

**BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the **MEETING** of the **BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL** held on **MONDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2021**, Commencing at 8.00pm int Betchworth Village Hall, Station Road, Betchworth.

Present: Cllrs Hardy (Chair), Winter, Rogers, Higgins, Wilson, Randall and Clerk (Marion Hallett), District Councillors Budd and Potter and 7 members of public attended part of the meeting.

ACTION

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

(157) Apologies were received from Councillor Edwards and County Councillor Clack.

(158) With the ability to conduct the meeting with adequate spacing and ventilation, attendees agreed to remove face coverings.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

(159) One declaration of interest was received from Councillor Winter, relating to Planning Application MO/2021/1761, Prior notification of agricultural building (neighbour).

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

(160) The minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2021 were approved and await signature by Cllr Winter at the November meeting.

**4. COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT**

(161) The police report with incidents for September 2021 was displayed and acknowledged, noting an increase in fly tipping especially at Gadbrook/ Snowerhill Road.

**5. OPEN FORUM**

(162) In order to accommodate visiting members of the public representing this application, Planning Item MO/2021/1607 was discussed. After reviewing plans presented, Councillors agreed that no comment would be required.

(163) To further accommodate one of the members of public, Councillors discussed one of the sites allocated in the proposed revised Local Plan. Councillors noted that the revised plot encompassed a larger area which included the existing dwelling, which is inaccurate. As had been expressed earlier in the consultation process, Councillors reiterated the preference for smaller, preferably 2-3 bed homes to be built on the site. Councillors also commented that the number of houses viable for the area would be fewer if the existing house were to remain in situ. The member of public advised that technical work and surveys were yet to be undertaken to ascertain feasibility and size of the project. Clerk to respond to Consultation reiterating the preference for smaller 'downsize' homes on the plot.

(164) 8.24pm Three members of public left the meeting.

(165) To accommodate another member of public, Councillors brought forward Agenda Item 10 to discuss proposals for Re-Betchworth and the PC's working relationship. Cllr Winter referred to a proposal he had circulated earlier that day. There having been little time to review the content in advance of the meeting, it was agreed that a decision whether to approve the working relationship proposal would not be sought at this meeting. Clerk advised that the professional opinion of Mulberry (Auditors) and SALC (Governing body) should be sought. As an interim measure, Councillors approved the proposed Re-Betchworth spending budget in order to facilitate specified projects of benefit to

Clerk

DRAFT

the community. In order for the group to carry out activities requiring expenditure whilst it remains un-constituted, Councillors approved the Clerk's power to make necessary purchases on behalf of the Group within the submitted Re-Betchworth budget. Members of Re-Betchworth to provide a 'shopping list' to the Clerk so that she can facilitate this in line with existing PC Financial Regulations and maintain a clear audit trail.

Community/  
Clerk

(166) Councillors agreed to review the draft Grant Award Policy circulated earlier in the month so that this could be adopted for all local groups who require extra finance.

ALL

(167) District Councillor Potter advised that an extremely poor job had been carried out by Clarion regarding the hedge trimming, and that verges remain uncut and untidy. Complaints continue to be made.

(168) District Councillor Budd raised the Queen's Platinum Jubilee initiative 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee', with the intention that all Parishioners and homeowners are encouraged to plant trees in their gardens and where their properties will allow.

(169) 8.51 one member of public left the meeting.

## 6. TRANSPORT HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

(170) Cllr Hardy confirmed play equipment had been checked on Cllr Edwards' behalf.

(171) Cllr Winter provided a brief verbal footpaths report that the recent litterpick was a success and that the cones and signs purchased were beneficial, but an additional pick would likely be needed once verges have been cut and additional litter exposed. Clerk to thank Estate on Council's behalf for providing hot drinks to helpers. He also reported that overgrown weeds and foliage on a number of footpath verges are impairing the enjoyment of the paths. Cllr Winter suggested a working party may need to be assembled and will speak with Farm & Estate manager if any extra help required. He also informed Councillors of split boards on a footpath bridge which has been reported. Cllr Winter confirmed all kissing gate replacements to be the same size. Awaiting further quote.

Clerk

Clerk/ Cllr  
Winter

(172) Cllr Randall provided a brief summary on the Surrey Transport Plan 2022-2032 Consultation and will draft a response highlighting the absence of reference to the M25 and the ongoing and increasing polluting effects of it and its feeder roads in the plan.

Cllr Randall

(173) Clerk was reminded to arrange a meeting with the Estate (& Cllrs Hardy, Winter & Randall) to discuss route/feasibility for a footpath from Betchworth Bridge to new houses.

Clerk

(174) Clerk to liaise with Highways to explore feasibility of traffic management/priority lines at Betchworth Bridge in order to avoid the potential for collision.

Clerk

(175) Cllr Randall gave a brief verbal report to confirm results from speed surveys are due. He also made a call for reinstating Speedwatch on Station Road, although volunteers are lacking. Cllr Randall confirmed that the Gateways on Snowerhill would not be installed due to the inability to find a suitable location, but requested Pebblehill Gateways be pursued.

(176) Councillors asked Clerk to explore feasibility of a 20mph speed restriction on Betchworth's 'The Street'; acknowledging this incentive has been successful in neighbouring towns.

(177) Cllr Winter confirmed he shall submit a response to the current Gatwick airspace consultation.

Cllr Winter

## 7. PLANNING

### New Applications & Appeals (3)

Wellwood, Wellhouse Lane, Brockham, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7HH  
Demolition of existing house and erection of replacement 3 bedroom dwelling.  
NO COMMENT

#### MO/2021/1761 – Prior Notification

Land adj. to Great Oaks, Snowerhill Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AQ  
Prior notification for the erection of an agricultural building of 18.20 metres x  
15.00 metres for the storage of hay and equipment/machinery.

(178) COMMENT: CONCERN FOR FLOODING & WILDLIFE

Clerk

#### MO/2021/1851

1 Coombe Cottages, The Coombe, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7BT  
Erection of front porch.

NO COMMENT

#### **Other Matters**

(179) Councillors further discussed the Draft Local Plan, specifically relating to the inconsistency in the outlines of the plots, and the knock-on effect that would impact the calculation of houses per hectare. Councillors agreed a request for smaller houses must be submitted as a condition of support for the project. Clerk to respond. Councillors discussed the site at Evergreens, noting that the plot illustration was out of date and incorrectly indicated fewer units on the site than is actually the case. Concern was once again raised that restrictions to occupancy of the site have been diluted.

Clerk

(180) Councillors discussed the consultation launched by the Local Government Boundary Commission. After a brief discussion they agreed not to submit any comments or amendment requests.

### Appeals (1)

#### MO/2021/0094

Land Sth of Betchworth Village Hall, Station Road, Betchworth, RH3 7DF  
Temporary stationing of 2 No. mobile homes with associated storage  
containers and temporary fencing.

Lodged 21 September 2021 – TBD

### Late Applications (0)

### Results (3)

#### MO/2021/1461

Crossways Farm, Station Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DF  
Certificate of Lawfulness for the proposed development in respect of the  
erection of a timber framed outbuilding to store machinery and tools.

REFUSED

#### MO/2021/0520 and MO/2021/0521/LBC

Tranquil House, Old Reigate Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DR  
Construction of new garage following demolition of existing garage and part  
demolition of outbuildings and conversion of remaining outbuilding to form  
ancillary accommodation to the house. Amended description

APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

#### MO/2021/0872

The Stream, Old Road, Buckland, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DS  
Erection of detached double garage.

APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

### Appeal Decisions (0)

**Late Results (0)**

**Other Matters**

**8. AMENITIES**

(181) Cllr Edwards submitted dates for play equipment checked , on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> September

(182) Councillors agreed leaf clearance in the burialground should take place at the maintenance contractors discretion and that no more than two clearances should be required.

(183) It was acknowledged that Bernard Hawkins, the burialground Caretaker, has decided to resign from the post. The Clerk shall perform administrative duties and maintain records relating to the burialground, overseen by Cllr Wilson. Clerk to accommodate extra hours in future financial budget.

Clerk

(184) The Synnott memorial was approved.

(185) Cllr Hardy requested capital project ideas from Councillors to be submitted in time for discussion at the next PC meeting.

(186) Cllr Wilson to turn off water at allotments for the winter months.

(187) Cllr Rogers agreed to check diary with a view to laying the wreath at the Remembrance Sunday service.

Cllr Rogers

**9. COMMUNITY AND COMMUNICATIONS**

(188) Councillors discussed the Queen's Platinum Jubilee arrangements and agreed to initiate plans for a day event to celebrate at some point over the weekend of the 3-5 June 2022, as well as to join in the Brockham procession. Clerk to also communicate 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee' initiative to all residents.

**10. SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT**

(189) Following earlier discussion, Clerk to amend the drafted Grant Awards Policy incorporating minor amendments as discussed and recirculate to Councillors for approval and adoption at the November PC meeting.

(190) 10.02pm two members of public left the meeting.

**11. CLERK'S REPORT**

(191) The Clerk thanked two candidates in attendance for submitting their applications for the role.

(192) Two members of public left the meeting.

**12. FINANCE**

(193) Councillors acknowledged receipts of £555 (Burialground).

(194) Clerk confirmed the conclusion of external audit for 2020/21 and confirmed that no issues had been found. All relevant documentation updated and displayed on website & noticeboards.

(195) Clerk displayed a up to date Finance Summary for consideration by Councillors, noting budget is in line with expenditure but income remains high.

(196) The following amounts were approved for payment in October 2021:

IB00370	Marion Hallett – Salary Phone expenses	£	964.06
IB00371	HMRC – NI (Sept)	£	54.20
IB00372	Shires Accountants	£	39.60
IB00373	PKF Littlejohn	£	360.00
IB00374	Eventbrite	£	51.71
IB00375	Josh Flynn	£	560.00
IB00376	Surrey County Council	£	360.00
IB00377	Betchworth Village WM Hall	£	53.00

**13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.**

**14. FUTURE MEETING DATES.**

- a. Next Parish Council Meetings - 1<sup>st</sup> Nov, 6 Dec 2021
- b. 12 October – SALC AGM and Conference – Attendees
- c. 12 October – Plane Wrong AGM (7.30pm) Betchworth VH
- d. 27<sup>th</sup> October – NALC Biodiversity Net Gain online event – JH Attending
- e. 1<sup>st</sup> November – SALC Chairman’s Forum (no attendees)
- f. 14<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Sunday – wreath to be laid by Councillor
- g. 23<sup>rd</sup> November – Finance Group Meeting
- h. 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Future Communities Conference/NALC – attendees?
- i. 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022 – Platinum Jubilee and Queen’s Grand Parade - Community

**Parish Magazine Article: deadline for November mag: 18 October 2021  
(Request for new village Helpers/Platinum Jubilee Committee)**

(156) Councillor Hardy closed the meeting at 10.02pm

Clerk/Cllr  
Hardy

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