

## **BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the **MEETING** of the **BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL** held on **MONDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2019**, at 8pm in the Hamilton Room.

Present: Cllrs Hardy (Chair), Rogers, Winter, Edwards, Higgins, Wilson and Clerk (Marion Hallett). District Councillor Simon Budd, The Footpaths Officer (FO) and Burialground Caretaker attended part of the meeting.

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

(371) No apologies were received.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

(372) No Declarations of Interest were received.

### **3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.**

(373) The minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019 were approved and signed by Councillor Hardy as a true and correct record.

(374) Two minor amendments to the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019 were acknowledged; these being i. amendment to page numbers starting at P39 – P42, and ii. inclusion of payment IB00160 to HMRC Cumbernauld for £26.16.

### **4. COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT.**

(375) The monthly police report was presented to Councillors.

(376) Councillors discussed 'Beat Bulletin' online police publication currently circulated by BERT, and agreed that the Clerk should also circulate this via Parish email.

### **5. OPEN FORUM.**

(377) No matters were raised.

### **6. TRANSPORT HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS**

(378) Footpaths Officer (FO) delivered his monthly report. In summary; two fly-tipping incidents reported and promptly cleared; mixed concrete/building materials dumped on Wonham Lane – Clerk to notify owner of adjacent property. Preparations underway for litterpick in conjunction with Great British Spring Clean on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April. Lectern cleaned and oiled & new text printed & triple-laminated & repositioned nearer brick wall to avoid potential further damage. Broken finger-post on Wellhouse Lane repaired with heavy duty cable ties. Two small fallen trees cut down and removed. Litter-pick posters displayed around village. Play equipment checked on 10<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and remains fit for purpose.

(379) Councillors discussed a substantial amount of debris left on the farmer's field by UKPN following the installation of the new substation. Clerk to contact The Betchworth Estate to request its removal, and also to request replacement railings following damage to the concrete posts & metal rail caused by construction vehicles.

(380) Councillors discussed litter continuing to be a problem on Pebble Hill. Councillor Budd reported he had discussed using the services of the Community Payback Scheme with Cllr Wilshire (Cabinet Member for the Environment) at MVDC. Clerk to follow up with Cllr Budd and also County Councillor Helyn Clack to enquire about use of The Sweeper.

(381) 8.17pm FO left the meeting.

(382) Cllr Hardy communicated a recent complaint from a resident of Pebble Hill regarding a build-up of silt and mud in the middle of Station Road and around drains. Clerk had reported problem to MVDC and clearance had commenced. Councillors discussed using the Council Sweeper to clear further debris. Clerk to follow up and thank MVDC representative for swift action thus far.

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(383) Councillor Wilson provided an update from a recent BARRI (Betchworth and Reigate Rail Initiative) meeting. Cllr Wilson highlighted a discussion for the need for Reigate to lengthen the platform to accommodate 12-carriage trains and also to accommodate an increase in trains per hour from two to three, however congestion backing up at level crossings continues to be a problem and increasing the number of trains per hour, as well as increasing barrier 'down time' (currently 3 minutes) will exacerbate this. Councillors suggested relocating the signal box would likely reduce timing for barriers down however it was understood that this had been mentioned at the BARRI meeting and attendees were told by FGW it was 'not cost effective' to move one box. Councillors agreed despite this initial response that this option should not be ignored and pursued if possible. Cllr Winter agreed to act as Cllr Wilson's deputy for this project for the time being.

(384) 8.26pm Burialground Caretaker arrived.

## **7. PLANNING.**

### **New Applications & Appeals (1)**

MO/2019/0153

Betchworth House, The Street, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AE

Replace existing low head hydro electric plant w/ Archimedean Screw hydro plant.

NO COMMENT

### **Appeals (0)**

### **Late Applications (0)**

### **Results (3)**

MO/2018/2086

The Evergreens, Reigate Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DB Application for an existing Certificate of Lawfulness in respect of breach of condition 3 of approved MO/2003/1500/CU limiting occupancy of a caravan to named persons only, which has not been complied with for a period of more than 10 years.

REFUSED

MO/2019/0066

Parrs Corner, Old Reigate Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DE

Demolition of conservatory and erection of a two storey rear extension.

APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

MO/2019/0216

1 Pine Villas, Old Kiln Lane, Brockham, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7LY

Erect two storey side extension and single storey rear extension.

APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

### **Late Results (0)**

### **Other Matters**

(385) Following the decision by MVDC to refuse permission for MO/2018/2086, Councillors requested that MVDC enforcement officers undertake a formal site visit to ascertain current occupancy and also to understand whether there are any current breaches to existing conditions.

## **8. AMENITIES**

(386) Memorial for Luff approved.

(387) Memorial for Edwards approved.

(388) Councillors requested to Burialground Caretaker that materials/an accurate description of stone is included on all gravestone applications.

## **9. COMMUNITY**

(389) 8.45pm District Councillor Simon Budd arrived.

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(390) Councillors agreed to support the Rural Services Network 'Rural Strategy' campaign and to complete The Rural Strategy online survey.

(391) Councillors discussed the CPRE Deposit/Return recycling and agreed to support this campaign, currently in consultation phase with the Government.

(392) Councillors discussed the need for improved anti-dog fouling signage for the Burialground and Goulburn Green. Cllr Wilson to research and deliver options at next PC meeting.

(393) District Cllr Budd raised the matter of litter and mud/silt on Pebble Hill and agreed to pursue enquiries for an MVDC sweeper and team to clear mess and litter.

(394) Councillors asked for a schedule for drain clearance for Betchworth, although it was noted that this work is more likely to be carried out on a demand basis.

(395) Councillors received an invitation to a 'Discover Gatwick' event, however little interest was shown and Councillors declined the invitation to attend.

(396) Councillors discussed the requirement for there to be two Parish Councillor representatives on the MVDC Standards Committee. Councillors were happy with the existing arrangement for prospective nominations and agreed that a representative from Betchworth would not be necessary. Clerk to respond to MVDC.

(397) Councillor Wilson queried the requirement for keys to the Goulburn Green water tap and agreed to get two spare keys cut.

## 10. COMMUNICATIONS/IT.

### 11. CLERK'S REPORT.

(398) Clerk reported from the bi-monthly MVDC Clerk meeting, that a member from the Local Committee would now be present at the Clerk meetings to assist as an intermediary/link between Parish Councils/MVDC and Surrey County Council.

(399) Clerk will circulate information for Councillors during pre-election period.

(400) Planning representative informed release of 'Draft Plan' to be published on 24<sup>th</sup> June, to include proposed traveller sites.

(401) Clerk displayed 'Surrey Prepared' literature containing advice for the elderly and vulnerable and how carers and family can be reached in case of an emergency.

### 13. FINANCE.

(402) The year end financial summary was presented to Councillors and Clerk reported that year end accounts had been reconciled with no outstanding payments.

(403) Clerk informed Councillors of increase of £3.00 per month from Shires Payroll Services to cover GDPR requirements (quarterly fee increase from £24 to £33 as from 1 April 2019).

(404) Monies received were noted; £476.28 VAT refund, £415, Burial Ground (Soulsby), £1100 (Hulme).

(405) Councillor Hardy reported to those present that The Betchworth and Buckland Society had awarded a £200 gift to The Hamilton Room in order to purchase a drop-down projector screen, following its nomination by The Parish Council.

(406) Councillors Rogers and Wilson approved the following accounts for payment, and made reference to IB00174 which had not appeared on the agenda circulated:

IB00169	Hamilton Room	£	20.00
IB00170	M Hallett (Mar 19) Salary, phone, expenses	£	940.13
IB00171	HMRC Cumbernauld	£	67.62
IB00172	SALC Subscription	£	337.04
IB00173	J & J Foreman	£	81.32
IB00174	D Elliott	£	375.75

## 14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

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**15. FUTURE MEETING DATES.**

Next Parish Council Meetings –13<sup>th</sup> May '19 (Annual General Meeting), 3<sup>rd</sup> June '19,  
3<sup>rd</sup> April - North Downs Line Steering Group Meeting  
3<sup>rd</sup> April - Police Briefing - CR  
13<sup>th</sup> April - Village Litterpick  
2<sup>nd</sup> May - District and Parish Elections  
24<sup>th</sup> May - Internal Audit - Clerk  
9<sup>th</sup> June - WI Teas on The Green

**Parish Magazine Article for April 2019, deadline Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

Parish Magazine Article subject for April: APM review, Surrey Prepared literature.

(407) Councillor Hardy closed the meeting at 9.37pm

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