

BUCKLAND ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2018

MINUTES of the Buckland Annual Parish Meeting held in the Reading Room, on the evening of Monday 19th March 2018 at 7.45pm.

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman, Nigel Husband (NH), welcomed everyone to the meeting, outlined the agenda and advised refreshments would be served at the end of proceedings.

NH welcomed guest speakers Simon Thompson, Kevin Mullan and Rachel Groves, from the SES Water project team appointed to construct a new water main between Buckland and Headley and Dominic Sanders from the Buckland Estate.

NH introduced Councillors (Cllrs) Ianthe Cox and Debbie Jones, welcomed recently appointed Cllr Michael Bourke and introduced Sheena Boyce, Clerk, to the meeting. The Chairman welcomed District Cllrs Paul Potter and John Mugeridge and relayed apologies from Cllrs Alan Horden, Alan Pryor, and Julian Steed and County Cllr Helyn Clack.

NH took the opportunity to express thanks to former Cllr James Day who had retired last summer in advance of relocating to Devon. NH referred to James as having been an active member of the community and willing volunteer – attributes that had led him to serve for many years on the parish council, with several years as Vice Chair and as a trustee of the village charity. NH reminded everyone of the moving presentation he made to the 2013 Annual Parish Meeting – vividly bringing to life the names listed on the village war memorial.

NH extended his thanks to Paul Potter who, having completed two four-year terms as one of two District Councillors for our ward of Buckland, Betchworth and Brockham will not be standing for re-election on 3rd May 2018. NH explained we are grateful for the commitment Paul has shown to our village during his terms of office, supporting issues raised by Council and residents and diligently attending Council meetings and our annual parish meetings to gain an appreciation and understanding of village life in Buckland.

District Cllr Potter replied by saying thank you to the Clerk and to the Parish Council for the support he had received during his tenure.

It was noted that there were 33 parishioners and 7 members of the public in attendance.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Rupert Cawthorne, County Cllr Helyn Clack, Richard and Tina Copp, Duncan Ferns, Cllr Alan Horden, Cllr Alan Pryor, Donna Pryor, Cllr Julian Steed, and Peter Willows.

3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2017

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 Anthony Eisinger, seconded by Dominic Sanders and carried by the meeting. NH, as Chairman, signed and dated the minutes.

NH introduced Simon Thomson, SES Water Project Manager (ST) for the new water supply pipeline planned to connect the SES Water pumping station in Lawrence Lane, Buckland to its Headley reservoir.

4. BUCKLAND TO HEADLEY – A NEW WATER SUPPLY PIPELINE

ST introduced Rachel Groves (RG), Customer Care Manager and Kevin Mullan (KM), Framework Manager with Murphy, the contractor SES Water has appointed to install the new pipeline. ST referred to an SES Water aim, adopted following consultation with stakeholders and approval from by OFWAT, the water industry regulator, to ensure 100% customers can be supplied by more than one treatment work by 2025. The new pipeline will increase the company's capacity to transfer water within their supply area and, by so doing, reduce the risk of a prolonged outage during periods of drought or system failure or maintenance.

ST explained that exploratory works and discussions with landowners (principally Buckland Estate) have been underway for some time and will continue as precise routes (installation and access) and detailed method statements are agreed.

ST advised that the preferred methodology for the new pipe will be tunnelling rather than trenching, and that the key concerns now being explored relate to appropriate access for the delivery of large drilling equipment and the logistics of removing excavated material from site. An indicative route and timeline was shared with the meeting with Spring/Summer 2019 identified as the period during which work will be scheduled.

KM emphasised that access routes have not yet been determined, and, responding to a suggestion that equipment be brought in by rail, welcomed the sentiment but cautioned that Network Rail is generally reluctant to grant access to third parties to the rail network on the grounds that any problem arising could have a significant adverse impact on rail services. KM acknowledged that neither Rectory Lane nor Lawrence Lane offer ideal access.

ST undertook, to the meeting, to maintain a dialogue with the Clerk and sought to reassure all present that the project team will listen to and work to address any concerns. Dominic Sanders (DS) took the opportunity to thank the project team for listening to Buckland Estate concerns, and, following initial discussions, agreeing to reroute the proposed pipeline to reduce the potential impact on surface water drainage and to use tunnelling to safeguard land drains.

The Clerk welcomed the fact that Murphy invests in providing a Customer Care Manager and encourages its employees to support volunteer activity during projects.

NH expressed thanks to the team for attending and the trio, having confirmed their contact details could be shared with residents, departed.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

NH reported that planning had, over the last year taken up a significant proportion of Parish Council time. NH advised that having highlighted, a year ago, that Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) had started work on the preparation of a new Local Plan he explained that the focus of the topical item would be Future Mole Valley, the name MVDC has given to the process it is following to prepare the plan that will then govern development across Mole Valley over the next fifteen years.

NH commented on the current performance of the MVDC development control and enforcement, expressing Council's concern that significant resource constraints at MVDC are seriously undermining the service level as evidenced by the recent suspension of pre-application advice for householders. NH reported that Council had written to express its concerns about the inconsistent application of policy (between applications and case officers) and upholding of planning conditions and an apparent haphazard approach to enforcement.

NH expressed Council's belief that its responses have remained consistent and provided assurance to the meeting that Council continues to invest time in its effort to hold MVDC to account as it endeavours to promote practical views from the grass roots.

NH acknowledged Surrey County Council is financially constrained and emphasised the need for every resident to continue to report problems they encounter on our local roads and pavements footpaths to ensure their resolution is given appropriate priority by SCC Highways. NH referred to Project Horizon – the SCC Highways “priority task list” – explaining that whilst the A25, between Tranquil Dale and Lawrence Lane has made it onto the “list of roads for consideration” it is not included in the work schedule for 2018/19. Nor, sadly, has the pavement between Dungates Lane and Robins Close.

NH highlighted the winter edging work, work that had to be fully funded at Parish level following the withdrawal of all SCC grants. NH expressed thanks to the team at The Pheasant for the £570 donation received over the last 12 months and encouraged anyone visiting the venue to participate in the challenge to “balance a coin on a lemon in a bowl of water”. NH thanked Buckland Nurseries, Betchworth Post Office and The Pheasant for supporting sales of our booklet of local walks, sales that have generated £466 in donations, money that is also invested in our local rights of way.

NH expressed Council's relief that SCC Highways has (finally) ordered gates and bollards to implement a width restriction to restrict access to motorised vehicles to Buckland Lane. NH referred to the recent appearance of large rectangular signs across the county, installations SCC has advised will display a variety of messages intended to warn drivers of problems ahead. NH advised that whilst there had been a plan to install one of these “Variable Message Signs” alongside the A25 in Buckland, that following a sustained campaign SCC was persuaded the sign could offer more operational benefit if positioned outside the parish.

NH provided reassurance that Council continues to monitor airport and flight path related developments and remains a member of the Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign; mindful that change could have a significant impact on the parish.

NH expressed thanks to everyone who had turned out during the year to help at the pond clearance, village tidy and autumn bulb planting; in particular Simon Elson and the Reigate Area Conservation Volunteers for leading the pond event, to Brockham Horticultural Society for funding the purchase of bulbs and Tilly Mitchell for coordinating the planting and to Debbie Jones for taking the lead on the village tidy. He thanked Buckland Estates and local farmer John Muggeridge for their support at the pond clearance and to Alan Horden for the provision of his tractor and trailer on the day.

NH thanked Alan Pryor for his diligence in completing weekly checks of the Council's assets and Martin Boyce, who, as our volunteer webmaster keeps our village website topical and up to date. With SCC and MVDC cutting back the work they undertake there are many tasks around Mole Valley that rely on volunteer effort or funding from the parish. If you would be willing to volunteer to take on a small task - eg: keeping the granite section alongside the village green clear of weeds, caring for the paving around the village war memorial, keeping the bus shelter at the top of Old Road clear of leaves or weeding around any of our benches or bus stops. There are plenty more similar examples and if we could each take on a small task it would make a real difference across the village - please contact our Clerk to volunteer.

NH concluded by taking a look at the coming year; predicting more engagement with local residents and MVDC as the new Local Plan is developed, further winter maintenance along the roadside paths that have been cleared with (hopefully) further progress towards Reigate.

Also, sadly, more bureaucracy and administration, not least with the introduction of the EU inspired General Data Protection Regulation in May and a 2018 Data Protection bill. NH thanked the Clerk all she does to help deliver value for money in Buckland whilst continuing to ensure what Council (and Cllrs) do stays within the letter and spirit of the law.

NH asked Sheena Boyce, Clerk to present the Parish Council accounts.

6. BUCKLAND PARISH ACCOUNTS

Sheena Boyce (SKB) presented a summary of the forecast full year accounts compared against budget for the year ending 31st March 2018, copies of which had been made available to the Meeting (see appendix).

SKB explained that the SCC withdrawal of the Highways Localism initiative had initially reduced the scope of planned winter maintenance work to the footpaths alongside the A25. However, income generated through sales of the booklet of local walks and the efforts of The Pheasant to fundraise had halved the funding gap and a brilliant volunteer effort at the pond clearance had released further funds when the need for the budgeted mechanical clearance of vegetation was negated. SKB also highlighted that the reserve set aside to fund a future election had been increased by £1500 to £4000 (the figure previously advised by MVDC) one year ahead of target.

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

NH invited Ianthe Cox to speak.

7. BUCKLAND PAROCHIAL CHARITY ACCOUNTS

Ianthe Cox (IC), Trustee and Clerk to the Charity referred parishioners to the 2017 Report and Accounts for 2017, printed copies of which had being made available to attendees.

IC 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.

IC asked anyone who might be interested to fill the vacancy for a co-opted trustee to speak with her and advised that the next meeting of the Trustees will be in May to discuss Spring distributions

8. FUTURE MOLE VALLEY – A NEW LOCAL PLAN FOR MOLE VALLEY

NH set out MVDC stated aims and objectives for Future Mole Valley – a new Local Plan for Mole Valley for 2018-2033 and emphasised how important it is for each of us to engage with MVDC and to respond to the many consultations that will feed in to the new plan.

NH provided context with a quick history of planning policy in England that included references to the National Planning Policy Framework (2012) and the changes now being proposed that are currently out to consultation.

NH outlined the challenge MVDC faces to gain signoff from independent inspectors that it has allocated sufficient land for housing to meet the target demand it includes in Future Mole Valley. NH explained that without this signoff MVDC will find it difficult to refuse applications from developers to build new houses in the Green Belt.

NH summarised the work completed thus far by MVDC and listed the current workstreams that are being progressed in order to identify how much of Green Belt land MVDC believes it will be appropriate to recommend is taken out of the Green Belt to be allocated for housing.

NH explained that:

- (i) one workstream is currently considering the potential for “modest additions to rural villages” – work that includes whether to make changes to the “MVDC settlement hierarchy” and how to “alter settlement boundaries”
- (ii) whilst Buckland is currently considered “a group of houses in the Green Belt” MVDC could decide it should be redefined a small rural village i.e. become a community with a settlement boundary
- (iii) MVDC is currently reviewing how much land, adjacent to existing settlement boundaries, should be “added to existing rural villages” and has indicated they would apply the same thinking to any newly defined settlement boundary.

NH advised Buckland Estate had submitted a response to the recent MVDC Call for Green Belt sites and invited Dominic Sanders (DS) to share Buckland Estate’s views with the meeting.

DS confirmed Buckland Estate had submitted a number of sites it considers have the potential to contribute new housing over the term of the new Local Plan. DS stressed that the policy of the Estate is generally not to sell or over-develop its land and that it can be expected to continue to prioritise optimising the re-use of previously developed land over new build. DS concluded by reassuring the meeting that any specific proposal would need to be consistent with Buckland Estate continuing to act as custodian for the village, a village the family have a deep respect for and a community they wish to continue to live within.

NH thanked DS for his thoughts and concluded by inviting input from any other residents to help Council speak more confidently on behalf of the village when engaging with MVDC. He asked for any thoughts and ideas to be submitted to the Clerk as soon as possible.

9. CHAIRMAN’S CLOSING REMARKS

NH thanked everyone for making the effort to come along to participate and for the contributions made to this year’s Annual Parish Meeting, with particular thanks extended to Dominic Sanders, Buckland Estate and the SES Water project team.

NH expressed the hope that the evening will sponsor further discussion and debate as to what we, as the village’s residents wish Buckland to be and enthusiastically invited anyone who may have an issue they consider the parish council needs to be aware of the attend a meeting or make contact by phone or email.

NH concluded by encouraging anyone free at 10am on Sunday 15th April 2018 to support the spring planting and asking everyone to ensure Sunday 2nd September 2018, the date of the next “pond clearance and village tidy” is marked on their calendars - 10am prompt on the Village Green!

The Chairman, having first invited attendees for any other items or queries, declared the meeting officially closed at 9.55pm.

APPENDIX

BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL REPORT - YEAR TO 31ST MARCH 2018 - FORECAST AND SUBJECT TO AUDIT

EXPENDITURE (Vat excluded)		Budget 2017/18	Actual 2017/18	Variance 2017/18	Budget 2018/19
REVENUE EXPENDITURE		£	£	£	£
Parish Amenities					
	Village Amenities (Green/Pond)	3350	2688	662	2830
	Village website	200	180	20	200
	Improvements : A25 Roadside Paths	4000	2360	1640	1800
	Floodlighting to the Church	300	116	184	300
	Purchase of grit/salt	100	7	93	0
	Subtotal	7,950	5,351	2,599	5,130
Council Running Costs					
	Clerk Salary	6274	7351	-1077	6715
	Regulatory Fees	520	500	20	642
	GDPR / Data Protection	0	0	0	1000
	Training	200	245	-45	400
	Subscriptions	25	25	0	25
	Insurance	300	296	4	325
	Annual Parish Meetings	85	22	63	80
	BPC mtgs - Room Hire	160	160	0	200
	Travel expenses	235	168	67	250
	Office costs	736	1048	-312	998
	Subtotal	8,535	9,815	- 1,280	10,635
	Contingency	225	0	225	385
	Total Expenditure	16,710	15,166	1544	16,150
INCOME					
REVENUE INCOME		Budget 2017/18	Actual 2017/18	Variance 2017/18	Budget 2018/19
		£	£	£	£
	Precept	12723	12723	0	13286
	MVDC Council Tax Support Grant	780	780	0	796
	MVDC Concurrent Payment	1987	2007	20	2065
	MVDC Contribution re Village Tidy	0	37	37	0
	SCC Highways Localism Grants	1970	0	-1970	0
	DCLG Transparency Fund Grant	0	317	317	0
	Interest	0	5	5	0
	Donations	0	1036	1036	0
	Total Income	17,460	16,905	- 555	16,147
Reserves (Cash at Bank)					
		Allocated	Unallocated	Total	
	31-Mar-19	4000	9548	13548	
	31-Mar-18	4000	8382	12382	
	31-Mar-17	2500	9313	11813	

The Buckland Parochial Charity

Report for the year 2017

The Buckland Parochial Charity is specifically for the relief of need for residents of Buckland. It was started by Henry Smith who was a Salter by trade and accumulated wealth but had no family. The money is held in trust and is distributed to over 200 villages in the UK. Buckland receives £2,500 per year.

Over the years there have been several residents who benefit from this charity. Distributions are twice a year, namely May and December. The money provides for food and heating fuel.

There are also times when small gifts have been made to those who have suffered misfortune or have been bereaved.

The Charity constantly looks for anybody who might benefit, and it is often difficult to establish this need. This service is entirely confidential. Pattie Vigers was a huge source of information in this regard.

Four trustees are nominated by Buckland Parish Council, currently:

Ann Adams	Trustee and Chair
Philip Haynes	Trustee and Treasurer
Deborah Jones	Trustee
Ianthe Cox	Trustee (and Clerk)

The nominative trustees are responsible for appointing a Clerk and can appoint two Co-opted Trustees, currently Susan Fellows and one other for which there is a vacancy.

Nominative trustees are appointed to serve for 4 years and Co-opted Trustees for 5 years and meetings are held twice a year to decide on the distribution of the cash.

Recently the MVDC introduced a new Shoppa bus service to Supermarkets which could benefit elderly residents who do not drive. The Charity is very much in support of this offer and would be interested to hear from any resident who might wish to use this service.

Should anyone be interested in becoming a co-opted Trustee please contact any one of us.

Contact can be made through the Clerk by telephone or email. The details are on the back of the Parish magazine.

Ianthe Cox
Clerk

The Buckland Parochial Charity

Receipts & Payments Account
for the 12 months ended 31 December 2017

2016 (15 mths) £	<u>Receipts</u>	2017 (12 mths) £	2016 (15 mths) £	<u>Payments</u>	2017 (12 mths) £
	<i>Opening Bank Balances</i>			<i>Buckland Residents</i>	
6	Current	71	1,125	Stores	1,650
2,687	Reserve	1,528	2,700	Gas/Electricity	1,200
	<i>Other income</i>			<i>Support</i>	
579	COIF dividends*	565	-	Gifts & Plants	31
2	Bank interest	1	850	Other support donations	-
-	Donation	110		<i>Investment</i>	
	<i>Grants received</i>		2,000	COIF Investment Fund*	-
2,500	Henry Smith Charity for 2015	-		<i>Closing Bank Balances</i>	
2,500	Henry Smith Charity for 2016	-	71	Current	1,016
-	Henry Smith Charity for 2017	2,500	1,528	Reserve	878
<u>£ 8,274</u>		<u>£ 4,775</u>	<u>£ 8,274</u>		<u>£ 4,775</u>

***COIF Charities Investment Fund - Income Units**

The Charity holds an investment of 1,158.36 income units in COIF Charities Investment Fund, managed by CCLA. The value of the 1,158.36 income units held at 31 December 2017 was £17,107.82 (2016 £15,743.)

The Trustees agreed last year to change their accounting date to 31 December each year to bring it into line with the reporting date for The Henry Smith Charity grant and so give more clarity to the charity's financial and reserves position. This does mean, however, that two annual grants from The Henry Smith Charity appear in the comparative figures.

The Trustees have not needed to use their Reserves to enable them to meet special requests for support during the year.

The Trustees believe their reserves are sufficient to meet all normal support payments until the next annual grant from the Henry Smith Charity is received.

The income from the investment in COIF Charities Investment Fund is applied as income for the benefit of beneficiaries or added to reserves as appropriate.

The above accounts have been reviewed by me and I confirm they are properly and fairly presented.

**P E Haynes FCA Trustee
& Treasurer**

County Cllr Helyn Clack's Report to 2018 Annual Parish Meeting in Buckland

Firstly, I would like to thank the Parish Councillors, Parish Clerk and District Councillors as well as other residents who I work with to improve services in our villages. I am sorry that I am unable to attend this evening's meeting.

I am pleased to have been re-elected with an increased majority in May 2017 and would like to thank residents for continuing to support me as their County Councillor. I will work hard to repay their support and ensure that resident's voices are heard at County Hall and resident's needs are at the heart of the work that I do.

The Leader of the County Councillor reaffirmed his confidence in my appointment after the County elections as a member of his Cabinet for a further year as Cabinet as Member for Health. The key to this role is to further engage integration of County Council's social care responsibilities with NHS local commissioning and to hold the Public Health Budget responsibility which is a ring-fenced grant of £35,000,000.

We were pleased to see that the Surrey Heartlands STP (sustainable transformation partnership) was given permission by the Department of Health and the Department of Local Government to set up in shadow form, devolution of budget in July 2017 after the General Election. In April 2018, this will go 'live' with a new Joint Committee, pooled budgets and transformation funding for joint decision making on local health priorities. This is only the second area in the country after Manchester to achieve devolution and I am very pleased to be on the Joint Committee currently as Vice Chair.

I have also continued to Co-Chair the County wide Health and Wellbeing Committee which oversees the production of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Health strategy for the population – more information can be found here about the work of the HWB Committee <https://www.healthysurrey.org.uk/>

I represent residents and the County Council at the GNMB (Gatwick Noise Management Board), alternate member for GATCOM (Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee). I have grave concerns over the changes happening at Gatwick regarding flight paths and the impact that this had had on residents. I continue to work with Sir Paul Beresford our Member of Parliament on this and the shadow threat of a second runway at the airport which would have a huge impact on our rural way of life. I am also a member of the Surrey Wildlife Trust Partnership Board and continue to speak up and defend our countryside and greenbelt. I am Member and Chair of the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Plan European Social and Infrastructure Fund which oversees the allocation of EU funding towards innovation and skills in our economy and I am the President of PURPLE (peri-urban platform in the EU) which lobbies for more awareness of infrastructure needs as a result of growth in rural areas such as public transport, superfast broadband, schools and health.

In my role as Cabinet Member for Health I attend NHS meetings with regards to two other STPs which affect Surrey Residents, the Frimley Alliance and The Sussex and East Surrey Alliance. I am a governor at East Surrey Hospital and attend meetings of the chairs of East Surrey Community Health providers.

As part of the County Council Cabinet and working with the Leader we have appointed a new Chief Executive of the County Council – Ms Joanna Killian and a new Children's Director Mr Dave Hill. There will be further changes at the top of the County Council's Director team which will be announced in due course. The County Council has expressed gratitude to Dr David McNulty of his service as Chief Executive since 2010 and wished him a happy retirement.

Our County Council budget set for 2018/2019 continues to be challenging, some of these I outline below:

- Since 2011 the number of people supported for their learning disabilities has increased by 1,187 to a total of 3,760 (a 46% increase) the highest for any council;
- the population of children (who require school places) has increased by 9% to 142,208;
- the number of children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan has risen by 2,342 to 7,700 (a 44% increase);
- the council supports 116 unaccompanied asylum seeking children and 228 care leaver asylum seeking children, which are among the highest numbers in the country;
- the number of older people supported has risen by 841 to 9,822 (a 9% increase);
- the county's roads experience significantly higher use than for England and the South East, which places significant demands for the Highways Service to respond to; and
- the Government's core funding for the council has reduced by over £200m

The recent sharp decline in the council's grant funding is due to the Government reducing its funding to local government and changing its main method to distribute funding nationally.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me should you have any question - my thanks again to the Parish Council, the District Council and to residents for all their assistance in working with the County council, making Buckland such a wonderful place to live.

Helyn Clack

County Councillor for Dorking Rural, Including the villages of Brockham, Betchworth and Buckland, Capel, Leigh and Newdigate, Charlwood and Hookwood, Beare Green and Ockley