

MINUTES OF MEETING

A meeting of Ockley Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Monday 6 March 2017 at 8 pm.

Councillors present

Mr R Herbert Chairman
Mr D Thomas
Mr S Figg
Ms J Page
Mr B Thorne
Mrs L Fletcher Clerk

Also present:

SCCouncillor H Clack
MVDCouncillor V Michael
representatives from the Parents Action Group (PAG), Scott-Broadwood School
with additional parents (total 6)
Mrs P Barnes, Elderslie Nursery School
Mr J Lee-Steere - Ockley resident
Mr and Mrs R Senior - Ockley residents
Mr R Abbott, Liberal Democrat party

Apologies had been received from Mr G Lee-Steere and Mrs L Hogarth.

Mr R Herbert stated that Item 3 on the Agenda would be dealt with at the beginning of the meeting.

Mr R Herbert declared an interest in this item as he was a Governor at the Scott-Broadwood School.

The Chairman outlined how this part of the meeting would be conducted referring to the relevant points in the Standing Orders of Ockley Parish Council. He emphasized that this was a parish council meeting, not a school meeting. He pointed out that the parish council was not to be confused with the parochial church council which was a totally separate body concerned with church matters. The parish council was the first tier of local government.

The meeting was opened to all present at the meeting

All present introduced themselves to all at the meeting

3. Scott-Broadwood School, School Lane, Ockley

It was noted that this item was on the agenda as currently pupil numbers were low at the Ockley Base. The Headteacher and Governors of the school were endeavouring to secure the long term future of the school and infant education for the community. Meetings had recently been held at The Ashcombe School and also in Ockley to discuss the future of the school. A Parents Action Group (PAG) had been set up by mainly Ockley parents. A Governor/Parent Working Party had also been set up.

The Chairman read out a statement that he had prepared as he had been under personal attack on the issue. Following are highlights from the statement:

He cared about the school and the community.

He had lived in Ockley for nearly twenty years, his daughter had attended the school, he had been elected a parent governor at the time and had been a governor for eighteen years.

He had been a parish councillor since 2004 and Chairman since 2006.

He had several other voluntary commitments in the village.

His fellow governors at the school also cared for the school and were fully committed to it and the viable long term future of infant education in the area.

The school is a good school, with excellent staff, enabling children to develop much more than their peers nationally.

Numbers on roll at the school had dropped: 90 ten years ago to 63 in 2013/14.

Governors had asked for support from local businesses when the reduction in numbers had been identified in 2013.

Capel and Ockley PCCs had also been contacted. Capel PCC had responded by pledging £4000 per year for three years. Ockley School House Trustees had also pledged this amount.

In his statement at the Annual Assembly of the Parish Council in that year he had highlighted a document received from the Governing Body of the school asking for support.

Downturn in numbers had been identified as lack of children in the area / lack of movement in local housing market. This had not improved as hoped.

All schools in south Dorking area were in same situation - 20% more places than children to fill them.

Marketing carried out - attending nurseries, local events, holding Open Days. Mum's lunches at house of governor.

There was no financial conflict of interest - his family/himself do not benefit financially from any of this.

His aim was to secure the long term future of the school and infant education for the community.

There was no benefit to the community if the school closed - community not stopping at the Ockley parish boundary.

Volunteering: school governors and parish councillors volunteer time and support; getting very little thanks or communication from the community, until an issue impacts an individual or group of individuals when criticisms can be levied on these volunteers. This leads to loss of volunteers who have given time and been extremely good and effective. A very positive statement had been received from a member of staff about the Chair of Governors, Gill Christie, who had recently resigned. It was Gill who had hosted the Mums' lunches.

Looking forward RH stated that the community and the groups in the community have to behave fairly and constructively not aggressively and destructively. RH cited examples regarding personal attacks on governors which had saddened and upset all concerned.

The community must be constructive in order to find viable solutions - focussed on the school. However he drew attention to the fact that these same issues faced all other institutions and activities in the village of Ockley.

Summing up RH stated that he would like the parish council to adopt a constructive approach, to support the school and work with relevant stakeholders to secure the viable long term future of infant education in the area. He believed it had become a much wider remit because of the huge recent negativity and the importance of our wider community responsibility. Our community responsibility doesn't stop at the parish boundary.

RH asked parish councillors if they had any comments regarding this statement:

JP stated that she thought that not enough marketing had been done for the Ockley Base. Apparently a parent enquiring about school places for the Base had been informed that the Base was going to close. JP noted that although parish councillors had been alerted to funding issues four years ago, they had not been alerted to the seriousness of the situation as from September 2016.

DT stated that he had not been a parish councillor four years ago. He had not been aware of any issues until he had attended the meeting at The Ashcombe School. He felt that Gill Christie, Chair of Governors who had resigned, had done a fantastic job with all the issues that had arisen. The PCC who had appointed her as a governor at the school had stated that they would no longer support her appointment.

BT and SF had no comments to make.

Comments and discussions regarding actions taken and how to move forward:

P Barnes stated that a decision had been taken by governors to transfer Reception age children from the Ockley Base to the Capel Base. Parents had been given three days notice. The parents had decided to transfer their children to another local school instead. Some of the children were still not coping well. Parents felt that little notice had been given, no consideration as to how to prepare the children for a move. RH commented that this had not happened as would have been liked for various reasons. The Headteacher, Susan Muat, had

apologised. David Szachno-Hodgkinson (PAG) stated that she had indeed apologised at a PAG/Governors working party meeting and that the apology had been formally accepted.

H Clack questioned 'where do we go next?' She had been shocked to hear the news at the meeting at The Ashcombe School. Neither she, nor V Michael had known anything about the situation. As this was an issue regarding possible closure of a site then SCC was not involved. As S-B was a church school then The Diocese at Guildford was taking responsibility. The SCC consultation had been postponed until next week (week beginning 13 March 2017).

HC stated that if the Base was to close then the impact on the community would be devastating. Pressure should be put on The Diocese to give more time for marketing such as south of Ockley and to look at all possible options. She highlighted the Surrey Schools Forum where matters such as this would be discussed. She stated that there should be a focus on the imminent consultation and trying to stop any flood of children leaving the school.

R Dempsey (Ockley parent) stated that she had spoken to Michael Hall at The Diocese. E Trimmer (Ockley parent) together with RD felt that the closure of the Ockley Base was a 'done deal' as parents had been invited to look at the Capel Base to show how increased numbers could be accommodated. This was affecting the parents of the Year 1 and 2 children who were questioning where their children would go to school. RH assured those present that both sites had been evaluated regarding accommodation for increased numbers.

D Szachno-Hodgkinson thanked the parish council for the invitation to the meeting. He talked initially from a personal view - stating how he and his family had chosen to come to live in the village. They had found the village with the school captivating, the community spirit tremendous. He had attended the meeting at The Ashcombe School where the figure of £100,000 had been quoted as required to maintain the viability of the school. The PAG had tried to get more information regarding this amount and had doubts with the figure. They had suggested different scenarios as a way forward. It had been noted that building work at Capel would be required if the school was to operate only at Capel. The figure quoted had been £80,000. He felt that this amount of money could 'buy' significant time to keep the Ockley base open during which time constructive work could be done regarding increasing numbers at the Base. The PAG were engaging with other local schools - some of which were experiencing pressure for places.

JP stated that the Governing Body should be transparent on costs. People need to understand the figures.

RH said that there had been transparency but DS-H said that more detail was needed regarding staffing costs.

HC thanked DS-H for his helpful comments. She stated that there was a pressure to understand the finances - there must be a way of sharing this information - those in business would be able to understand the figures. Building works may / may not be needed if a Base was to close. SCC was obligated to provide school places, if there weren't enough then they would have to make provision. There were different budgets to consider when supporting schools - keeping a Base open could be a different budget to upgrading a Base to accommodate additional children.

VM queried the information required to present to SCC. RH stated this would be known once the consultation document had been published.

DS-H asked whether the parish council would make a statement once the consultation document had been published. RH stated that the parish council would operate in a constructive way. DS-H stated that if a strong view was put forward then this would carry weight. JP said that a course of action must be agreed – she felt that support must be expressed for the school to continue in its current way.

DT felt that until the consultation document had been received and studied then it was not possible to say what the parish council should do.

ET questioned the worst case scenario - the closure of the Ockley Base. What would the Diocese want to do with the land / buildings? DT stated that identifying ownership of the land and buildings would prove difficult.

Funding - JP asked HC and VM if funding would be forthcoming / fund raising feasible? VM stated that MVDC had no sources of funding for issues such as this. However she and MVDC would make responses to the consultation. HC stated that from a County Council perspective this would depend on the consultation. It may be possible to extend time but finances were tight so no guarantee could be given. She had ideas as to how to persuade / lobby those at SCC. Time was needed and should be allowed for further marketing.

ET stated that another year of marketing may not be the only push needed. Funding levels have been such that aspects of the school have been run down; that resources are not on a level with other schools. However results are good as noted by RH in his statement.

Finally - it was agreed that the parish council would make a formal submission to the consultation in support of the school.

All except parish councillors and clerk then left the meeting.

Mr R Abbott re-entered the meeting and asked whether the parish council was aware that the Surrey Wildlife Trust was making 16 Rangers redundant, with three posts covering work across the county. This would have severe repercussions on the countryside affecting areas managed by SWT.

RH thanked him for this information.

RA left the meeting.

1. Minutes of last parish council meeting

It was proposed by Mr B Thorne and seconded by Mr D Thomas that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2017 be signed as correct.

2. Matters arising

grit bin on School Lane - not yet in place. Clerk followed up many times. To continue with reminders.

land at Heathwood, Ockley Road, Beare Green - Clerk reported, then followed up. No information received from MVDC. To continue with reminders.

Speedwatch - camera system video recorded registration number and speed - RH to follow up with Surrey Police once again. It was noted that the flashing sign at the north end of the village does work periodically, although not all of the sign lights up.

maintenance on the Green - BT to raise when he attends Ock Soc meeting.

Rector for parish - no news on this matter.

Vann Fest - a public information meeting had recently been held at the village hall. J Miles had given a presentation to about 30/40 people. Ockley Society would support the event. Funds would be raised for the village.

Gatton Manor planning application - DT reported that no more documents had appeared on the MV website in the last few weeks. He had contacted Ros Doree to enquire if she had any information about the application. RD had discussed matters with Highways at SCC. She had also contacted E Naismith, pps group (who had been at OPC meeting November 2016). RD understood that a further meeting was to be held regarding traffic issues, she was expecting this meeting to be held at Gatton Manor. A response to the application from Surrey Hills AONB had stated the application should be refused quoting the Quiet Lanes policy. DT was to look at the Surrey Hills AONB website / Quiet Lanes policy.

3. Scott-Broadwood School, School Lane, Ockley

RH stated that once the consultation had been published then an EGM would have to be held in order to prepare a parish council response. Vice-Chairman, B Thorne agreed to chair this meeting.

4. Correspondence

diary dates

14 March 2017	Rural parishes meeting at Betchworth	Clerk to attend
30 July 2017	Prudential Ride London	

Capel Neighbourhood Plan

The plan covers the three parish wards - Beare Green, Capel and Coldharbour. It had been revised since the draft was published last summer. Any representations to be made by 4 April 2017.

Capel addresses in Ockley parish

This matter had been discussed February 2016 with Mr D Adriano.

DA had send an e-mail February 2017 to say that 60 addresses had now become 'rightly' described as Ockley. They had always been in Ockley parish but with a Capel address.

SCC - Admissions arrangements to community and voluntary controlled schools

Documents were available to view on the SCC website.

GACC

Documents were available regarding Consultation on Night Flights, Gatwick Noise Management Board, Department for Transport consultation on Airspace.

St Catherine's Hospice and Kent, Surrey, Sussex Air Ambulance

These two organisations had written asking if the parish council would consider sending grants to help with their work in the community. This would be discussed at the May meeting.

National Plant Monitoring Scheme

The Scheme were asking for volunteers to help with surveys in the area.

Superfast Surrey - Gainshare deployment announcement

Information had been published on the website about Gainshare deployment - bringing Superfast broadband to nearly 6000 additional premises over the next two years.

National Council for Voluntary Organisations

The NCVO had released a report on the extent to which the voluntary sector had been involved in the devolution process.

Surrey Police

Police statistics for January and February 2017 had been circulated to councillors.

5. Planning matters

Councillors had been informed of the following planning matters:

Planning applications - list dates

13 January 2017

Mrs C Morley

MO/2016/2053/PLA

The Old Dairy, Copsbridge Farm, Weare Street, Ockley RH5 5NH

Construct a 20m x 40m equestrian arena. Works to include a small amount of cut and fill, new land drains, membrane, stone base, silica sand and fibre surface.

20 January 2017

Ms C Rose

MO/2017/0044/CAT

Park View, Stane Street, Ockley RH5 5TD

Remove one Golden Leylandii located of front boundary

No objection

CAPEL - Beare Green

SCC

MO/2016/2079/SCC

Highways Depot, Horsham Road, Beare Green RH5 4QR

Demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment of Highways Depot site including new winter maintenance facilities including new salt barn, gritter parking, office welfare, storage facilities and other ancillary accommodation.

SCC application - for consultation purposes only

No objection 25 January 2017

3 February 2017

Mr P Calvert

MO/2017/0011/PLAH

Youngs, Coles Lane, Ockley RH5 5LT

Erection of triple bay shed following demolition of existing

Capel, Ockley, within 20 m of Capel parish, within 20 m of Ockley parish

Mrs S White

MO/2016/2052/PLA

Henhurst Lodge, Beare Green Road, Ockley RH5 4PX

Erection of replacement dwelling and carport

10 February 2017

Mrs D Tobias

MO/2016/1209/PLAH

Vann Farm Cottage, Vann Farm Road, Ockley RH5 5TF

Erection of two storey side extension

17 February 2017

Mr J Ball

MO/2017/0106/PLA

Weavers, Weare Street, Capel RH5 5HY

Erection of new hay barn for the use of adjacent farm

24 February 2017

Mr Woolford

MO/2017/0159

Holbrook Farm, Weare Street, Ockley RH5 5NP

Proposed conversion of farm outbuilding to ancillary accommodation and erection of three storey hexagonal tower with dovecote

3 March 2017

Mr R French

MO/2017/0240/PLA

1 and 2 Park Cottages, Beare Green Road, Ockley RH5 4PX

Erection of 2 No detached dwellings with integral garages following demolition of existing pair of cottages and outbuildings.

Planning decisions - list dates

13 January 2017

Mrs M Zandona

MO/2016/1782/PLAH

Hazel Cottage, Elmers Road, Ockley RH5 5TL

Insertion of a first floor window in the north facing side elevation

approved with conditions

13 January 2017

Mr A Whiddett

MO/2016/1956/SCC

Countryside Access Office SCC

Public Bridleway 162 and Public Footpaths 162a and 164, Ockley

Proposed diversion of public bridleway 162 and footpath 164, extinguishment (part of)

FP162b (Ockley), District of Mole Valley, Section 119 Highways Act 1980

(SCC application - for consultation purposes only)

no objection

3 February 2017

Mr and Mrs Rhodes

MO/2016/1996/PLAH

Newlands, Weare Street, Capel RH5 5JA

Erection of 3 bay oak framed car port

approved with conditions

6. **Finance**

payment of accounts

It was proposed by Mr D Thomas and seconded by Ms J Page that the following accounts be paid:

Hags-Smp Ltd inspection play area	£108.00
Ockley Cricket Club pavilion rental for Post Office use <i>RH/LF declared an interest</i>	£270.00
Ockley Village Hall hire of hall for meetings 2016-17 <i>BT/JP declared an interest</i>	£98.00
Zurich Municipal insurance premium	£624.42
Mark Osborne grounds maintenance 2016	£2456.94
Mrs L Fletcher clerk's salary / Admin costs	£558.65
HMRC tax clerk's salary	£140.28
Surrey County Playing Fields Assn affiliation fee 2016/17	£10.00
paid into the parish council account:	
Transparency fund claim	£276.86
SCC - grant for repairs/resurface footpath	£1000.00
MVDC - grant for repairs/resurface footpath	£2687.00

Authorisation was given for purchase of shredder

internal audit report February 2017

The Clerk reported that the mid year internal audit had been carried out but no report or invoice had yet been received.

7. **Improvements in the village**

play area at village hall

Three quotes had been received for supply and spread of bark chippings:

Sovereign	£5617.50
RSS (Hags-Smp)	£2798.10
M Osborne	£1975.45 (quote includes straighten up 11 metres wooden edging)

It was proposed by Mr R Herbert and seconded by Mr D Thomas that the quote from

M Osborne be accepted. All were in agreement.

The first operational inspection had been carried out by Hags-Smp, February 2017. A report had been sent through with work required. A quote would be sent through for consideration.
footpath on the Green

RH, DT, LF had met with D Pegley on 27 January 2017. An additional amount of work had been discussed so an amended quote, £9335, had been received. This quote had been accepted, noting that there would be an increase in tarmac cost. The quote could be reduced by £450 if volunteers trimmed back the edges. DT had raised the issue of a volunteer work party at a recent meeting of the Ockley Society. However it had been agreed that the Ockley Society were already committed to a significant amount of voluntary work this year so could not commit to another project. The Clerk was to contact D Pegley to ask him to carry out all of the work.

8. Neighbourhood Development Plan

car park at station

RH informed councillors that he had heard from Network Rail - they required more detail. He had passed on the information to GL-S/JL-S but had not yet received a response.

village hall housing development

RH reported that JL-S was working with the Jayes Estate agents on a matrix giving details of building costs/affordability/acceptable to MVDC - options for the development. The current planning permission conditions made building costs high for an affordable housing project.

housing in the Ockley Court area

C Calvert had reported that housing would be discussed at a Trustee meeting to be held in the near future.

Stane Gate - public inquiry

It was noted that nothing further had been heard regarding the inquiry.

RH stated that until further information was available regarding developments in the village a date for a meeting of the NDP Team would not be arranged.

9. Policies

Standing Orders

JP had reviewed the Standing Orders and had sent through comments regarding:

- a) photographing, filming, recording of meetings - after discussing councillors asked that she sent through amendment for inclusion.
- b) appraisal and appointment of back up RFO - the Clerk would ask other Clerks in the MV area what procedures were in place for their parishes and report back at the May meeting.

Spreadsheet - policy documents

This had been circulated to councillors. It was agreed that the review dates should be adopted and also that as far as possible policies should be reviewed on a rota basis.

10. Annual Meetings 8 May 2017

It was agreed that at the Annual Assembly the Chairman would give a report which would include a Statement on the School, update on the NDP. The meeting would start at 7.30 pm.

11. Any other business

Councillors DT, BT, SF, JP agreed that the Chairman RH had no conflict of interest regarding his position as Governor of Scott-Broadwood School / Ockley Parish Councillor.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.15 pm.

DRAFT