

BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the **MEETING** of the **BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL** held on **MONDAY 1 MARCH 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, Edwards Wilson, Randall and Clerk (Marion Hallett), County Councillor Clack attended part of the meeting along with District Councillors Budd. The Burialground Caretaker and two members of public also attended part of the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

(399) Apologies were received from District Councillor Potter.

(400) Councillor Hardy welcomed the two members of public to the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

(401) No declarations were received.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

(402) The minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2021 were approved and signed by Councillor Hardy as a true and correct record.

4. COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT.

(403) Councillors reviewed the police report received which covered the month of February 2021.

5. OPEN FORUM.

(404) Councillors discussed planning application MO/2020/2376 outlined in Agenda item 7 due to the applicant being present. Councillors were satisfied that no comment was required to be submitted to MVDC. Councillor Hardy thanked the member of public for attending.

(405) 8.15pm The member of public left the meeting.

6. TRANSPORT HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS.

(406) Clerk displayed a map provided by Cllr Winter identifying locations for proposed kissing gates to replace stiles. Cllr Winter confirmed that the Estate had approved these locations at a meeting between Estate Management and the Parish Council in February. The map contained two stiles not on Estate land which require further investigation prior to purchase. Cllr Winter confirmed that the Estate will manage installation of two gates. SCC to provide volunteers for installation of remainder. Awaiting exact amount of Financial contribution from SCC, (circa. £2k) the remainder to be funded from the COVID grant received earlier in the year.

(407) Cllr Winter provided an update following meeting with the Estate and general condition of footpaths Parish Council and Estate to continue to work together to identify issues and remedy where possible, and offer support with the Stewardship programme if required.

(408) Cllr Winter also informed those present of dog poo bin requests in three locations submitted to MVDC, to support the Estate in its efforts to reduce the number of cattle killed after contracting Neospora from dog excrement.

(409) Cllr Winter confirmed completion of resurfacing and widening of FP90 (Wheeler's Lane), coordinated with SCC/Brockham PC and passed thanks to Cllr Budd. Cllr Budd highlighted the need for additional hard surface under the gate.

ACTION

EW

Clerk

DRAFT

Betchworth PC to investigate purchase of a bulk load for laying in conjunction with installation of kissing gates.

EW/SB

(410) Cllr Randall provided a brief update following a positive Highways meeting earlier in the month including flooding and refurbishment of Betchworth Bridge (outstanding from historic flood damage). He circulated a document containing information on proposed Gateways and associated costs. Cllr Randall proposed two speed survey locations be carried out, one on Snower Hill, one on Old Reigate Road, at £180+VAT, and roundels on Old Reigate Road at speed restriction sign.

GR

(411) A member of public highlighted the excessive speeding up Pebble Hill Road and asked whether a speed camera could be considered. Councillors confirmed that the low level of response from SCC has been an issue for many years despite regular requests by Betchworth PC to provide additional restrictions along the road.

(412) Cllr Winter confirmed he is preparing the PC submission on Night Flight consultation with Cllr Wilson for submission in the week. He also confirmed the Gatwick Route 4 change which has taken place this week (flight path moved 1km north this week).

(413) Following cleaning of blocked drain outside More Place on Wonham Lane, Cllr Budd passed a camera down the drain to investigate ongoing blockage problem – drain still blocked. Clerk to request further jetting of pipe to fully understand the problem however further blocking still likely due to the existing pipe's ineffectiveness. Further remedial works required and discussion with SCC necessary to resolve the issue.

Clerk/SB

7. PLANNING.

(414) 9.01pm Cllr Clack joined the meeting

New Applications & Appeals (3)

MO/2021/0019 [& MS Email]

Site at, Moat House Farm, Wheelers Lane, Brockham, Surrey
Variation of condition 2 of approved planning permission MO/2019/1060 for the construction of 17 affordable dwellings (comprising of 12 social rent homes and 5 discount market sales homes) with associated access, parking and landscaping, to allow changes to the mix and layout of the 5 discount market sales homes, changes to the route of the proposed footpath along Middle Street to within the site exiting through the existing entrance off Wellhouse Lane and changes to the temporary construction access off Wellhouse Lane from the south east corner of the site to where the cycle path exits the site. Variation of condition 3 so that the requirement for prior approval does not relate to the entire site but is split into two.

NO COMMENT

MO/2020/2396/PNHH

The Stream, Old Road, Buckland, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DS
Prior notification for the erection of a single storey rear extension of 5.72 metres deep and 3.4 metres high with an eaves height of 3.25 metres.

NO COMMENT

MO/2020/2376

12 New Cottages, The Coombe, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7BU
Erection of open porch, single storey side/rear extension and first floor corner infill extension.

NO COMMENT

MO/2021/0094

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

DRAFT

Temporary stationing of 2No. mobile homes with associated storage containers and temporary fencing.

(415) RESPOND: Clerk to request removal on conditions discussed.

Clerk

Appeals (0)

Late Applications (0)

Results (1)

MO/2020/2143

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

Erection of a replacement dwelling with detached garage.

APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS, NOTING MATERIALS RESERVED

Appeal Decisions (1)

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 (BUT ALLOWED ON APPEAL)

Late Results (0)

Other Matters

(416) Following enquiry from the Clerk, Cllr Hardy confirmed a response received from Brookworth Homes that in their opinion the leaning wall on The Street had not moved. No further action required at this time.

8. AMENITIES.

(417) Councillor Wilson updated those present on a meeting between representatives of Burialground Plot Holders who disputed the Council's decision to enforce burialground rules to level and re-turf grave gardens. Councillor Wilson and the Burialground Caretaker to liaise with the grounds maintenance contractor to enable returfing to commence with graves where no objections have been made, and to enable families to carry out returfing themselves where requested. Cllr Wilson, Burialground Caretaker and Clerk to liaise with Grounds Maintenance Contractor to arrange next steps and continue to work with plot carers in a considerate manner.

IW/BH/Clerk

(418) Cllr Wilson and Burialground Caretaker to write to plot holder representatives in response to email received on 1 March 2021.

IW/BH/Clerk

(419) District Cllr Clack acknowledged an informal response from the Clerk which satisfied her query as to whether the Parish Council had so far been following correct and appropriate procedure whilst dealing with this sensitive matter. Clerk to formally respond to Cllr Clack.

Clerk

(420) Councillors unanimously approved and adopted the revised Burialground Fees schedule dated 1st February 2021, noting Child Interment Fee of £255.

(421) Councillor Wilson circulated amendments to the Burialground Rules. These were approved and adopted.

(422) Councillor Winter suggested that anyone who had pre-purchased ERBs should be sent a courtesy letter informing them of Interment fee increases. Cllr Wilson/Burialground Caretaker to follow up.

IW/BH/Clerk

(423) Clerk to instruct Josh Flynn to carry out tree pruning in Burialground.

- (424) Cllr Edwards checked the play equipment on 6/2, 12/2 and 27/2. Play equipment remains in good condition and fit for purpose.
- (425) Cllr Hardy asked Cllr Edwards for an update following discussions with the Betchworth Estate on the demand for parking at the lower end Common Field. Councillors discussed whether to offer support for the proposal of installation of surfacing to enable year-round parking predominantly for the school, also offering parking for village shop and church overflow, due to the field's current inaccessibility in the winter and historic complaints of cars parking in the private road from Walled Garden residents. Doubt was raised as to whether upgrading the parking facility would change existing parking habits and questioned whether an offering of additional parking would fit with the village's 'Greener Betchworth' credentials, however it was noted that off-road designated parking close to the school would be an asset to offer year-round safer access for children. Clerk to respond to Estate with comments, noting support from the Parish Council, School and Church would all be required should they wish to proceed. Clerk to provide feedback to Estate.
- (426) Clerk displayed a map requesting three additional dog poo bins to be placed at entrances to the Chimney Pots walk, which would enable bins at all entrance points to the Chimney Pots walk.
- (427) Cllr Clack suggested Councillors refer to the 'Keep It, Bin It' Keep Britain Tidy campaign running currently.

9. COMMUNITY.

- (428) Cllr Edwards provided an update on the Bird Box and rewilding project confirming installation of 95 bird boxes in situ around the village. 3 reserved for The Firs development. Bird mapping also in progress. Bug hotels have been placed in the nursery and on the wall adjacent to the Hamilton Room. Councillors thanked Cllrs Edwards and Higgins for their efforts.
- (429) Cllr Higgins updated those present on the rewilding project confirming a strip of 3m wide to be left unmown on Goulburn Green to 'see what happens' with an introduction of seeds and of plug plants. Plants to be purchase by member of the public and refunded by the Parish Council.
- (430) A combined budget of £400 was approved for the purchase of plug plants and seeds for rewilding in Goulburn Green and the Burialground. These will be planted and watered by volunteers coordinated by a member of the Greener Betchworth 'Flora' group. Clerk to amend the Covid Grant Expenditure Spreadsheet to reflect this amendment – adjustment taken from 'Planting around the Village' Item 8.
- (431) Cllr Higgins updated Councillors on concerns relating to the installation of Swift boxes in the Church tower. Burialground Caretaker (Church Warden) to respond to Cllr Higgins following agreement of proposals with the PCC.
- (432) Cllr Higgins requested the Parish Council be financially responsible for removal of any swift boxes should these be installed up to the value of £100 (not responsible for any damage to the Church fabric caused by boxes). Awaiting outcome and decision from Burialground Caretaker's discussion with the PCC.
- (433) Councillor Hardy asked those present to consider what 'declaring a climate emergency' would mean for the village and how to mitigate it. Cllr Clack advised councillors to refer to the SCC website's Climate Change Strategy. Clerk to circulate link.
- (434) Councillors agreed an amendment to future agenda items to accommodate 'Sustainability and the Environment' as a permanent agenda item.

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

HE/MH

Clerk

BH

Clerk

Clerk

DRAFT

(435) Cllr Clack gave a quick update on Your Fund Surrey encouraging Church and community buildings to submit bids for improved facilities to enable a smaller carbon footprint and better access across the community.

(436) Cllr Wilson suggested encouraging Parishioners to reduce their Personal Pollution levels by walking and cycling where possible.

(437) Cllr Edwards suggested additional historic photographs on the village website. Clerk/Cllr Edwards to coordinate with Betchworth Archive group and the Surrey History Centre.

HE/Clerk

10. COMMUNICATIONS/IT.

(438) Councillors were informed of request for help with the Greener Betchworth page of the village website from Greener Betchworth.

HE/Clerk

11. CLERK'S REPORT.

12. FINANCE.

(439) Receipts acknowledged for £495 (Burialground – Batley)

(440) 10.20pm Cllr Budd left the meeting

(441) Councillors viewed the current Financial Summary, acknowledging large reserves and continued requirement to spend and that Financial year end is at the end of this month.

(442) Cllr Budd left the meeting

(443) The following amounts were approved for payment in March 2021:

IB00318	Marion Hallett – Feb Salary Phone expenses	£	904.84
IB00319	HMRC – NI	£	38.72
IB00320	Shires Pay Services Q4	£	39.60
IB00321	SES Water BG Standpipe	£	13.60
IB00322	Viking Stationery	£	73.39
IB00323	Bernard Hawkins – Burialground for DJF	£	195.70

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

(444) It was agreed that the Parish Council postponed the litterpick on the 20/21 March due to continued COVID restrictions, suggesting 17/18 April as an alternative. Clerk to circulate notice.

Clerk

14. FUTURE MEETING DATES.

Next Parish Council Meetings – Tuesday 6 April 2021, Tuesday 4 May 2021.

11 March 2021 – Planning Applications – PC Response – HE/JH/EW/IW/GR

20 and 21 March 2021 - Spring Litterpick - POSTPONED

21 March 2021 – UK Census

25 March 2021 – NALC 'Rebuilding Communities', resilience and recovery – attendees?

Tues 31 March 2021 – Betchworth Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 19 May 2021 – Internal Audit (Clerk)

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

(445) Councillor Hardy closed the meeting at 10.18pm

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