

BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING of the BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL held on MONDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2020, at 8pm in the Hamilton Room.

Present: Cllrs Hardy (Chair), Winter, Edwards, Wilson, Rogers, Higgins and Clerk.
Burialground Caretaker District Councillors Simon Budd and Paul Potter attended part of the meeting, as well as 11 members of public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

(294) Apologies were received from Councillor Ferrett and the Footpaths Officer.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

(295) Declarations of interest were received from Councillors Wilson and Winter relating to item 6 of the Agenda; Gatwick Route 4/Airspace Update.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

(296) The minutes of the meeting held on 6th January 2020 were and signed by Councillor Hardy as a true and correct record.

4. COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT.

(297) A Police report was received for the month and shared with those present.

5. OPEN FORUM.

(298) Following the publication of the revised Draft Future Mole Valley Plan, and Consultation of 7 weeks commencing 3rd February 2020, the members of public present were invited to share their views and ask questions on the two sites proposed for development (SA07, Land between Bumblebee Cottage and The Firs, and SA08, The Evergreens). Regarding SA07, concern was shared as per the previous consultation, regarding the unsuitable access and the already high volume of traffic passing through The Street. It was questioned whether MVDC were aware of the three houses already earmarked for The Firs. A member of public commented that consideration should be given to the size of any new-builds in order to accommodate members of the community who do not require large expensive homes. Regarding SA08, those present shared concern that the land at Evergreens is geographically at the centre of the historic village of Betchworth as well as in an Area of Great Landscape Value and that as such, should not become a landmark for the potential unregulated 'sprawl' which would likely evolve at the site over time, should any amendment to current conditions and additional pitches be allowed. Those present were reminded that occupation of the Evergreens site was granted as an exception due to the personal reasons of the occupant, and that the application MO/2020/0067 to remove Conditions 3 and 4 and vary Condition 5 would be discussed later in the meeting should they wish to stay.

(299) 8.47pm: 8 members of public left.

(300) Councillor Hardy shared a letter from a Parishioner suggesting a shortfall in commitments to sustainable/zero-carbon housing schemes, bus services, electric car charging points, cycle lanes. Councillor Budd commented that improvements to infrastructure are likely to be achieved from receiving CIL funds.

6. TRANSPORT HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS.

(301) The Footpaths Officer provided a brief written report for activities carried out in January 2020. In summary: Litterpicks continue, and further publicity required for litterpick/village tidy on 21st March. Playground equipment checked on 10/2, 24/2 and 31/2 and remains fit for use.

DRAFT

(302) Councillor Hardy continued the 'Top Three Issues and Top Three Solutions' discussion for Betchworth regarding local traffic management issues. suggestions of a Rural Congestion Charge, and pinch points were put forward, although feasibility for both would need to be assessed along with necessity for power supply and lighting.

(303) Councillor Winter provided a brief verbal update regarding LGW/Route 4 Airspace change proposals; acknowledging a response to correspondence received from the CAA indicating that they do not plan to reconsider their decision to amend the Route 4 flight path despite mounting pressure. Currently awaiting further responses to correspondence from the Department of Transport.

(304) A member of public voiced a complaint regarding the increased amount of helicopter traffic over Betchworth; source likely to be Redhill – any complaints to be made directly via the Redhill Aerodrome website.

(305) 9.10pm Three members of public left.

(306) The amount of litter spreading up Pebble Hill was discussed; acknowledging the need to arrange a workforce to clear it using temporary traffic lights. Clerk to request help from Cllr Helyn Clack.

7. PLANNING.

New Applications & Appeals (6)

MO/2019/2250

Little Danes, The Street, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DJ
Conversion of garage to habitable space.

NO COMMENT

MO/2019/2252

North Lodge, Broome Park, Station Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DF
Certificate of Lawfulness for a proposed development in respect of 2 No. single storey side and two storey rear extensions.

RESPOND: Check Area Calculation

MO/2020/0067

The Evergreens, Reigate Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DB
Removal of conditions 3 and 4 and variation of condition 5 of approved Planning Permission MO/2003/1500 for the use of land as a private gypsy caravan site comprising two dwellings, to allow an increase in the number of pitches and not for the sole use of the applicant and his immediate dependants.

RESPOND: Object; AGLV/Greenbelt/reasons for conditions remain

MO/2020/0056

1 Council Cottages, The Street, Betchworth, Surrey RH3 7DL
Erection of ground floor side extension, roof light to rear existing extension

NO COMMENT

MO/2020/0085

14 & 18, Rykens Lane, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AB
Remove and replace the inside row (south west) of approximately 40 Cypress trees.

RESPOND: Suggest replacement with native species

MO/2020/0102

23, The Walled Garden, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DH
Erection of single storey rear and part side extension; part conversion of existing garage to habitable accommodation and storage following demolition of existing rear lean-to.

RESPOND: Request condition to use appropriate materials

Appeals (0)

Late Applications (0)

Results (4)

MO/2019/2041

14, Rykens Lane, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AB 7AG

Reduce a group of Cypress trees (marked G1 on submitted plan) to 6 metres; reduce a group of Leylandii and Golden Cypress trees (G2) to 4 metres.

APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

MO/2019/2097

The Stables, Broome Park, Station Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DF

Creation of 4 No. car parking spaces adjacent to the main entrance of Stable Cottage, erection of a timber arbour with permeable paved access path, wheelchair ramp from the terrace of the main building along with a permeable paved path around the perimeter of the grounds.

REFUSED (Green Belt, harm to openness & character of MGB, insufficient very special circumstances)

MO/2019/2098/LBC

The Stables, Broome Park, Station Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DF

Creation of 4 No. car parking spaces adjacent to the main entrance of Stable Cottage, erection of a timber arbour with permeable paved access path, wheelchair ramp from the terrace of the main building along with a permeable paved path around the perimeter of the grounds.

REFUSED

MO/2019/2113

18 Rykens Lane, Betchworth, Surrey RH3 7AB

Proposed extension to north corner of property to provide ground floor shower room, extension of roof over to provide new en-suite facility to bedroom 2 with dormer window, alterations to south-east elevation to provide new French doors to sitting room and new window to bedroom 2, new French doors to bedroom 2 (North-East elevation), New dormer window and widening of existing dormer window to bedroom 4 (North-west and South-West elevations) and associated internal alterations.

APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

Late Results (0)

Other Matters

(307) Councillor Hardy commented that Crossways Kennels had submitted revised drawings to remove habitable accommodation in the therapy space and revised the boundary outline to incorporate the plot as a whole. No new planning application had been submitted.

(308) Councillors discussed the MVDC Affordable Housing Strategy Consultation document and acknowledged the need for additional affordable homes in Mole Valley. It was however noted that there is often little benefit for home-owners to downsize without good reason, and that 'spare' rooms in larger houses are often occupied by live-in carers.

(309) 9.25pm One member of public left

8. AMENITIES.

(310) Councillors approved the Hulme memorial request.

(311) Councillor Wilson presented a short-term and long-term plan for the Burialground. In the short term, Clerk to instruct removal of soil from heap and corner as well as rubbish, and instruct for the tidy-up of the Burialground Path. A full plan is available from The Clerk. Councillors discussed how best to fill sunken graves (with on-site clay soil or with fresh compost?). Councillor Wilson to discuss with Dave Elliott and report at next meeting.

9. COMMUNITY.

(312) Councillor Hardy confirmed that John Evans, Surrey Astronomer will attend as Guest Speaker at the Betchworth Annual Parish Meeting.

10. COMMUNICATIONS/IT.

(313) Councillors briefly discussed progress with Superfast Surrey Broadband and that residents affected are beginning to communicate with each other in order to make progress as a group.

11. CLERK'S REPORT.

(314) Clerk noted to those present that potential CIL money due for impending housing developments was still unknown despite enquiries being made. Clerk to follow up.

(315) Clerk thanked Councillor Budd for his help at the Hearstart event which was a well attended and successful evening.

(316) Cllrs Budd and Potter left the meeting.

12. FINANCE.

(317) A Burialground receipt of £1320 was Noted.

(318) The Financial Summary spreadsheet was presented, again noting an increase in income due to receipts from the Burialground..

(319) Clerk presented bank statements to Councillors to comply with transparency requirements.

(320) The following amounts were approved for payment in February 2020 and signed & countersigned by Councillors Rogers and Edwards.

IB00232	M Hallett (Jan 2020) Salary, phone, expenses	£	1007.35
IB00233	HMRC Cumbernauld (Jan 2020)	£	27.98
IB00234	Hamilton Room (Jan '2020)	£	20.00
IB00235	F G Marshall	£	156.00
IB00236	GACC Subscription	£	10.00

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

(321) It was brought to the Council's attention that roots of a tree along The Street had dislodged a number of bricks from the retaining wall adjacent to the [The Limes – CHECK]. Councillor Hardy to enquire regarding possible maintenance/repair to homeowner.

(322) Councillor Hardy agreed to communicate with Hamilton Estate regarding retention of historic 'The Forge' sign, during its refurbishment.

(323) Cllr Hardy sought interest following communication received detailing information regarding a bill to localise electricity provision. Clerk to circulate correspondence to Councillors for further discussion.

14. FUTURE MEETING DATES.

(324) Next Parish Council Meetings –2nd March, 6th April 2020.

6 th Feb	-	Community-led Housing Conference, Denbies – Cllr Higgins
10 th Mar	-	Councillors Briefing and Awareness – Cllr Ferrett
17 th Mar	-	NALC Spring Conference, London
21 st Mar	-	Litterpick and Village Tidy
31 st Mar	-	Betchworth Annual Parish Meeting
24 th Apr	-	Betchworth Charity Quiz Night

Parish Magazine Article for March 2020, deadline Monday 10th February 2020 : APM Poster, Litterpick, Link to Redhill Aerodrome Complaints, keep dogs under control.

(325) Councillor Hardy closed the meeting at 10.08pm

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