

BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the **MEETING** of the **BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL** held on **MONDAY 5th June 2023**, commencing at 8pm in The Hamilton Room, Betchworth

Councillors (Cllrs) present:

Cllr Julie Hardy (JH) Chairman
Cllr Martin Higgins (MH)
Cllr Ian Wilson (IW)
Cllr Robert Ashdown (RA)
Cllr Ed Winter (EW)

Attending:

District Councillor Budd (SB)
District Councillor Potter (PP)
District Councillor Keay (PK)
3 x Members of the Public (MOP)
Caroline Salmon SCRP Community
Rail Officer

Apologies:

Cllr Graham Randall (GR)

Apologies:

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

Minute #	Agenda item	Who
	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
56	Cllr Hardy welcomed the members of the public and Caroline Salmon to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr Randall.	
	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
57	No declarations were received.	
	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING	
58	The minutes of the meeting held on 15 th May 2023 were approved and signed by Councillor Hardy.	
59	OPEN FORUM A number of concerns have been raised regarding the overgrown hedges and verges in the village. Due to nesting birds and no-mow May together with the warm weather we have seen an increase in growth. It is noted that if there is a danger to safety with sightlines, these should be reported to Surrey County Council.	
60	District Councillor Potter asked that an email be sent to the villagers asking them to complete the on line survey regarding the proposed banking hubs.	CS
	COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT	

61	The police report with incidents for April and May 2023 was displayed, discussed, and acknowledged.	
	TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS	
62	It was acknowledged that there are still a couple of kissing gates to be installed and that the plaques should be ready in June.	CS
63	As Cllr Randall was unable to attend, a Highways report was prepared which was displayed and presented by the Clerk. A copy of the report will be added to the website 'supporting files' with the minutes.	
64	Caroline Salmon SCRP Community Rail Officer gave an informative presentation to the Council regarding her new role and the issues that face Betchworth. A copy of the presentation will be added to the website 'supporting files' with the minutes. Caroline is still pursuing the issue that we have with the bright lights on the Station at night but explained that she was now coming against some resistance with the various parts of the railway organisation but will continue to pursue. The other issue is regarding the lack of parking, Caroline displayed The Station House title which clearly shows how there is no right for anyone other than the Beeches and the Cottage to park on or go through the Car Park – there are constraints with right of access to get to the land which is to let. This effectively stops any useful use of the land to let for either community use or parking.	
65	Cllr Winter updated the Council on Gatwick, Gatwick have put in their application for a 2 nd runway. It is believed that a decision will be made as quickly as end of June/early July. FASI have created a new presentation that will be shared with Parish Councils, and Route 4 Consultation will take place later in the summer.	
	PLANNING	
66	Cllr Hardy welcomed the owner of The Forge and the architect responsible for the planning application to the meeting. The architect distributed the drawings and stated that they were looking for support to change the use to an office. The drawings were looked at and discussed. Support was given to the building being brought back to use in the village, but concern was voiced about parking and also the Council would like to see what the restored building would look like to ensure that it remains sympathetic with the village. The Council looks forward to seeing the details of application when ready.	
67	2 X MOP left the meeting at 8.55pm	

68	Due to time it was agreed to bring forward an agenda item to allow a member of the public to participate, agenda item 9: To discuss and approve request for additional play provisions.	
69	<p>The Clerk re-displayed the request from a resident for the addition of play equipment on Goulburn Green which was discussed at the last meeting. Council also acknowledged the email that was sent by the member of the public (MOP) expressing their views and asking that Council be mindful of the Deed of Variation which was granted by MVDC dated 2015 and that if permission is granted that best efforts will be made to choose something appropriate for the space and environment whilst fitting into the beauty of the area. The request was discussed and agreed that it is something that could be considered with the following provisos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it should be positioned behind the swings, • it cannot have any rubber flooring, • it should not destroy the green and its character, • it needs to be rustic to fit in with area, • must support the original objective of being a play provision for up to reception age children. <p>It was suggested that maybe a seesaw and an additional bench would be appropriate. Council would like to thank the resident for putting the idea forward and would like to take up their offer of help to look at the feasibility and gauge approval from The Walled Garden residents as it was agreed that we do not need a full public consultation but would like the local residents to buy in. Clerk to make contact.</p>	CS
70	As part of the discussion it was also discussed the need to look at overall amenities for older children in the parish and to see if there is anything as a Parish Council we can do. Agreed to table this at a later date.	ALL
71	1 x MOP left the meeting at 9.08 pm and Council resumed back to the proposed order of agenda.	
72	<p>Ratification of Planning Observations made (1) MO/2023/0627 The Old House South, The Street, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DJ Remove 7 No. Ash trees</p> <p style="text-align: right;">NO COMMENT RATIFIED</p>	
73	<p>Decisions (3) MO/2023/0414 Tranquil End, Gadbrook Road, Betchworth, Betchworth, RH3 7AH Proposed reconfiguration and extension of existing house. Thermal upgrades and over-cladding to existing building. Replacement of existing shed and workshop</p> <p style="text-align: right;">APPROVED</p>	

	<u>MO/2023/0452</u> 8, Barleymow Court, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7HF Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension. <p style="text-align: right;">REFUSED</p> <u>MO/2023/0470</u> THE LINHAY, 9, Poland Meadow, Brockham, Betchworth, RH3 7FG Erection of a detached single garage <p style="text-align: right;">APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS</p>	
74	District Cllrs Potter and Keay left at 9.10pm	
	AMENITIES	
75	It was acknowledged that the play equipment was checked on 13 th , 15 th and 26 th May.	
76	It was acknowledged that all 3 defibrillators were inspected in May by Cllrs Hardy and Winter.	
77	It was acknowledged that there were no new memorials to approve.	
78	It was acknowledged that all payments have been received for the allotments.	
	COMMUNITY AND COMMUNICATIONS	
79	The Clerk referred to the Community Ownership Fund which is now available to local councils. Council acknowledged this and discussed if there were any potential applicants in the community. It was agreed that there were no potential applicants to offer this to.	
80	The discussion of play provisions was discussed earlier in the meeting.	
81	The consultation for The Revised Local List for application validation for planning applications was discussed and acknowledged, it was recommended by Cllr Higgins to make no comment which was accepted and approved.	
	CLERKS UPDATE	
82	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.	
83	Ongoing action log was acknowledged.	

84	Clerk advised that the formal vacancy notification has been posted. If we do not receive any applications a co-option vacancy will be posted on noticeboards, website and parish magazine.	CS																														
85	Clerk advised Council that the Notice of Public Rights were published at the correct date of 2 June 2023.																															
86	Clerk advised council that she will be on annual leave on 15 th and 16 th June 2023.																															
87	It was acknowledged that there were no late planning applications to consider.																															
88	Cllr Potter left the meeting at 9.20pm.																															
	FINANCE																															
89	Clerk advised council that insurance cover for Betchworth Parish Council is in place 1/6/23 – 31/5/24 with Zurich Municipal as insurers as agreed.																															
90	Council acknowledged the receipt of £ £76.76 (£40 allotments) & (£36.76 Interest).																															
91	Clerk displayed the Monthly Financial Summary which was discussed and acknowledged.																															
92	The following amounts were approved for payment in June 2023 by Cllrs Wilson and Winter.																															
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>IB00559</td><td>Zurich Municipal</td><td>£433.93 **</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00560</td><td>HSBC Monthly Bank Charge</td><td>£5.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00561</td><td>Cheryl Sexton – Salary & expenses</td><td>£1112.86</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00562</td><td>HMRC – NI & Tax (May)</td><td>£73.10</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00563</td><td>John Flynn Gardening (May Grass)</td><td>£724.80</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00564</td><td>Viking RAJA (Printer Cartridges x 2)</td><td>£79.87</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00565</td><td>Hamilton Room (June Mtg)</td><td>£20.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00566</td><td>Jane Ferrett (Kings Coronation)</td><td>£202.24 ***</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00567</td><td>Brunel Engraving</td><td>£14.22</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00568</td><td>Shires Accounting (6/4 – 5/10)</td><td>£104.40 ****</td></tr> </table>	IB00559	Zurich Municipal	£433.93 **	IB00560	HSBC Monthly Bank Charge	£5.00	IB00561	Cheryl Sexton – Salary & expenses	£1112.86	IB00562	HMRC – NI & Tax (May)	£73.10	IB00563	John Flynn Gardening (May Grass)	£724.80	IB00564	Viking RAJA (Printer Cartridges x 2)	£79.87	IB00565	Hamilton Room (June Mtg)	£20.00	IB00566	Jane Ferrett (Kings Coronation)	£202.24 ***	IB00567	Brunel Engraving	£14.22	IB00568	Shires Accounting (6/4 – 5/10)	£104.40 ****	
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	<p>** It was noted that this was paid on 17th May as agreed by minute 42 but signed at meeting</p> <p>***It was acknowledged and approved that this was over the original £200 agreed and Council were happy to cover the increase</p> <p>**** It was acknowledged as a late entry but approved as covered and expected in the budget.</p>																															
	CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS (Closed to the Public and Press)																															

93	Clerk's appraisal was approved and signed by Cllrs Hardy and Winter and the pay rise was unanimously approved with effect 1.4.23, which was signed by Cllr Hardy and Cllr Wilson.	
94	FUTURE MEETING DATES The following dates were acknowledged: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Next Parish Council Meetings – 3rd July, 4th September b. MVDC Clerk Meeting – 14th June – Clerk c. Highways and Parish Councils Workshop – 14th June – Clerk d. SALC Clerks Forum – 19th June - Clerk e. SLCC AGM – 19th July - Clerk 	
95	PARISH MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Invitation for email address and co-option vacancy when appropriate	CS
96	MEETING CLOSED AT 9.35pm	
	THIS IS A CONTROLLED DOCUMENT – Betchworth Parish Council will NOT be held responsible for content when downloaded from the website.	