

## BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the **MEETING** of the **BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL** held on **MONDAY 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020**, held remotely via the Zoom online and dial-on platform.

Present: Cllrs Hardy (Chair), Winter, Rogers, Higgins (by phone), Ferrett, Edwards, Wilson, and Clerk (Marion Hallett). County Councillor Helyn Clack,, District Councillors Budd and Potter also attended the meeting.

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

(44) Apologies were received from the Burialground Keeper.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

(45) Clerk confirmed that following last month's annual meeting, both the Chair and Vice Chair had signed acceptance of office forms.

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

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

(47) The minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020 were approved and signed by Councillor Hardy as a true and correct record.

### **4. COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT.**

(48) A brief police report was shared on-screen with Councillors. Clerk also shared a link to Covid-19 responses from Surrey Police.

### **5. OPEN FORUM.**

(49) No matters were raised.

### **6. TRANSPORT HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS.**

(50) Footpaths Officer (FO) confirmed that he continues to report numerous fly-tipping incidents and thanked Councillor Ferrett for cleaning the play equipment so that it is ready for use once re-opened, following government guidelines for closure during the Covid-19 pandemic. Footpaths Officer also commented on signage on school footpath and churchyard where he had displayed signs indicating no cycling.

(51) Councillors discussed and approved replacement white fingerpost at The Street, specifying painted black lower part of stem, 'finger ends' on the end of signs, writing on both sides of fingers and 'BETCHWORTH' lettering descending on each four sides of the post. Clerk to confirm commencement to MW Clegg and pay deposit.

(52) Councillor Hardy confirmed the fingerpost at the Church car park had been repaired by The Estate.

(53) Councillors discussed ongoing cycling along the School path which is a footpath. Suggestions put forward to paint the path with 'no cycling' lettering, and/or obtain identical signage for posts at each end of path which includes 'No Cycling' wording on sign (to be cycle in a circle with line through the middle). Councillor Budd suggested widening the footpath to create an adjacent separate cycle lane, however some concerns were raised that cycling past the school would be dangerous. Clerk to pursue quotes for painting lettering and obtaining signs; it is noted however that concerns were expressed that writing 'no cycling' on the path could be considered out of character for the village.

(54) Councillor Hardy alerted Councillors to speeding complaints received from residents along Pebble Hill. Councillor Clack advised that whilst she had engaged with residents on this occasion, speeding along Pebble Hill should be raised with the police and is not an SCC matter.

(55) Councillor Clack informed those present that a consultation is currently active to reduce the speed limit on the A25 between Betchworth/Buckland and Reigate from 50mph to 40mph. Councillors did not voice any objection to this proposal.

(56) It has been observed that substantial weed growth has appeared along The Street, Station Road and Old Road/Old Reigate Road, noticeably between cracks adjoining pavements to walls. Councillors were advised that SCC offer a weed killer spray once a year in June but will not clear dead weeds and debris. Discussions commenced regarding the effect of weedkiller on bees and wildlife. Councillors requested that the Clerk speak with the local farmer to seek advice on weedkiller vs 'cultural control' of weeds. Clerk confirmed she had requested a quote for removal of dead weeds/pavement tidy following any treatment. Clerk to report back to Councillors and notify SCC asap if a spray is NOT required.

(57) Councillors were informed of a complaint of debris from a cut hedge on Pebble Hill. Clerk was instructed to reply highlighting an even stronger need for community initiative and support during the Covid-19 pandemic.

(58) Clerk informed Councillors that Kiln Lane is scheduled to close to traffic with a diversion in place from 8 June. Councillor Clack to enquire regarding temporary bus route 32 and inform Councillors accordingly.

(59) Councillor Budd informed those present of potential for a car park at Betchworth Station however it was noted that no planning application is currently submitted.

## **7. PLANNING.**

### **New Applications & Appeals (0)**

#### **Appeals (0)**

#### **Late Applications (0)**

#### **Results (2)**

MO/2020/0507

Genista, Old Reigate Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DE

Erection of first floor extension to existing bungalow, single storey front infill extension and two storey rear extensions.

APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS (WINDOWS & PLANS)

MO/2020/0348

Bondhu, Leigh Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AW

Erection of wooden carport at front of property.

APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

#### **Appeal Decisions (0)**

#### **Late Results (0)**

#### **Other Matters**

(60) Councillors were notified of a wagon parked opposite the Post Office; the occupier had been asked to move on. The Estate have placed concrete blocks across the entrance to the field as a temporary measure.

(61) Councillor Hardy highlighted a plea from CPRE to voice concern regarding emergency changes in legislation which could lead to undemocratic bypassing of public access to the planning process and risking long-term loss of oversight and poor decision-making. Councillors agreed to support the campaign and Clerk to email local MP.

## **8. AMENITIES.**

(62) Councillors discussed maintenance and re-roofing work required to the bus shelter located opposite the Village Store. One quote received which Councillors deemed acceptable. Clerk to acquire additional quote for completeness. Clerk to research quotes for maps in bus shelters.

(63) Councillor Hardy informed those present that a triple plot had been requested and approved at the burial ground.

## **9. COMMUNITY.**

(64) Councillor Ferrett confirmed he had cleaned the play equipment in preparation for its re-opening when notified from the government and there was currently no need to re-paint it.

(65) Clerk informed those present of a call received from a resident following a recent Betchworth magazine article, who wished to draw attention to the a reason for an increased number of helicopters in the skies since the Covid-19 pandemic likely being a reflection on the increase in necessary air ambulance call-outs.

(66) Councillor Hardy highlighted an initiative from BANK (Betchworth Assistance Network) to assist young adults/school/college leavers within the village in pursuing their goals and possibly creating a local project over the summer months. Councillors agreed to assist financially if insurance is required for any activities.

## **10. COMMUNICATIONS/IT.**

### **11. CLERK'S REPORT.**

(67) Clerk provided feedback from MVDC Clerk's update earlier in the month, highlighting planning training for Councillors is still likely to take place, but in small online groups. Clerk to feed requests back to MVDC. It was also noted that a demand for an improved cycle lane between Reigate and Dorking would be supported and could proceed if sufficient lobbying to SCC can be achieved. Clerk also provided feedback from a report provided at the meeting updating on developments at LGW. Clerk confirmed that major projects are currently on hold due to a decrease in passenger activity however Councillors were sceptical and envisaged planners would use this period of airport inactivity to focus on moving runway/airspace projects forward. Councillors were informed that the airport is unlikely to be back to normal levels of activity for approx. 36-48 months. Councillor Winter also commented that the CAA decision to relocate Route 4 1000m north of the current position had been finalised with all objections raised during the 'consultation' rejected. Implementation will probably be August/September.

### **12. FINANCE.**

(68) Councillors discussed eligibility for a small business grant due to £0 business rates paid for the burialground and agreed to proceed with the application.

(69) Councillors agreed to renew CPRE membership for the coming year.

(70) Councillor Hardy and Clerk reported a completed internal audit from Mulberry and co with the following documentation to update/put in place before next year's audit: i) adoption of updated Standing Orders, to be reviewed on an annual basis, ii) update financial regulations and review on an annual basis, iii) provide Councillors with common email addresses, in line with GDPR advice, iv) produce a risk assessment document, to be reviewed on an annual basis. Clerk acknowledged Councillor's request to circulate audit documentation to all Councillors as soon as available, for future reference.

(71) Councillors adopted the internally audited accounts.

(72) Section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement 2019/2020 was read and publicly completed by Councillor Hardy and signed by Councillor Hardy and Clerk.

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(73) Section 2 of the Annual Governance Statement 2019/2020 was examined and approved by the Chairman

(74) Clerk advised Councillors on dates confirmed for the Exercise of Public Rights being from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June until Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

(75) Receipts acknowledged for £87.50 (allotment) and £660 (burialground)

(76) Zurich Town and Parish confirmed by Clerk as insurers for 2020/2021

(77) Councillors acknowledged an up to date Financial Summary showing end of month figures.

(78) The following amounts were approved for payment in June 2020.

IB00254	M Hallett (May 20) Salary, phone, expenses	£	905.94
IB00255	HMRC	£	38.72
IB00256	D Elliott Gardening	£	709.79
IB00257	MW Slegg (deposit)	£	804.75
IB00258	MW Slegg (balance)	£	804.75
IB00259	Shires Pay Services	£	39.60
IB00260	Bernard Hawkins	£	92.70
IB00261	CPRE	£	36.00
IB00262	Zurich Town & Parish	£	350.64
IB00263	BC Carpentry	£	295.00

### **13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.**

(79) Councillor Potter made a complaint that the school hedge had been flailed (possibly illegally) on a previous Sunday, at 0730. Councillor Potter to investigate who was responsible and complain to the school on behalf of residents.

### **14. FUTURE MEETING DATES.**

(80) Next Parish Council Meetings – 6<sup>th</sup> July, 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 7<sup>th</sup> September

(81) Noted that Clerk and Councillor Hardy will be on leave for the August 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

### **Parish Magazine Article for July 2020, deadline Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020. “Look after your village”**

(82) Councillor Hardy closed the meeting at 10.08pm

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