

BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the **MEETING** of the **BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL** held on **TUESDAY 6 APRIL 2021**, held remotely via Zoom online and dial-in platform.

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

Present: Cllrs Hardy (Chair), Rogers, Higgins, Edwards, Wilson, Randall and Clerk (Marion Hallett), District Councillor Budd and Potter attended part of the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

(446) Apologies were received from Cllr Winter.

(447) Councillor Hardy thanked Councillors for attending the 2021 Annual Parish Meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

(448) No declarations were received.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

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

4. COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT.

(450) No report was received for March 2021.

5. OPEN FORUM.

(451) No matters arising.

6. TRANSPORT HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS.

(453) Clerk communicated a request from a member of public to level and if possible surface an informal (not public) footpath which connects Brockham Park to Footpath 451 near Brockham Park private residential estate. Cllr Wilson suggested asking the Estate whether they would be happy to make the path a 'permissive footpath' or an 'official footpath'. Cllr Higgins suggested the resident speaks with SCC Highways/Rights of Way to try and facilitate this.

(454) Cllr Randall provided a brief update regarding speed box requests, confirming we are able to implement Snower Hill Road speed survey, however the Old Reigate Road survey location was not appropriately positioned. Clerk to request this is placed in the 30mph zone of Old Reigate Road (beyond junction with Kiln Lane). Cllr Randall confirmed that a VAS could not be recommended due to positioning. Parish Council to continue pursuing roundels and gateways as speed deterrents, and continue to pursue speedwatch initiative.

(455) Cllr Randall informed those present that the line between Dorking and Horsham will be closed towards the end of August at various times for engineering works.

(456) Cllr Randall highlighted the ongoing difficulty in parking at Betchworth Station, having recently received comments from members of the community. Clerk to update Cllr Randall on previous discussions.

(456) Cllr Hardy notified those present of Brockham's recent success in obtaining a reduction in speed limit along the A25 in Brockham, up to the Betchworth roundabout. Clerk to confirm length of restriction to Councillors.

(457) Cllr Randall also confirmed that it is possible to now move forward with Gateways at Snower Hill Road; further clarification to be sought for placing of gateways along A25 and Pebble Hill.

(458) Cllr Hardy provided a brief verbal update on behalf of Cllr Winter regarding Gatwick flights – noting the flight path amendment now in action.

ACTION

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk/GR

Clerk

GR

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(459) Cllr Hardy reiterated that the Parish Council's split opinion regarding any parking proposals put forward by the Estate had been communicated back to the Estate

7. PLANNING.

New Applications & Appeals (3)

MO/2021/0089

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

Variation of Condition 2 of planning permission MO/2020/1584 for the variation of condition 2 of planning permission MO/2019/0868 for demolition of existing dwelling and replacement with 3 No. detached dwellings with double garages, provision of associated landscaping and use of existing access to allow an increase on the ridge heights of the detached garages serving Plots 1 and 3.

PREVIOUSLY OBJECTED

MO/2021/0094

Land South of Betchworth Village Hall, Station Road

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

PREVIOUSLY OBJECTED

MO/2021/0262

Wellwood, Wellhouse Lane, Brockham, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7HH

Certificate of Lawfulness for the proposed development in respect of the erection of a two storey rear elevation and single storey side extensions.

NO COMMENT

Appeals (0)

Late Applications (0)

Results (3)

MO/2020/2307

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

Erection of replacement garden chalet following demolition of existing garage.

APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

MO/2020/2396

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.

PRIOR APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED

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.

APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

Appeal Decisions (0)

Late Results (0)

Other Matters

(460) 8.29pm District Councillors Potter and Budd joined the meeting.

(461) Approval was sought for the new road name for the Poland Trust development 'Poland Meadow'. Councillors expressed that consideration to the original name of the field 'Shepherd's Mead' should be given and that Poland Meadow may get confused with Poland House. Clerk to respond to SNN at MVDC.

Clerk

8. AMENITIES.

(462) The Wickens memorial stone was approved by Councillors.

BH

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(463) Following a request from a Councillor, the Clerk confirmed the correct process for implementation of projects was clearly outlined in the Standing Orders and that all projects should be presented at a full Council meeting and approved by a majority vote at a PC meeting prior to proceeding. The Clerk reiterated that the function and structure of subgroups is outlined in the Standing Orders as well.

(464) Councillor Wilson confirmed that the Burialground grave levelling/garden removal will commence with graves where no objection has been expressed. Councillor Wilson also referred to correspondence received shortly before the Parish Council meeting from a relative of a plot holder, and reiterated the Parish Council's intention to continue to communicate with all who the works are likely to affect. Burialground Caretaker, Cllr Wilson, Cllr Hardy and Clerk to arrange to meet with plot holders relatives as requested, and to instruct works to commence where no objection has been expressed.

(465) Cllr Wilson had circulated proposed new Burialground rules prior to the meeting. These will be circulated again well in advance of the May meeting, there being a few minor amendments to be made. Cllr Wilson confirmed that all new applicants will receive rules via the undertaker.

(466) Cllr Wilson confirmed that the allotment water has now been turned on.

BH/IW

BH

9. COMMUNITY AND COMMUNICATIONS (NEW SECTION).

(467) Councillors did not object to the proposal for the two proposed representatives of the MV Standards Committee PC Representatives to be elected once again.

(468) Cllr Hardy highlighted that after May 6th, all Parish Council meetings are required to return to face to face meetings in a Covid-compliant way. Clerk to ask SALC whether the Standing Orders revised in August 2020 which allows the Parish Council to conduct online meetings, eliminated the requirement to follow current Government legislation.

(469) Cllr Hardy communicated a request from a resident to tidy up the land opposite Wheeler's Lane on Wellhouse lane. There was a level of uncertainty regarding ownership; Cllr Budd indicated that SCC had been renting this land from the Hamilton Estate for a number of years. He also confirmed that an attempt to tidy the land had been thwarted by a neighbour who objected to the action being undertaken at the time and now that bird nesting season has commenced it is unlikely that any further tidying will take place in the near future. Clerk to investigate ownership further.

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

10. SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT (NEW SECTION)

(470) Cllr Higgins provided a brief update regarding the retention pond scheme coordinated by Brockham PC. Working party still ascertaining feasibility of a 'pond' being situated at the south side of Wellhouse Lane, rather than two ponds either side of the junction Wheeler's Lane and Wellhouse Lane.

(471) Councillors reviewed the application for installation of Swift Boxes in the Church louvres, which the Parish Council supports by way of a specific donation to the Church. Councillor Randall expressed concern that the installation under the instruction of the Parish Council satisfied insurance requirements for the Church and Parish Council and expressed that the responsibility should be borne by the Church. The PCC had previously requested that the Parish Council owns and is responsible for the installation of the boxes and is financially liable for any damage to the fabric of the building caused by the installation and removal of boxes. Councillors agreed to request that the Church accepts full responsibility for this project to include installation, future maintenance & liability with the Parish Council's support being restricted to making a donation.

Clerk

(472) Councillors received an update from Cllr Edwards regarding a section of land on Goulburn Green allocated for wilding. Cllr Edwards confirmed a variety of seeds had now been planted, and a watering rota of volunteers coordinated by a member of public is now established. Councillors discussed the requirement for a risk assessment to be put in place for this project, and the Clerk requested that she be informed of proposed

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arrangements going forward so that appropriate risk assessments can be put in place.

Clerk to liaise with Cllr Edwards.

(473) Councillors agreed that for the foreseeable future, no wilding projects will take place at the Buriaground and all mowing and maintenance shall continue as per agreed schedule with maintenance contractor.

(474) Burialground Caretaker highlighted the need for the Burialground to remain mown due to the requirement for additional grave space on the horizon. He also suggested a trial grave dig in the area in order to ascertain whether the ground could in fact be used for this purpose, given the poor composition of soil discovered when testing turf stripper.

(475) Cllr Edwards suggested that a member of the Greener Betchworth team attends the next PC meeting to discuss what 'Declaring a Climate Emergency' means as a village.

(476) Cllr Edwards informed those present that the Greener Betchworth group are looking to purchase Re-Betchworth.org as a domain name at £108 for 36 months with 'goDaddy' and requested whether in principal the Parish Council would fund this expense. Clerk stated that all funding requests seeking approval should be submitted in writing. Cllr Higgins reminded those present that Standing Orders state that financial requests should be listed as items on the Agenda, Cllr Budd suggested a facebook page (free) as a platform in order to get up and running. Cllr Edwards to circulate a funding request proposal outlining description of requirements ahead of next PC meeting.

(477) 9.25pm Councillors Budd and Potter left the meeting.

11. CLERK'S REPORT.

12. FINANCE.

(478) The Clerk displayed the end of year financial summary highlighting a significant increase in income, largely due to the purchase of burialground plots as well as the £10k Covid Grant received, and expenditure lower than budgeted.

(479) Councillors acknowledged Clerk's VAT Submission on behalf of the Council for £1011.16.

(480) Clerk confirmed that all invoices had been issued to allotment holders for 2021/22.

(481) In preparation for receipt of CIL money, Councillors agreed that Clerk should explore the option of a 3rd bank account (two currently held with HSBC) in order to reduce any uninsured risk.

(482) The following amounts were approved for payment in April 2021:

IB00324	Marion Hallett – Salary Phone expenses	£	1175.88
IB00325	HMRC – NI	£	118.19
IB00326	Josh Flynn Gardening Services	£	1325.00
IB00327	SALC	£	370.38
IB00328	Sherlocks Funeral Services	£	495.00

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

(483) Cllr Wilson requested Wonham Lane flooding be put on the agenda for May 2021.

14. FUTURE MEETING DATES.

Next Parish Council Meetings –Tuesday 4 May 2021 via Zoom, Monday 7th June 2021 Hamilton Room (TBC).

- Next Parish Council Meetings –Tuesday 4th May 2021, Mon 7th June
- Litterpick Weekend – 17/18 April 2021
- Wednesday 19 May 2021 – Internal Audit (Clerk)

Parish Magazine Article: deadline for May mag: 12th April 2021

(484) Councillor Hardy closed the meeting at 9.38pm

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Clerk/HE

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Clerk