

BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the **MEETING** of the **BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL** held on **MONDAY 7th March 2016**, at 8pm in the Hamilton Room.

Present: Councillors Hardy, Wilson, Stow, Edwards, the Footpaths Officer, and the Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

(453) Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Higgins, Savill and Docwra, District Councillor Potter and PCSO Dave Sadler.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

(454) The minutes of the meeting held on 1st February were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

(455) Councillor Hardy advised that Councillor Savill had resigned from the council with immediate effect. The vacancy will be advertised and councillors asked to suggest candidates.

(456) Footpath at Chimney pots: councillors noted that Hannah Gutteridge had replied it had previously been identified as not possible to surface the whole path but that she would revisit with a view to seeing what patching could be done when conditions are drier, particularly around gate. Councillor Wilson commented that the parish council had previously provided funding towards another path (coffin route) with the understanding that SCC could reciprocate on another occasion. Clerk to respond to Ms Gutteridge.

(457) Transport Review: Councillors agreed to send the consultation details out on the village email so parishioners could respond.

(458) Lights at entrance to Bovey Cottage on Station Road – owner has replaced the lights with dimmer bulbs.

(459) Resident had contacted the clerk to object to the painting of the signpost on Old Reigate Road. Councillors agreed to continue with plans to paint the sign in the summer as it was (a) always intended to do so (see minute 158, p21 from August 2014); (b) in keeping with the style of the other historical fingerpost along the road, (c) more attractive than the alternative utilitarian metal sign supplied by SCC, (d) acceptable to the owner of the land on which it was sited. Clerk to write to resident, and (e) not legible to drivers unless painted.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Advertise Casual vacancy, update MVDC Democratic Services	Clerk	Asap
Suggestions for candidates for casual vacancy	Councillors	Asap
Respond to Ms Gutteridge re Chimney pots footpath	Clerk	Asap
Send Transport Review on village email	Clerk	Asap
Thank owner of Bovey Cottage for replacing lights	Cllr Hardy	Asap
Write to resident about signpost	Clerk	Asap

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

(460) Councillor Stow declared a non-pecuniary interest regarding planning application MO/2016/01113 as a near neighbour.

5. COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT.

(461) Police report received from Dave Sadler for Jan and Feb included thefts of gardening machinery from a shed and a workshop, an assault at a care home and a bench stolen from a care home garden.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
none		

6. OPEN FORUM.

(462) No members of the public attended the meeting

7. TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS.

(463) Footpaths Officer's report: Potholes in Wonham Lane again reported, also fallen tree in Old Road, which was cleared by SCC, cleared drain covers to prevent surface flooding, met and assisted contractors laying new water pipes, cut down laurel on Goulburn Green with gratefully received help from Rick Lawrence, and also Martin Clipperton in permitting spoil to be burnt on the Common Field. Also cleared broken fencing from Goulburn Green, and collected all the redundant signage for SCC to collect.

(464) Councillors noted that MV had cleared the worst of the leaves and mud on the footpath between Betchworth Station and The Coombe.

(465) Councillors noted that Surrey Highways was continuing to investigate blockage in drains causing flooding in Station Road. Situation to be monitored.

(466) Councillors discussed long-standing problem of the pavements on The Street as they are too low and with a difficult camber. All agreed that they are dangerous and should be brought to Surrey Highways' attention again.

(467) Councillor Wilson advised regarding consultation for changes to Flight route 4 from Gatwick, which may move noise levels south towards Leigh and Newdigate. New route to start flying in May, and if meets expectations after 6 month consultation will become permanent.

(468) Councillors discussed resident's concern over cycling on school path, but did not wish to add to signs that were already present. To monitor situation.

(469) Verge cutting maps from Mole Valley were discussed, and the cutting of verges 3 times a year noted.

(470) Councillors had looked at the speed limit orders proposed by SCC at the top of Pebble Hill and had no comments to make.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Pavements on The Street to be measured and photos taken	Cllr Wilson	Asap
Write to Surrey Highways about pavements	Clerk	Asap

8. PLANNING

New Applications & Appeals (2)

(471) MO/2016/0186/PLAH
 Pebble Hill Cottage, The Coombe, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7BT Erection of
 replacement two storey rear extension No objection

(472) MO/2016/0113
 Garden Cottage, Sandy Lane, Buckland, Betchworth. Erection of two storey
 front, side and rear extensions No objection

Late Planning Applications (0)

Results (1)

(473) MO/2015/2014/LBC
 The Forge, The Street, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DW
 Remove existing corrugated asbestos garage roof and replace with clay tile
 roof. Approved with conditions – timescale, no departure from approved plans

Appeal Decisions (0)

Other Matters

(474) Situation at Atlantico carwash. It was noted that local residents had made a formal complaint to MVDC on 22nd February, and that District Councillor Potter was going to ask a question at Scrutiny about this. Louise Williams from Surrey Community Action had also viewed the site as a possible option for affordable housing at the parish council’s suggestion and advised that it was not suitable because of the distance from the village centre, lack of paving, sightlines and lighting. She also commented on its unsuitability as a site for a commercial car wash and questioned how it had come to be permitted.

(475) Councillors had no comments to make on the Bookham Neighbourhood Plan.

(476) Councillors discussed the response from MV that street advertising is not a matter for MVDC. Clerk to request clarification quoting planning policies under ENV.36 which suggests that as the planning authority MV does have an enforcement role.

(477) Council to monitor planning list for retrospective application for shed in the Lodge area

(478) Councillors noted that application MO10/0847 for Park Pit and Tapwood Quarry had been granted, and that suggestion about footpath around new water would be considered by Buckland Parish Council later in March.

(479) Councillors reviewed invitation to join online petition for parish councils to have a right of appeal in planning decisions, while agreeing the idea, to investigate if councils are empowered to sign a petition and revisit at next meeting.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Seek clarification regarding planning enforcement of street advertising	Clerk	Asap
Monitor planning list for app for the shed at the Lodge	Clerk	Asap
Query petition powers with SSALC	Clerk	Asap

9. AMENITIES

(480) Burial Ground and Allotments new water supply – new pipework has been installed by Betchworth Estate contractor with one tap for burial ground, using ‘sprung loaded shut’ tap with non returnable valve. An additional cost to the contractor of £150 had been agreed by councillors, however council had not agreed the full costs previously provided. Councillors agreed that connection application to SESW should now be completed and all costs reviewed at next meeting. Depending on what is permitted by SESW it may also be necessary to write to allotment holders as it may no longer be possible to use hoses on the allotments.

(481) Quotes were reviewed for replacement of post and rehangng of burial ground gate onto coffin path, and council agreed to accept quote from Ken Webb (Total Grounds Maintenance).

(482) Councillors considered request from UK Power Networks for help in promoting its Priority Services Register, and agreed to do so on the village email and magazine, and to monitor & decide later if any further support can be given.

(483) Councillors approved additional inscription on Larkin memorial to read “And his wife Edna 1924 – 2015”.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Make connection application to SESW	Clerk	Asap
Confirm all costs to councillors	Clerk	Asap
Investigate grants/SESW donation	Clerk	Asap
Confirm gate job with Ken Webb	Clerk	Asap
Advise UK Power Networks of support and request text	Clerk	Asap
Advise BG co-ordinator that inscription approved	Clerk	Asap

10. COMMUNITY

(484) Quotes were reviewed for patching chestnut fencing on side of Goulburn Green adjacent to Wall Garden road, and adding green stock netting fence. Council agreed to accept quote from Ken Webb (Total Grounds Maintenance), subject to sight of the stock netting proposed and that the mesh should be raised so that the grass can be strimmed underneath.

(485) Councillors approved funding structure for Goulburn Green play equipment and accepted quote for equipment and installation from Eibe, subject to approval from Mole Valley of funding applications, expected after 14th March. Councillors expressed thanks for £500 provided by the Betchworth and Buckland Society – clerk to write. Depending on completion date, a launch event has been pencilled in for May Day bank holiday (2nd May). Councillor Hardy advised that a parishioner, Paul Tanner, had agreed to look at the Walled Garden wall. It is understood that the wall is owned by the Walled Garden residents; Councillor Edwards agreed to look at their insurance in terms of liability. The need for signage for play ‘rules’ was also discussed, clerk to raise with MV.

(486) Clerk noted that the holly on Goulburn Green had been cut back, and that the work was being queried with the contractor as the height did not appear significantly reduced.

(487) Councillor Edwards gave an update on plans for the Crazy Crown Tea Party on 12th June. She estimates 150 approx. attendees, children will be free and adults charged £4 for tea and cake. Councillors agreed that advance costs can be met by the parish council. Clerk to look into adding event to council insurance, and to send risk assessment form to Councillor Edwards. Councillor Edwards to contact Paul Ellison regarding plans to use the crowns previously made during the event, and to speak at the APM on 18 April.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Confirm fencing job with Ken Webb	Clerk	Asap
Thanks to B&B Society for donation	Clerk	Asap
Check insurance for Walled Garden wall	Cllr Edwards	Asap
Query Holly pruning with contractor	Clerk	Asap
'Rules' sign for play area	Clerk	Asap
Check insurance, send risk assessment for tea party, invite Cllr Edwards to APM	Clerk	Asap

11. COMMUNICATIONS, IT

(488) Clerk advised that some progress with sourcing replacement website was made last month but that website packages appeared limiting in numbers of pages available.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Continue sourcing new website	Clerk	ongoing

12. FINANCE

(489) Councillors agreed not to opt out of the SAAA scheme for audit arrangements when this comes into effect from 2016/17 financial year.

(490) Clerk advised that HSBC was now satisfied that all councillors had provided sufficient documentation and new mandate could be approved. The Deed of Variation for Goulburn Green had also been lodged at the bank for safe keeping at an annual fee of £18.38.

(491) Receipt of £750 burial ground fees was noted (Duffy ashes and Jenkins burial), plus another £570 also being banked on 7th March.

(492) Tax refund from HMRC of £160.40 was noted

(493) The current financial position was noted.

(494) SESW bill for Goulburn Green was queried as estimated; clerk to follow up with water company to read meter

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

1.	Adria Kinloch (Tax refund Feb)	£	69.60
2.	Adria Kinloch (Clerk's salary & expenses)	£	580.63
3.	Dave Elliott – Ashes digging	£	30.00
4.	Hamilton Room	£	35.00
5.	SSALC New Clerk's Briefing	£	90.00
6.	SESW Burial Ground water 6 months to 13 th January	£	42.54

7.	SESW Goulburn Green water 6 months to 13th January	£	46.22
8.	Burial Ground caretaker's fee	£	57.50
9.	DG Tree Services – holly tree	£	210.00
10	SSALC New Councillor Training	£	66.00
11.	Jacquie Sims (Year-end training)	£	19.10

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Query estimated bill with SESW for GG	Clerk	asap

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(496) Councillors noted that the A25 at entrance to Franks is very muddy following water company roadworks. Clerk to write to Surrey Highways asking if SESW will be clearing the mess as parishioners have complained.

(497) Councillor Hardy offered to write to ex-Councillor Savill thanking him for his service on the council.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Contact Surrey Highways re mud on A25	Clerk	Asap
Write to Richard Savill	Cllr Hardy	Asap

13. FUTURE MEETING DATES

(498) Next Parish Council Meetings – Mondays 4th April and 9th May 2016. Councillor Hardy unable to attend on 4th April, Councillor Wilson agreed to chair.

(499) 10th March New Councillor training – Cllr Edwards to attend

(500) 10th March 2016 – Community Resilience in Mole Valley - Cllr Hardy to attend

(501) 19th March – 10.30 am Goulburn Green - Village Litter pick

(502) 15th April – Leadership programme for council clerks taster day, East Grinstead – Clerk to attend

(503) APM April 18th 2016, Geoffrey Browne Room

(504) 21st April – Surrey Local Councils Forum, Loseley – no attendees

(505) 27th April - Working Together to Manage and Respond to Flooding, Central London – no attendees

(506) 13th May – Stakeholder open day, SESW Bough Beech Reservoir and Water Treatment Works – no attendees

(507) Parish Magazine article, March deadline 14/03/2016. Clerk to write about APM, casual vacancy, progress for play equipment.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Submit magazine article	Clerk	14/3/2016

(508) The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.08pm.

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