

BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING of the BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL held on MONDAY 6th December 2021, commencing at 7.30pm in the Betchworth Village Hall, Station Road, Betchworth.

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(229) Apologies were received from County Councillor Clack.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(230) One declaration of interest was received from Councillor Winter, relating to Planning Application MO/2021/1109 (neighbour) the book was signed.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

(231) The minutes of the meeting held on 1st November 2021 were approved and signed by Cllr Hardy.

4. COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT

(232) The police report with incidents for November 2021 was displayed and acknowledged, with no significant items raised.

5. OPEN FORUM

(233) Cllr Hardy welcomed two members of public representing Betchworth Estate and Re-Betchworth group, it was agreed to bring a couple of agenda items forward to allow representation.

(234) Mole Valley is awarding a number of trees to Parish councils to celebrate the Queens Jubilee; we have accepted the offer of 110 trees. It was agreed that Betchworth Estate were happy to have these trees on their land (to adjoin Dendy's Wood). It was also discussed and agreed that as they are in the middle of writing their management plans and stewardship the trees would be heeled in when received but may be moved to a different location next year.

(235) It was agreed that the Estate Manager would oversee and manage the delivery and heeling in of the said donated trees. The Estate Manager will work in conjunction with the representative from Re-Betchworth group.

(236) It was agreed that the trees would be gifted to Betchworth Estate to manage and own after planting.

(237) A discussion was had regarding planting some additional trees in Goulburn Green.

(238) An update was provided by Betchworth Estate re Snowerhill Footpath. The footpath is to be ready by the end of February. The Parish Council is currently providing 1 kissing gate for this and a request to purchase another one was made. The footpath to the South of Snowerhill will require a digger this will be done after the winter and be completed by Spring.

(239) Councillors discussed various footpath repairs and the intention to purchase an amount of scalplings to be stored on Betchworth Estate for repairs to footpaths when required. Councillors commented that footpath maintenance is the responsibility of SCC, however agreed to carry out ad-hoc repairs where necessary. Councillors discussed resurfacing the footpath from the Church to the bridge. Clerk to clarify footpath requirements with Betchworth Estate with a view to resurfacing.

ACTION

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

DRAFT

(240) 7.55pm: one member of the public left the meeting.

(241) A member from Re-Betchworth group proposed potential Apple Tree Festivals and requested that a tutor from Brogdale Horticultural Trust would survey the trees with a view to hosting a workshop for residents on how to bring mature trees back into fruitful production. Clerk to follow up with Re-Betchworth and receive full breakdown of costs and notify Josh Flynn not to prune the trees until next steps agreed.

Clerk

(242) An update was provided on Re-Betchworth Group and it was agreed that the group would engage with Clerk to look at how to best work together and add reference onto the Parish Council website.

(243) 8.15pm: one member of the public left the meeting

Clerk

6. TRANSPORT HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

(244) Cllr Winter provided an update stating that all footpath champions would be re-engaged as part of the kissing gate installation.

(245) Snowerhill Footpath Update was moved to Open Forum

Cllr Winter

(246) Cllr Randall provided an update of activities in 2021, in summary the successes that were reported: remedial actions re flooding at Station Road junction and A25, speed monitoring on Old Reigate Road leading to reduction to 30mph (subject to police ratification), ongoing speedy surveys and more recommendations to be made, representation on state of Betchworth Bridge, reporting dangerous wall structure to The Firs development site resulting in the widening of the footpath, looking to re-form the Speedwatch activity group and retaining the boards in The Street. Cllr Randall wanted to extend a special thanks to the Clerk for her support in these actions.

(247) The Parish Council recognised Cllr Winter's hard work on the Gatwick response which has now been submitted and published.

(248) Cllr Wilson noted that some sporadic verge cutting has taken place. It was noted that the Parish Council has not received a verge cutting schedule despite having received these previously. It was noted that no verge cutting had taken place along Sandy Lane. Cllr Budd to mention to Cllr Clack.

Cllr Budd

(249) Speed survey results were covered in Cllr Randall update.

(250) Wonham Lane Traffic order was displayed and acknowledged.

(251) 12 x Kissing Gates have now formally been ordered, due to backlog these are in progress and should get an update in January, Clerk to continue to chase. Once delivery is known Clerk to liaise with Cllr Winter re installation.

Clerk/Cllr Winter

7. PLANNING

New Applications

MO/2021/1109

Great Oaks, Snowerhill Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AQ

Erection of part single storey side and part two storey side and rear extension
No comment

MO/2021/1999

The Firs, The Street, Betchworth, Surrey, RH£ 7DJ

Variation of Condition 1, 8 & 11 of planning permission **MO/2021/0089/CC** for Demolition of existing dwelling and replacement with 3 No. detached dwellings with double garage, provision of associated landscaping and use of existing access in relation to the existing boundary wall.

Clerk

Object, request native hedge screening and comment railings are out of character

MO/2021/2110

Coombe Hayes, Pebble Hill Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7BP
Erection of two storey extension to North elevation and single storey extension to West elevation

No comment

MO/2021/2187

Highworth, The Street, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DJ
Variation of condition 2 of approved planning permission **MO/2021/2143** for the erection of a replacement dwelling with detached garage to include total of 4 no. new dormwrs serving second storey accommodation, and photovoltaic panels to the roof

No comment

MO/2021/2157

Land to the South of Betchworth Village Hall, Station Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DF
Erection of 1 No. dwelling with associated landscaping, parking and access Following demolition of existing barn.

Object, turning circle is not within the application site and is on green belt.

Clerk

Late Applications (0)

Results (3)

MO/2021/815

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

Approved with conditions

MO/2021/1607

Wellwood, Wellhouse Lane, Brockham, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7HH
Demolition of existing house and erection of replacement 3 bedroom dwelling.

Approved with conditions

MO/2021/1941

The Old Nurseries, Old Reigate Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DR
Enlargement and reconstruction of the existing garage.

Approved with conditions

Appeal Decisions (0)

Late Results (0)

Other Matters

8. AMENITIES

(252) Cllr Edwards confirmed she had checked the play equipment - dates submitted to Clerk. The Chair thanked Cllr Edwards for agreeing to continue to check the equipment after standing down as Councillor.

DRAFT

(253) Clerk displayed the play inspection report to Councillors which was acknowledged.

(254) Councillors approved the Crouch memorial – Clerk to respond to Sherlocks.

(255) Discussion was had regarding the burial ground fees and it was agreed to continue with the schedule as approved last year and increase by 30% from April 2022. Clerk to update relevant documentation. It was also agreed to review proposal annually as part of budget planning.

Clerk

Clerk

9. COMMUNITY AND COMMUNICATIONS

(256) It was acknowledged that the Boundary Review response has been submitted and Councillors have seen other submissions from neighbouring parishes.

(257) The councillor vacancy has still not been filled, Councillors to think about suitable candidates and make approach. Article to go into next Parish magazine and a notice to be put up on noticeboards.

(258) Tree Planting was discussed in Open Forum. Councillors to discuss additional locations for any extra trees purchased. Next steps for Jubilee plans is to set up a working group, Clerk to pass on Volunteers names to Cllr Hardy.

(259) Annual Parish Meeting guest speaker was discussed, agreed to see if we could get a speaker re the environment. Councillors to make suggestions & Cllr Hardy to discuss with Re-Betchworth Group for ideas.

(260) Minerals and Waste Local plan was displayed – no comments made.

(261) Surrey Hills AONB Boundary Review was discussed and agreed that Betchworth PC would like to be included. Deadline is set for end of January. All Councillors to review after Clerk has issued the papers. To be added onto January Agenda.

Cllr
Hardy/Clerk

Councillors/
Cllr Hardy

Councillors/
Clerk

10. SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

(262) Acknowledgement of the Heat Pump zoom meeting on 7th December

(263) Community Apple Tree Revival was discussed in Open Forum

11. CLERK'S REPORT

12. FINANCE

(264) Councillors acknowledged receipts of £135 (Burialground).

(265) Councillors acknowledged receipts of £1377.27 VAT returns.

(266) A revised budget for 2021/22 was presented which showed an increase due to the receipt of CIL money. A discussion was had re the allocation of CIL money, it was explained that this money had to be allocated for this purpose but would be represented back to council before spending. Councillors formally approved the revised budget for 2021/22 (signed by Cllr Hardy and Cllr Rogers).

(267) A budget for 2022/23 was presented following approval at Finance Committee for formal approval. It was noted that the Precept for 2022/23 will be increased by 3% and there was an inclusion of £8,000 Grant money which can be awarded in line with the proposed Grant Awards Policy. The budget for 2022/23 was approved (signed by Cllr Hardy and Cllr Rogers).

(268) The Grant policy was formally approved (signed by Cllr Rogers), this will now be distributed to relevant parties inviting them to submit their requests.

(269) It was unanimously approved to continue to use Mark Mulberry & Co as internal auditors for 2022/23. Clerk to book audit.

Clerk

Clerk

(270) It was formally agreed to set up UNITY current account.

DRAFT

(271) The village gateways final cost has come in as £10,582.21 incl VAT. This is a significant increase due to the cost of installation. It was formally agreed to continue and the Purchase Order was signed off. Further clarification is required on the Snowerhill site to ensure that the gateway is feasible. Clerk agreed to seek further clarification and report back to Councillors.

Clerk

(272) Clerk displayed a up to date Finance Summary noting the spike in income which is due to the CIL money being received. Clerk discussed plan to re look at the benefits of the financial summary and look to update next year.

Clerk

(273) The following amounts were approved for payment in December 2021 by Cllrs Rogers and Edwards:

Clerk

IB00385	Mulberry – Training	£	84.00
IB00386	Marion Hallett – Salary Phone expenses	£	993.14
IB00387	Cheryl Sexton – Salary Phone expenses	£	1106.13
IB00388	HMRC – NI (Nov)	£	123.39
IB00389	Betchworth Village WM Hall	£	53.00
IB00390	Surrey County Council (Gateways Purchase Order)	£	10582.21

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14. FUTURE MEETING DATES.

- a. Next Parish Council Meetings – 10th January, 7 February
- b. 28th January – Quiz Night – Re-Betchworth & B&B Society to co-host
- c. 28th March APM - TBC
- d. 3rd – 5th June 2022 – Platinum Jubilee and Queen's Grand Parade - Community

Parish Magazine Article: deadline for January Mag: 13th December 2021 (Councillor Vacancy, CIL money, Invitation for email address and Speedwatch Volunteers)

(274) 9.30 Member of the public left the meeting

(275) Councillor Hardy closed the meeting at 9.31pm

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