



Minutes of the Meeting of Bramley Parish Council

Held at Bramley Village Hall on 15th February 2024, starting at 18:00

PARTICIPANTS

Messrs T Coleman, M Vivian, B Stern, F Stern, J Austin, T Saunders, C Marshall, D Ersser, the RFO, and L van Rensburg, the Clerk, WBC Cllr Micheal Goodridge, were also present. One member of the public attended.

Ian Wilkes, a speaker from Surrey Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP), attended the meeting to discuss the Improvement Plans.

It was suggested that if any questions were to come up, they could be passed on by the clerk.

- Mr Wilkes explained the Rights of Way Improvement Plan, conducted every ten years, to address public concerns about paths and access.
- Surrey County Council conducts a public survey on the Countryside Access website, due by March 9th, to gather feedback on rights of way.
- Specific issues regarding rights of way, like gaps between paths, unsafe routes, and inaccessible areas, were discussed.
- Suggestions were made to improve drainage, create parallel routes, and address severed paths, especially near busy roads.
- There's a growing need for level, obstacle-free paths suitable for all ages and abilities to encourage exercise and outdoor activities.
- Collaborative efforts between parish councils, like creating circular walks, could enhance access to healthier walking options.

021/24 **To receive apologies for absence**

Councillors Patrick Leung and Nick Gravenell sent their apologies.

022/24 **Declarations of interest**

None

023/24 **Minutes of the meeting January 18th, 2024**

Minutes of the meeting of January 18th, 2024, were agreed as a true record. These were signed by the chairman.

024/24 **Matters arising from minutes of the meeting of January 18th, 2024**

None

025/24 **Bramley Neighbourhood Police update**

A report for Wonersh, Bramley, Shamley Green, and Blackheath was received and circulated to councillors.



026/24 Correspondence

- Concerns were raised by members of the public that the latest Bramley Update was too political.
- The Council had agreed on the previous Monday that the section concerning Waverley Borough councillors in our parish or ward will no longer be included in the Bramley Update unless a majority of the Council supports inclusion if it is in the Parish's interest. Moreover, the meeting minutes and the update cannot be issued without approval from all the councillors present at the meeting. It was emphasised that no political content will be reported in the minutes.

027/24 Waverley and Surrey County Councillors Update

Waverley Borough Councillor Update from Cllr Goodridge

- The annual budget due to be finalised in February proposed to increase by a maximum of 2.99%.
- Car parking charges in the Waverley area are proposed to increase by an average of 15%.
- A charge of £2 per evening parking is proposed for many town car parks.
- There is a counter proposal to reduce the evening parking charge by about half, paid for by various funding sources.
- Rents for council houses are proposed to increase by 7.7%

Bramley matters

Fuel Leak Update

- A meeting was held on Tuesday, February 13th.
- The main concern discussed at the meeting was regarding a pipe issue.
- The pipe was pressure tested a year ago, and the testing was confirmed to be robust and correct.
- The current work on the pipe, expected to last three days, may extend due to the need to replace it.
- This pipe was inspected a year ago and not identified as faulty.
- Further updates are awaited to understand the extent of the problem and how it occurred.
- A stern letter was sent to the Environment Agency by Cllrs Jane Austin and Jeremy Hunt MP, requesting a comprehensive update on their investigation into the leak.
- To date, we have been assured that the leak has been resolved; this issue with the pipe casts doubt over this. Jeremy Hunt MP and Councillor Jane Austin are following up on this urgently with EPS and the EA



- Asda has acquired the holding company that previously operated the site, making them effectively responsible for the previous ownership.

028/24 **Committee actions:**

Planning Review Committee

- A joint parishes meeting was held last month to discuss the expansions of Lydia Park and various other sites in the area.
- The expansions are significant, with numerous applications being submitted.
- It was noted that two scheduled days of appeal hearings were cancelled because the inspector has decided to hold a Public Inquiry.
- Despite the delays in the inquiry process, additional applications continue to be submitted.
- Parishes are collaborating to share and draft responses before submission, allowing for the inclusion of additional information in individual responses.

Neighbourhood plan

- The demolition of the old Triumph Destination Building has progressed quickly, with a neighbouring resident reporting that the company handling the process is considerate and efficient.
- An update was received from Kevin Deanus regarding the former school playing field project, indicating progress with Surrey County Council.
- Surrey County Council's CEO, Tim Oliver, personally supports the initiative to address the shortage of affordable housing in the county.
- The plan seeks to develop affordable housing on a portion of the field, with the parish responsible for managing the houses and receiving a peppercorn lease for the remaining green space.

Library committee

The Clerk received a comprehensive report from the Library Operations team.

Village Hall management committee

Nothing to report.

Highways committee



- The speed cameras have yet to be installed; currently, only the warning signs alerting people to their presence are in place.
- Police speed enforcement checks continue to be carried out in Bramley, with multiple speed check days occurring in the last few weeks.

Estate Manager Report

- Discussions were held with the trustees of the Bowling Club regarding the acquisition of the site by the Parish Council.
- Cllrs Mrs Stern and Mr Gravenell have visited the clubhouse and reported that it is in reasonably good shape and has potential for improvement.
- Efforts are underway to find a solicitor to assist with legal matters, with one quote received.

Resilience

Nothing to report.

029/24 **Parish updates and actions**

a. Pavilion and environs (including Gosden Common, Links Road)

- The next pavilion meeting is scheduled for the 29th of February, with attendees including Cllr B Stern and Debbie Ersser.
- It was noted that one of the major clients, First Aid, has ceased renting the pavilion, resulting in a decrease in rental income.
- Current regular renters include the Cricket Club, Tennis Club, table tennis, and softball, with occasional bookings such as children's parties.
- Due to the loss of a significant client, the rental price may be adjusted to compensate for the decrease in income.
- Consideration will be given to advertising the availability of the pavilion for parties to attract new bookings and supplement income.

b. Station Road and environs (including Hall Road, Eastwood, Barton Road, Linersh Wood)

- Concerns regarding recent crime activities have been raised.
- It is suggested that this information be published further by email, on the Facebook page, and the website.
- Multiple marked police patrols have been observed in the area over the past week, indicating an increased police presence.
- PC Gavin Greenaway emphasised that law enforcement is actively patrolling the area, including using unmarked vehicles to address security concerns.
- A further meeting is needed to address the reimbursement of the Eastwood Road playground.
- The goal is to establish a charity for fundraising purposes related to the playground. The paperwork required for setting up the charity is the main focus.



- The charity will be associated with, but not identical to, the Bramley Parish Council for Eastwood Rd and other relevant matters.
- Cllr C Marshall has volunteered to investigate the process and assist in executing the necessary steps.

c. High Street and environs (including Windrush Close, Old Rectory Close, Snowdenham Links Road and Lane)

- The Wheatsheaf Pub is scheduled to close on February 23rd.

d. Grounds and Downs link

- There have been efforts to clear fallen trees in the area.
- Concerns about a broken gate leading from Eastwood Rd onto the Downs link were raised. It was noted that tree surgeons use the gate to access the area.
- Suggestions were made for the Assistant Clerk to contact the Surrey Countryside Ranger to inquire about the repair and responsibility for the gate.

Public Section

Referring to the Community Information meeting about the Fuel Leak; a member of the public expressed concern that Waverley Borough Council was not sufficiently represented in the presentation. They observed that while various agencies were mentioned, the explicit involvement of Waverley Borough Council was not highlighted. However, the meeting organiser clarified that Waverley Borough Council had consistently been part of the discussions. Cllr Austin stressed that she is a representative of WBC herself, and that WBC is one of many stakeholders and agencies she is dealing with in respect of the fuel leak.

Rural Parish (including Thorncombe Street, Birtley Green, Grafham and South)

Nothing to report.

030/24 **Finance**

- a. Payments listed at Appendix B (circulated) Members agreed payments between 11th January 2024 and 7th February 2024, to the value of £4,776.87.

031/24 **Points of information and any other matters**

- Lindi van Rensburg is stepping down as clerk at the end of the month. The Parish thanked her for her service.



The meeting closed at 19:02

Agreed and signed Chairman, March 21st, 2024