

BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the **MEETING** of the **BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL** held on **MONDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2021**, held remotely via Zoom online and dial-in platform.

The meeting was recorded for the purpose of minute-taking.

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

(351) Apologies were received from Cllr Edwards.

(352) Councillor Hardy welcomed the three members of public to the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

(353) No declarations were received.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

(354) The minutes of the meeting held on 4 January 2021 were approved and signed by Councillor Hardy as a true and correct record.

4. COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT.

(355) Councillors reviewed the police report received which covered the month of January 2021. Clerk to send thanks to Police Officer for additional detail this month.

(356) Cllr Budd alerted those present to recent illegal night-time coursing (men with Lurchers spotted 8.30-10.30pm Mon-Fri) in the land adjacent to Barley Mow Court. Residents are encouraged to alert Police immediately if any suspicious activity is observed.

5. OPEN FORUM.

(357) Cllr Potter raised a number of items; regarding footpath behind Shop to A25 he notified those present that the Footpath behind the shop used to drain well (approx. 40 years ago). Clerk to enquire regarding upgrade and follow up with Franks.

(358) Cllr Potter advised that refunds are underway at Atkinson House to residents following overcharging by Clarion.

(359) Cllr Potter advised that work to replace the rotten retaining boards with a wall at The Street is due to be getting underway imminently.

(360) Two members of public (architect and client) attended regarding Planning Application MO/2020/2143, Highworth, Erection of a replacement dwelling with detached garage. Councillors sought clarity on excavations required and sewer provisions to the property and neighbouring properties. Councillors were not satisfied that adequate Water Authority investigations had been carried out to enable construction at the specified heights in relation to neighbouring properties, and concern was raised that the house may sit higher than illustrated on the drawings provided. Councillors also queried the method by which foundations would be laid and expressed a preference towards auger bored piling to limit vibration and disturbance factors to neighbouring properties. Query made regarding working hours and length of build – request conditions be put in place subject to approval.

(361) Councillors thanked the client and architect for joining the meeting.

(362) Two members of public left the meeting.

ACTION

Clerk

Clerk

6. TRANSPORT HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS.

(363) Cllr Winter circulated a footpaths officer report which was reviewed highlighting fence repairs due to be carried out on Station Road (north, to The Coombe) and continuing defects along Station Road (south of Station to roundabout). Also noted was the standing water at the bottom of Betchworth roundabout encroaching on to the footpath – to be raised at Highways mtg.

Clerk/ EW

(364) Ideas submitted to enable accessible route through burialground and surface south of the Common Field to facilitate mobility scooters and accessibility in winter (prohibitively slippery and poor drainage). Scalpings required on Coffin Path at certain points.

Clerk/EW/JH

(365) Clerk to arrange meeting with Estate to follow up on outstanding items from December’s meeting and discuss improvements to accessing footpaths. Cllr Winter to prepare document.

(366) Clerk to contact Franks regarding footpath between Post Office and A25.

Clerk

(367) Cllr Budd informed those present that refurbishment to footpath from Wheelers Lane is commencing imminently; resurfacing and widening.

(368) Clerk introduced Councillors to ‘Your Fund Surrey’ to Councillors and briefly outlined criteria for projects which may be considered viable. Councillors to consider if any projects can be put forward; the fund is available to all community groups and societies.

(369) Clerk circulated a proposed agenda in preparation for meeting Highways on 9th February 2021; Clerk along with Cllrs Winter, Wilson, Hardy and Randall to attend from Betchworth PC.

Clerk,
EW/JH/GR/IW

(370) Cllr Budd highlighted large pool of water at Wonham Lane which has flooded constantly for a number of years. It is thought that inadequate piping from the drain continues to be the cause for flooding. Clerk to add to agenda for Highways meeting. Cllr Wilson to liaise with home owner – Parish Council to keep S Budd Informed.

(371) Cllr Randall updated those present on the Guildford to Horsham rail link. Councillors discussed the formation of a canal as an alternative. Cllr Randall suggested a letter of support of the rail link. Cllr Wilson informed those present of the restorative work regarding the canal and that this project should also be supported.

GR

(372) Cllr Winter working with Cllr Wilson regarding Night flight consultation response to be sent on behalf of the Parish Council.

EW/IW

7. PLANNING.

New Applications & Appeals (3)

MO/2020/2143

Highworth, The Street, Betchworth, Surrey RH3 7DJ

Erection of a replacement dwelling with detached garage.

(373) RESPOND: Sewer/Drain concerns/inadequate WA observations, query use of materials. Deadline 29 January 2021

Clerk

(374) 9.25pm Cllr Helyn Clack Joined the meeting.

MO/2020/2256

Snower Hill House, Snowerhill Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AG

Variation of condition 2 of approved planning permission MO/2019/1336

for the erection of 7 No. dwellings, area of hardstanding, vehicle access, parking and landscaping, following removal of existing house, garages, outbuildings and hardstanding, to allow creation of garden sheds to house

DRAFT

ground source heat pump equipment plus garden storage.

NO COMMENT

MO/2020/2307

The Coach House, The Street, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DJ

Erection of replacement garden chalet following demolition of existing

(375) RESPOND: Continue to be tied to main house. Deadline 9 February 2021

Clerk

Appeals (0)

Late Applications (0)

Results (2)

MO/2020/2049

Wonham Wood, Wonham Lane, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AD

Erection of a single storey side oak framed orangery extension

APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

MO/2020/1795

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

(376) WITHDRAWN – Clerk to request removal of mobile homes and fencing.

Clerk

Appeal Decisions (0)

Late Results (0)

Other Matters

(377) Councillors approved a draft letter to Brookworth Homes raising concerns of stability of the retaining wall at the site, which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

(378) Clerk requested availability from Councillors to attend an MVDC Planning dept discussion regarding Parish Council Planning responses. Two dates available – Clerk to respond to MVDC with Councillor availability.

Clerk

(379) Cllr Winter to attend a meeting at the Wheelers Lane footpath on Thursday 11 February.

EW

(380) Discussions continued regarding Weirmead Retention Ponds. Land ownership has been established. £60k secured from SCC. Planning permission required for Greenbelt Land. Approx. depth 1.5m. appearance will remain roughly the same as current. Cllr Higgins queried whether pond could be located on the north side of the road (Highways-owned land) and remove concrete in situ. Betchworth PC to discuss removal of concrete with District Councillor Budd. Cllr Winter appointed as point of contact going forward where required.

EW

8. AMENITIES.

(381) The Webb additional inscription was approved.

(382) Councillors revisited burialground fee increase proposals as per revised Survey of Burialground Charges document, with the aim to keep the Burialground as self financing but also decrease the rate of use following high increase in ERB purchases from residents outside of Brockham and Betchworth particularly over the past two years. It was identified that Betchworth's charges are currently around 6-7x lower than neighbouring burialgrounds. Burialground Caretaker and Cllr Wilson proposed an immediate increase from £275 to £1240 for ERB (still below average for area). Councillors compared rates to other Councils' burial rates and debated acceptability of a one-off increase in burialground fees for all applicants (local and not local) at great length.

DRAFT

(383) It was agreed by unanimous vote that an increase of 30% be introduced to burialground fees for all local applicants parishioners of Betchworth and Brockham with immediate effect, to monitor any change over the year and review fees with the option to increase by the same amount in the future (approx. 12 months time)

(384) It was agreed by majority vote to increase burialground fees including ERB which would increase to £4960 for non-residents of Betchworth and Brockham with immediate effect, as per proposed Charges for Non-Residents presented at the meeting. Revised fees to be published in due course. Councillors debated whether to place a temporary suspension on granting all pre-purchased ERB applications however this was not agreed. It was also proposed that pre-purchased ERBs incur a 50% surcharge across the board with immediate effect.

(385) Cllr Winter/Burialground Caretaker to provide spreadsheet forecast of various % increase options for local residents.

(386) Cllr Winter highlighted that the budget for 2021/22 should be adjusted to reflect changes.

(387) Councillor Wilson advised that a meeting is scheduled to take place between Burialground Plot carers and Parish Council representatives on Friday 12th February at 1.30pm.

(388) Clerk shared one quote for Burialground Pruning. Clerk to obtain two more quotes and instruct accordingly.

(389) Cllr Edwards checked the play equipment on 15/1, 23/1 and 29/1. Play equipment remains in good condition and fit for purpose.

EW/BH

EW/BH/JH/Clerk

Clerk

9. COMMUNITY.

(390) Cllr Hardy read an update on the birdbox and bug hotel project submitted by Cllr Edwards. Locations allocated for 97 of the boxes. Request made for boxes to go up on roadsides; Clerk to discuss with Cllr Edwards. Meeting to take place to discuss rewilding of Burialground Hamilton Strip.

HE/MH/Clerk/IW,
Groundsman

10. COMMUNICATIONS/IT.

(391) Councillors were reminded that there is a 'Whats On Betchworth' facebook page.

(392) Cllr Hardy notified Councillors that SSALC is changing structure and reforming from April as SALC (Surrey Association of Local Councils) (no longer incorporating Sussex).

11. CLERK'S REPORT.

12. FINANCE.

(393) Receipts acknowledged for £2,420 (Burialground – Holman burial)

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

IB00312	Marion Hallett – Jan Salary Phone expenses	£	904.84
IB00313	HMRC – NI	£	38.72
IB00314	NHBS Ltd	£	101.98
IB00315	Surrey Hills Society Subscription	£	25.00
IB00316	Rid-O-Pest	£	60.00
IB00317	Tim Lyver	£	50.00

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

(395) A member of public kindly volunteered to clean the war memorial when the weather is warmer.

(396) Cllr Clack advised that a plan for Betchworth Bridge is 'on the radar'.

(397) Member of public advised dumped wire on Pebble Hill – he will report as fly tipping.

14. FUTURE MEETING DATES.

Next Parish Council Meetings – 1 March 2021, 5 April 2021

23 February 2021 – NALC – representation in Local Councils – attendees?

20 and 21 March 2021 - Spring Litterpick (proposed)

21 March 2021 – UK Census

Tues 30 March 2021 – Betchworth Annual Parish Meeting

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

Parish Magazine Article: deadline for March mag: 15th February 2021

– CENSUS, Litterpick

(398) Councillor Hardy closed the meeting at 10.46pm

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