

BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL held on MONDAY 13TH MAY 2019, at 8pm in the Hamilton Room.

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

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMEN.

(1) Ian Wilson proposed and Ed Winter seconded Julie Hardy as Chair for the coming year. Julie Hardy proposed and Ian Wilson seconded Ed Winter as Vice Chair for the coming year. Martin Higgins was co-opted as Councillor. One vacancy remains on the Parish Council.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE.

(2) The Chairman and Vice-Chairman signed the appropriate acceptance of office forms, witnessed by the Clerk, as did Martin Higgins.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

(3) No apologies were received.

4. ELECTION OF GROUPS.

(4) The Finance Group comprises Councillors Hardy, Winter, Wilson, Rogers, Clerk, and Bernard Hawkins.

(5) Councillors agreed no representative was required for the Betchworth and Buckland Society.

(6) Councillor Higgins will be the representative for Betchworth United Charities.

(7) Councillor Wilson will be the representative for the Village Memorial Hall Committee.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

(8) There were no Declarations of Interest recorded at this meeting.

6. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

(9) The minutes of the meeting held on 1st April 2019 were approved and signed by Councillor Hardy as a true and correct record.

7. COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT.

(10) The monthly police report was presented to Councillors, which was brief and did not highlight any major concerns.

(11) Councillor Edward provided a brief verbal report following the MV Rural Crime Meeting attended on the 8th May; noting

- Gavin Stephens is the new Head of Surrey Police;
- Simon Budd is the new chair of the Rural Crime Engagement meetings
- Rural Policing days recently introduced to try to reduce rural crime although lack of resource continues to be a problem.
- Fly tipping continues to be a problem; new task force to be introduced in July; areas consistently used for fly tipping to report to asb@molevalley.gov.uk
- Owners of dogs without a collar and tag could be fined up to £5,000.
- Victims of burglaries must be vigilant in case of return visit following reimbursements.

8. OPEN FORUM.

(12) No matters were raised.

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9. TRANSPORT HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS.

(13) Footpaths Officer (FO) delivered his monthly report. In summary; a successful litterpick in conjunction with Great British Spring Clean took place on Saturday 13th April. Next year's 'spring' litterpick will be planned for March as too much growth by April. Continued dumping of garden waste in Sandy Lane is a problem; thought to be local gardener or resident – Clerk/FO to explore 'Bush Cameras' or alternative deterrent signage. Also major fly-tipping in Wellhouse Lane, reported and cleared. Local resident has instructed tree clearance on one side of Sandy Lane now completed; Clerk to meet with GM of Hartsfield Manor to discuss works on their side of road. Various wood selection acquired from David Hill's workshop to be used for footpath and step maintenance. Clerk to write to The Hills to thank them for offering their materials and to write to the Chairman of the Betchworth and Buckland Society to suggest the donation which they have offered (thought to be in the region of £200) is used towards groundworks/ levelling at the stile on The Chimney-pots walk (and possibly to replace the stile with a kissing gate). Other projects proposed would be the fingerpost beside the first gate on the path from Betchworth to Brockham, the raised path between Sandy Lane and The Dolphin on Wonham Lane, and also The 'Jacob's Ladder' steps, which are in Buckland. Play equipment checked on 11th, 19th and 30th April 2019 and remains fit for purpose. A loose handrail was tightened on the 19th.

(14) Following a meeting with UKPower Networks, The Estate and Clerk, it has been agreed to remove the broken 'Heritage' sign (and re-use where possible) and also remove the relatively new signpost at the bottom of the School Path and replace these two signposts with one signpost, fingers to read: 1. Public Footpath & School; 2. Public Bridleway; 3. St Michael's Church & Car Park. Councillors agreed routing should be present on both sides of all fingers. Clerk to proceed with instruction once a revised quote is received for routing on both sides of fingers and written confirmation of approval has been received from UKPN for reimbursement.

(15) Councillor Hardy confirmed that a three-sided hedge is planned for the surrounds of the UKPN 'box' which will be planted in autumn.

(16) 8.35 Burialground Caretaker Bernard Hawkins arrived.

(17) Councillors acknowledged correspondence from The Betchworth and Buckland Society suggesting a reduction in speed limit to 30mph along Wellhouse Lane and Wonham Lane; no further definitive action was agreed.

(18) Councillors acknowledged two letters from residents highlighting extremely dangerous driving and in some instances racing around Wonham Lane, Snowerhill and Gadbrook

(19) 8.45 District Councillor Paul Potter and Simon Budd arrived.

(20) Acknowledging the B&B Society request, Councillor Winter confirmed that he had also witnessed dangerous driving behaviour along these roads and agreed this should be addressed, primarily with those who had made complaints to the PC, and that they should report behaviour to the Police. Clerk to also inform Police and invite a representative to attend the next PC meeting on June 3rd 2019 in order to discuss this matter further.

(21) Clerk to follow up with Police regarding historic request for traffic survey on The Street, Old Reigate Road and Wonham Lane.

(22) Councillors discussed Gatwick Route 4 Consultation Participation and Councillor Wilson agreed to respond on behalf of The Parish Council, and be main point of contact in this instance. It was acknowledged that The Parish Council response would be submitted past the stated deadline but that a response would be worth submitting nevertheless.

(23) Clerk to write to JJFranks to request clearance of mud on road thought to be from lorry wheels.

10. PLANNING.

New Applications & Appeals (5)

Shell Garage, Reigate Road, Buckland RH3 7ET

24 hour opening/alcohol and hot food License Applications

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- (24) COMMENT PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED; Clerk also communicated a note from Agents requesting withdrawal of representation to enable progress with License application following Shell's apparent decision to curtail licensing hours to between 6pm and 11am. Councillors agreed not to withdraw its representation.

MO/2019/0576

Homeland, Roothill Lane, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AS

Certificate of Lawfulness for a proposed development in respect of the stationing of a mobile home/granny annexe for use incidental to main dwelling.

NO COMMENT

MO/2018/1848

Buckland Garage, Reigate Road, Buckland, Betchworth, Surrey, 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.

COMMENT PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED

MO/2019/0491

Apple Cottage, Gadbrook Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AH

Erection of a two storey side extension following demolition of existing conservatory.

NO COMMENT

MO/2019/0698/PLAH

Waters Edge, The Street, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DJ

Enclose and enlarge existing open sided loggia to create toilet and storage space.

NO COMMENT

Appeals (0)

Late Applications (0)

Results (5)

MO/2019/0215

The Gardens, Church Street, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DN

Remove one Leyland Cypress tree by reducing its height from 12m to approximately 1.8 metres height.

NO OBJECTION

MO/2019/0234

Cotterstock Lea, Wheelers Lane, Brockham, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7HJ

Retrospective application for the retention of a converted outbuilding to provide accommodation ancillary to the existing dwelling.

APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

MO/2019/0233

Crossways Farm, Station Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DF Demolition of an existing outbuilding and erection of a new outbuilding for use as an animal hydrotherapy facility (Use Class Sui Generis) with staff accommodation above. Relocation of existing office outbuilding

WITHDRAWN

MO/2019/0327

The Old Vicarage, Old Reigate Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DE

Insertion of 1 No. dormer window to west roof elevation; 1 No. dormer window to east elevation; 1 roof light to north roof elevation and replacement of 1 No. roof light to south roof elevation.

APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

MO/2019/0274

3 More Place Cottages, Wonham Lane, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AD Certificate of Lawfulness for an existing use in respect of the use of the land to station a caravan/mobile home for use incidental to the main dwelling.

APPROVED

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Appeal Decisions (1)

MO/2018/1001

Bovey Cottage, Station Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DF

Erect 1 No. dwelling in rear garden of Bovey Cottage. Create new access and erect a single garage for April Cottage adjacent.

REFUSED (AND DISMISSED ON APPEAL)

Late Results (0)

Other Matters

(25) Councillor Hardy confirmed receipt of acknowledgement from MVDC regarding possible breach of condition at Evergreens and awaiting feedback from MVDC. Cllr Hardy also highlighted ongoing tree clearance works adjacent to the Evergreens (land thought to be recently acquired by the owners of Evergreens) and raised concern as to what this might be for. Clerk has written to MVDC to request this is investigated in conjunction with the existing enquiry. Awaiting feedback.

(26) An invitation to comment on a consultation regarding SCC's Statement of Community Involvement was received. Councillors agreed not to submit a comment on behalf of The Parish Council.

11. AMENITIES.

(27) Memorial for Innes approved.

(28) Memorial for Fries approved.

(29) Memorial for Waters approved on the condition that the stone is honed, not polished. Burialground Caretaker to follow up.

12. COMMUNITY.

(30) Councillor responsibilities were reviewed and agreed as follows:

Airports	Councillor Wilson, Councillor Winter
Allotments	Councillor Wilson
Betchworth United Charities	Councillor Higgins
Burial Ground & Pavilion	Bernard Hawkins (Caretaker), Councillor Wilson
Church	Councillor Higgins
Country watch	Councillors Edwards, Councillor Rogers
Community Resilience	Councillor Edwards, Councillor Rogers
Data Protection	Councillor Winter
Estate	Councillor Hardy
Finance Group	Councillors Hardy, Winter, Rogers, Wilson, Clerk, B Hawkins
Footpaths Officer	John Foreman
Goulburn Green	Councillor Edwards
Health	Councillor Hardy
Highways & Transport	Councillor Wilson
JJ Franks	Councillor Hardy
Planning	Councillor Higgins
Police	Councillor Rogers
School & Education	Councillor Hardy
Walled Garden	Councillor Edwards
Website	Councillor Edwards, Clerk
Village Memorial Hall Committee	Councillor Wilson

(31) Councillors acknowledged and approved a request from the Betchworth & Buckland Society to host its annual BBQ on Goulburn Green on the 30th June 2019, to be preceded by "Fire-eating and Bubbles" activities for families hosted by FABB. Clerk to remind FABB committee and B&B Society that they will require their own insurance for this event.

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(32) Clerk provided details on MVDC Councillors' Community Allocation Funding.

Councillors agreed not to apply for funding due to current substantial reserves.

(33) Councillors acknowledged that Bernard Hawkins should be listed as above as Burialground Caretaker. Cllr Higgins also commented that a long term plan should be drafted for the burialground in the event that at some time in the future every plot currently available will be occupied. Bernard Hawkins & Cllr Wilson to discuss and draft.

13. COMMUNICATIONS/IT.

14. CLERK'S REPORT.

(34) Clerk reported a security breach (website hacked) on 18th April 2019 and provided information to Councillors on cost of an SSL Certificate (additional security). Clerk to proceed with acquisition of SSL Certificate and Ignite hosting at £85+VAT per year.

15. FINANCE.

(35) The first financial summary for year 2019/20 was presented to Councillors. Clerk highlighted Burialground income already very high.

(36) Monies received noted as follows; 1st half precept (£6625) and Grant (£1382.50) Litterpick reimbursement Apr 19 (£30), Burialground: Soulsby (£415), Edwards (£275), Belton (£145), Luff (£220), Waters (£220) Fries (£145), Innes (£145) Clark (£2420). Allotments: (£122.50).

(37) Four Insurance quotes were received by Clerk. Councillors agreed to retain Zurich for 2019/2020, noting that there is no separate provision for Cyber insurance with this scheme.

The following amounts were approved for payment in May 2019.

IB00175	Hamilton Room	£	20.00
IB00176	M Hallett (Apr 19) Salary, phone, expenses	£	821.94
IB00177	HMRC Cumbernauld	£	27.98
IB00178	Bernard Hawkins	£	97.85
IB00179	D Elliott Gardening	£	605.70
IB00180	Ian Wilson	£	8.40

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

(38) District Councillor Potter raise the issue of a large number of NO2 canisters found dumped near the Common Field in Betchworth; some unused. Reported and pictures shown to police. Noted substance not illegal however antisocial behaviour is of utmost concern. Councillor Edwards to follow up with Police and seek advice on any steps which can be taken to curtail behaviour.

(39) Request to be sent to owner of allotment who is blocking the path with a water-but and likely allowing their dog to roam in the burial-ground. Cllr Wilson to make contact.

17. FUTURE MEETING DATES.

(40) Next Parish Council Meetings –3rd June '19, 1st July '19.

(41) Councillor Hardy proposed that there be no meeting in August 2019 but that planning applications continue to be monitored.

(42) Councillor Edwards to provide key for WI Teas on Goulburn Green, 9th June 2019.

15th May - Internal Audit – Clerk – moved from 24th

9th June - WI Teas on The Green

Parish Magazine Article for April 2019, deadline Monday 13th May 2019 (no article submitted).

(43) Councillor Hardy closed the meeting at 10.08pm

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