

BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Councillors Hardy, Taylor, Savill, Stow, Wilson, Docwra, Higgins and the Clerk. PC Dom Loraine was present for part of the meeting. 7 local residents were also present for part of the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

(356) Apologies were received from the Footpaths Officer and County Councillor Clack.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

(357) The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

(358) All matters arising were covered in the respective item below.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

(359) None.

5. CRIME AND ORDER.

(360) PC Dom Loraine reported 6 crimes since November 3rd. There were three burglary offences: one non-dwelling where storage containers were broken into and two separate instances of credit card/driving licence stolen. There was a fraud offence of money taken from a bank account linked to one of the above stolen credit cards. There was a theft of a houseplant reported and a breach of Crown Court Bail Conditions.

(361) PC Dom Loraine updated the meeting on the wall collapse in The Street that he witnessed earlier in the day.

PC Dom Loraine left the meeting.

6. OPEN FORUM.

(362) Moores Open Storage. There was much discussion over the new barrier which stops vehicles but not pedestrians entering the yard, resulting in some activity in the yard outside operating hours. Monitoring of situation to continue. Councillor Docwra to provide date/time details so that CCTV can be used to investigate individual occurrences. 4 residents left the meeting.

(363) 2 residents questioned Council over its intentions regarding the play provision on Goulburn Green and the school parking/drop-off initiative. They were assured that the play provision project was a result of requests from parents at the APM and by email and that the project has been put aside for the time being. There was much discussion regarding school parking and the use of the private road to The Walled Garden with no positive outcome.

These 2 residents left the meeting.

7. COUNCILLORS SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

8. TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS.

Footpath Officer's Report.

(364) The brambles were cut back on Station Road as requested by Councillor Hardy and other routine maintenance on various paths had been carried out. The pipe end on FP457 is still to be located, Martin Clipperton had advised that it is very deep and would need a mechanical digger to reach it however this area cannot be accessed by vehicle for environmental reasons.

(365) The large poppies have been removed and stored for future use. There are 9 remaining intact.

(366) There were 2 instances of fly-tipping, one opposite the school being a quantity of cast iron soil pipes and the other being a mattress dumped on the junction of Old Road and The Street. Both items were cleared by MVDC within 24 hours.

End of Footpath Officer's Report.

(367) The request by a resident to plant Spring bulbs on the triangle at the top of The Street was discussed and rejected as inappropriate for a rural setting.

(368) School parking/drop off initiative – no update.

(369) Fingerpost at Parr's Corner: Councillor Wilson reported that the post was re-installed after it was removed by a resident because it was leaning. The post has been re-installed with anti-removal bars.

(370) Fingerpost at Parr's Corner. The additional insurance premium was approved

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Contact resident re: planting of Spring Bulbs	Clerk	Asap
Confirm approval of insurance premium to insurers	Clerk	Asap

9. PLANNING

New Applications and Appeals

(371) MO/2014/1682/PLA

6, Park Close, Strood Green, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7JB

Alterations to form new bay window to east; new entrance porch to north; ground floor alterations to west; and first floor bedroom extension to west. NO COMMENT

Results

(372) MO/2014/1357/PLAH

1, Tranquil Dale, Buckland, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7EE

Erection of two storey side extension APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS:

1. pourous hardstanding or provision for runoff 2. external materials to match existing 3. restrictions on extensions of dwellings

(373) MO/2014/1369/PCL

57, Tynedale Road, Strood Green, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7JD

Certificate of Lawfulness for the proposed development in respect of the creation of a loft conversion with a rear dormer window APPROVED.

Other Matters

CONSULTATION FROM SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

(374) SITE: BURY HILL WOOD, OFF COLDHARBOUR LANE, HOLMWOOD
PROPOSAL Construction of an exploratory drillsite to include plant, buildings and equipment; the use of the drillsite for the drilling of one exploratory borehole and the subsequent short term testing for hydrocarbons; the erection of security fencing and the carrying out of associated works to an existing access and track all on some 0.79 ha, for a temporary period of up to 3 years, with restoration to forestry. It was agreed to oppose this proposal because of the impact on the environment and the potential for light pollution compromising the dark Surrey landscape.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Send letter of objection	Clerk	asap

10. SKATE PARK

(375) The response to Brockham PC following the public meeting was discussed. It was agreed that Betchworth Parish Council would support the idea of a skate park in Brockham but have serious safety concerns over the current proposed location, the land offered at the public meeting needs to be investigated along with alternative sites. The need to represent Betchworth residents was recognised. It was agreed to request an addition to the lease that would allow Betchworth PC to seek to terminate the lease in the event of major problems.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Write to Brockham PC	Clerk	asap

11. GATWICK AIRPORT

(376) The 3 Bs public meeting was thought to be a success with about 100 attendees. It was reported that the GACC meeting in Crawley was an overwhelming success with more than 1,000 people and resulted in a U-turn by Kent County Council who are now opposing expansion at Gatwick.

(377) Councillor Wilson agreed to draft a response to the Gatwick Airport Post Implementation Review.

(378) The current consultation for an additional runway at Gatwick will be debated in the January meeting.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Draft response to the PIR	Cllr Wilson	asap

12. AMENITIES

- (379) Grounds Maintenance Tender – it was agreed to accept the tender from Dave Elliot, Surrey Estate Management.
- (380) Allotments. A rent increase of £2.50 per half plot for year 2016/17 was approved. (Half plot £17.50, full plot £35.00).
- (381) Allotments. The half-allotment adjacent to the recovered ‘dump’ area was reported to be shorter than other half-plots, it was agreed that this half allotment may be extended into the newly recovered area.
- (382) Allotments. A quotation for 34 linear metres of post and rail fencing was tabled and accepted by Council.
- (383) Goulburn Green. Play provision – it was agreed to send a generic email to all email protesters explaining that there is no firm proposal, that Council is responding to requests from parents and that it will be small.
- (384) Goulburn Green. It was agreed that it was essential to get a copy of the deeds that are lodged in the safe at the bank. Councillor Wilson thought that he might have a copy. *Post meeting note: Copies of the deeds have been received from Lady Hamilton.*
- (385) Burial Ground. The following memorial tablet was approved:
Light Grey Granite HONED Tablet 18” x 12” x 2”. Inscription: IN LOVING MEMORY OF SUSAN GORE BEDFORD 5th JULY 1936 – 14th MARCH 2014 REST IN PEACE IN THIS BEAUTIFUL PLACE
- (386) War Memorial. Councillor Wilson gave a report of the research by Karen Wilson a Betchworth archivist regarding Hugh Mott. Council concluded that it was correct that Hugh Mott was not commemorated on the Betchworth War Memorial, he had been born and lived in Reigate, he is commemorated on the St Mark’s war memorial in Reigate. It was agreed to convey the details of the research in writing to Paul Tanner.
- (387) Remembrance Day Wreath. There had been some criticism regarding the wreath laid by the Parish Council at the Remembrance Day service. It was noted that a wreath had been laid for the past 4 years and was paid for by the Councillors. It was agreed to continue to lay a wreath provided there are enough Councillors willing to contribute to the cost of the wreath.
- (388) Jubilee Pavilion, Councillor Wilson still trying to organise paving. It was agreed that if this final attempt proved fruitless a new contractor would be sought.
- (389) Burial Ground. The following additional inscription was approved:
ROSALIE EDITH GUEST A DEVOTED MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER DIED 31st DECEMBER 2011 AGED 93 YEARS BOTH FOREVER IN OUR THOUGHTS
- (390) It was noted that payment had been received from the Kelly family for the memorial tree seat.
- The remaining resident and District Councillor Potter left the meeting.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Letter of acceptance to Dave Elliot	Clerk	asap
Update website with new allotment rents	Clerk	31/12/14
Accept quotation for Allotment fencing	Clerk	asap
Respond to Goulburn Green play provision protest emails	Clerk	Asap
Send memorial approval note re: Susan Gore Bedford	Clerk	Asap

Letter to Paul Tanner re: Hugh Mott & wreath	Clerk	Asap
Organise paving work	Cllr Wilson	Asap
Send additional inscription approval note	Clerk	asap

13. LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

(391) Childrens Holiday Activities/FABB. Councillor Hardy reported that the chairman has resigned with no replacement, consequently there will be no Christmas Holiday Activities. Councillor Hardy to contact the Revd Kate Capper to see if she can assist.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Contact Revd. Kate Capper	Cllr. Hardy	asap

14. COMMUNICATIONS / IT

(392) Post Office Notice Board has been repaired by Councillor Wilson. The supporting posts are wobbly and will need strengthening/replacing in future.

(393) Village email group. It was noted that about 25% of the village have signed up. It was agreed to include businesses and regular churchgoers.

(394) It was reported that the church is to change their website and as the current Parish Council website is too cluttered and difficult to update it was agreed to approach Hilary Ely with a view to pooling information/experience.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Publicise village-wide email distribution list to businesses and churchgoers	Clerk	Asap
Contact Hilary Ely	Clerk	asap

16. FINANCE

(395) The monthly financial summary had previously been distributed.

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

1.	Jacque Sims (Clerks salary & expenses)	£	475.00
2.	John Foreman – strimmer repair	£	30.00
3.	Jacque Sims – re-imbusement of Website Hosting fee	£	65.87
4.	The Boot Hole – plaques for memorial tree seat	£	64.00
5.	Ian Wilson – PO notice board repairs	£	45.19
6.	Norbury Park Wood Products – fingerpost (£102.10 VAT)	£	612.60

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(397) It was agreed that the Geoffrey Browne Room should be booked for the evening of Monday 20th April for the Annual Parish Meeting.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Book Geoffrey Brown Room for APM	Clerk	asap
Book guest speaker for APM	Clerk	asap

18. FUTURE MEETING DATES

(398) Next Parish Council Meetings – **Mondays January 5th 2015 and February 2nd**

(399) Parish Magazine Article January, deadline 15/12/2014 Chairman to write about the wall collapse in the Street and about the deadlines for the Gatwick PIR and second runway.

(400) The Chairman closed the meeting at 10:22pm.