information campaigns had recently been launched by SCC on topics such as "Promoting Free NHS health checks for the over 40s", "Promoting Telecare Services with an initial fee free period", "A review of Home to School Transport Policy" and the launch of the "2013/14 Care and Support Services Directory". Information relating to each of these campaigns had been included in Parish News Updates and forwarded to Richard Wheen, Editor of the Parish Magazine.

### 9. Finance, Formalities and Risk Management

- (204) A request from Victim Support for financial support from the Parish Council was declined. **Action:** Clerk to reply with an offer to continue to provide promotional support for campaigns and initiatives.
- (205) The following **Accounts for Payment** were approved:
- (i) SALC £60.00  
SKB to attend Clerks Networking Day – deferred from 8 November 2013 to Spring of 2014 - a credit note had been received from SALC;
  - (ii) Bushcutter £40.00  
Hedge trimming alongside footpath crossing Village Green;
  - (iii) St Mary's Buckland Reading Room Account £170.00  
Bookings between 29<sup>th</sup> April and 11<sup>th</sup> November 2013;
  - (iv) Impress Promotions £250.00 including £41.67 Vat  
Purchase of Hi-Vis Jackets – grant funded;
  - (v) Subscription to Surrey Hills Society £25.00
  - (vi) J R Morris £700.00  
Second half payment for grass cutting re: Village Green;
  - (vii) NALC £54.99 including £1.00 Vat (relating to p&p)  
Reference book for local councils – new issue post Localism Bill
  - (viii) Sheena Boyce £85.08  
Reimbursement for council expenses.

- (206) It was noted that the following receipts had been banked:
- (i) Second half precept and concurrent grant, amounting to £4750.00;
  - (ii) VAT reclaim for £895.71 relating to expenditure between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013;
  - (iii) Highways Localism grant of £1250.00 from Surrey County Council.
- (207) It was noted that Andrew Bircher had recently confirmed that when calculating precepts for 2014/15 MVDC will (again) adjust Parish Council tax bases to ensure parishes will not be adversely impacted by the localisation of council tax benefits that took effect on 1 April 2013
- (208) A copy of the latest Government Guide that advises Councillors how to be open and transparent when reporting personal interests had been circulated.

## **10. Highways, Transport and Rights of Way**

- (209) The Clerk advised that the recent bid, submitted under the **Highways Localism Initiative** had been successful. The Clerk advised that a supply of high visibility vests is now available for use by local volunteers and that Mattrree Professional Tree Care is scheduled to complete the one-off task to “tidy up” a section of highways hedge during December.
- (210) It was noted that Cllr Steed and the Clerk will attend a meeting of the **Dorking Rural Highways Forum** on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013 and that the Highways Localism Initiative is an agenda item. The Clerk’s suggestion that, should there appear to be any residual funding available for the current year, a supplementary bid be made to request funding for a “tidy up” of the area adjacent to the main notice board was approved. **Action:** Clerk.
- (211) Cllr Steed reported that he and Cllr Pryor had now completed all the tasks on the action list that SCC Highways had agreed could be undertaken by the Parish Council pursuant to progressing the **Decluttering Initiative**. It was noted that Peter Shimadry, SCC Highways Engineer, had now raised a works order for May Gurney to complete the balance of the tasks.

## **Airports and Aerodromes**

### **Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign (“GACC”)**

- (212) Cllr Pryor and the Clerk had, on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2013 attended a seminar, run jointly by GACC, Surrey CPRE and Sussex CPRE on Gatwick Airport Limited’s proposals for a second runway at Gatwick Airport. Cllr Pryor had represented Council at the GACC AGM. A press release and accompanying seminar report had been circulated to councillors and included in a Parish Update.
- (213) Community Groups attending the seminar had been encouraged to engage in the ongoing consultations relating to future plans for Gatwick and to utilise research and analysis GACC had published when preparing responses. GACC asked for help to grow their membership to enhance their standing with Government. Attendees were asked to help increase awareness of GACC in their local communities and to encourage as many local residents and businesses as possible to sign up. **Action:** Clerk to continue to liaise with GACC with a view to including an item on the Annual Parish Meeting Agenda.

### **Redhill Aerodrome**

- (214) The Planning Inspectorate had advised that a Public Inquiry will be held at the Harlequin Theatre Redhill, commencing 10am on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2014 to consider appeals submitted by the Redhill Aerodrome management team against the refusals by Reigate and Banstead DC and Tandridge DC to allow the construction of a hard runway at the aerodrome and confirmed that all responses submitted in response to the application had been forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate.

- (215) It was noted that the Keep Redhill Aerodrome Green campaign (“Krag”) is working closely with Nutfield Parish Council, Salfords and Sidlow Parish Council and Nutfield Conservation Society to oppose this appeal application. The existence of Krag had been highlighted in a recent parish update. **Action:** Clerk to liaise with Krag and to consult with councillors should any draft submissions be made available via Krag to provide an opportunity for a letter of support to be issued.

### **Major Cycling Events**

- (216) It was noted that consultation responses had been submitted as follows:
- (i) Surrey Cycling Strategy : 28th October 2013;
  - (ii) Ride London Debrief Form : 30th September 2013;
  - (iii) Initial Feedback to MVDC Events Team following notification of the proposed route for the 2014 Ride London and Surrey Classic Events.
- (217) Notes issued following the Debate on the impact of Cycling in Surrey broadcast live by BBC Radio Surrey and a meeting of the recently formed Parish Councils Cycling Forum had been circulated to Councillors. **Action:** Cllr Pryor, with support from the Clerk, to continue to liaise to ensure local interest and views are represented.

### **11. Feedback from other external meetings and events**

- (218) The Chairman had hosted a meeting of the **Local Forum of Parish Councils** on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2013 in Buckland Reading Room with the Clerk acting as meeting secretary. Cllr Pryor and Cllr Westwell had also attended and a vote of thanks was recorded for Kim Husband whose offer to prepare and serve the pre-meeting refreshments had been gratefully accepted. Notes and papers from the meeting had been circulated to Councillors.
- (219) The Clerk had attended a meeting of **Mole Valley Clerks**, held at Pippbrook, and the Q3 update meeting convened by the **Surrey Branch of Society of Local Council Clerks**.
- (220) An invitation to apply to attend the **Surrey Rural Partnership Annual Meeting**, to be held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2013 had been circulated to Councillors and declined.

### **12. Forthcoming meetings and events**

- (221) The **Parish Council** confirmed that the next meeting will be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 8pm, in the Reading Room and that subsequent meetings will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 12<sup>th</sup> May, 14<sup>th</sup> July, 8<sup>th</sup> September and 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014.
- (222) The 2014 **Annual Parish Meeting** will be held in the Reading Room, Old Road at 7.30pm on Monday 31 March 2014;
- (223) An invitation to attend the Surrey Community Action AGM, to be held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2013 had been circulated to Councillors. **Action:** Clerk to tender apologies.
- (224) A draft Agenda for the Surrey Association of Local Councils Update, to be held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December had been circulated to Councillors. **Action:** Clerk to tender apologies.
- (225) The Clerk is to attend a meeting of **Mole Valley Clerks** at Pippbrook on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2013.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.55 pm.

**Sheena Boyce, Clerk**

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