

## **BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the **MEETING** of the **BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL** held on **MONDAY 1st September 2014**, at 8pm in the Hamilton Room.

Present: Councillors Hardy, Savill, Stow, Higgins, Docwra, County Councillor Clack, the Footpaths Officer and the Clerk. PC Dom Lorraine and DI Richard Hamlin were present for part of the meeting. Peter Charman, agent for Moores Open Storage, Mr Moore and 4 local residents were also present for part of the meeting.

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

(193) Apologies were received from Councillor Taylor, Councillor Wilson and District Councillor Potter.

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

(194) The minutes of the meeting held on 4th August were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING**

(195) All matters arising were discussed in the appropriate item following.

### **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

(196) None.

### **5. CRIME AND ORDER.**

(197) The new Neighbourhood Commander Detective Inspector Richard Hamlin introduced himself.

(198) Since the last meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 4 crimes had been reported. There were 2 separate incidents of the same two dogs dangerously out of control, in the first instance the dogs were aggressive toward a member of the public, the second incident resulted in a member of the public being bitten. There was a firearms offence where a shotgun licence holder had failed to comply with the terms of the licence, the licence and shotgun were removed. The final offence was a battery stolen from a parked truck.

### **6. OPEN FORUM.**

(199) Peter Charman reported that Moores Open Storage had received a breach of planning notice and that they have 28 days to comply. Their lawyers have drafted a letter to advise all tenants on the site. As a temporary measure from September 8<sup>th</sup> they will be erecting a second barrier some 30-40 metres inside the yard. Vehicles arriving after the yard has shut will be able to enter the first barrier but not the second, thus remaining compliant with VOSA regulations but not able to unload/load or work. Some confrontation is anticipated from frustrated operators that cannot get access to the yard. Councillor Docwra agreed that short-term pain is worth bearing for long-term benefit.

(200) As a long term measure they intend to make a planning application to extend access hours (but not operating hours) to the site.

(201) It was reported that one tenant who frequently breached operating hours had been evicted and will be leaving the site in October.

(202) One of the Barley Mow residents re-iterated that they are not disturbed.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Alert PC Dom Loraine to potential conflict	Clerk	asap

## **7. COUNCILLORS SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

(203) There was some debate on how to follow-up actions from previous meetings. It was agreed that each Councillor should take responsibility for the actions assigned to them.

## **8. TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS.**

### **Footpath Officer's Report.**

(204) Investigated fly-tipping at Betchworth Station as reported by Councillor Docwra at previous meeting but found no evidence.

(205) Performed a litter-pick from the bottom of Station Road to The Coombe resulting in 2 full bin bags.

(206) Investigated FP 457 to Brockham at the request of Paul Tanner, located the water runoff pipe and will endeavour to clear pipe and re-instate path asap.

(207) Cleared overgrown vegetation from the allotment compost area with hand shears as strimmer not adequate for this task. Set up the compost bins and displayed laminated signs indicating that bins are for allotment holder use only.

(208) Cut back part of a tree which was obstructing access to the footpath over the grounds of Hartsfield Manor. Performed litter pick over this path from Sandy Lane to Old Road opposite the Red Lion. Cleared two drains at the junction of Sandy Lane and Wonham Lane.

(209) Reported a dead badger to MVDC, reported a second dead badger to Reigate & Banstead, both removed promptly.

End of Footpath Officer's Report.

(210) Council approved the purchase of a (petrol strimmer) brush cutter attachment at a cost of approximately £54 for use by the Footpath Officer.

(211) Parr's Corner Signage – It was agreed to order the oak fingerpost and consider painting in a years time. Specification confirmed as: black text; uppercase BETCHWORTH vertically on post; mixed case text on fingers; all fingers to be of same length.

(212) Footpath by old cattle barn believed to have been damaged by contractors repairing nearby road has been partially made good with planings but the second half still requires repair. The Footpaths Officer reported that this had not yet been effected.

(213) Bus Shelter near A25 – it was noted that this shelter is the responsibility of MVDC who have agreed to inspect the shelter.

(214) Councillor Stow provided an update on the School Parking initiative: the soil delivered by Peter Crate has been spread and area is now flat but it needs plasticrete to make it workable. County Councillor Clack suggested that a grant might be available if it is built for the community as a village car park, Newdigate Parish Council has received a grant to fund a new village hall car park, she stressed that it must be a community project, led by the parents. She also raised concern that should this green field site become designated brown field it might then become available for housing. It was agreed to investigate the circumstances that would change this to brown field. The quotes for the ground covering were felt to be very expensive and it was agreed to research alternatives (that are no more visually obtrusive than Fieldguard) and to ask Peter Crate if he has any suggestions. It was agreed that Councillor Stow should speak to the parents' representative to spearhead a fund-raising campaign. Concern over on-going maintenance was expressed.

(215) The offer from MVDC to deliver sandbags in advance of winter weather was discussed. However, it was agreed that there is nowhere dry to store these and there is little need for sandbags in Betchworth.

(216) It had been reported that the church footpath repairs are now urgent. A rough guess-timate of £3,500 had been received but only £1,000 in budget. County Councillor Clack advised that this would be eligible for a Highways localism grant up to approx. £1,500. Council accepted Councillor Higgins suggestion that half the path be repaired now and the remainder next year. It was agreed to ask Bernard Hawkins to project manage the repairs and to provide quotes as soon as possible. Cutoff for grant is late October. It was also agreed to notify SCC of the poor state of the footpath.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Clear pipe and reinstate path on FP457	Footpaths Officer	asap
Place order for fingerpost	Clerk	asap
Advise Graeme Manton of lack of progress on path by cattle barn	Clerk	asap
Research triggers changing green field site to brown field site	Councillor Higgins	asap
Research FieldGuard alternatives	Councillor Stow	asap
Ask Peter Crate for suggestions on FieldGuard alternatives	Chairman	asap
Ask parents to spearhead fund-raising campaign	Councillor Stow	asap
Notify County Cllr Clack (cc Highways) of intention to apply for localism grant	Clerk	asap
Invite Bernard Hawkins to project manage church path repairs	Clerk	asap
Notify SCC Footpaths of poor state of church path	Clerk	asap

## 9. PLANNING

### New Applications and Appeals

(217) MO/2014/1136/PLAH  
Brettenham Barn, Gadbrook Road, Betchworth  
Erection of detached double garage. No Comment.

(218) MO/2014/1233/PLAH  
Ashcroft Cottage, Gadbrook Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AH  
Erection of two storey rear infill extension and new veranda. No Comment.

(219) MO/2014/1181/PLA  
Land at Old Reigate Road, adjacent to Tranquil House, Betchworth, Surrey,  
RH3 7DR  
Erection of 1 No. detached residential dwelling. Letter to express concern that  
the strategic separation between Betchworth and Buckland is being  
diminished and concern over its proximity to its neighbour.

(220) **Consultation from Reigate and Banstead:**  
14/01297/F STDCN  
Land at Flanchford Farm, Flanchford Road, Reigate Heath, Reigate  
Installation of Photovoltaic Array (Solar Farm). Letter of objection citing  
inappropriate development in green belt next to North Downs AONB, visibility.

## **Results**

(221) MO/2014/0900  
Great Brockhamhurst Farm, Brockhamhurst Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3  
7AP  
Change of use of paddock for construction of riding sand school 30m wide x  
50m long  
APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS  
1. Restriction on use of stables - private use only 2. Lighting restriction

(222) MO/2014/0768 and MO/2014/0766  
Fraserwood, Boxhill Road, Box Hill, Tadworth, Surrey, KT20 7PF  
Erection of single storey front extensions and single storey side and rear infill  
extensions. Insertions of 2 No. roof lights to both front and side (north east)  
elevation and 1 No. dormer roof light to side (south west) elevation, and roof  
lights to front and rear to create rooms in roof space. Insertion of bi-folding  
doors and 3 no. dormer windows to rear (east) elevation  
APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS  
1. external materials to match existing 2. external materials - windows 3.  
restrictions on extensions to dwellings

(223) MO/2014/0998  
Great Brockhamhurst Farmhouse, Brockhamhurst Road, Betchworth, Surrey,  
RH3 7AR  
Certificate of Lawfulness for the proposed development in respect of the  
erection of a detached swimming pool building with gym and other leisure  
facilities  
APPROVED

(224) MO/2014/1095

Woodstock Farm, Gadbrook Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AH  
 Reinstatement of tile hung weatherproofing to side of farmhouse  
 APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS  
 External materials to be submitted for approval

**Other Matters**

(225) Brockham Skate Park. It was noted that Brockham Parish Council have referred the planning permission/permitted development matter to MVDC legal department.

(226) J & J Franks – several councillors and the clerk expressed an interest in visiting the site.

(227) Evergreens – the new replacement mobile home appears to be in place, concern was raised over a large digger on site and no knowledge of any site monitoring plans.

(228) Gatwick – County Councillor Clack updated the council on the efforts of Sir Peter Beresford MP and Crispin Blunt MP in fighting the proposals. She outlined some of the problems associated with expansion at Gatwick and with the changed Noise Preferential Route. She explained that it is widely thought that the purpose of the new NPR is to make more airspace available for a second runway at Gatwick. She suggested that Crispin Blunt MP be invited to the public meeting in November.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Letter of representation re: Land at Old Reigate Road	Clerk	asap
Letter of representation re: Solar Farm on Reigate Heath	Clerk	asap
Arrange site visit to J & J Franks	Chairman	asap
Ask Bob primrose to monitor the Evergreens site	Clerk	asap
Invite Crispin Blunt MP to Gatwick meeting	Clerk	asap

**10. AMENITIES**

(229) Allotments. After some debate it was agreed to ask Peter Crate if he could help provide a skip to remove the remainder of the dump, if not a working group will attempt to clear the dump later in the Autumn when weeds/nettles have died back.

(230) Burial Ground Jubilee Pavilion. Erection of the basic oak structure has been started. When the roof has been completed this will need to be added to the insurance schedule.

(231) Burial Ground Memorial Tree Seat – it was noted that this has been added to the insurance schedule.

(232) Goulburn Green – play provision. Councillor Stow tabled three quotes. There was much debate regarding the need for planning permission, the need to fence off the area making it inaccessible to dogs and the exact positioning of the provision. It was agreed to consult with the villagers.

(233) Grounds maintenance. The existing tender contract was reviewed and accepted with minor changes to incorporate the burial ground extension thus making a single burial ground.

(234) Burial Ground. The Chairman reported that there was a section of ivy on the wall, close to 2 The walled Garden, that should not be removed.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Ask Peter Crate for assistance with allotment dump	Chairman	asap
Jubilee Pavilion to be added to insurance schedule	Clerk	asap
Check if planning permission required for play provision	Clerk	asap
Update and send tender contracts	Clerk	asap
Contact Dave Elliot re Walled Garden ivy	Chairman	asap
Contact Trevor Hurman re: replacing post in Burial Ground (from previous meeting)	Councillor Wilson	asap
Source 'No Dogs in Burial Ground' sign (from previous meeting)	Councillor Wilson	asap
Write to Funeral Directors re: illegal planting on grave plots (from previous meeting)	Clerk	asap
Purchase curb key and 2 brass keys (from previous meeting) (from previous meeting)	Councillor Wilson	asap

## 10. LOCAL ORGANISATION

(235) Betchworth and Buckland Society meeting week beginning September 8<sup>th</sup>.

## 11. COMMUNICATIONS

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Contact Trevor Hurman re: post office noticeboard (from previous meeting)	Cllr Wilson	asap

## 12. FINANCE

(236) The monthly financial summary had previously been distributed, the current financial position was noted.

(237) The updated financial regulations model was adopted.

(238) It was agreed to set a date for the Finance Group budget review by email as not all members of the Finance Group present.

(239) The budget sheet showing expenditure against budget had been distributed prior to the meeting. The budget vs. expenditure for capital projects was reviewed briefly. Councillors were reminded to consider and propose budget items no later than the October meeting.

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

1.	Jacquie Sims (Clerks Salary & working from home expenses, stationery, postage)	£	399.27
2.	Surrey Estate Management – grounds maintenance + £200 for ivy removal	£	1026.00
3.	Sutton & East Surrey Water – Goulburn Green supply	£	44.59
4.	Sutton & East Surrey Water – Burial Ground supply	£	110.90
5.	Hamilton Room – BPC meetings August & September	£	35.00

(241) It was noted that Councillor Savill had reconciled the bank statements against cheque book and paying-in book for the first quarter and signed the bank statements as required by the newly adopted financial regulations and council's insurers.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Consider items for next budget	All	6/10/14
Set date for Financial Group budget meeting	Clerk	asap
Display new financial regulations on website	Clerk	asap

### 13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(242) It was agreed that Councillor Stow will lay the Remembrance Day wreath

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Order Remembrance Day wreath	Clerk	asap
Speak to school about salt/grit	Chairman	asap
Speak to Debbie at post office about salt/grit and legal implications	Chairman	asap
Distribute URL and login credentials for parish online utility (from previous meeting)	Cllr Wilson	asap

### 14. FUTURE MEETING DATES

(243) Next Parish Council Meetings – **Mondays October 6<sup>th</sup> and November 3<sup>rd</sup>**

(244) Highways Forum meeting October 30<sup>th</sup> Buckland 9:45 for 10:00

(245) Gatwick Airport Public Meeting – November 18<sup>th</sup> 7:30, Village Hall

(246) Parish Magazine Article October, deadline 15/9/2014. Councillor Stow to speak to the Walled Garden residents before the publication of an article about the play provision by the Chairman.

(247) The Chairman closed the meeting at 10:35pm.