

BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the **MEETING** of the **BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL** held on **MONDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2018**, at 8pm in the Hamilton Room.

Present: Cllrs Hardy (Chair), Wilson, Rogers, Savill, Winter, Higgins and Clerk (Marion Hallett). 19 members of public attended part of the meeting along with District Councillor Simon Budd and County Councillor Helyn Clack. The Footpath's Officer (FO) and Burialground Caretaker (BC) also attended the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

(208) Councillor Edwards sent her apologies.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

(209) One Declaration of Interest was received, from Cllr Hardy who is the owner of a property included in the proposed amended village boundary, discussed under Agenda Item 5, Open Forum.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

(210) The minutes of the meeting held on 1st October 2018 were approved and signed by Councillor Hardy as a true and correct record.

4. COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT.

(211) No Police report was received for the month of October 2018.

5. OPEN FORUM.

(212) Residents and members of public were in attendance to discuss and comment on the proposals put forward by MVDC to amend the village boundary and identify sites for infilling. In summary, the discussion focused around how many properties and the type of housing proposed; access, and the process by which developments may occur. The question was also raised as to the rationale for including land north of Old Reigate Road in the amended boundary.

(213) Opinions were split within the room as to the acceptable density of any proposed development and that the number of properties proposed might not address the requirement for 'affordable' housing. Some members of public expressed a wish for the introduction of more modest housing and to be 'in keeping with the village' and not more 'million pound houses', and for consideration to be made towards existing Betchworth residents who would wish to remain within the village but need to downsize, as well as potential for young families to buy in the village. A member of public also asked whether shared ownership would be an option. Concern was expressed that no obvious access around the proposed site could be identified. It was specifically noted that the land next to Fox Hollow was too narrow to provide suitable access. It was also acknowledged that access via The Street would be unsuitable due to the dangerously narrow road and blind bend. Regarding amendments to boundaries, the Parish Council shared its thoughts on whether the MVDC proposals should be considered for approval (see minute ref: (173) from Minutes of 1st October 2018) and a member of public commented that despite the proposed amendment to incorporate the identification of 'physical boundaries', there were discrepancies between the actual definition and MVDC's interpretation of the term. Councillor Higgins addressed the members of public to clarify that the proposals are from MVDC and not the Parish Council, and that the Parish Council would form a Without Prejudice response to MVDC based on its thoughts and incorporate comments from members of the public.

County Councillor Clack expressed the view that it was premature to comment on this proposal in advance of a public consultation on major housing allocations which would be taking place next year. Clerk reiterated to members of public that until the Public Consultation, MVDC has requested that public comments should be submitted via the Parish Council.

Clerk to incorporate comments from members of public in its response to MVDC. Chairman Hardy thanked members of public for attending and contributing their views.

(214) 8.20pm 1 member of public left

(215) 8.40pm 17 members of public left

(216) In order to accommodate a member of public who had remained at the meeting, Agenda Item 10. Communications (Broadband Speeds), was brought forward to this point.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

(217) Councillor Winter provided written and verbal feedback from research carried out to assess varying broadband speeds across the village. His research focused on 12 households throughout Betchworth. Wonham Lane and Gadbrook Road were identified as below the government " Universal Service Obligation" which gives the right to 10Mbps provided the installation cost does not exceed £3,400 per premise.

. Cllr Winter is liaising with Katie Brennan at Surrey CC who is awaiting the outcome of the 'Gainshare' project as to whether the rural Community of Betchworth qualifies to benefit from extra funding. Other options to improve speeds are available including community funding. Councillor Winter offered to continue to monitor village speeds and to liaise with SCC in order to explore options for improving the Broadband service and will report back at the next meeting (December 3rd 2018).

(218) 8.57pm: One member of public left.

7. TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS.

(219) Footpaths Officer provided an update, in summary; preparation is underway for village litterpick on 17 November, 38 Memorial poppies have been distributed across the village. Whilst drainage work was underway in Sandy Lane and Wonham Lane, pruning and clearance of foliage was carried out. Betchworth Bridge still not repaired despite numerous requests; Clerk to follow up. Play equipment has been checked on 7/10 – 13/10 – 20/10 – 30/10 and remains fit for use. Councillors duly thanked District Councillor Budd for providing the village Soldier Silhouette.

(220) Cllr Wilson passed comment that it is likely that the drains and gulleys need clearing along Wonham Lane despite new drainage installation. Cllr Wilson to monitor effectiveness and inform County Councillor Clack if problems persist.

(221) District Councillor Budd raised issue with a sunken drain outside a house on Wellhouse Lane and asked Clerk to send a pothole repair request to MVDC (in conjunction with Brockham PC). District Councillor Budd also advised of a second sunken drain outside Weirmead Pond. Clerk to investigate.

(222) Councillors discussed correspondence received from a resident regarding a potentially breached TPO. The consensus was that the tree in question remains in situ. Clerk to draft a response to be reviewed by Councillors.

8. PLANNING.

New Applications & Appeals (1)

MO/2018/1784

Cotterstock Lea, Wheelers Lane, Brockham (within 20m) Betchworth RH3 7HJ

Certificate of Lawfulness for a proposed development in respect of the erection of a single storey double garage/gym.

NO COMMENT

Late Applications (2)

MO/2018/1847

Goulburn Green, The Street, Betchworth Crown lift one Holly (marked T1 on submitted plan) to 3 metres, crown lift one Holly to 3 metres and reduce lateral branches to north by 1.5 metres (T2), crown lift one Oak tree to 3 metres and cut back lateral branches from playground by 1.5 metres (T3), crown lift two Oak trees to 3 metres (T4 and T5), prune group of apple trees (G1) by approx. 1 metre overall.

NO COMMENT

MO/2018/1848

Buckland Garage, Reigate Road RH3 7ED

Demolish existing sales building and remove linked canopy and LPG enclosure, erect new single storey sales building, gated timber fenced compound area with bins and plant units. Provide 12 No. new customer parking bays.

NO COMMENT

Results (1)

MO/2018/1343

13 New Cottages, The Coombe, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7BU

Erection of two storey side extension and detached garage.

APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

Appeals (0)

Other Matters

(223) Councillors confirmed approval as per minute Ref: 173 of meeting dated 1st October and briefly discussed nature of response to MVDC regarding Future Mole Valley proposals to incorporate comments from residents as per Minute Ref: 213 (current minutes). Clerk confirmed no responses will be submitted to MVDC prior to circulation and interim approval by Councillors.

(224) Councillor Hardy and Clerk updated those present on the Judicial Review brought by Betchworth Parish Council against the Smiths at Evergreens. No further updates to report following the submission of a signed Consent Order. Betchworth Parish Council currently awaiting confirmation of date of hearing from Royal Courts of Justice.

(225) District Councillor Budd provided further information to Councillors that the license application received by MVDC from Hartsfield Manor was an alcohol license extension.

9. AMENITIES.

(226) Clerk presented two quotes to Councillors for replacement fence posts, however one quote provided less detail than the other. Clerk to request a more detailed quote from the second quote in order to make a more informed decision on how to proceed.

(227) BC led a discussion with Councillors regarding requirement for family grave space, there being no space left available in the family plot so a new grave would be needed. Councillors agreed exceptional circumstances and that Brockham rates be applied to the applicant as recognition for the contribution their relative had made over the years to the upkeep of the Burial Ground.

(228) Clerk reported a hole in the Perspex at The Coombe notice board. Cllr Rogers offered to raise the matter with builders working next to its location as to whether it may have been damaged by a site-worker. Cllr Wilson kindly agreed to assist in fixing new Perspex once acquired.

(229) Cllr Wilson confirmed Allotment water has been turned off.

10. COMMUNITY.

(230) Councillor Hardy informed those present that 2019 is an election year and current Councillors must stand down prior to re-election if they so wish. Councillors expressed a preference to avoid an election if possible.

(231) Councillor Hardy conveyed a suggestion from resident to add a rubbish bin along the school path. Councillors suggested a polite note to the School and nursery to request parents to take care not to leave rubbish, but an extra bin is not necessary at this time.

(232) Cllr Winter briefly reported to those present of a recent trip to Frank's Quarry, undertaken by Cllrs Winter and Higgins, and the Clerk. Cllr Winter and Clerk shared some photos of the quarry which is in the process being filled in. Recognition was once again made towards the professionalism of the operation and appreciation towards minimum disruption to residents.

(233) Clerk shared correspondence received from the Marie Curie Charity, who are looking for a regional volunteer representative. Clerk to provide details as article in the Parish Magazine.

(234) Councillors discussed ongoing issues with cluttered signage around the A25 Betchworth roundabout. Clerk to write to local businesses to ask to de-clutter. County Councillor Clack agreed to liaise with Highways team as to the legality of the signage and whether some can be removed. Councillors agreed that a formal policy is not necessary at this time but this may be reviewed if problems persist.

(235) Councillor Wilson delivered a short powerpoint presentation and provided feedback on the Gatwick Draft Master Plan proposals which amongst other details incorporates the proposal to make a more permanent use of the standby runway. Considerations included the runway being shorter and therefore used for take-offs only, potentially doubling air traffic over time. GAL are holding consultations however Cllr Wilson highlighted the question-mark as to the necessity to consult with Tunbridge Wells. Councillors agreed that once adequate advice had been received from GACC, Clerk to send email to Parish to encourage response. Cllr Wilson to formulate a response on behalf of the Parish Council; Consultation ends on Thurs 10th January 2019.

11. COMMUNICATIONS, IT.

(236) Clerk confirmed website is up and running and that she had received training from web designer to enable successful updating and adding of information.

12. CLERK'S REPORT.

(237) Clerk confirmed action list is up to date.

(238) Clerk updated those present following the recent bi-monthly Clerk's meeting on the arrival of Andy Adams, new PCO focusing on Community Support. Clerk raised local recently reported anti-social behaviour issues which were noted.

(239) 10.20pm Councillor Higgins left

13. FINANCE.

(240) The Financial Summary was reviewed and a correction to previous month's summary was noted; that being the 2nd half of the precept not showing on the previous month's summary. Clerk confirmed Summary had been corrected and is now up to date.

(241) Councillors and Finance Group members acknowledged an amendment to the Finance Group meeting date; the new date set as Tuesday 20 November.

(242) Councillors acknowledged a number of suggestions had been put forward as capital projects for the 2019 budget and suggested Community Broadband be added.

(243) Councillors Rogers and Winter approved the following accounts for payment:

IB00141	Hamilton Room (Sept/Oct)	£	40.00
IB00142	M Hallett (Oct 18) Salary & Expenses	£	864.86
IB00143	HMRC Cumbernauld	£	26.16
IB00144	Surrey Estate management	£	1245.15
IB00145	Lexis Nexis	£	110.99

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

(244) County Councillor Clack highlighted 5 public consultations (Family Resilience, Concessionary bus travel, Special Education Needs, Libraries and Cultural Services, Community Recycling Centres) currently in progress which all have a closing deadline of 4th January 2019. Clerk to circulate information via Parish email and Parish magazine and direct recipients to the "Have Your Say" part of the SCC website in order to encourage a response.

(245) Councillor Wilson advise that the cherry tree next to the pavilion in the burial ground is needing a prune and volunteered to carry out the task.

15. FUTURE MEETING DATES.

(246) Next Parish Council Meetings –3rd December 2018 and 7th January 2019

(247) Clerk agreed to circulate proposed Parish Council meeting dates as well as information regarding the local Elections and ensure rooms are booked for 2019.

- 11th November - Armistice Day
- 10th-11th November Archives Exhibition, Hamilton Room
- 12th November - Betchworth Village Hall AGM
- 15th November – SALC Autumn Conference (JH)
- 17th November - Autumn Litterpick
- 17th November - Gatwick Masterplan Public Presentation, County Mall Shopping Centre, Crawley, RH10 1FG
- 21st November - Poland House Public Consultation 2pm-8pm – Brockham Recreation Ground
- 1st-2nd December - Alternative Christmas Tree Festival

Parish Magazine Article subject for October: SCC Public Consultations, deadline Monday 12th November 2018

(248) Councillor Hardy closed the meeting at 10.30pm

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