

BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2018

MINUTES of the **BETCHWORTH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** held on **MONDAY 23rd April 2018**, in the Geoffrey Browne Room of the Betchworth Village War Memorial Hall at 8.00pm.

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman (Julie Hardy) welcomed everyone to the Meeting and particularly the invited guests. The total attendance amounted to 54 people – last year's meeting was attended by 22 people which was notably fewer than previous years.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Sir Paul Beresford, Mole Valley District Councillor, Lady Corinna Hamilton, Bernard Hawkins (Burialground Keeper), Jane Douglass (Head, North Downs Primary School), Julie Barella (Barley Mow Residents Association), Alison Hedges (Betchworth & Buckland Children's Nursery), Catriona Martin, (FABB), Commander Karen Coyne (Police), David Hill (Hamilton Rooms) Councillor Paul Potter, Ros Rokison (Parish Magazine), Peter Crate (J&J Frank's Ltd), Councillor Winter.

3. SURREY POLICE REPORT

PCSO Sue Gargini gave a brief report and presented crime figures. See Appendix A.

4. PRESENTATION BBY MARTIN CLIPPERTON AND JOOSJE HAMILTON

See Appendix B.

5. MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2017

Copies of the minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting. They were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Julie Hardy gave the following report:

The Annual Parish Meeting gives us the opportunity to tell parishioners what the Parish Council has been doing, on their behalf, over the past year, so it is lovely to see so many of you here.

This meeting also gives me a chance to thank some of the people who work so hard for our village.

I must first mention our parish clerk, Marion, without whom we could not function. Marion does all the day to day running of the council. She writes our letters and emails, relays information to us, deals with all of the finances and tries very hard to keep us all in order. A huge thank you to Marion from us all.

Next, of course, I must thank the rest of the councillors. Included in my thanks are Charmian Stow who left us last May and Ian Docwra who left in November. We welcomed Richard Savill and Ed Winter to keep our number up to seven.

Each councillor has their own areas of interest and responsibility, so I will let them tell you about them.

Vice Chairman Ian Wilson; (and aircraft representative)

*I have lived in Betchworth for 35 years and joined the Parish Council 31 years ago in 1987. I am presently the **Vice Chairman** and I also **chair the Finance Committee** which reviews and sets the yearly budget. I have special responsibilities for the **Parish Burial Ground** and the adjacent **allotments**. All the allotments are occupied and on the whole very well cultivated. There is a small waiting list for those wishing to take part in allotment life.*

Bernard Hawkins continues as the Burial-ground Keeper, a role that he carries out with his usual enthusiasm, efficiency and often with a touch of dry humour. The Parish Council and Bernard work hard in trying to maintain the Burial Ground as a tranquil place that reflects the English heritage of traditional grave yards. The burial ground over the last few years has been self-financing i.e. burial fees etc. have balanced or exceeded the maintenance cost. The new water supply to the Burial Ground and the allotments has been a great success.

*I am also responsible for keeping the Parish Council up to date with regards to **aviation** which unfortunately impacts heavily on our parish.*

The implementation of Performance Navigation in 2014 had a significant impact on Betchworth Parishioners living under, or close to, the redesigned departure Routes 3 and 4 from Gatwick which resulted in route 4 aircraft flying outside the Noise Preferred Route swath. This move north of the flightpaths caused a huge public outcry and two summers of misery for many communities. The CAA conducted a Post Implementation Review, which Betchworth Parish Council robustly responded to. The result of this Post Implementation Review was that in 2016 the Route 4 flight paths moved back within the NPR and close to its centreline. Some peace returned to Betchworth although we are still badly affected by flights from Heathrow. However, a new action group 'Plane Justice', challenged this 2016 decision-making process by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) through a judicial review. This resulted in the CAA 2016 decision being quashed by the courts. So what happens next? No one knows what Gatwick airport and the CAA will do but the last thing Betchworth parishioners need is a return to the 2014/5 situation or anything close to it. The action group Plane Wrong set up by residents in September 2014, of which I am a committee member, are monitoring the situation.

Martin Higgins; planning (40 applications)

I have been involved with the village events through bell ringing since before the Silver Jubilee. I lived in the Street for twenty years.

I am a planner keeping an eye on the subtleties of planning applications.

I researched the timber framed houses of Brockham and Betchworth for a Masters degree in the 80's and now work as a building historian.

Hilary Edwards;

My name is Hilary Edwards and I have lived in the Walled Garden for 25 years, and my son went to the local nursery and school. I have been a councillor for just over 2 years and my main responsibility is the Goulburn Green – helping to ensure that the area remains rural and natural, whilst at the same time taking account of needs within the community. Very soon we will be completing the re-surfacing work on the pathway through the green – we paid for the first phase, and as a result were able

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to get a grant to complete the work. It does look a little odd at the moment, but will soon look lovely!

As I work in corporate events, I was asked to organise the Crazy Crown tea party the year before last, and have more recently been working with Marion on developing a new Parish Council web site. This is now almost complete and we hope to go live early May. One of the key new features is an Events Calendar which will be updated regularly and help to ensure there are no clashes of dates for key events. We will of course let everyone know when it is launched. Thank you.

Colin Rogers;

Hi everyone , I'm Colin Rogers have been living in the village for 11 years and been a parish councillor for the last 2 . Am on the finance committee and am also looking into the feasibility of Betchworth establishing its own emergency response team .

Richard Savill;

I have recently re-joined the Parish Council following an invitation from the chairman. I have lived in the village for 16 years and was previously a councilor for about 4 years.

As a structural engineer, I take an active interest in all council matters especially planning applications.

Ed Winter (read on his behalf);

I am the newest member of the Parish Council, having joined just 4 months ago.

Sian and I have now lived in Betchworth for over 30 years, having moved in just a few weeks before the Great Storm of 1987. So I think we now almost qualify as "locals". We chose to live in Betchworth because we liked the rural feel of the village, as I suspect did most residents. As a Councillor I want to do what I can to ensure that we retain that rural aspect to Betchworth whilst still allowing sensible development within the village. Having spent my career in aviation, I will want to bring my expertise to bear in any debates over aircraft noise, which we all know is currently having a detrimental effect on the village.

Just after becoming a Councillor I somehow managed to "volunteer" to get involved in the "fascinating" subject of Data Protection. Although we are not quite in the "Facebook" data league we have to be compliant with the changes in the law coming into effect next month. I have been helping Marion in getting us ready for that. Thank you.

Thanks all; I am very grateful for all your support.

As Ian said, we are delighted to have Bernard Hawkins as our designated Burial Ground caretaker. Bernard is away, but we will read his report later.

We are also delighted to still have John Foreman as our Footpath officer. John will also read his report later.

Thanks both.

As you are probably aware, the agenda and minutes of all our meetings are posted on the three village notice boards. Parishioners are welcome to advertise local events here too if they wish, by sending Marion hard copies in A5 size. The new village website is very nearly up and running and events can be publicised here too.

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We would also urge you to join the village email list for up to date news if you have not done so already.

Other matters that the councillors have not covered;

Transport, Highways; we continue to ask for money from SCC for our roads although there is very little to be had. As you all know, after the recent poor weather the potholes are even worse. Our biggest problem seems to be the hole on Station Road opposite the entrance to Royce's. This is a drainage problem from further up the road. The road markings on Pebble Hill are still not complete.

There is a new anti-skid surface on the roundabout, but we are still awaiting a traffic survey, new white lines and signage outside Atkinson House.

As Colin Kemp, Cabinet member for highways at SCC wrote in the Times on Thursday; "the wear and tear of having some of the country's busiest roads mean they deteriorate quicker than elsewhere. That is why the funding system should be changed so that busier roads get more money". Good luck with that.

Community; MVDC have been asking for suitable sites for housing. They feel that a small extension of some villages would be appropriate. We have suggested again the area of the old Barley Mow pub.

We ran another successful Heartstart course in the Hamilton Room and a Dementia Awareness evening in conjunction with St. Michaels Church.

The play equipment on the Goulburn Green continues to be appreciated. We have had a bench installed there with money gratefully received from the Betchworth and Buckland Society.

Please remember that you are all most welcome at our meetings on the first Monday of every month in the Hamilton Room.

Now before we hear from all the village organisations Marion will take us through a review of the past year's income / expenditure.

7. BETCHWORTH PARISH ACCOUNTS 2017/18

The draft accounts were displayed. Clerk Marion Hallett gave a brief report outlining income and expenditure over the past year. See Appendix C.

8. REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Representatives of the following local organizations gave verbal reports as follows.

Footpaths Officer's Report

John Foreman gave the following report:

Good evening, I am John Foreman currently footpath officer for the village of Betchworth. I deal with issues relevant to the footpaths and walking access via gates and stiles. The main issues are fallen trees, overhanging and overgrown vegetation and LITTER. This is a major problem around the village and includes fly tipping on a fairly large scale. We arrange twice yearly litter picks which are supported by villagers using equipment loaned by Mole Valley District Council. The last collection resulted in about 40 bags of waste including redundant road works

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signs, containers of used cooking oil, energy drink and beer cans, Costa cups, MacDonald and KFC wrapping and much much more!!! The annual budget for countryside access and footpath maintenance has been reduced from £400,000 to £100,000 in recent years and clearly this reduction will not enable maintenance to previous service levels. Mole Valley and other agencies will rely increasingly on volunteers to fill the gap, and maintain the footpath network and infrastructure. If there are any potential volunteers do not hesitate to contact me through the Betchworth village web site or join Reigate or Mole Valley Ramblers group who have many projects requiring hands on help. If you have an issue or problem do not hesitate to report it to me or Mole Valley District council's web site as nothing can be done unless we know. The next Village litter pick is starting at 10.30am on Saturday 12th May on the walled garden approach by Goulburn Green. Extra help needed, this could be your best moment to show care for YOUR village. Thanks and I look forward to seeing you on 12th May.

Barley Mow Residents Association

Julie Hardy read the following report on behalf Julie Barella, the new Secretary of the BMRA:

It has now been 4 years since the entrance to the lorry yard that was shared with the Barley Mow Court entrance was closed. The residents of Barley Mow Court continue to have a good relationship with the Moores, although we are still awaiting the planting of shrubs to mask the old entrance and to create a better barrier between the close and the yard.

We are also still waiting for the sign to be removed at the old entrance, and for the postcode in the Parish magazine to be updated to the A25 entrance, as lorries still come into Barley Mow Court looking for the yard.

There have been some requests for amendments to planning applications sent in that we have had copies of and we are awaiting the outcome of those.

Unfortunately, we are still disturbed by noise on the odd occasion, as early as 6am and at weekends, despite the working hours for the site being from 7am to 6pm weekdays and 7am to 1pm Saturdays only.

On another note, Moores have sold the little strip of land behind houses 2-12 to those residents so each plot is larger now and the residents are in the process of landscaping their new gardens (and are hoping for some good weather to be able to enjoy them!)

Generally though, life is much improved at Barley Mow Court compared with before the Moores!

On behalf of BMCRA: Julie Barella (Secretary), June Butler (Chairman), Rod Smith (Treasurer).

Betchworth Archives

Karen Wilson gave the following report:

After our exhibition last April on 'Gardening in Betchworth', we began planning for this year's exhibition, 'Trades and Services in Betchworth'. We are looking at the shops and occupations which were once a part of Betchworth life, as well as

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services such as the police, fire brigade and post office. We are also researching the lives of some of the people associated with these trades and services.

We continue our regular work at the Archives every Tuesday Hamilton Room in both summer and winter. Indexing the Parish magazines is progressing and once the photograph cataloguing is complete, work will start on scanning them in.

We have had a marked increase in the number of visitors and enquiries. Email enquiries are usually associated with family history and we can usually help with information. Locating graves in the churchyard is often requested and we are usually successful with this too. Personal visitors come to view documents and photographs (including the Parish magazine!), often for their own research. We are continuing to re-survey the churchyard in the summer months, recording the graves and memorials with written descriptions and photographs. This year we have the bonus of having Tony Hines helping us by photographing the graves in the Burial Ground.

Betchworth & Buckland Children's Nursery

Julie Hardy delivered the following report from Alison Hedges (Chair of the Nursery Management Committee):

Following a year of low numbers the trend has reversed and numbers have been better than average over the past year. With the introduction of the 30 hours free entitlement for 3 year olds the Nursery now offers 2 full days per week for which the uptake has been good, with lunch club numbers also increasing.

This year marks a landmark for the Nursery as we celebrate our 25th Anniversary. Having started life in one classroom of The Acorns, Betchworth base we now have our own purpose built facility complete with outside play area. Whilst there have been many changes over the past 25 years, the fundamental ethos of the Nursery remains the same: creating a safe and inspiring environment for our pre-school children. We have been helped greatly by the village over the years, and we hope some of you will be able to join us at our 25th Anniversary Garden Party to be held on the school field in June (more details to follow in the Parish Magazine).

Topics covered during the year included: 'When I grow Up I want To Be ...'; the Weather and Ourselves. We had visits from an airline pilot, and a potter and took advantage of fine days and our beautiful surroundings for several local trips including our now annual visit to Home Farm to look at the newborn calves.

Finally we should like to take this opportunity to thank the Parish Council and villagers for their continued support and interest in our activities.

Betchworth & Buckland Society

*The following report was read by Jackie Ellison
Activities*

Report to Betchworth Parish Council 2017-18. Our Chairman, Richard Worsley is unfortunately unable to be here this evening, so I am giving you a very brief summary of the activities of the Betchworth and Buckland Society. For those of you who don't know me, I am Jackie ELLISON, and I became Membership Secretary for the Society late last Autumn.

Our AGM for 2017, was held last May with Rob Fairbanks Director of Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty as our guest speaker. Our next AGM is to be held in the Reading Room at Buckland on 21st May with a speaker from the Kent Sussex and Surrey Air Ambulance.

The Summer BBQ on Goulburn Green was co-hosted with Family Activities in Betchworth & Buckland. A very popular event which will take place again this summer, this time on Buckland Green. Last year's Autumn Lecture was given by Andrew Wright of National Trust Surrey Hills area. Our Annual Society Dinner, which is a members only event, took place at Reigate Heath Golf Club in October 2017. Christmas Drinks as you can imagine, a very jolly occasion, were held in the Reading Room in Buckland. The Quiz in February 2018, was held in the Betchworth War Memorial Hall. This was an all comers event which attracted over 80 people.

The Society made a donation to Betchworth PC for play area equipment. Wider donations have been made to recognise the Society's 60th Diamond Anniversary which saw monies given to St Michael's Church, Betchworth and St Mary's Buckland, Family Activities in Betchworth & Buckland, Betchworth & Buckland Childrens Nursery, Buckland Toddler's Group, Surrey Wildlife Trust, Campaign for the Protection for Rural England (CPRE) and a local initiative to replace stiles with gates for easier access on some of our footpaths.

Planning – An Overview of all applications took place each week during the year.

Committee Changes - Charmian Stow stood down and her responsibilities were taken over fully by myself. Iain Laurensen stood down as Secretary and was replaced by Tamlynne Chapman. Debbie Jones on events was replaced by Dave Lynch.

We try to keep the green and pleasant land green and pleasant, please join us!

Betchworth Burial Ground

Ian Wilson read the following report on behalf of Bernard Hawkins:

The Burial Ground continues as a lovely peaceful and tranquil place which affords an appropriate resting place for our loved ones. A short report this year as there have only been a few changes during 2017/8

The activities this year have concentrated on the tidiness of the Burial Ground with the post and rope edging being replaced and the tarmac pathways cleared of moss and long-standing detritus. One seat has also been replaced during the year.

The water supply has not given any cause for concern this year and the only problem has been the disposal of minor rubbish and decayed floral tributes. A BIFFA waste bin has been provided, but this has not seen much use. Consequently, this expensive service is about to be discontinued and in future we shall be relying on visitors to take home their own debris.

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Our good relations with our local Undertakers continue although this year has seen an unusually high number of different Funeral Directors involved.

For the first half of the year the Burial Ground Expenditure (mowing etc) far exceeded any Income. However, a hard winter has finally reversed this situation and with a total of nine burials in the year our income has now comfortably covered our maintenance expenditure for this year.

Inevitably the Council has by law to maintain Burial Registers and other records which include personal data. We therefore have to take cognisance of the new Data Protection Law which comes into force in May 2018. We are currently assessing the impact this will have on the burial records and on the Council as a whole.

I must leave you to decide if this constitutes a good year for our Burial Ground, and I look forward to assisting you in the coming year should you need our services.

Betchworth Decorative and Fine Arts Society

Ian Caldwell gave the following report:

We still have some vacancies for our Society. Meetings take place at the Betchworth Village Memorial Hall opposite Knights Garden Centre. We meet on the third Monday of the month in the afternoon, the doors opening at 1.45 for the hour's lecture at 2.30. We have lectures on a wide range of subjects to do with the arts given by excellent lecturers who have been vetted by The Arts Society (formerly NADFAS).

Membership of our society costs just £30 for a year for which you can attend 10 excellent lectures on a variety of subjects pertaining to the arts, also the opportunity of going on an art history tour and also the opportunity of going on day visits to different places. Next year the proposals for visits with guided tours are to: The Armourers Hall and Guildhall; The Queen's House and National Maritime Museum; Lancing College and Parnham House; Folkington Museum and Michelham Priory; Syon House; and Glyndebourne. We are also proposing a five day visit to Vienna for a group of our members. If you are interested in joining visit the website of the society theartssocietybetchworth.org.uk

Betchworth Operatic and Dramatic Society (BODS)

Pam Patch (Vice President) gave the following report:

An unexpected twist of fate meant that performing licenses were not available for our proposed spring play and autumn musical last year so at short notice we put on an experimental production of rehearsed play readings which was well received. A free drink, or afternoon tea at the matinee, gave an extra lift to the proceedings. Our plans to present the musical Betty Blue Eyes in November were stopped when a professional revival was announced so we could not continue. Fortunately we were able to switch to a colourful production of Gilbert & Sullivan's "Patience" which pleased all our G & S fans and was very popular. Other activities included a social evening, after-show parties and a fund-raising Teas on the Green at Brockham with added informal excerpts from the opera. New members are always welcome for both on and off-stage activities involved in putting on the various shows.

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In May this year we look forward to *The 39 Steps*, a comedy thriller based on the John Buchan novel and Alfred Hitchcock film. Set in the 1930s there are a dizzying number of character and costume changes incorporating romance, murder and a manhunt as our hero is on the run from police and German spies. The play runs from the 17th to 19th May and we hope to see you at the Village Hall for an eventful entertainment.

Betchworth Parish Crockery

Councillor Julie Hardy gave the following report:

For the past couple of years now the village crockery and cutlery has been rehoused in a locked cupboard in the village hall, which is much easier for people who need it when hiring the hall.

However, I still charge for its use to raise a bit of money for the church.

The blue plates are very heavy and are only really used for large village events now that most hirers of the hall seem to use caterers. We are still talking about getting say 120 matching white plates, bowls and mugs. I would then get rid of most of the blue plates but keep the blue cups and saucers for big events like the tennis tournament. Watch this space; we might need a plate smashing stall at a local fair!

Betchworth Parish Magazine

Sian Winter gave the following report:

There has been a Parish Magazine in Betchworth since 1892! Beautifully bound copies of these magazines are kept in the Meg Ryan Room in the Hamilton Room. I took a look in there last week and out of interest looked at the mag for the year we moved to BETCHWORTH, 1987, just before the Great Storm. My eye was drawn to the competitors in the Annual Tennis Tournament and was surprised to see that I recognised practically all the names, and many of them are still competing!

A group of Parishioners have always run the collating of articles, editing, publishing and delivering the magazine on a voluntary basis. Printing has always been done by an outside firm.

The magazine's aim is to give information to and about the whole village. As well as Church matters we report on village activities such as the Parish Council, WI, North Downs Primary School and the Betchworth and Buckland Society. It also embraces any local, non-political, news, events and activities that it is felt might be of interest to the readers. The magazine is delivered to every house in the parish by an invaluable team of 32 people headed by Susie Redburn.

We are always delighted to receive articles, including photos if relevant, which would be of interest to parishioners.

Articles for the magazine now arrive almost exclusively by email to betchworthmag@hotmail.com, although Debbie at the Betchworth Post Office will take articles in printed form and pass them on to us.

We also will publish appropriate small ads from parishioners at a nominal cost for a limited number of issues, proceeds going to church funds. There is still a waiting list for commercial advertisers, which is always a good thing.

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Ros Rokison heads the team of three editors me and Tim Warren (who has recently joined us on the editorial board). We have the task of collating, editing and sometimes retyping all the various articles. Our thanks go to Joan Bird who has stepped down as an editor after several years of loyal service.

The Desk Top Publishers are given the edited articles and it is then their job to put them all into the magazine template. This can be a lengthy process as articles have to fit exactly into the correct number of pages. This work is done by Ros Rokison, Alison Higgins, and John Scotcher. The magazine continues to be very professional in its construction and production.

If anyone is interested in joining the team we would be delighted to hear from you. We would be particularly interested to hear from anyone who would like to join the team of desktop publishers. The more people involved in the production of the magazine the easier it is and the more fun for everyone involved. Not only are we the first to know about what is going on in the village but, if it weren't for editing the mag, the only thing I would do on my computer would be emails. I have learnt so much. Training will be given if anyone is interested in joining us.

Betchworth Village War Memorial Hall

Linda Slater gave the following report on behalf of Jean Hurman:

This has been another successful year although revenue is slightly down on 2017. The year started well but we had four cancellations due to the threat of snow, three rebooked but we had to give a refund to the fourth.

We are popular with mums for childrens' parties although these drop off in the summer with better weather, who wants to be indoors when the sun shines?

Our second art class on Wednesday and some Saturdays have now booked dates into 2019. The ever popular Pilates class continues two days a week and the Thursday art class continues to be booked.

I am pleased to say that the delightful Mulberry Music Club is also continuing with regular sessions and the Back Club is also a regular booking.

We have a new user, Melodies for Memories, which encourages Alzheimer sufferers and their carers to meet and sing along to piano music.

The City and Guilds class joined us in October and will continue until July.

It is very rewarding to see the hall is being well used and we have substantial bookings for 2018 and into 2019.

The overhead projector gave some trouble and was replaced under warranty hopefully to give greater reliability than the original projector.

The hall floor had a re-coat during the Christmas break and the hall has been painted in traditional red to reflect the red poppies as appropriate for a memorial hall. The village china storage has worked well and continues to be used.

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The committee are currently looking at further improvements to the hall and its surroundings. These will be confirmed when decisions have been made. If anybody has a suggestion for improvements please do not hesitate to contact myself or any other committee member.

Betchworth Sand Quarry, J&J Franks

The Clerk read the following report on behalf of Peter Crate

Betchworth Sand Quarry has been operational since the 1940's when I understand it was opened to provide sand bags for the war. We the current operator J & J Franks was purchased by the Crate family in 1963 and 4 generations of Crate's have now worked the Quarry.

The Villagers will no doubt be interested to hear that the reserves of Sand at Betchworth were exhausted in March this year and the Company has transferred its customers to their vast new Quarry in Nuffield, Redhill.

In the Application and Consent to work the Common Field the Company had intended to work the mineral until 2020 but increasing demand and desire to minimise our impact locally in the village has enabled us to complete sand extraction two years early. Furthermore the replacement of soils on Phase 1 , nearest to the school path , was also completed ahead of schedule.

We now need to reinstate the remaining phase of the Common Field and the remaining land North of the Old Reigate Road. The Consented timetable requires that work in the Common Field is completed by 2022 and the area north of the Old Reigate Road be completed by the end of 2024. These works will continue the current trend of speeding up our activities and we are aiming to similarly complete well before the end date.

Whilst we are saddened that the lifelong operations (almost 80 years) of sand extraction at Betchworth has come to an end we hope that it is perceived that we did try to work with the local community. We are aware and acknowledge that our operations were not welcome but trust our efforts to mitigate our presence did give some comfort.

We will continue our restoration efforts in the same vein.

Brockham Green Horticultural Society

Karen Wilson (Chairman of the BGHS) gave the following report:

The Horticultural Society for our three villages of Betchworth, Brockham and Buckland, continues to thrive. Our two community projects have been very successful; the Fortune bulb planting project and The North Downs Primary School allotment project (which we have supported with funding, which was then matched by the Parish Council). Mary Rode, who spearheaded the allotment project and who is now a Society committee member, gave a wonderful account their first season on the allotment at the Society's AGM. It was accompanied by delightful photographs of the children at work, not just growing and tending, but also cooking their produce and using the allotment for maths! Over 200 children visited and used the site and the school received the Surrey Healthy Schools Award (Silver Level)

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with the assessor commenting that it was: "A well planned and exciting project to promote healthy eating and physical activity through the adoption of a school allotment. Your work to include the whole school community and wider area across 3 sites is impressive."

Children were very much in evidence at our Autumn Show too and our new Show Secretary was almost (but not quite!) overwhelmed by the number of children's entries, especially from the North Downs Primary School. New classes have been put in the schedule this year, with a return of the Children's Group classes.

The Fortune Project culminated in autumn bulb planting sessions in the three villages. These sessions were undertaken with much enthusiasm and good humour and the results were a delight this Spring. Further planting of cowslips and primroses took place in Buckland last weekend and we hope that all the bulbs and plants will spread in future years.

Our plant sale last year, organised by our vice-chairman, Mike Alford, raised £218.55 but sadly it was to be his last. Mike died suddenly last July and we lost someone who gave unfailing support to the Society in so many practical ways. We remember Mike for this and for his legendary sense of humour which enlivened our committee meetings (and our email correspondence!) as well as for his kindness and his sense of commitment. We miss him still.

Our winter talks have been well attended, particularly the last talk and we are already planning next year's programme.

Our membership has increased, largely due the efforts of our Membership Secretary, Linda Dunn. But unfortunately for us, Linda has decided to hang up her hat after 10 years in the role so we are looking for a new Membership Secretary (or two – the job could be divided). If anyone is interested, please do let myself or Linda know – there is absolutely no commitment or obligation attached to a casual enquiry!

Our plant sale this year will be held outside Brockham House on Sunday 20th May between 2-4pm. We hope that you will come and buy by the wheelbarrow load!

Buckland & Betchworth Choral Society

Margaret Miller gave the following report:

In making this report, the Choral Society is still revelling in having been an integral part of one of the most memorable concerts in living memory at the Leith Hill Musical Festival: a performance of Will Todd's Mass in Blue, conducted by Jonathan Willcocks and accompanied by Will's jazz ensemble. In truth, in competitive terms, we were not as successful as in recent years, but for sheer enjoyment we cannot think how the 2018 event can be surpassed. It was indeed a privilege for everybody in BBCS to be an integral part and made all the Wednesday evening rehearsals at the Village Hall worthwhile. Singing is huge fun and allows you to get to know so many wonderful people. We would love to welcome even more people from the two villages to our Wednesday evening get together.

Talking of which, come and join us for what looks to be a tremendous summer term. Following on from the great fun we had last June in London, we have been invited back by the Voices of London Festival to take part in the Gala Concert in St James's Paddington on June 30th. A fantastic programme that focuses on the sea, a mixture of modern and traditional with Ahoy by a living composer, Alexander L'Estrange and the Nelson Mass by Papa Haydn. If you look carefully, you'll see him hiding in the bass section on our summer publicity leaflet!

Another element of our year has been our commitment to supporting the important work of Betchworth's Broome Park, both in entertaining the residents in their summer festivities and in raising valuable funds at our Christmas concert.

In November, our autumn concert coincided with Armistice Day, and our conductor, Helen Smee, put together an appropriately reflective programme for the event in St Mark's Church, Reigate, including Faure's Requiem, so beloved by all singers.

BBCS is renowned as being a warm, welcoming and sociable group of people and we love getting together outside of the hard work of rehearsals. Once a month we go down to the Red Lion to socialise and this year we held another fun-filled quiz night and a musical soirée where a number of lights were uncovered from under various bushels. There are so many other things we do and I could tell you about, but time does not permit. Can I just end by asking you all to spread the message about the two villages' Choral Society? Anybody in BBCS will tell you, you never go home without your spirits having been lifted and having experienced a huge sense of well-being.

Our 2018/19 seasons begins on Wednesday 5th September and all are welcome then or whenever they come back from holiday. Our music for the 2019 Leith Hill Festival includes Haydn's Creation and Bach's Magnificat – two amazing works; we have been very lucky in what we've been given. Thank You.

Family Activities for Betchworth & Buckland (FABB formerly Children's Holiday Activities)

Julie Hardy read the following report on behalf of Catriona Martin (Chairman):

FABB have had another busy year with record turnouts at summer and Christmas events.

Easter 2017

We started the year with our annual Easter egg hunt and spring crafts. We hired The Hamilton rooms to welcome back our Easter egg explorers after their egg hunt with a variety of crafts and refreshments.

Summer 2017

As attendance over the summer holidays can be unpredictable, we decided to hold an early summer 'get together'. We joined forces with The Betchworth & Buckland Society and combined a circus skills event with their annual summer BBQ on Goulburn Green. A circus coach delighted children and parents alike with a short display followed by coaching in plate spinning, juggling and many other traditional

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circus skills. Sadly, our risk assessment drew the line at fire eating! After a thrilling couple of hours, we all joined in with the delicious BBQ.

We were able to attract some new families and also persuade them to join the B&B Society. Everyone agreed it was a very successful event and we are looking to attach some children 's entertainment to this year's BBQ on 1st July.

During the holidays we all acquired some more skills at The Nower woodland in Dorking where we picked up some essential skills in fire lighting (under strict supervision) and marshmallow toasting at a bush camp taster morning.

Christmas 2017

Given the success of previous years, we held our third Christmas disco at The Reading Rooms. Tickets were sold out in days and again we welcomed a few new families, two of whom have volunteered to help with future events on the FABB committee.

Thanks

We would like to thank The Betchworth Parish Council for their ongoing support. We would also like to give particular thanks to The Betchworth & Buckland Society and its members for voting some Diamond Donations funding to us for 2018 enabling us to purchase our own separate public liability cover for our events. Finally, I would like to thank all the mums on our committee and local helpers for their hard work in keeping FABB going for another year.

Walled Garden Residents Association

Councillor Hilary Edwards (Chair of the WGRA) read the following report:

The main function of the WGRA is to manage the communal areas within the Walled Garden itself – these consist mainly of the garden and lawned areas, as well as the road surfaces.

There isn't really a lot to report – life is fairly sedate in the walled garden!

One of the residents works with our gardener to maintain the gardens throughout the year, and occasionally we have to repair the odd pot hole which appear on the internal road. Last year we arranged to have all of the white wooden entrance gates repaired and painted, which we probably need to do every 2 years.

The issue of parking in our approach road continues, but is now much less of a problem as more parents from the school do use the common field to park - when the weather is dry at least.

Last year we placed some stones on the bend opposite the WG entrance to deter parking on the corner so that the refuse trucks and farm vehicles would have enough space to drive through. We do still occasionally end up with tyre marks on the lawned area where a vehicle has had to squeeze through, but the stones do seem to help. And that is about as exciting as it gets!

Mulberry Bush Music

Councillor Julie Hardy gave the following report:

Sarah Pearson and I have been running Mulberry Bush Music for 7 years. We meet at 9.30 on Tuesday mornings in the Geoffrey Browne room of the village hall where we have a number of toddlers and their carers come and join in with songs and rhymes. We have bells, shakers, tambourines and drums, and some of our themes include dressing up. There are a dozen or so of these themes such as 'Moving', 'Time and Weather' and 'Special People' and the songs and rhymes fit the themes. A busy and noisy hour seems to be enjoyed by all!

North Downs School

The Clerk read out the following report on behalf of Jane Douglass (Headteacher):

This has been another very successful year for North Downs Primary School. We continue to have one Reception class at Betchworth and two single age classes at Leigh – a year 1 class and a year 2 class. We are almost full to capacity and early information indicates that our two Reception classes will be full for this coming September. We are very conscious of the challenges presented by being on three sites and seek every opportunity to ensure that the whole school spends some time on our Brockham site at least once a term. In addition, the Reception children at Betchworth visit this site at Leigh during the summer term in preparation for their transfer in September and the year 2 children here will spend time at Brockham next term.

In February this year we were inspected by Ofsted who judged that the school continues to be 'Good' with Ofsted reporting that *'The leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection and that ...a clear vision for improving the school...is shared by governors and staff at all levels.'* Their *'visits to classrooms were overwhelmingly positive and confirmed (our) view that pupils behave well and have good attitudes to learning.'* The Ofsted report also referenced the quality of teaching and the curriculum several times throughout, stating *'Pupils are positive about what they learn and the way teachers make learning enjoyable.'* Also, that *'...pupils have many meaningful experiences to develop their English and mathematical skills across the wider curriculum'*. This was a well-deserved Good judgement that acknowledged the hard work and progress made by all staff and Governors and our wonderful pupils.

Now what next? Our future priorities for the school focus on continuing to develop our curriculum particularly that of outdoor learning, and we have recently installed some new outdoor equipment to support this, at each of our sites. In addition, we will continue to work with parents and residents regarding parking and congestion at each of our sites. We have written to parents many times over the last few months and it is a one of the main areas of discussion for our parent focus group. We are very keen to work with the local residents and parents to find a solution to this ongoing issue. We very much value being part of each of our village communities and are committed to minimising any disruption to the residents and also to ensuring the safety of our young people.

Pebblecoombe Women's Institute.

Margaret Miller gave the following report:

Pebblecoombe WI has continued through-out 2017 to be a warm, welcoming and friendly WI held in The Hamilton Room, on the 1st Thursday evening each month. January is now traditionally a time to share a fish and chip supper, and catch-up on

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the family events of Christmas. Being Mums, Grandmothers and those responsible for the catering, this is a time for us to sit back and be served. Thanks to the Fish Bar in Dorking.

Other months we have invited speakers, regaling us with the joys of cooking beans and pulses with various spices, lavender and it's beneficial properties, and the intricacies of predicting the totally unpredictable Weather. We have also heard of a fairly new Charity, the Coco Foundation, started by a hairdresser from Crawley, who heard of the difficulties children with HIV have, in Southern Africa. He organises groups of young people, who raise funds and travel to villages to help build houses and schools, then provides shoes for the children, to enable them to attend school.

Food is a great part of our WI, in March we held our Annual Dinner, in May we embarked on a Mystery coach tour, calling at the Pub at Wisley for supper, we produced goodies for Teas on the Green, in August we enjoyed a barbecue, courtesy of Rhona Hill assisted by Anne and Reg Smith, before we held a Christmas party in early December. We miss Rhona, who had been a member, Treasurer with Gordon's help, Secretary and President numerous times in her over 30 years membership. Sadly she was unable to come to the meetings towards the end of last year, and passed away in January.

2018 is the Centenary of the founding of the Surrey Federation of WIs, although Betchworth WI was founded prior to this, and provided the first Federation Chairman. Each WI was asked to produce a short history and an illustration of their WI. Thanks to the resources found in the old Parish magazines in the Meg Ryan Room, we were able to write the history of the WI in Betchworth Village and also produce a collage of old photos, including Teas on the Green, and the Alternative Christmas Tree festival. Various special activities are taking place this year, which I will tell you about next year.

Now to the publicity: Pebblecombe WI is again holding Teas on the Green on Sunday 3rd June, from 2 to 5pm. The usual home-made cakes, sausage rolls and cream teas will be on offer, so please come and join us.

Thank you.

St Michael's Church/PCC

The following report was given by Linda Slater, Church Warden.

Every church year is busy and one festival seems to be closely followed by another, or is that just a sign of age? But every year brings its own delights and new ideas. Last year we held the first safari supper in the village which was a huge success both socially and in terms of fundraising and following on from the success of our Alternative Christmas Tree Festival we held our second one. We know that the knitted tree was a tad controversial but what better recycling can you get than the knitted squares being used for blankets for refugees. We are also delighted that the quality of our organ continues to attract highly regard organists allowing us to hold two organ concerts last year.

In the ecclesiastical calendar although Lent reflects a period of reflection and abstinence it also provides an opportunity for us to meet together for our Lent lunches which raise money for the bishop's Lent call. This year it supported a variety of charities within the diocese and in Zimbabwe. The harvest lunch in September was memorable for its dog show and tug of war - and people realising that they're not as young as they thought.

Our monthly drop in teas continue to be popular and has allowed us to strengthen our relationship with Broome Park Nursing Home and we know that this was also a popular social event for Rhona Hill, our electoral roll officer, WI stalwart and a much loved member of St Michael's and the village. Her death last year touched many. We continue to be a busy church for significant life events with a total of 15 baptisms, 12 weddings and 1 wedding blessing and 9 funerals with an additional 3 services at the crematorium and we have learned that this is often greater than many town churches

At the end of the year our incredibly hard working Rector, Carol Coslett announced her promotion to Archdeacon of the Diocese of Chesterfield and at the start of 2018 we entered a period of interregnum as we seek her replacement.

As ever, we are hugely appreciative of the hard work and support of a huge number of volunteers who enable us to open the church every day - and lock it up! - clean it, arrange flowers, ring bells and do so many other things, seen and unseen. Without them, St Michael's would be quite a different place.

Linda Slater, Church Warden

The Hamilton Room

Robert Hamilton gave the following report on behalf of David Hill, Treasurer

The small hall in Church Street (officially the Betchworth Community Room Trust) was set up in 1991 by the Goulburn Estate for the use of the local community and church. It also contains the Meg Ryan Room, devoted to local history.

The room has a dozen or so committed users who hire it for meetings or other activities every week. These users provide the majority of the room's income and usage. As a result there are relatively few slots taken by occasional bookings. The regular bookers include groups like beading and yoga, which seem to be very popular. Another well attended booking continues to be the "Drop-in-Teas" on Wednesday afternoons.

St Michael's Church is another very regular and welcome user of the room for its meetings and events. It is also used by the Sunday School club as well as during weddings.

A small but important function of the room is to be Betchworth's polling station during elections.

The archives in the Meg Ryan Room, run by Karen Wilson and Jane Le Cluse, are a very important part of the Hamilton Room. Some income from the room bookings is used to support and develop the archives. This year Karen and Jane have seen a marked increase in visitors to the archives and have supported them in their research as well helping them to access the resources. They have also dealt with email and phone enquiries, which usually relate to family history. They are continuing to catalogue photographs and documents as well as indexing the parish magazines.

This year's exhibition, to be held later in the year, will feature 'Trades and Services' in Betchworth.

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We are grateful to those who help run the room on a day-to-day basis, in particular Graham Williams and David Hill. We also pay tribute and fond remembrance to David's parents, Gordon and Rhona, who were tireless supporters of the room.

We thank the regular users for the respect and care with which they use the room. It is left tidy and the few rules and regulations are well observed. Most importantly the room is a valuable resource for the Betchworth community and is appreciated and enjoyed by all its users.

Goulburn Cup Tennis Tournament

Eiluned Slot gave the following report:

THE GOULBURN CUP

1. Most important news. The Kerven family organised the groups in 2017 and are willing to do so again.
2. The tournament began on the first wet tournament Saturday for many years. No matches were played after lunch, but all the Saturday matches were finished on Sunday morning.
3. Undaunted, the Winters and Hardys still provided lunch and evening barbecue on the Saturday in the rain. A big Thank You to them.
4. There were only just enough players entered to make the groups viable.
5. Please look out for more players and ball boys/girls.
6. The whole weekend continues to be a great village event and deserves to be well supported.

9. ADDRESS BY SURREY COUNTY COUNCILLOR HELYN CLACK

Councillor Helyn Clack (County Councillor for Dorking Rural Including the villages of Brockham, Betchworth and Buckland, Capel, Leigh and Newdigate, Charlwood and Hookwood, Beare Green and Ockley delivered the following address:

Firstly, I would like to thank the Parish Councillors, Parish Clerk and District Councillors as well as other residents who I work with and do so much to improve services in our villages.

I was pleased to have been re-elected with an increased majority in May 2017 and would like to thank residents for continuing to support me as their County Councillor. I will work hard to repay their trust and support and ensure that resident's voices are heard at County Hall and resident's needs are at the heart of the work that I do.

The Leader of the County Councillor reaffirmed his confidence in my appointment after the County elections as a member of his Cabinet for a further year as Cabinet as Member for Health. The key to this role is to further engage integration of County Council's social care responsibilities with NHS local commissioning and to hold the Public Health Budget responsibility which is a ring-fenced grant of £35,000,000.

We were pleased to see that the Surrey Heartlands STP (sustainable transformation partnership) was given permission by the Department of Health and

the Department of Local Government to set up in shadow form, devolution of budget in July 2017 after the General Election. In April 2018, this went 'live' with a new Joint Committee, pooled budgets and transformation funding for joint decision making on local health priorities. This is only the second area in the country after Manchester to achieve devolution and I am very pleased to be Chairman of the Joint Committee

I have also continued, over the last year, to Co-Chair the County wide Health and Wellbeing Committee which oversees the production of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Health strategy for the population – more information can be found here about the work of the HWB Committee <https://www.healthysurrey.org.uk/>

I represent residents and the County Council at the GNMB (Gatwick Noise Management Board), alternate member for GATCOM (Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee). I have grave concerns over the changes happening at Gatwick regarding flight paths and the impact that this had on residents. I continue to work with Sir Paul Beresford our Member of Parliament on this and the shadow threat of a second runway at the airport which would have a huge impact on our rural way of life. I am also a member of the Surrey Wildlife Trust Partnership Board and continue to speak up and defend our countryside and greenbelt. I am Member and Chair of the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Plan European Social and Infrastructure Fund which oversees the allocation of EU funding towards innovation and skills in our economy and I am the President of PURPLE (peri-urban platform in the EU) which lobbies for more awareness of infrastructure needs as a result of growth in rural areas such as public transport, superfast broadband, schools and health.

In my role as Cabinet Member for Health I attend NHS meetings with regards to two other STPs which affect Surrey Residents, the Frimley Alliance and The Sussex and East Surrey Alliance. I am a governor at East Surrey Hospital and attend meetings of the chairs of East Surrey Community Health providers.

As part of the County Council Cabinet and working with the Leader we have appointed a new Chief Executive of the County Council – Ms Joanna Killian and a new Children's Director Mr Dave Hill. There will be further changes at the top of the County Council's Director team which will be announced in due course. The County Council has expressed gratitude to Dr David McNulty of his service as Chief Executive since 2010 and wished him a happy retirement.

Our County Council budget set for 2018/2019 continues to be challenging, some of these I outline below:

- Since 2011 the number of people supported for their learning disabilities has increased by 1,187 to a total of 3,760 (a 46% increase) the highest for any council;
- the population of children (who require school places) has increased by 9% to 142,208;
- the number of children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan has risen by 2,342 to 7,700 (a 44% increase);

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- the council supports 116 unaccompanied asylum seeking children and 228 care leaver asylum seeking children, which are among the highest numbers in the country;
- the number of older people supported has risen by 841 to 9,822 (a 9% increase);
- the county's roads experience significantly higher use than for England and the South East, which places significant demands for the Highways Service to respond to; and
- the Government's core funding for the council has reduced by over £200m

The recent sharp decline in the council's grant funding is due to the Government reducing its funding to local government and changing its main method to distribute funding nationally.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me should you have any question - my thanks again to the Parish Council, the District Council and to residents for all their assistance in working with the County council, making Betchworth such a wonderful place to live.

Helyn Clack

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.54 pm.