

BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the **MEETING** of the **BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL** held on **MONDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2020**, held remotely via the Zoom online and dial-on platform.

Present: Cllrs Hardy (Chair), Winter, Rogers, Higgins, Wilson, Randall (co-opted) and Clerk (Marion Hallett), County Councillor Clack attended along with District Councillors Budd and Potter who attended part of the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

(166) Apologies were received from Councillor Edwards and the Burialground Caretaker
(167) Councillors unanimously agreed the co-option of Mr Graham Randall as Councillor. Graham officially accepted the position and confirmed his signature completing an Acceptance of Office. Graham was welcomed to the Parish Council.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

(168) No declarations were received.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

(169) The minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2020 were approved and signed by Councillor Hardy as a true and correct record.

4. COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT.

(170) A Police report covering the months of July, August and September 2020 was shared and despite the number of months passing, it was observed that the content of the reports were vague. Councillors requested further information as to the specific location of road collisions (2 recorded). Clerk to follow up.

5. OPEN FORUM.

(171) Councillor Hardy raised an issue on behalf of a resident who had requested an update on progress to reinstate The Common Field following completion of sand extraction, and levelling of bunds. Clerk to ask Franks for update and provide response to member of public. The member of public had also enquired as to access to the new houses at The Firs which led Councillors to query progress of The Local Plan. Councillor Clack confirmed that progress had been slowed due to COVID and currently only the first round of consultations had taken place. As yet no infrastructure plan is in place (slated for Autumn 2021). Clerk to ask MVDC Planning for an update on the local plan and land currently earmarked.

6. TRANSPORT HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS.

(172) Councillor Winter provided a verbal update having led a successful litterpick in September, confirming 40 volunteers. He suggested extending the next pick to cover a whole weekend in order to accommodate those who can't attend on Saturday mornings due to other commitments. Cllr Winter confirmed he had requested committed volunteers to walk footpaths once a month and report any defects to him with a positive response from a number of residents.

(173) One footpaths defect already received was the entrance to the North Downs Way on the West of Pebble Hill, requiring clearance of overhanging branches and foliage to make the entrance more obvious as walkers (often DoFE) often miss the entrance. Also suggested was early notification to walkers that they are about to encounter a main road. Councillor Clack suggested joint funding could be used to address Betchworth footpath needs.

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(174) Following a query regarding a Right of Way along Footpath 45 in Brockham and ascertaining that there was no public right of way at the point in question, Clerk to revert to Brockham Parish Council with Betchworth PC's response.

(175) It was acknowledged that Hartsfield Manor had cleared the fallen tree from the footpath at the entrance to The Street.

(176) Clerk confirmed that all posts had been removed from Betchworth roundabout, however it was agreed that the roundabout is looking untidy. Clerk to ask Dave Elliott to quote to tidy up.

(177) Clerk had previously circulated documentation regarding East/West rail links which Councillors discussed briefly and agreed no further action needed at this time.

(178) Councillor Randall kindly agreed to assume general Councillor responsibility for Betchworth Station; Clerk to forward information and relevant correspondence to him.

(179) Councillor Hardy confirmed that Clerk shall instruct a handyman to place no cycling signs on 3 posts on school footpath.

(180) Councillors acknowledged that despite numerous reminders, at the time of writing no date was set for replacing retaining boards at The Street.

(181) Councillors discussed the requirement for refurbishment work along The Coombe footpath from the Betchworth roundabout, up Station Road to The Coombe. Whilst acknowledging that a refurbishment was necessary it was highlighted that footpaths along a highway are the responsibility of SCC and District Council maintenance. Councillor Clack kindly agreed to notify parties and request works be carried out.

7. PLANNING.

New Applications & Appeals (3)

MO/2020/1537

6, Oakley Gardens, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AZ
Erection of single storey rear infill extension.

NO COMMENT

MO/2020/1559/DET

Telecommunications Mast, Denbies Wine Estate, Ranmore Common Road, Ranmore Common, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 6SP Prior notification for the removal of 6 No. antenna, installation of 3 No. antenna and the relocation of 1 No. antenna.

NO COMMENT

MO/2020/1566/LBC

Tranquil House, Old Reigate Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DR
Creation of bathroom in existing first floor cupboard and reconfiguration of second floor bathroom to include a w.c.

NO COMMENT

Appeals (0)

Late Applications (0)

Results (3)

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.

APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

MO/2020/1303/CC

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

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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.

APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

MO/2020/1270/PLAH

104, Middle Street, Strood Green, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7JF

Erection of single storey rear and side extension following demolition of existing conservatory and utility room.

APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

Appeal Decisions (0)

Late Results (0)

Other Matters

(182) Councillors briefly discussed two current consultations: 1.: Planning for the future - the planning white paper (NALC deadline for responses 15 October/Govt deadline 29 Oct): Councillors agreed no response required from Betchworth PC.

CONSULTATION: Transparency and competition: a call for evidence on data on land control. Councillors agreed no response required.

(183) Attention has in recent weeks been drawn to the erection of high fencing and new gates along with two mobile home units on land on the west side of Station Road adjacent to the village hall. MVDC Enforcement have been alerted by numerous individuals and the lawful placement of static homes at the site has been queried.

(184) Councillors expressed concern for the lack of written evidence of an agreement between the landowner and the village hall.

(185) Councillors acknowledged building activity at Holly Cottage.

8. AMENITIES.

(186) Clerk confirmed on behalf of burialground caretaker that all letters had been sent to relatives of plot holders with regard to notifying them of the intention to return the burialground to a grassed area and removal of flower gardens.

(187) Councillors approved the additional inscription on the memorial for Boniface.

(188) Councillors agreed to honour the request to refund an unwanted plot. Clerk to liaise with burialground Caretaker to facilitate.

(189) Councillor Wilson agreed to turn off the allotment water supply at the end of October.

(190) Councillor Rogers volunteered to lay the remembrance wreath on behalf of Parish Councillors.

(191) Councillors approved the map for the bus shelters with legend on the right. Clerk to place order.

(192) Councillors approved quotes received for the burialground soil container and awarded the fence replacement to be carried out by Total Grounds Maintenance, and the container to be constructed by CNH Robin. Clerk to ask Dave Elliott to carry out weed treatment at the Pavilion.

(193) Clerk awaiting quotes for pruning of burialground trees and orchard.

(194) Councillor Hardy asked Councillors to begin considering capital project ideas for next year's budget.

9. COMMUNITY.

(195) District Councillor Potter once again shared the ongoing plight of Atkinson House residents who have recently seen a disproportionate increase in rent demands but still suffering an extremely poor management service. Having had no positive outcome from numerous complaints and outstanding requests over the months, the option of engaging with a housing ombudsman was suggested. Councillor Clack suggested residents consult with Citizens Advice regarding service charge demands prior to engaging with an

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ombudsman. District Cllr Potter to meet with Clarion and attempt to resolve issues without the need for intervention.

(196) Councillors further reviewed Expenditure of the £10k grant and condensed the list of opportunities as follows: 1. Gateways to village – explore Snowerhill, Kiln Lane, Wonham Lane (approx. £2k) 2. Planting around the village inc. wild garden in Churchyard (approx. £650). 3. One-off donation to the Church for external maintenance (suggested £1k). 4. Footpaths Upgrade/restoration including replacement of stiles with kissing gates (approx. £6k). 5. Climate awareness and nature projects – nesting boxes (approx. £600).

10. COMMUNICATIONS/IT.

11. CLERK'S REPORT.

(197) No report for September.

12. FINANCE.

(198) Notice of conclusion of audit dates were approved and will cover 4 weeks from 13th October 2020.

(199) Councillors approved reimbursement of £460 from burialground.

(200) Current year's budget/expenditure was briefly reviewed and councillors acknowledged the need to progress with various earmarked expenditure.

(201) VAT Return submission for £156.83 was acknowledged.

(202) Receipts acknowledged for £8367 (bg – 1x add'l inscription £135, 2nd half precept (£6810.50) and concurrent grant (£1421.50).

(203) Councillors viewed an up to date Financial Summary showing end of month figures acknowledging a strong balance and the requirement to continue with expenditure effort

(204) The following amounts were approved for payment in October 2020.

IB00284	Marion Hallett – Sept Salary Phone expenses	£	905.09
IB00285	HMRC – NI	£	38.72
IB00286	Dave Elliott General Gardening	£	709.79
IB00287	Connect Publications Limited	£	15.50
IB00288	Centremaps	£	210.00

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

14. FUTURE MEETING DATES.

(205) Next Parish Council Meetings, 2nd November, 7th December

7 October 10am 'Scribefest' Clerk's Conference - MH

7 October - 2pm Resident's Engagement Session; Noise Pollution

<https://www.facebook.com/MoleValleyLC>

22 October - 9.30am Surrey ALC AGM via Zoom

6 November SALC Chairs Networking Forum

8 November - Remembrance Sunday – Wreath to be laid by Councillor

(206) 24th November Finance Budget Meeting

(207) Parish Magazine Article for November 2020, deadline Monday 12th October 2020.

Handyman advertisement and Footpaths Champions/Litterpick article (Cllr Winter)

(208) Councillor Hardy closed the meeting at 10.14pm

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