

BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING of the BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL held on MONDAY 7th February 2022, commencing at 8.00pm in the Betchworth Village Hall, Station Road, Betchworth.

Present: Cllrs Hardy (Chair), Winter, Rogers, Higgins, Wilson, Randall and Clerk (Cheryl Sexton), District Councillors Budd and Potter.

ACTION

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(324) Apologies were received from County Councillor Clack.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(325) No declarations were received.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

(326) The minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2022 were approved and signed by Cllr Hardy.

4. COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT

(327) The police report with incidents for January 2022 were displayed, discussed and acknowledged, with no significant items raised.

5. OPEN FORUM

(328) A request from a resident on Pebblehill has come in via District Councillor Potter requesting a speed camera. To be considered with all other traffic calming measures in the village.

(329) District Councillor Potter raised that there are problems with 3 doors in Atkinson House. District Councillor Potter to keep on review and report back to Council.

(330) District Councillor Potter advised Council that he is awaiting for an update as to when the hedge by the school pathway is to be cleared.

District
Councillor
Potter

6. TRANSPORT HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

(331) Cllr Winter provided an update on Footpaths. 12 Kissing gates have now been received. Contact has been made regarding installation and is currently awaiting a site visit to complete survey. Currently no commitments on timings but will report back following meeting with installation group co-ordinator and further discussions with Betchworth Estate.

Cllr Winter

(332) Litter picking is due to take place over the weekend of 12 February, all volunteers are identified, and a plan has been pulled together to ensure coverage of the village. Joosje Hamilton has kindly offered to provide free tea or coffee from The Post Office to our volunteers from 10-12.30. Council thanks Joosje for her kind offer.

(333) Snowerhill permissive footpath will also be picked up in discussions with Betchworth Estate when discussing the implementation of kissing gates.

Cllr Winter

(334) Cllr Randall provided an update on Highways. A successful meeting was held on 7th February with Highways SCC. Discussions and agreements were reached regarding the revised positioning of the Gateways on A25. When final confirmation is received this will be shared with Buckland following interest and final orders will be made. Revised quotation for the 3 proposed gateways was approved at £6,884.48 following the removal of the Snowerhill gateway due to size of verge.

DRAFT

(335) It was noted that there will be a delay in ordering the gateways due to a change in Contractors at Surrey County Council. These will now be ordered at the earliest opportunity in April 2022. Clerk to ensure that the budget secured for 2021/22 can be moved to 2022/23 budget year.

Clerk

(336) Cllr Randall provided an update that the Police have approved the speed reduction on Old Reigate Road from Arkle Manor to 30 mph. To proceed and make changes including the legal notice will cost in the region of £4000. As part of the road in question covers Brockham Parish it is hoped that SCC will pay for this. Cllr Randall is awaiting a quotation from Highways before recommending way forward.

Cllr Randall

(337) A discussion was had regarding the latest incident at Betchworth Bridge. It was acknowledged that The Clerk had reported to highways. Cllr Randall updated council that as part of the discussion with Highways on 7th February this was also spoken about. Cllr Randall explained the issues with implementing signage and the lack of benefits that SCC believed it would bring. A suggestion was made to look at trimming the hedges and vegetation alongside the bridge to see if that would provide better visibility. Cllr Randall to undertake a site visit with Cllr Hardy to consider further steps to improve the situation – any further ideas gratefully received.

Cllr Randall/
Cllr Hardy

(338) Council discussed current concerns with The Street, following community dialogue on Whats App and the recent accident. There are a couple of issues that need addressing with the lack of footpaths on 2 stretches of The Street and speeding concerns. It was agreed that this needed to be addressed and reported back on.

(339) For the 2 areas that do not have a footpath, a discussion was had about what can be done to make people aware that Betchworth is a pedestrian village, do we improve/increase the signage, and will that give the benefit we require?

Cllr Randall

(340) Regarding the issue of speeding Cllr Winter tabled the Surrey County Council guidelines which highlights what is required to lower limits to 20mph. It was tabled to look at a potential speed survey in the spring to aide these discussions. Cllr Randall to report back recommendations on how to proceed taking into account District Cllr Potters comments that SCC have previously rejected 20mph zones in other villages and understanding what travel plan the school currently have in place.

Cllr Randall

(341) Cllr Randall provided an update on potential usage of land for station parking. Cllr Randall has contacted White & Sons and is waiting to hear back their position.

Cllr Randall

(342) Cllr Winter provided an update following the last Gatwick Route 4 meeting on 1 February 2022. There are 4 weeks to respond to latest recommendations. Following discussion with Cllr Wilson, Cllr Winter will circulate response with council.

Cllr Winter

7. PLANNING

New Applications (2)

MO/2021/2187

VARIANCE OF CONDITIONS

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

Variation of condition 2 of approved planning permission MO/2020/2143 for the erection of a replacement dwelling with detached garage, to include total of 4 no. new dormers serving second storey accommodation, and photovoltaic panels to the roof.

No Comment

DRAFT

MO/2022/0115

VARIANCE OF CONDITIONS

4, The Quarry, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7BY

Variation of condition 2 of approved planning permission MO/2021/0317 for the erection of first floor side extension and alterations to fenestration, to allow a change from a slate roof to a slate grey insulated metal roof system and replace the cedar exterior wall cladding with larch boarding to match existing.

No Comment

Late Applications (0)

Results (0)

Appeal Decisions (0)

Late Results (0)

Other Matters

(343) Clerk explained that Council get 3 weeks to comment on an application, these timescales are governed by the District Council. As the Parish Council are not making a decision, we are conveying our views and observations, Clerk has requested that we use section 8 in our scheme of delegation (document is on our website) to ensure that all applications are consulted in a timely manner. Asking for an extension to fit in with our Parish Council timescales is not always appropriate. It was agreed that any applications that fall outside of Councils timescales will be issued from The Clerk to full Council for information, The Planning Group will make comment which will be conveyed to the relevant authority within the consultation time by The Clerk. All comments will be ratified at the next council meeting.

8. AMENITIES

(344) Confirmation received that the play equipment has been checked- dates submitted to Clerk as 13/1, 21/1, 29/1.

(345) Councillors approved the memorial inscription for Mrs Dumas – Clerk to respond to Sherlocks.

(346) Council agreed in principle the purchasing of trees for the proposed Jubilee Wood. Need to discuss with The Betchworth Estate re timing of when to plant these trees and when the land will be ready. Will bring back to Council for further approval when detail is understood and can quantify the trees required.

Clerk

Cllr Hardy

9. COMMUNITY AND COMMUNICATIONS

(347) Cllr Hardy provided an update on the Councillor Vacancy, there have been no applicants to date despite vacancies being advertised. Agreed that new Councillor will need to be approached.

(348) Jubilee Working Group has been mobilised, details of the celebrations will be communicated in due course. District Councillor Budd discussed Brockhams plans and the plans for the 3B's to come together for the celebrations on the Saturday, Betchworth are liaising with the relevant group to ensure that we are involved.

(349) It was agreed that Council would like to contribute and make some donations to the jubilee celebrations. Clerk to be kept up to date with requirements and will approve if appropriate at relevant Council meeting.

(350) Cllr Hardy requested that BPC should purchase a tree to go onto Goulburn Green as a symbolic gesture for the jubilee. Cllr Hardy suggested a position for the tree which Cllr Wilson agreed to look at and comment together with a recommendation of tree to be planted.

Cllr Hardy

Cllr Wilson

DRAFT

(351) Annual Parish meeting is to take place on 28th March, clerk to contact Highways to see if they will provide a guest speaker as issues regarding speeding and signage seems to be a key topic in our community. If this is not viable all are to think about alternative speakers, please pass your comments to the Clerk.

Clerk

(352) Clerk displayed a list of ideas that parishioners have put forward regarding the CIL money that we have. Clerk proposed to set up a working party to go through the list and prioritise the requirements before we put back to the parishioners for comment. Clerk thanks the Council for all volunteering to be part of the working party. Meeting to be set up.

Clerk/All

(353) Acknowledgement was given to the success of the quiz night held.

10. SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

(354) Apple Tree Pruning Workshop is set for 8 March 2022. Clerk is currently liaising with Zurich regarding insurance for the event and will complete a risk assessment.

Clerk

(355) It was agreed that Betchworth Parish Council would delay the replacement of the 2 Apple Trees by up to 12 months in order to establish the variety of apples of the other trees so we can compliment with them.

(356) Cllr Hardy agreed to be the Councillor present on day of Apple Tree Workshop 8 March 2022.

(357) Cllr Winter explained that Re-Betchworth are currently looking at initiatives for the upcoming year, please pass any comments onto the group as appropriate.

All

11. CLERK'S REPORT

(358) Clerk updated council on new agenda item which would allow us to comment on correspondence received within the month.

(359) Council expressed their disappointment that their comments were not included in the MVDC Local Plan.

(360) Council agreed to write a letter of support to MVDC with regards to the letter that Cllr Stephen Cooksey wrote with regards Sewage in the River Mole.

Clerk

(361) Council also agreed to write a letter from Betchworth Parish Council to the Environmental Agency mirroring the comments that Cllr Cooksey had made.

(362) Clerk displayed a new ongoing action list which will be used to manage actions assigned from the council meetings. This will be distributed with the agenda each month and managed by the Clerk.

Clerk

(363) District Councillors Budd and Potter left the meeting at 9.42pm

12. FINANCE

(364) Councillors acknowledged receipts of £400 (Burialground), which includes a reduction of the previous £30 credit.

(365) Clerk displayed an up-to-date Finance Summary.

(366) The following amounts were approved for payment in February 2022 by Cllrs Rogers and Winter:

IB00401	Cheryl Sexton – Salary, Phone, Expenses	£	1013.73
IB00402	HMRC – NI (January)	£	69.19
IB00403	Betchworth Village Hall	£	53.00
IB00404	Barkers Print – Re_Betchworth Flyers	£	40.00
IB00405	Centrewire – Kissing Gate (Snowerhill)	£	489.60
IB00406	James Benn – Apple Tree Survey	£	92.00
IB00383	Centrewire – Kissing Gates x 11	£	5385.60*
IB00407	HSBC Monthly Charge	£	5.00

*Purchase order originally signed off 1 November 2021, now producing invoice.

13. URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING AND FOR INCLUSION ON A FURTHER AGENDA

(367) Council noted that Buckland Parish Council had provided a copy of a planning breach enquiry submitted against Karcher Cleaning (Unit B Buffer Depot, Station Road, Betchworth). Council acknowledged the enforcement notice and agreed to express Councils support, if required.

14. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS (Closed to Public and Press)

(368) Council discussed the tenders to clean the war memorial and unanimously agreed to proceed with Prelude Stone. Clerk to make necessary arrangements.

(369) Council discussed the tenders to remove 2 apple trees and debris following apple tree pruning workshop and unanimously agreed to proceed with Mattree Professional Tree Care. Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.

Clerk

Clerk

15. FUTURE MEETING DATES.

- a. Next Parish Council Meetings – 7 March, 4 April 2022
- b. Rural Police Meeting – 8th February
- c. Betchworth Litter Picking – 12th February
- d. Surrey ALC Chairmans Meeting – 8th March Cllr Hardy
- e. Surrey ALC Clerks Meeting – 14th March – Clerk
- f. Annual Parish Meeting – 28th March – Betchworth Village Hall
- g. Internal Audit – 25th April - Clerk
- h. 3rd – 5th June 2022 – Platinum Jubilee and Queen's Grand Parade - Community

Parish Magazine Article: deadline for March Mag: 13th February 2022 (Invitation for email address, Invitation for APM)

(370) Councillor Hardy closed the meeting at 9.54pm

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