

DRAFT

BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the **MEETING** of the **BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL** held on **MONDAY 6th March 2023**, commencing at 8pm in The Hamilton Room, Betchworth

Councillors (Cllrs) present:

Cllr Julie Hardy (JH) Chairman
Cllr Edward Winter (EW)
Cllr Colin Rogers (CR)
Cllr Martin Higgins (MH)
Cllr Ian Wilson (IW)
Cllr Graham Randall (GR)
Cllr Robert Ashdown (RA)

Attending:

District Councillor Budd (SB) (Late)
District Councillor Potter (PP) (Late)
1 member of the public

Apologies:

Apologies:

In attendance: Cheryl Sexton (CS), Clerk & RFO

Minute #	Agenda item	Who
	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
357	It was noted that District Councillors Budd and Potter were at Buckland Annual Parish meeting and would join later in the meeting.	
	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
358	Declaration of interest was received from Councillor Wilson, relating to agenda item 11: A grant request from Betchworth Village Archives (married to requestor). The book was signed.	
359	Declaration of interest was received from Councillor Higgins, relating to agenda item 11: A grant request from Re-Betchworth (Trustee on Re-Betchworth Committee). The book was signed.	
	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING	
359	The minutes of the meeting held on 6 th February 2023 were approved and signed by Councillor Hardy.	
	COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT	
360	The police report with incidents for February 2023 was displayed, discussed, and acknowledged.	

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	OPEN FORUM.	
361	Cllr Hardy welcomed a member of the public (MOP) to the meeting and invited them to speak. MOP explained that he was representing a number of residents in the Pebblehill area and started off by expressing that they felt disenfranchised from the village. Cllr Hardy and the rest of the Council assured the MOP that Pebblehill is not forgotten and is a valued part of the community. It was also mentioned that all residents are welcome to attend our monthly meeting to express concerns and ask for Councils support.	
362	MOP went on to explain several key concerns, the first being about the speed/volume of traffic and lack of policing on Pebblehill. It is the request of residents that the road speed is reduced to 30mph from the A25 roundabout to the base of Pebblehill. It was noted that the MOP has approached County Cllr Clack who has agreed to undertake a speed survey in early Spring as a first step. Council fully support this initiative and Cllr Randall has offered to represent Betchworth Parish Council at the site visit when it has been set up. Clerk to contact County Cllr Clack to show support of Council and ensure that we are included in all future correspondence.	CS
363	The next concern discussed was regarding the physical infrastructure on Pebblehill such as the current width of pavements (due to build up of debris and vegetation), which restricts access to the main part of the village and station for people using mobility transport and prams; lack of appropriate signage; faded road markings; ongoing issues with blocked drains and also the sediment that is building up on the roadway. Cllr Randall explained that we are currently in dialogue with Surrey County Council regarding the drain issues which are currently being monitored. It was also agreed that Council will look to see what can be done regarding the pavement and will start the process with Surrey County Council. In the meantime 'quick wins' will be looked at to see what can make the pavements passable. It was agreed to speak to District Councillor Budd to look at getting help for the cleaning of the pavements.	CS/SB
364	The final concern which has been raised now by several residents is regarding Evergreens. 4 main concerns have been raised as issues, bright lighting which is not in line with our 'dark skies' policy, foul water identified in an open ditch, a new mobile home which has appeared and also the number of residents on the site. It was noted that Betchworth Parish Council are disappointed with Mole Valley's response to date with previous reports made and it was agreed to raise a further breach incorporating all of the issues discussed. The breach will be copied to District Councillors Budd and Potter to support.	
365	MOP was thanked for attending the meeting and sharing their	

	concerns. It was agreed that the Clerk will keep communication going with MOP. MOP left the meeting at 8.35 pm.	
	TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS	
366	Cllr Winter updated that we will be calling on the volunteer group to install the final Kissing Gates now that the weather is improving.	EW
367	Clerk updated Council on the estimate that was received for making 'good' The Church Path FP457, the estimate requires a full tender process following our Financial Regulations if we want to proceed. Council acknowledged that this is a well-used path and fully supported the need to make improvements to this path. Clerk to proceed to obtain formal estimates to provide to Council.	CS
368	It was acknowledged that the next litter pick will take place on 18 th /19 th March. Cllr Winter to co-ordinate.	EW
369	Cllr Randall provided a Highways Report. The A25 and Pebblehill Village Gateways are scheduled for installation on 30/31 st March.	
370	Cllrs Randall & Ashdown met with the School Head Mistress to discuss The Street Proposal & on consultation the School supported the project. They will join us in discussion with Highway Engineers at which County Cllr Helyn Clack will be invited. Project costings can then follow for further consideration by PC.	GR
371	The new Financial Year for Surrey County Council is about to start, the ongoing projects for Speed Reduction on Wellhouse Lane and Old Reigate Road can now be formally requested. For Wellhouse Lane we need Highways to provide us with a scheme for consideration. Old Reigate Road is complete on authority/ payment so hopefully can proceed soon. Council will be kept informed.	GR
372	It was reported to Council that lorries have been seen turning at the bottom of Pebblehill to access the businesses in situ which have in turn caused damage to the verges. Clerk displayed some images that a villager had sent for discussion. Cllr Hardy advised Council following the report she attended the site and spoke to the landlord company who insisted it was a 'one off' new driver, they explained that they had cleaned the road and pavement and flattened the verges. There was some dispute over whether this was a 'one off' so will be kept on review. Clerk has raised the issue re fixing the verges with Surrey County Council but they contend they are not responsible for repair caused by lorry manoeuvres. This is challenged & MVDC will also be contacted.	CS
373	Cllr Winter asked Council if there is any update on Brockham Parish Councils request for a 20 mph speed limit, Cllr Randall advised there	GR

374	<p>was no update. Cllr Winter asked if this could be kept on the radar due to the potential impact to Betchworth.</p> <p>Cllr Winter updated the Council to be cautious with the latest FASI update as it is in the very early stages. Criteria and measurements will need to be put in place before a formal recommendation is made. Cllr Winter to continue to review.</p>	
375	<p>PLANNING</p> <p>New Applications (0) It was acknowledged that there have been no new planning applications received in February.</p> <p>376 Decisions (3) <u>MO/2022/1143</u> Betchworth Nursery, Station Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DF Demolition works, extensions, new buildings extension to existing car park and creation of a new vehicular access. APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS</p> <p><u>MO/2022/1875</u> Gospel Hall, Station Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DF Demolition of existing single storey timber building to allow for the construction of a new single storey three bedroom residential dwelling. APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS</p> <p><u>MO/2022/2082</u> 11, Lazell Gardens, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7BF Erection of replacement single storey rear extension and replacing existing window with bifolding doors. APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS</p>	
377	<p>AMENITIES</p> <p>It was acknowledged that the play equipment was checked on 7th, 11th, 18th and 26th February.</p> <p>378 It was acknowledged that all 3 defibrillators were inspected in February by Cllrs Hardy and Winter.</p> <p>379 It was acknowledged that there were no new memorials to approve.</p> <p>380 It was acknowledged that the invoices for allotments will be issued at the end of March with the agreed revised charges.</p>	CS
381	<p>COMMUNITY AND COMMUNICATIONS</p> <p>Cllr Hardy updated council on the Annual Parish Meeting which is due to take place on 27th March.</p>	

382	Cllr Wilson displayed the historical poster which is due to be displayed at Betchworth Train station using the grant received from GWR (Great Western Railway). Posters are ready to be installed following final approval of positioning on the platforms.	
383	It was discussed and acknowledged that the Local Plan Examination process has been paused until 25 May 2023 by Mole Valley.	
	CLERKS UPDATE	
384	District Cllr Budd entered the meeting at 9.15pm and Cllr Hardy updated District Cllr Budd on the issues discussed under 'Open Forum'. District Cllr Budd agreed to look at resources available to clear the paths on Pebblehill as he had previously arranged this in the past.	SB
385	District Cllr Potter entered the meeting at 9.25pm and Cllr Hardy was able to update both District Councillors on the issue regarding Evergreens and requested their support. Clerk to copy both District Councillors into representation made by Betchworth Parish Council to Mole Valley.	CS
386	Clerk displayed the revised Clerks Report which will be added to the website 'supporting files' with the minutes, highlighting areas in red since the issuing of the agenda. These were acknowledged.	
387	Ongoing action log was acknowledged.	
388	Clerk detailed the dates for the Surrey Hills AONB Boundary Review Consultation which will begin on 7 th March 2023 until 13 th June 2023. Cllr Wilson will be on lead for this.	IW
389	It was acknowledged that MO/2023/0255 (as a late entry) South Lodge, Brockham Park, Gadbrook Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AH . This was discussed to be of no consequence. To appear on the agenda next month to ratify.	CS
390	District Cllrs Budd and Potter left the meeting 9.35pm.	
	FINANCE	
391	Councillors acknowledged the transfer of £4123.50 from UNITY (CIL Account) to pay for the Village Gateways.	
392	The Grant Applications were acknowledged and discussed, the following decisions were made. Toddler Group to be allocated £250, Betchworth Village Archive to be allocated £1000, FABB to be allocated £200 and Re-Betchworth to be allocated £3200. Clerk to	CS

	notify the organisations and raise the relevant Purchase Orders for payment next month.																																																	
393	Council formally approved the renewal of Surrey Hills Society Membership for 2023 for £30																																																	
394	Clerk displayed the Monthly Financial Summary which was discussed and acknowledged.																																																	
395	Councillors formally approved the Purchase Order (PO0010) for £1197.60 for the cabinets on Betchworth Train Station to allow payment in March once approved. It was also noted that these will be added to the asset register when in place. This was signed by Cllr Winter and Cllr Rogers.																																																	
396	Councillors formally approved the Purchase Order (PO0012) for £320.10 for the provision of 12 Kissing Gate Plaques. This was signed by Cllr Winter and Cllr Rogers, please note that this will not be paid until proof approved.																																																	
397	Council acknowledged that PO009 for Surrey County Council was paid in February £4123.50																																																	
398	The following amounts were approved for payment in March 2023 by Cllrs Winter and Rogers:																																																	
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399	<p>URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING AND FOR INCLUSION ON A FURTHER AGENDA</p> <p>A request has been received for funding to towards the Kings Coronation. It was discussed that we have allocated £200 in our budget for this occasion and to offer this as a contribution. Agreed in principle and to be added to the agenda next month to agree.</p>	CS
400	<p>FUTURE MEETING DATES</p> <p>The following dates were acknowledged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Next Parish Council Meetings – 3rd April, 15 May b. 3 B's Alignment Meeting – 8th March – Clerk c. Informal Consultation Meeting 'Proposed extension to the Surrey Hills AONB' – 13th March – Cllr Wilson d. Surrey ALC Clerks Forum – 13th March – Clerk e. Proposed Litter Pick – 18th/19th March – Community f. Annual Parish Meeting – 27th March – Community g. Internal Audit – 24th April – Clerk h. Local Elections – 4th May <p>PARISH MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Invitation for email address.</p>	
401	<p>MEETING CLOSED AT 10.25 pm</p>	
	<p>THIS IS A CONTROLLED DOCUMENT – Betchworth Parish Council will NOT be held responsible for content when downloaded from the website.</p>	