

APRIL CLERK REPORT

Betchworth Parish Council

Correspondence to acknowledge

- Daily work communications (no impact to Betchworth)
- Acknowledgement from SESWater regarding issue with allotment water
- Surrey ALC Newsletter (issued to councillors for information)
- In the Know Bulletin announcing new Chief Constable (issued to councillors for information)
- April edition of In the Know
- In the Know weekly bulletin reports
- Email from County Cllr Clack re Potholes (issued to councillors for information)
- Acknowledgement from Highways regarding our report of low hanging trees on Pebblehill
- Confirmation from MVDC that there is an uncontested election for Betchworth
- Correspondence from SE Corp & GWR regarding the issue with the lights on Betchworth Station
- Introduction from new Chief Constable (issued to councillors for information)
- NALC Chief Executive Officer Weekly Bulletins (issues to councillors for information)
- Invitation to attend Route 4 Noise Preferential Meeting (sent to Cllrs Winter and Wilson to attend)
- Advice request re neigh218bour starting business from home (passed parishioner onto Mole Valley)
- Confirmation of Precept and Concurrent Grant split for the year from Mole Valley
- Surrey Hills April edition (sent to councillors for information)
- Request to BPC to buy back ashes plot as no longer required (agreed with Cllr Wilson and on agenda to approve payment)
- Request from villager regarding new play equipment on Goulburn Green (to be added to the agenda)
- ETRA Public Meeting agenda
- Email for information from villager making requests to council for bridge over railway and creating bridge banks on Betchworth Bridge to prevent flooding
- Correspondence from Cllr Clack, encouraging responses to AONB consultation (responded stating that we were agreeing a response to put forward)
- Acknowledgement regarding broken footpath sign on Pilgrims Way (see Footpaths for detail)
- Acknowledgement from SCC re broken drains email ref 2611958
- Comment back regarding leaning fence at old Barley Mow site (see highways for detail)
- Acknowledgement of comments on Surrey Boundary Review
- Response back from Police regarding the issues with the verges on Pebblehill (see Highways for detail)
- Planning appeal letter re The Bungalow, Kiln Lane (sent to councillors for information)
- Press Release regarding the award of £1.8m to Surrey Safer Roads Fund (sent to councillors for information)
- Email from SCC regarding the Gateways (please see Highways for detail)
- Chase up email from B&BS regarding the repainting of phone box
- Office for National Statistics Newsletter
- GATCOM Agenda (issued to Gatwick representative Cllrs)
- SLCC Minutes

- UNITY bank newsletter
- Reference from villager re request for pedestrian rail crossing bridge received
- Email from GWR requesting Post Project Review to be done re the GWR grant (Clerk to deal)
- Acknowledgement from SCC regarding contact for St Michaels church (see Other items of note for detail)
- Notification from The Circuit that the defibrillator may have been used (Cllr Hardy to investigate) All clear
- Email from Countryside regarding the broken fingerpost (see Footpaths for details)
- Email from parishioner regarding the broken fence at Barley Mow (see Highways for more info)
- Confirmation of meeting times for Highways meeting
- Acknowledgement from Building Control regarding the fencing at Barley Mow site (see Highways for more information)
- Confirmation of receipt of Old Reigate Road speed reduction implementation from SCC (See Highways for more information)
- North Downs Steering Group Minutes
- MVDC Clerks meeting minutes
- Detailed internal audit report (on agenda for 15th May)
- Email from Building Control requesting location information regarding Barley Mow Site
- CPRE – Star Count Update
- Correspondence from resident regarding issues with verges by Something Special (see Highways below for more information)
- Confirmation from Countryside regarding the installation of the fingerpost on The Coombe
- Emails of concern regarding the new junction on Pebblehill (raised to Highways)
- Email from MOP regarding parked cars and obstructed bridleway 459 (raised with landowner)
- Email from SCRIP Community Rail Officer to confirm attendance at June Meeting
- Confirmation from SCC that the drains work on Pebblehill has been carried out (see Highways for detail)
- Email from resident regarding an article written about the lack of use of Betchworth Station (sent to Cllr Randall/Ashdown and Chair, to be discussed at meeting)
- Email from County Cllr Clack re the Traffic Officers Response to vehicles at Something Special Depot (see Highways for more information)
- Email from Chair of SALC welcoming new council into place (sent to councillors)
- Acknowledgement from Headley Clerk following concerns raised regarding Pebblehill Junction
- Email from Pebblehill residents regarding priorities for work (sent to Highways Cllrs for review)
- Various emails from residents following Speedwatch correspondence requesting more details, additional speedchecks and volunteers
- Temporary Events Notice for Betchworth Village Hall on 10th June from 6.30-11pm
- Request to use Goulburn Green for BBS and FABB BBQ on 27/8/23, which has been agreed and communicated to Buckland & Betchworth Society
- Reminder to comment to AONB Boundary review (on agenda for Monday 15th May)

Footpaths

- Chased up Countryside on the fallen post by The Coombe on Pebblehill – again acknowledged that this is on the ‘to do’ list. I stated that this should be given priority due to the number of DOE walkers, Countryside agreed to contact Rambles Volunteers to get this fixed sooner. Further email confirms that this is on the list of jobs to be scheduled but is currently a priority 3 (low priority). Now fixed

- Bridleway 459 has been cleared of overgrown hedges to reveal the sign, landowner has been spoken to regarding parked cars to ensure that enough space is left for horses

Highways/ Rail

- Chased installation of the gateways – received response stating that gateways have been delayed due to an issue with the provider, and are now scheduled for early May installation, now notified end of May
- Reported low hanging trees on Pebblehill following request from Parishioner minute number 408. Acknowledged by SCC ref number 2589988 and resolved
- Issued letter to GWR/South East Corp regarding the lighting on Betchworth Station and requesting it to be switched off at night to support our dark skies policy – various communication re issue. Lights were set up temporarily due to power issues, waiting for a date for them to be removed. Clerk will keep on review and manage with parishioner.
- Reported leaning fence on old Barley Mow site to Highways ref number 2607824 – comment received back stating that as it is not encroaching the road it is not highways issue it is the landowner, I have gone back requesting that they are contacted by SCC to address, now contacted Building Services. SCC have relinquished ownership stating that we need to write a letter to the owner. Building Control has acknowledged and requested further information.
- Chased Highways regarding the planned investigation into the alleged ‘broken drain on Pebblehill’ as it was acknowledged an investigation would take place in this financial year Ref 2188923 – also reported the standing water that is currently there to be cleared. Given new ref number 2611958. Received notification that these have been fixed – I have requested details as to what has been done.
Survey of dissatisfaction completed due to lack of communication
- Made contact with the police asking for advice regarding the boundaries of responsibility with regard the damage to the verges on the bottom of Pebblehill as response back from SCC was not clear. It was reiterated that the verges are SCC responsibility and a highways issue. Clerk to go back to Highways, further evidence received regarding damage escalated to Highways and County Cllr Clack.
Confirmation received that Traffic Commissioner are unable to intervene as the vehicles causing damage are visiting the site. This will be discussed with Highways and County Cllr Clack at the end of May at our meeting to agree a way forward to communicate.
- Requested scheduling of the Old Reigate Road speed reduction, a new estimate needs to be produced as we are in a new financial year, awaiting from SCC
- Requested estimates for the Wellhouse Lane Speed Reduction
- Attended a meeting with residents of Pebblehill to walk through concerns/issues. Agreed to present back proposal in 4 weeks. Work up spreadsheet with priorities and plan.
- Requested a meeting with Cllr H Clack and Highways regarding The Street proposal and Pebblehill – confirmed for 31 May

Burial Ground

- Completed the admin for the buy back of ashes plot – awaiting acceptance from holder
- Completed the documentation and preparation for an interment of ashes – completed

Finance & Policies

- Completed the invoices and made payments that were approved in formal council meeting
- Confirmation received regarding split of payments from Precept and Concurrent Grant
- Preparation for Internal Audit and completion following successful audit
- Preparation for external audit following successful internal audit
- Closing end of year accounts
- Preparing start of new year accounts and spreadsheet
- Receipt of annual renewal quotes (to be taken to Council for approval)
- Completed GWR Post Project Review Paperwork
- **Final Approval received from Finance Committee for earmarked and general reserves**

Meetings attended / Training

- Monthly Parish Meeting
- MVDC Meeting
- Meeting with Parishioners to complete walkabout on Pebblehill Road (CILrs Budd, Winter, Randall and Clerk in attendance)
- Internal Audit completed

Planning

- Weekly planning monitoring

Other Items of Note

- Completed the minutes from APM and posted on website
- Updated The Circuit re defibrillators status
- Updated noticeboard
- Issued village emails and updated calendar
- Confirmation that the allotment tap is now working – emailed SES Water to close work order
- Contacted The Estate re the plot by Wellhouse Lane and Wheelers Lane seeking permission to do an investigation as to what is under the surface
- Issued comments on behalf of Betchworth Parish Council for the Surrey Boundaries review as per agreement at the March meeting
- Completed the allotment receipts
- Ongoing correspondence with CIL officer and MVDC re request for NCIL funding for St Michaels Church. Due to Parish not being able to contribute and strategic CIL not being suitable, a contact and introduction has now been made with SCC and passed to resident
- Working on personal appraisal ready for annual review
- Correspondence regarding the painting of the post box, chasing up original request
- Correspondence regarding the erection of a For Sale Sign on GG (declined due to covenant in place)
- Election admin completed
- Collation of responses to AONB Boundary Consultation
- **Issued article on Speedwatch to village email and also Parish Magazine for inclusion**

