

## BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the **MEETING** of the **BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL** held on **MONDAY 4 JANUARY 2021**, held remotely via Zoom online and dial-in platform.

The meeting was recorded.

Present: Cllrs Hardy (Chair), Winter, Edwards, Rogers, Higgins, Wilson, Randall and Clerk (Marion Hallett), County Councillor Clack attended part of the meeting along with District Councillor Budd and Potter. The Burialground Caretaker also attended.

### ACTION

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

(299) No apologies for absence were recorded.

#### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

(300) A declaration of interest was received for MO/2020/0964, Genista, from Councillor Hardy.

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

(301) The minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2020 were approved and signed by Councillor Hardy as a true and correct record noting that Cllr Wilson declared an interest in MO/2020/2049 and not a member of public as stated.

#### 4. COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT.

(302) Councillors reviewed the police report received which covered the months of November and December 2020. Councillors also acknowledged a verbal report of rifle shots causing tyre vandalism on nearby farm. from District Councillor Simon Budd.

#### 5. OPEN FORUM.

(303) The issue of parking near the Post Office was raised by Cllr Potter, noting the increasing popularity of the Post Office, shop and Café. Estate pursuing possibility of parking opposite the shop and also reconditioning land at the bottom of the Common Field, to accommodate builders vehicles currently causing obstructions by parking on Old Reigate Road.

(304) District Cllr Budd raised the issue of an increase in walkers over-using the 'chimney tops' footpath, spoiling the designated path and encroaching on pasture/grazing land. Also spoiling the crop in the lower field. No further action required from PC at this time.

(305) Councillors discussed the continuous flooding to the west of Sandy Lane on Wonham Lane, possibly a collapsed drain. Cllr Wilson to enquire with neighbours if any further action has been taken recently and report to S Budd who is happy to pursue with Highways.

IW  
S Budd

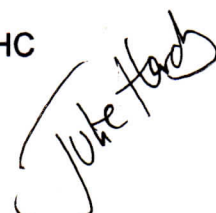
#### 6. TRANSPORT HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS.

(306) Cllr Winter circulated a footpaths officer report highlighting defects in Buckland. Clerk to raise with Buckland Clerk/Highways. No further action required from Betchworth.

Clerk

(307) Cllr Winter requires clarification as to 'who to report defects to, and who does what'. Cllr Winter awaiting receipt of a clearer list of County Council responsibilities from County Councillor Clack.

HC





DRAFT

(308) Cllr Winter confirmed he is currently compiling a list of preferred locations for kissing gates in Betchworth.

EW

(309) Cllr Winter offered to draft responses to questions regarding the current .gov.uk night flight consultation (deadline 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021) and coordinate answers with Cllr Wilson. Councillor Winter suggested opposing all night flights.

EW

(310) Cllr Winter provided a brief update on Route 4; that from February aircraft are likely to commence flying approx. 1km further north. A further public consultation will commence once this revised route is established later in the year.

(311) Cllr Randall updated those present that a meeting with Highways to discuss Betchworth's traffic management is scheduled for February 2021. He called for active 'on the ground' support from Councillors, following an update with the Betchworth Speedwatch Coordinator, and suggested increasing the designated speedwatch areas (currently only one on Station road). Clerk/Cllr Randall to contact Police and invite to meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> February.

GR/  
Clerk

(312) Clerk displayed map and agenda items to discuss with Highways as a starting point for discussions.

## 7. PLANNING.

### New Applications & Appeals (3)

#### MO/2020/1795

Land South of Betchworth Village Hall, Station Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DF

PLEASE NOTE: Amended location and block plans received showing corrected site area. Erection of 1 No. dwelling with associated landscaping, parking and access following demolition of existing barn.

(313) COMMENT: Repeat Objection – Greenbelt. Deadline 6 Jan 2021

Clerk

#### MO/2020/2096

The Dolphin Inn (PH), The Street, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DW  
Erection of a detached barn and pergola to the rear garden, reposition and extend festoon lights and astro turf, reduce the existing paved patio area and clad an existing burger shack.

(314) COMMENT: Object; not clear what barn will be used for or capacity. Parking inadequate, noise, lighting. Deadline 22 Jan 2021.

Clerk

### Appeals (1)

#### MO/2020/0964/Appeal ref: APP/C3620/D/20/3261899

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.

(315) No further comment.

### Late Applications (0)

### Results (1)

#### MO/2020/1754

Pipers, The Street, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DJ

Create a new access from The Street into the driveway by removing a small section of existing low wall and fence and lay suitable surface with adequate drainage between existing tarmac drive and The Street.

APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

*John Hanch*



## Appeal Decisions (0)

## Late Results (0)

### Other Matters

(316) Cllr Potter raised query regarding height of garage roof at development of The Firs. Having been made aware of the discrepancy Councillors advised no further action at this time.

(317) Clerk briefly updated Councillors regarding proposed permitted development rights.

(318) County Cllr Clack advised those present to be aware of timing for any further responses regarding the proposed local plan. (HC relayed that apparently Cabinet at MV likely to agree responses to draft in June then submit draft local plan in September).

### 8. AMENITIES.

(319) Cllr Wilson referred to a 5 Year Burialground Plan circulated prior to meeting. Cllr Wilson, Burialground Caretaker, Councillor Hardy and possibly Cllr Higgins to meet with objectors to the plot levelling proposals. Meeting to take place via Zoom.

IW/BH/  
JH

(320) Cllr Wilson requested display of notices in the burialground regarding plot levelling; timeline remains as end of February 2021 for this to take place, with the unanimous support of the Parish Council.

IW

(321) Councillor Wilson suggested a fee revision of the Burialground, noting that Betchworth's fees are lower than the majority of towns and Parishes researched. Cllr Wilson and Burialground Caretaker to review fees, suggesting an increase of somewhere between 2-3 times the current fees. BH to circulate comparative Burialground fees to all Councillors.

BH/IW

(322) Councillor Hardy made the suggestion of scattering ashes and families displaying a plaque on the burialground pavilion. Councillor Wilson to look into legal requirement for scattering ashes. Burialground Caretaker advised that other councils charge heavily for scattering of ashes.

BH

(323) Cllr Wilson took those present through the Burialground Action Plan, alerting to unscheduled maintenance of grave stones – IW/BH to investigate – and a possible requirement for additional rules to regulate this. Also likely requirement for replacement gate in approx. 2 years time.

IW

IW/BH

IW/BH

(324) Burialground caretaker and Cllr Wilson to investigate consecration of new area at Hamilton Strip which will provide more grave space (possibly 2 years' worth). Pruning required and improved signage required.

(325) New rule to be added to Burialground Rules for the Parish Council to level and fill graves after approx. 1 year. Process to be agreed.

IW/BH

(326) Councillors had received three quotes to compare and unanimously agreed the grounds maintenance of the burialground and Goulburn Green from March 2021 should be awarded to Josh Flynn for the next three years as the most competitive quote received.

(327) Councillors agreed re-purposing the old fingerpost from the top of The Street either at the Goulburn Green orchard or Atkinson House as a bird feeder. PC to fund birdseed/nuts if volunteer would come forward to fill it up regularly. Clerk to ask handyman to look at bird feeder options and report back.

Clerk

(328) Cllr Edwards checked the play equipment on 5/12/20, 14/12/20 and 24/12/20 and 2/2/21. Play equipment remains in good condition and fit for



DRAFT

purpose. Hand sanitiser at play equipment has been filled once since its installation in summer 2020.

**9. COMMUNITY.**

(329) Cllr Hardy confirmed a Census will take place on 21<sup>st</sup> March. Clerk to advertise via Parish Mag, website and posters.

(330) Cllr Edwards confirmed bird boxes are awaiting collection and will be delivered to the Hamilton Room. So far offers to make 95 out of the total 100. 36 homes have been offered, Cllr Edwards to identify more locations – possibly donate to Betchworth nursery. Cllr Higgins to stencil branding on base of boxes and prepare boxes for individual numbering.

(331) Cllr Edwards advised that handyman has offered to make x2no bug houses to be placed at the wilding strip in the burialground at a cost of £50.00 to cover purchase of materials. Cllr Edwards to ask Betchworth Nursery if they would like a bug hotel.

(332) Cllr Edwards asked whether funding might be available in principle for a rewilding speaker evening within the community. Clerk reminded Councillors of the Community Fund available from SCC which local community groups and initiatives can apply for.

(333) Councillor Higgins suggested allowing the grass on the west side of the Goulburn Green to be allowed to grow long between the pathway and the two entrance points to the walled garden as 'Permanent' wilding. Just 1 m of grass would be mown along the path edge and around the bench to keep the path clear and the green tidy. – Clerk to check whether new contractor would be able to cut wild grass at end of season.

(334) Cllr Wilson enquired whether Hamilton Strip will be utilised for re-wilding and flowers this year. Cllr Higgins confirmed this is the intention but requires action.

(335) Cllr Hardy informed those present of a request from MVDC of emergency village contracts. Clerk to liaise with likely representatives and respond to MVDC.

(336) Cllr Hardy informed those present of a Christmas Tree drop-off re-cycling service. Clerk to send email.

(337) Cllr Hardy highlighted that the location of the community tree drop off needs a tidy-up once trees have been chipped. Councillors discussed ownership of land and agreed most likely to belong to Betchworth Estate.

(338) Cllr Budd alerted Councillors to a septic tank on Wellhouse Lane currently emptying into a ditch. Cllr Budd agreed to alert Environmental Agency.

**10. COMMUNICATIONS/IT.**

(339) Clerk to update website entries for village clubs and societies in conjunction with obtaining reports for APM.

**11. CLERK'S REPORT.**

**12. FINANCE.**

(340) Cllr Hardy confirmed the 2021/22 precept requirement form had been signed by herself and Cllr Winter in preparation for submission to MVDC.

(341) Councillors discussed PIC application for £270.46 to be allocated to refurbishing the mound at the fingerpost at the top of The Street. Cllrs agreed mound needs tidying. Stones or posts placed as deterrent to reduce mounting yet to be agreed. Councillors approved Clerk's request to apply for PIC funding

Clerk

HE/  
Clerk  
MH

HE

Clerk

IW/MH

Clerk

Clerk

SB/  
Clerk

SB

Clerk

Clerk

*Julia Hardy*



DRAFT

for this project following an informal quote of between £250-£300 for works. Cllr Wilson requested plug plants – unlikely to survive due to road salts.

(342) Receipts acknowledged for £2,970 (Burialground – Cronk ERB, Prophet ERB and Internment) and £3,000 transfer from reserve to cover outgoings

(343) Councillors viewed an up to date Financial Summary; reserve account slightly decreased due to £3k transfer to current, burialground income continues to grow and burialground caretaker has taken receipt of another £2.5k awaiting paying in. Clerk queried whether increasing BG fees would actually slow down rate of purchase of ERBs.

(344) Clerk shared images of the war memorial in Betchworth Burialground. Clerk to send images for Cllr Higgins to send on for advice from his contact at the War Memorial Trust.

Clerk

(345) Clerk still awaiting request from Church following offer of funds for a tangible improvement. Application made for swift boxes on the Church Spire pending.

MH

(346) The following amounts were approved by Cllrs Winter and Hardy for payment in January 2021.

IB00309	Marion Hallett – Dec Salary Phone expenses	£	904.84
IB00310	HMRC – NI	£	38.72
IB00311	Dave Elliott General Gardening	£	45.00

### 13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

(347) Cllr Hardy commented regarding The Firs contractor parking dangerously in Old Road. Betchworth Estate have offered Church Car Park; Clerk has communicated this to foreman.

(348) Cllr Hardy requested progress from Cllr Clack regarding Betchworth bridge repairs, Cllr Clack to follow up with Highways. Cllr Hardy asked whether pavement cleaning progress had been made on Pebble Hill. Cllr Clack to discuss with Clerk.

HC/  
Clerk

(349) Cllr Hardy enquired whether any further development towards reallocating responsibility of land south of Box Hill had been made.

(350) Councillors expressed interest in a SALC-led '3-year vision plan' session; TBA in New Year.

### 14. FUTURE MEETING DATES.

Next Parish Council Meetings – 1 February 2021, 1 March 2021

20 and 21 March 2021 - Spring Litterpick (proposed)

21 March 2021 – UK Census

30 March 2021 – Betchworth Annual Parish Meeting

SALC Vision Session (evening) - 3 year plan – date TBA

**Parish Magazine Article: deadline for February mag: 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 –**

Clerk

### **CENSUS AND APM**

(298) Councillor Hardy closed the meeting at 10.21pm

THIS IS A CONTROLLED DOCUMENT – Betchworth Parish Council will not be held responsible for content when downloaded from the website.