

BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING of the BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL held on MONDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2020, held remotely via the Zoom online and dial-on platform.

Present: Cllrs Hardy (Chair), Rogers, Higgins (by phone), Wilson, Winter and Clerk (Marion Hallett), District Councillors Budd and Potter and one member of public attended the meeting. County Councillor Clack attended part of the meeting

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

(119) Due to a technical fault the meeting commenced later than scheduled – at approximately 8.15pm.

(120) Apologies were received from Councillor Edwards.

(121) It was acknowledged that a Councillor position had become vacant following the resignation of Councillor Ferrett in July 2020.

(122) Councillor Hardy confirmed to those present that the Footpaths Officer had decided to step down after 8 years of service. It was agreed that Councillor Winter would coordinate the two annual litterpicks, and monitor footpath upkeep by liaising with residents from different parts of the village who will be tasked with communicating any defects or requirements to Councillor Winter and/or the Clerk. Councillor Edwards will monitor the playground equipment and Councillor Winter will submit a Footpaths report in time for each monthly Parish Council meeting.

(123) Councillors agreed that it would be necessary to identify a handyman for the village who could be called upon on an ad-hoc basis for small general repairs. Clerk to invite applications for the position and request hourly rate bids from candidates.

(124) Councillor Hardy welcomed a member of public who had expressed interest in joining the Parish Council and invited any questions from Councillors. The candidate informed those present of professional experience, expertise along with their areas of interest.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

(125) one declaration of interest was received from Councillor Rogers in respect of planning application MO/2020/1191, Pebble Hill Cottage, The Coombe (neighbour).

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

(126) The minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2020 were approved and signed by Councillor Hardy as a true and correct record.

4. COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT.

(127) No Police report was shared for July and August; Clerk to request these months are included in the report for October's meeting.

5. OPEN FORUM.

(128) District Councillor Potter advised that Atkinson House continues to experience problems under Clarion's management, and that the retaining boards (also responsibility of Clarion) had yet to be repaired despite numerous requests since June. Clerk and Cllr Potter to liaise to ensure requests for this work are not being duplicated. Cllr Potter also alerted those present to the dumping of grass clippings in the hedge opposite Knights garden centre.

6. TRANSPORT HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS.

(129) No footpaths report was submitted for this meeting, due to the stepping down of the current Footpaths Officer in August 2020.

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(130) Councillor Budd provided information regarding refurbishment of footpath 449 (linking Weirmead to Chimney pots footpath and Wheeler's Lane, to be undertaken by Keir using grant money. No current requirement for input from Betchworth PC.

(131) An article from a local resident outlining Rights of Way/Derregulation bill was briefly discussed; Councillors agreed no further action required at this time.

(132) Councillors acknowledged communication received from SCC regarding the planned resurfacing of Pebble Hill along with a number of other roads in the district, noting that no date currently set for Pebble Hill.

(133) Councillors acknowledged that following communication received from SCC, the redundant signposts previously identified are scheduled to be removed within the next 6-8 weeks (by 14th October 2020 latest).

(134) Councillor Winter confirmed that communications had been sent informing villagers of the litterpick scheduled for 19th September. Signage will remain in place all weekend and volunteers encouraged to help whenever they can be available. District Councillor Budd to lend additional pickers/equipment for the event. Cllr Wilson to send link to Cllr Winter for Surrey Interactive Maps to assist with Footpath duties. Cllr to Winter allocate routes to volunteers in advance of the event.

(135) Councillor Winter provided a brief update on LGW Flight Path matters stating that the current flight path is likely to change (moving North towards Leigh) from Feb/Mar 2021, however more flights at present are flying further north due to there being less general air traffic.

(136) Councillors approved the purchase of 3x signs and fixings for identical No Cycling signage along the School path.

(137) 9.15pm Councillor Helyn Clack joined the meeting.

7. PLANNING.

New Applications & Appeals (4)

MO/2020/1191

Pebble Hill Cottage, The Coombe, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7BT
Demolition of an existing garage and side carport and the erection of a two-bay timber framed garage with rear storage room.

NO COMMENT

MO/2020/0487/LBC

The Dolphin Inn (PH), The Street, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DW
Replacement of existing turfed area with 186sqm of artificial grass covering -

WITHDRAWN ACKNOWLEDGED

MO/2020/1303

2 Burlands Cottages, Roothill Lane, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AS
Variation of condition 2 of approved planning permission MO/2019/1896 for the erection of single storey rear extension and oak framed porch, to allow reduction of the width of the existing first floor rear window, introduction of a new single rear first floor window to staircase/landing, replacement of approved ground floor corner bi-fold with smaller side bi-fold and rear sash window, and slightly amend position of approved side kitchen window.

NO COMMENT

MO/2020/1349

20 Rykens Lane, Betchworth, Surrey RH3 7AB
Erection of single storey rear infill extension.

NO COMMENT

Appeals (0)

Late Applications (0)

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Results (8)

MO/2019/2252

North Lodge, Broome Park, Station Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DF
Certificate of Lawfulness for a proposed development in respect of 1 No. single storey side extension, 1 No. single storey rear extension and a two storey rear extension.

REFUSED

MO/2020/0415

South Lodge, Brockham Park, Gadbrook Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AH
Lift the crown of one Oak tree (T1 on Submitted Plan) to 6 metres and remove the Hanging branch over the road and clear stem

APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

MO/2020/0944

Bovey Cottage, Station Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DF
Erection of single storey annexe following demolition of existing pool house.

REFUSED

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.

REFUSED

MO/2020/1085

Brockham Park Cottage, Gadbrook Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AH
Variation to Condition 2 of Approved Planning permission MO/2016/1279 for the erection of a two storey rear extension, new dormer window to replace external stair boxing on side roof elevation and new front porch enclosure to allow a design change to the porch and removal of canopy on front elevation.

APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

MO/2020/1141

Crossways Farm, Station Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DF
Variation of Condition 2 of planning permission MO/2019/1527 for the erection of an extension to existing outbuilding and conversion of the outbuilding from a store to an animal hydrotherapy facility, relocation of existing office building to allow the change of the position of the office building.

APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

MO/2020/1150

Bramleigh Cottage, 1 Elm Cottages, Wonham Lane, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AD
Erection of single-storey extension across the rear of the property following demolition of an existing conservatory. Minor alterations to front elevation.

APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

MO/2020/1174

Land South of Betchworth Village Hall, Station Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DF
Erection of 1 No. dwelling with associated landscaping, parking and access following demolition of existing barn

WITHDRAWN

Appeal Decisions (0)

Late Results (0)

Other Matters

(138) Councillors briefly discussed the Government Consultation "Changes to the current planning system" given the broad complexity of the consultation, Councillors agreed to refrain from responding at this time.

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(139) Councillors agreed to review the following two consultations with a view to consolidating a response at the October Parish Council meeting:

CONSULTATION: Planning for the future - the planning white paper (NALC deadline for responses 15 October/Govt deadline 29 Oct)

CONSULTATION: Transparency and competition: a call for evidence on data on land control (NALC deadline for responses 16 October/Govt deadline 30 Oct).

(140) Councillors discussed appropriate naming of SNN Case 8147: The Firs development, and agreed that "Firs Way" would be their preference, unanimously disagreeing to use of "Hoffman". Other name suggestions with local relevance were "Lockwood" and "Wall House". Clerk to respond to MVDC.

8. AMENITIES.

(141) Councillor Wilson confirmed that the memorial seat had been moved in the burialground in response to a complaint from a relative of a memorial plot, due to the seat being in the way of the plot. Councillors agreed that memorial fees should be waived. Burialground Caretaker to communicate decision to relative.

(142) Councillors agreed that soil containment at the burialground should be constructed to the following specifications: Height 0.75 metres (3 railway sleepers on top of each other), Length 6.3 metres (2.5 railway sleepers long), Width maximum of 3.3metres. So a U-shaped structure allowing for easy access for dumper trucks. Clerk to obtain three quotes for these works as well as pruning and fence repair/making good at the site.

(143) Councillor Hardy confirmed that the Burialground Caretaker will write to known relatives of deceased requesting that all grave gardens be removed by February 2021, when levelling will take place.

(144) The Pitney memorial was approved.

(145) Councillors agreed that allotment rates should remain the same for 2021/22 (£17.50 for ½ plot, £35 for full plot).

9. COMMUNITY.

(146) Councillors reviewed and discussed the list of grant spend suggestions prepared by the Clerk. Comments noted and documented as Appendix 1 (available to public upon request).

(147) Councillor Clack provided a brief update on the possibility of SCC devolving to a unitary Local Government and the possible benefits and financial savings in doing so. Cllr Clack to share her recently published report.

(148) Councillor Higgins provided verbal feedback following information circulated earlier in the month after meeting with Dorking Climate emergency, encouraging communication to support bird/bat boxes, bug hotels, composting, planting and growing wild flowers.

(149) Clerk to advertise for a village Handyman; Clerk to request hourly rate, candidate to be hired on an ad-hoc basis.

(150) Councillors agreed to contribute to a wreath for remembrance Sunday.

10. COMMUNICATIONS/IT.

(151) Councillors confirmed email addresses now created in line with GDPR regulations; the exception being Councillor Higgins who will continue to use his existing email address.

(152) Clerk informed Councillors of regulation for Accessibility Compliance for websites deadline of 26 September. Clerk continues to work with web developer to make web content more accessibility compliant.

(153) Clerk confirmed renewal of SSL Certificate & Bullguard Certificate

11. CLERK'S REPORT.

(154) No report for September.

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12. FINANCE.

(155) Clerk notified those present that the external audit for 2019/20 had been formally concluded by PKF Littlejohn with no outstanding matters arising.

(156) Councillors Rogers and Winter confirmed they had both viewed bank statements for the July and August 2020.

(157) Receipts of £2860 (bg – 2x add'l inscriptions £270, 3 x ERBs £2590) were received in July and August 2020.

(158) Councillors approved expenditure for bus shelter maps total approx £274.80

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

(160) The following amounts were approved for payment in September 2020.

IB00271	Marion Hallett – Aug Salary Phone expenses	£	1083.59
IB00272	HMRC - NI	£	38.72
IB00273	Dave Elliott General Gardening – Pavement Clearance	£	400.00
IB00274	Shires Pay Services Limited Q2 and GDPR	£	39.60
IB00275	Bernard Hawkins – Caretaker AMJJA	£	103.00
IB00276	Shaw and Sons Ltd – Receipt Book	£	25.40
IB00277	SES Water – 373109 WG Standpipe	£	13.60
IB00278	TGM Ken Webb – Bus Shelter roof repairs	£	246.00
IB00279	SSALC – EW Training	£	36.00
IB00280	Dave Elliott General Gardening Aug Maintenance	£	664.79
IB00281	PKF Littlejohn – External Audit for 2019/20	£	240.00
IB00282	BS Fixings	£	60.12
IB00283	SafetySigns4Less	£	89.82

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

(161) Councillors agreed one internal audit from Mulberry for 2020/21.

(162) Councillors acknowledged BT Broadband installing superfast fibre along Wonham Lane and Gadbrook Road. Cllr Winter to contact resident in Wonham Lane to discuss whether ample accessibility has been achieved.

14. FUTURE MEETING DATES.

(163) Next Parish Council Meetings 5th October, 7th November

(164) Parish Magazine Article for October 2020, deadline Monday 14th September 2020.
“Thanks to John Foreman”

(165) Councillor Hardy closed the meeting at 10.17pm

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