



Minutes of the Meeting of Bramley Parish Council

Held at Bramley Village Hall on November 16th, 2023, starting at 6:00 pm

PARTICIPANTS

Mmes F Stern, J Austin, Messrs P Leung, T Coleman, C Marshall, M Vivian, B Stern, Mmes van Rensburg, the Clerk, D Ersser, the RFO, and Surrey County Councillor Kevin Deanus were also present. Four members of the public attended.

- 98/23 To receive apologies for absence
- All members attended the meeting.
- 99/23 Declarations of interest
- None
- 100/23 Minutes of the meeting October 19th, 2023
- 101/23 Matters arising from minutes of the meeting of October 19th, 2023.
- Minutes of the meeting of October 19th, 2023, were agreed upon as a true record. These were signed by the chairman.
- 102/23 Bramley Neighbourhood Police update
- A report for Wonerish, Bramley, Shamley Green, and Blackheath was received and circulated to councillors.
- 103/23 Correspondence
- The clerk circulated the correspondence report.
- 104/23 Waverley and Surrey County Councillors Update
- Surrey Councillor Kevin Deanus has highlighted budget constraints impacting tree maintenance, community projects, and highways. He pointed out the limitations in the tree-cutting budget, stressing that Waverley won't assume responsibility for the playground trees as Bramley Parish Council leases them from Surrey County Council.
 - Bramley has been included on the list for installing speed cameras, with 10 locations planned for this year. The process is challenging and time-consuming due to these systems' high cost and complexity. Typically, ordering a vehicle-activated sign takes 12 months, and various components may come from different countries. The logistical challenges involve coordinating crews, including specialised electricians, who must wire the systems into the appropriate domains. Despite potential delays, efforts are underway to address speed concerns in the village.
 - Waverley Councillor Jane Austin has addressed Thames Water concerns for the past two weeks.
 - Councillor Jane Austin updated the planning application concerning two upscale houses at the rural exception site off Clock House Lane. Surveys were completed, and it was noted that six Grade A trees on the site had

The clerk was instructed to circulate an email that Councillor Deanus sent.



been intentionally poisoned. The matter was brought to the attention of Claire Upton Brown, the head of Guildford and Waverley planning, and the AONB authorities. Additionally, discussions are ongoing regarding changes in speed limits, including the potential removal of 30 mph traffic signs to align with speed camera regulations.

- The trees in front of Singh Concrete on Birtley Road were cut down, but it is unclear who the responsible party is. Following the unauthorised tree removal, a fence was promptly erected.

105/23 Committee actions:

a. Planning Review Committee

- Councillor Francesca Stern reported ongoing development north of Lydia Park, with applications initially being turned down and subsequently going to appeal. After denial, new applications are submitted, and the enforcement team is addressing the matter. Alfold Parish Council, through research, has identified concerns about hard standings being laid without adequate parking for travelling caravans, suggesting potential misuse. Appeals for five applications are scheduled for two days in February.
- Councillor Bob Stern is set to review the planning report and initiate an initial meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Subcommittee for a comprehensive assessment. Subsequently, he will present a detailed report to the council.
- Councillor Jane Austin, supported by Councillor Troy Saunders, Bramley Parish Council, and County Councillor Kevin Deanus, has officially requested Surrey County Council to review and potentially reduce the speed limit on the northbound stretch towards Shalford.

a. Library committee

- The Clerk received a report from the Library Operations team, and this information has been included in the November correspondence report.

b. Highways committee

- Councillor Troy Saunders highlighted two accidents near Gosden House School and the Infant School on the A281. He addressed the consideration of deploying speed cameras to monitor and evaluate average speeds, with potential eligibility for a speed awareness course for offenders. Additionally, Councillor Troy Saunders will discuss taking over the responsibility of speed watch from Councillor Francesca Stern.
- This week, the initiation of plans for speed camera installations is underway, aiming for completion in early 2024. Councillor Francesca Stern suggested a review of speed watch sites after the camera installation, as there will be overlaps with current measurement locations.

The clerk was instructed to send to forward planning reviews to WBC.



c. Estate Manager

- Councillor Nick Gravenell relayed the information about the temporary closure of the footpath at the top of the golf course. He verified with the golf club that the bridleway is still open for public use. Regrettably, extensive damage is being caused to the course by numerous travellers utilising quad bikes.

106/23 Parish updates and actions

- Pavilion and environs (including Gosden Common, Links Road)
- Nothing to report.
- Station Road and environs (including Hall Road, Eastwood, Barton Road, Linersh Wood)
- Councillor Jane Austin delivered updates on the playground, highlighting the completion of surveys and plans to establish a legal association for fundraising. She explored potential collaboration with St. Catherine's school for support with the playground.
- In addition, there was a focus on establishing land ownership and determining the responsibility for trees in the playground area, a crucial aspect of the playground's legal and maintenance considerations.
- High Street and environs (including Windrush Close, Old Rectory Close, Snowdenham Links Road and Lane)
- Councillor Patrick Leung discussed local business developments, including opening a new shop, and considered the potential installation of CCTV for enhanced security. He outlined individual conversations with shopkeepers, detailing specific plans for CCTV placement while considering the community's safety concerns. Cllr. Leung mentioned ongoing discussions with the butcher, who has expressed interest in CCTV installation and the potential for collaboration with other businesses. Despite engaging with various high street shop owners, he has not yet had the opportunity to speak with the pet shop owner due to an extended period since their last interaction. The objective is strategically positioning cameras near windows to monitor the surroundings and address safety concerns in response to community needs.
- Councillor Jane Austin addressed a fuel leak issue, highlighting its impact on residents and the ongoing management efforts. She presented a detailed report indicating the installation of a barrier pipe and noted that Summerpool Cottage was affected by contamination, emphasising the severity and direct impact on the community.
- Exploratory boreholes have been conducted across the entire village, and we expect to receive a migration map within the next week or two. This map will provide insights into the progression of these activities.
- Councillor Jane Austin has a meeting next week with the Environment

The clerk was instructed to send the playground lease to SCC.



Agency and representatives from the water department. Additionally, discussions are planned with EPS, who are responsible for handling petrol station matters, and representatives from Asda, including key figures from the company.

- Grounds and Downs Link
- The bridleway is currently covered with leaves.
- The downs link will be closed from November 19th until February 2024 to remove the remaining disease ash trees.

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

- Lydia Park is currently experiencing breaches, and recent applications have been rejected, with the last one being unsuccessful.

Public Session: The floor was opened to allow the public to ask questions.

- A mother and her young son had been subject to an incident with a fast-moving lorry following the school's closure due to a water shortage. She had not used the traffic lights because she had wanted to keep her son away from a particular individual. Her son is physically fine, but there has been a mental impact, and the incident has been reported to the police. Councillors reiterated the importance of using islands and the traffic lights, emphasising that the new speed cameras will be vital in reducing risk and unlocking new safety measures.
- A second public member mentioned that he is the trustee of Bramley Infant School and the director of the Good Shepherd Trust. In his role, he is responsible for health and safety, reporting to the directors of the Trust. He visited the school last week, and an issue related to health and safety was raised during his visit.
- The third public member raised concern about cars speeding on Birtley Road from the A281. Councillors reiterated the importance of using islands and traffic lights and suggested considering the installation of a convex mirror for enhanced safety.

107/23 Finance

- Payments listed in Appendix B (circulated)
- Members agreed on payments between 11th October and 8th November 2023 to the value of £4955.33.
- The RFO presented the draft budget for 2024-25. She advised the Councillors of the need to increase the general reserves to approximately half the value of the precept as per the auditor's report. Councillors discussed the best way to do this, and a final decision will be made in the December meeting.

108/23 Points of information and any other matters

The clerk was instructed to find out if Waverley will do it.



- The clerk informed the council about the Bramley History Society's request for additional space for their files and artefacts.
- Councillor Mark Vivian expressed dissatisfaction with the Bramley Update, emphasising the importance of a fair, apolitical approach in council communications and underscoring the necessity for accurate and balanced representation of council activities. The concern regarding the factual accuracy of the Bramley Update was discussed, leading to an agreement on a revised process for reviewing and approving future publication texts. The established procedure includes an initial 48-hour review period and a final 24-hour period for completing the draft.
- Councillor Mark Vivian inquired with the clerk about receiving the briefing sent to all town and parish councils from the portfolio holder for Planning and Economic Development (Liz Townsend). The clerk responded, stating that she had not received it.
- Councillor Austin stated she had checked with Councillor Goodridge, who confirmed the minutes, and therefore, what flows into the Bramley Update was a correct reflection of his comments and views.
- Councillor Austin responded to Councillor Mark Vivian, stating that in Waverley Council meetings, approximately 22 Lib Dem councillors present specific opinions. Recognising that various groups, including the conservative ones, hold diverse perspectives is crucial. The elected Conservative Councillors for this ward express their views, which may not always align with the predominant views in the Lib Dem Council. She emphasised that their stance is fairly recorded, even if it doesn't always accord with Lib Dem-run Waverley Borough Council's view.
- Discussions concerned the council's historical obligations concerning maintaining the Infant School and the Holy Trinity Clocks. An existing contract mandates the council to cover the cost of an annual clock service. Even though the decision has been made to terminate the contract, the council remains responsible for the service due before the termination.

The clerk was instructed to set up a meeting to discuss the matter.

The clerk should circulate the information as soon as received.

The clerk was instructed to cancel the clock contract.

The meeting closed at 19:28

Agreed and signed Chairman, December 14th 2023