

BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the **MEETING** of the **BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL** held on **WEDNESDAY 7th FEBRUARY 2011** at 8pm in the Hamilton Room.

Present: Councillors Wilson, Higgins, Chalker, Hardy, Tanner and the Clerk. Also present were a parishioner Tuppence Silverio, and Councillor Paul Potter and PC Dominic Loraine part time.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(472) Apologies were received from Councillor Hurman, on leave.

2 MINUTES

(473) The Minutes of the 5th January 2011 meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting and were approved and duly signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

3 MATTERS ARISING

(474) The Clerk advised that the deadline for applications to close roads for street parties on 29th April (Royal Wedding) was 25th March. Councillor Hardy reported that the Buckland and Betchworth Society was organizing a hog roast with a "Big Screen" on Buckland Green. Councillors decided to support this initiative and noted that a peal attempt was planned for St Michael's Church.

(475) Noted that Eiluned Slot was making tentative enquiries about a possible Chairman for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in June 2012. It was thought likely that Buckland and Betchworth would organize separate celebrations. Councillor Hardy would discuss this further with the B&B Society.

Action: Councillor Hardy

4 CRIME AND ORDER

(476) PC Dominic Loraine apologised for his absence last month which was for operational reasons. He presented crime statistics for the periods 7th Nov to 7th January and the last month. The latter recorded another theft of lead from the School roof. Agreed to include the Clerk on the Countrywatch circuit and to publish appropriate contact numbers in the magazine again. Discussion continued and covered stolen plants and gravel being sold door to door, two recent accidents on Pebblehill, and fly tipping in Buckland. Noted that Speedwatch in Betchworth was to be re-launched at a meeting on 14th February.

5 PLANNING

New Applications

(477) **MO/2010/1400/PLA** Little Hartsfield, Sandy Lane, Buckland. Erection of stable block comprising 4 stables, hay barn and manége. A preliminary response had already been made and Tuppence Silverio was asked to talk through her recent response to MVDC. It was confirmed that no commercial use was intended and that the stable block was for just two horses. The size of the manége was to meet competition rules and would be dug into the slope with no lighting. Positioning was to avoid the pipeline across the site and it was established that the manure would wheel barrowed to the top gate to be loaded onto a trailer and removed. The access to the rented field was discussed and noted as being via the Hartsfield driveway

only. Agreed to confirm acceptability of the proposal subject to caveats prohibiting commercial use, lighting and access across the footpath. **Action: Clerk, letter**

(478) **MO/2010/1604/PLAH** Squirrels Croft, Old Kiln Lane, Brockham. Erection of single storey front extension and new porch and raise roof ridge height to create first floor. (Brockham, Within 20m of Betchworth Parish). Not discussed

(479) **MO/2010/1610/CC**

1, Tynedale Road, Strood Green, Betchworth Variation of Condition 9 of MO/2009/0275 to allow the development to be constructed in accordance with plan nos. TR/P/01/002/B, 003/B, 005/B, 06 and r851. (Brockham, Within 20m of Betchworth Parish) Not discussed.

Results

(480) **MO/2010/1405/PLAH** Grange House, The Street, Betchworth. Erection of two storey side extension. **Approved with Conditions.**

(481) **MO/2010/1458/PLAH** Barryleigh, Wheelers Lane, Brockham Erection of two storey side extension and porch to front. (Brockham, Within 20m of Betchworth Parish). **Approved with Conditions.**

(482) **MO/2010/1518/PLA & MO/2010/1519/LBC** Weirmead Farm, Wheelers Lane, Brockham, Betchworth. Renovation of 1 existing barn and rebuilding of 2 dilapidated barns to allow conversion to B1 and B8 use. **Withdrawn.**

Other Matters

(483) **Reigate Road Quarry** Conditions for monitoring Vibration, Groundwater and Dust were due to be considered by the SCC Planning Committee on February 16th. Paul Tanner was to speak as a local resident. Clerk had prepared a comprehensive letter setting out the Council's position. Letter to be refined outside of the meeting and Helen Clack briefed to speak. **Action: Clerk & Cllr. Tanner**

(484) Another letter received from SCC requesting any objections to the diversion of Bridleway 459. This was still entitled "Temporary Diversion" but did now acknowledge that this would last until 31/12/2022. **No further action.**

(485) **EDF Problems** Clerk had received another letter from UK Power Networks stating that most outstanding works had now been cleared up, but the connection to Headley Court had still to be made. Clerk to check and respond, and refer to the Holmes Farm problem being a consequence of legal fees not being met by EDF/UK Power Networks. **Action: Clerk, letter**

(486) Paul Potter left the meeting.

6 FINANCE

(487) The monthly financial summary had been circulated prior to the meeting and the Clerk pointed out the recent increases in Burial Ground income and the expected heavy expenditure in March on the School Path.

(488) Clerk stated that the new bank account was fully functional and that he could now transfer funds between the accounts electronically.

(489) The following accounts were approved for payment and cheques duly signed: -

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|------------|
| i.) Viking Direct (Stationery) | £264.11 incl'g | £44.02 VAT |
| ii.) Sutton & E Surrey Water | £32.49 incl'g | £5.41 VAT |

7 TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

(490) **Footpath to Brockham** Councillor Tanner warned that an 8" deep channel had recently been gouged across the path at Medley Bottom. **Action: Clerk**

(491) **School Path Work** was now expected to commence in week ending 18th February and key parties had been alerted. Discussion ensued about the cutting back vertically of the hedge.

(492) **Chertsey Plant Hire** Detailed letter received from Gary Balle which addressed the reported problems. Clerk to check on working hours and acknowledge the helpful response from Chertsey Plant Hire. **Action: Clerk letter**

(493) **Winter Precautions** The Dorking Rural Highways Forum met on 2nd February and discussed winter problems, including the Kiln Lane/Old Reigate Road/Old Road route. A report had been sent from the "3B's" Clerks to Jenny Isaacs for inclusion in the SCC review. The transfer of vegetation control and minor roadworks to MVDC and possibly Parish Councils was being actively considered as part of the localism agenda.

(494) **Highways Complaints** Councillors were concerned about mud on the outside the Barley Mow site. Clerk reported that he had already contacted the Contractor (Kenward) and both SCC Highways and the Police. Some improvement had been noticed, but was not yet satisfactory.

(495) **Station Road Pavement** Reported that this was impassable in places and that the bench still required mending. Councillor Chalker to agree a date with the Chairman to examine and report back. **Action: Councillors Chalker and Wilson**

(496) **Transport Links to Dorking** Request from East Surrey Rural Transport Partnership to meet and discuss parish requirements. **Action: Clerk**

(497) **Station Car Parking** Clerk had established that the red fiesta parked on the verge just south of the station was a railway commuter who had been thrown out of the Station forecourt. Matter under investigation by District Councillor Potter. **Action: Councillor Potter**

8 COMMUNICATIONS

(498) The Local Government Boundary Commission had decided that the number of Surrey County Councillors should remain at 80. The second stage of the consultation will run until 3rd April 2011. Councillors to make representations in their own right. **Action: Councillors**

(499) Capel had come 6th in the Race to infinity and would therefore be equipped with super broadband as a priority. Betchworth had demonstrated its importance by coming 214th which was remarkably high in the list of thousands of exchanges.

(500) The website meeting with all the volunteers was now planned for March 2nd at the Chairman's home and invitations had been issued.

(501) The updating of the Betchworth Booklet was continuing and a meeting arranged for Friday next. It was hoped to publish it in April 2011.

Action: Clerk & Karen Wilson

(502) Email received from Dr Andrew Povey regarding the likely changes to the Library Service. This had been poorly written and was almost unintelligible in parts. Councillor Tanner was commended for his prompt complaint. It was regretted that the abandonment of the mobile library service would impact severely on rural residents without their own transport.

9 VILLAGE PLAN

(503) The Final version of the Housing Needs Survey had been circulated to Councillors shortly before the meeting. Agreed that Councillors should scrutinise and hopefully adopt it at the March meeting. SCA would then seek information on suitable land for affordable housing in the parish.

Action: ALL Councillors

(504) A progress report on the Village Plan would be given at the Annual Parish Meeting on the 18th April.

10 EMERGENCY PLANNING

(505) Brockham Parish Council had recently held a Resilience Meeting. Attendees had been local farmers and some of the Brockham Bonfire Committee. Councillor Paul Tanner had also attended as an observer. The meeting had considered the resources available in Brockham although this was disappointing as the farmers work across all the 3B's parishes and this combined approach was the norm as far as Highways matters were concerned. The farmers and the Bonfire Boys had reported a wide range of equipment already in their hands. Noted that Martin Clipperton had still not been contacted by SCC Highways and that there was a need to identify "vulnerable" people in Betchworth even if they didn't think that they were vulnerable under normal conditions.

Action: Councillor Tanner

11 ALLOTMENTS, BURIAL GROUND & GOULBURN GREEN

(506) Noted that Dave Elliott would be levelling the ashes area of the Burial Ground before the end of the month and that the three corner fence posts at the northern entrance to the Green had been replaced in the last three days.

(507) Email received from Surrey Hills Society drawing attention to The Big Tree Plant Funding. Possible sites were suggested as screening of Church Farm from the Burial Ground, SE corner of the Burial Ground, and horse chestnuts along the footpath to Brockham. The latter to involve children growing trees at school. Agreed to liaise with the School Administrator. Application deadline 31st March 2011.

Action: Clerk

12 CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

(508) Meeting due shortly to consider the Easter Programme. Councillor Hardy to report back and advise on the new chairman's details.

Action: Councillor Hardy

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Active Papers

(509) No one available to attend the Mole Valley Localism and Planning Seminar on 16th February. Agreed to ask Sarah Pearson (prospective Councillor) to represent the Parish and report on the proceedings. **Action: Sarah Pearson**

(510) Noted that MVDC Democratic Services were holding a Prospective Candidates Evening on 3rd March at 7pm at Pippbrook.

Action: ALL including prospective Councillors

(511) No immediate interest expressed in the British Legion request for a Poppy Party on 10th – 12th June 2011.

Passive Papers

(512) Other Communications received as per Appendix 4 (Passive Items) were distributed for Councillors to peruse and report back as appropriate, at the next meeting.

Other Matters

(513) An invite to join the Village of the Year Competition 2011 was discussed without conclusion. Councillor Hardy to consider further. **Action: Councillor Hardy**

(514) Tuppence Silverio volunteered to help with the parish website. Invitation to be sent to her for the March 2nd meeting. **Action: Clerk**

14 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

(515) Future meetings of the Council were confirmed as

Mondays 7th March and 4th April 2011, both at 8.00pm in the Hamilton Room.

Action: ALL

(516) The Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Monday 18th April 2011. Confirmed that Graham Manning of SWT would give an illustrated talk on the work of the Trust. Councillor Chalker would provide the refreshments as usual.

Action: Cllr Chalker

(517) **Due to the May elections it was agreed to defer the Parish Council AGM until Monday 16th May 2011**

(518) The March Parish Magazine article to be prepared by the Chairman and Clerk. (Deadline 14/2/11) **Action: Chairman & Clerk**

15 MEETING Part 2 (Public Excluded)

(519) Chairman briefed the Council on the financial situation with regard to footpath works and on recent developments at Atkinson House.

(520) Chairman closed the meeting at 9.55 pm.