

BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING of the BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL held on MONDAY 6TH JULY 2020, held remotely via the Zoom online and dial-on platform.

Present: Cllrs Hardy (Chair), Rogers, Higgins, Ferrett, Edwards, Wilson, and Clerk (Marion Hallett), District Councillor Budd, the Footpaths Officer and the Burialground Caretaker also attended the meeting. One member of public attended by audio/phone.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

(83) Apologies were received from County Councillor Helyn Clack, District Councillor Paul Potter and Councillor Winter.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

(84) Two declarations of interest were received from Councillor Hardy in respect of planning applications MO/2020/0944 Bovey Cottage, and MO/2020/0964, Genista.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

(85) The minutes of the meeting held on 1st June 2020 were approved and signed by Councillor Hardy as a true and correct record.

4. COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT.

(86) A brief police report was shared on-screen with Councillors. The recent brief occupation of Reigate Pilgrims' Cricket pitch by 14 caravans was noted.

(87) Councillors requested that an email highlighting scams and fraud be circulated to Parishioners.

5. OPEN FORUM.

(88) A representative from Dorking Climate Emergency introduced the group and highlighted local issues. The representative requested a follow up meeting with a couple of Councillors; Clerk to initiate once volunteers from Council agreed.

6. TRANSPORT HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS.

(89) Footpaths Officer (FO) provided an update on the village's streets and pavements; summary as follows – localised litterpicks continue, including Pebble Hill, fallen tree reported in Wonham Lane & awaiting removal. Despite Government advice that play areas can start to re-open, Goulburn Green play area remains closed and Clerk to purchase child friendly hand sanitiser prior to reopening and display appropriate signage, noting previous stakes and signs have been removed presumably by a member of the community.

(90) Footpaths Officer suggested 19th or 20th (or both days) for next village litterpick, in line with the Keep Britain Tidy campaign running from 11-27 September.

(91) Councillors approved the quote (£400) from Dave Elliott to remove weeds and soil from unwanted areas along The Street/Old Road/Old Reigate Road/Station Road. Clerk to instruct. Councillor Hardy confirmed that she had contacted Broome Park twice in an effort to request maintenance of their walls/border, albeit to no avail to date. Councillors debated what the most effective means of street weed eradication would be for the future; whether burning (unlikely to kill perennial weeds) or spray (potentially environmentally harmful) would be best. Those present acknowledged a spray is currently undertaken annually by SCC.

(92) Councillor Wilson updated those present on Gatwick Route 4 and how the action group Plane Wrong is working to help prevent permanent readjustment of NPRs to fly approx. 1km north of the current flightpath, which would have a detrimental noise impact on Betchworth and surrounding villages. Plane Wrong is currently looking for financial support to facilitate a legal challenge.

DRAFT

(93) Acknowledging that cycling across Surrey in general is supported, painting the School path with 'no cycling' signage was not a cost effective solution, Councillors agreed identical signage must be displayed at each entry of the School path. Clerk to source.

(94) Clerk informed those present that Hartsfield Manor intend to contact the owner of Pipers in order to improve access along the footpath from The Street (opposite school) to Hartsfield Manor grounds.

(95) Clerk informed those present that she had contacted Clarion Housing in order to repair the collapsed verge retaining boards along The Street.

(96) Clerk informed those present of a petition currently in circulation, to reduce disruptive driving in rural areas. Clerk to circulate on village email.

7. PLANNING.

New Applications & Appeals (3)

MO/2020/0944

Bovey Cottage, Station Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DF

Erection of single storey annexe following demolition of existing pool house.

RESPOND: Object - outside village envelope

MO/2020/0940

Crossways Farm, Station Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DF

Certificate of lawfulness for an existing use in respect of the use of two caravans for accommodation for a temporary period of 18 months whilst building works are taking place.

No comment

MO/2020/0964

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. Alteration and extension to existing garage to provide gym/home office above and veranda detail linking the garage to main dwelling.

RESPOND: Object – unnecessarily large and out of character

Appeals (0)

Late Applications (0)

Results (0)

MO/2019/1060

Land at the junction of Middle Street and Wellhouse Lane, Brockham

The construction of 17 affordable dwellings (comprising of 12 social rent homes and 5 discount market sales homes) with associated access, parking and landscaping.

APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

Appeal Decisions (0)

Late Results (0)

Other Matters

8. AMENITIES.

(97) Councillors approved quote from Ken Webb (Total Grounds Maintenance) to carry out repairs to the bus shelter.

(98) Councillors approved the additional inscription for the Judd memorial.

DRAFT

(99) Councillors once again discussed options for soil containment at the Burialground. Two quotes had been received; £9390+VAT and £3484. Noting that at the meeting no final agreement on the design nor expenditure were reached between Councillors, Cllr Wilson agreed to visit Burialground once again to discuss further with Burial ground caretaker with a view to a decision being agreed at the next Parish Council meeting. Clerk to send quotes received to Cllr Wilson and Burialground Caretaker.

(100) Clerk to organise soil removal at earliest opportunity; two quotes received, i. £250 - ii. £300.

(101) Councillors discussed graves which have been re-dug planted with gardens in recent months and years. Cllr Wilson and Burialground Caretaker to draft new rules to clarify that gardens are not accepted and indicate an appropriate timeline for their removal.

Burialground Caretaker/Cllr Wilson to communicate with Funeral Directors to ensure rules are followed and gardens are removed in due course.

(102) Councillors discussed opening of the play area at Goulburn Green and agreed to follow MVDC's decision as to when to open the equipment for use.

9. COMMUNITY.

(103) Clerk displayed a list of suggestions compiled for suitability for government grant spend. Further suggestions from all councillors were requested and Councillors were requested once again to refer to the 'Points of Light' publication previously circulated. Clerk to compile quotes where possible. It was also suggested that the School and Nursery to be contacted to ask if they require any funding due to lack of ability to fundraise themselves during lockdown period. Cllr Hardy to contact School and Nursery.

(104) The Burialground Caretaker brought to the Council's attention a request for funds from the Church to help cover maintenance costs and explained rationale. It was acknowledged that any request for funding should not be made at such short notice (less than 24 hours prior to Council meeting) and as such no funding was approved at this time.

(105) Councillors discussed supporting/contributing to the creation of a wildflower/ecological area in the churchyard.

(106) Cllr Hardy requested that Councillors make their support known for various local funding ideas.

(107) Councillor Higgins informed those present that the fire at Betchworth Kilns had been reported to Historic England as well as being attended at the time by the Fire Brigade and Police.

(108) A number of residents were mentioned at the meeting for their outstanding and proactive contribution to the village's community during lockdown. Clerk to write article appreciating those efforts for the Parish magazine.

10. COMMUNICATIONS/IT.

(109) Councillors agreed and approved email addresses with the formation firstnamesurnameinitial.betchworthpc.gov.uk for all future Parish Council related correspondence. Councillors to set this up individually and confirm to Clerk when done.

11. CLERK'S REPORT.

(110) No items discussed.

12. FINANCE.

(111) Councillors resolved to formally adopt the revised Standing Orders 2018 Version 1.6.

(112) Councillor Rogers agreed to review bank statements for last 3 months, circulated.

(113) Receipts of £10,000 (govt grant), £17.50 (allotments) and £5,180 (burialground - French ERB x3 and Fairclough ERB) were received in June 2020.

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

(115) The following amounts were approved for payment in July 2020.

JULY PAYMENTS

IB00264	M Hallett (June 20) Salary, phone, expenses	£	904.84
IB00265	HMRC	£	38.72
IB00266	Mulberry & Co	£	180.00
IB00267	D Elliott General Gardening (June 20)	£	880.79

AUGUST PAYMENTS

IB00268	M Hallett (July 20) Salary, Phone,	£	904.84
IB00269	HMRC	£	38.72
IB00270	D Elliott General Gardening (July 20)	£	709.79

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

14. FUTURE MEETING DATES.

(116) Next Parish Council Meetings 7th September

(117) Parish Magazine Article for July 2020, deadline Monday 13th July 2020. "Thanks to Lockdown helpers"

(118) Councillor Hardy closed the meeting at 10.12pm

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