

BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the **MEETING** of the **BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL** held on **MONDAY 8th January 2024**, commencing at 8pm in The Hamilton Room, Betchworth

Councillors (Cllrs) present:

Cllr Julie Hardy (JH) Chairman
Cllr Ed Winter (EW)
Cllr Graham Randall (GR)
Cllr Martin Higgins (MH)
Cllr Ian Wilson (IW)
Cllr Alice Laidler (AL)
Cllr Robert Ashdown (RA)

Attending:

1 Member of the Public (MOP)
District Councillor Budd (SB) joined
at 8.40pm

Apologies:

District Councillor Potter (PP)
District Councillor Keay (PK)

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

Minute #	Agenda item	Who
	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
304	Apologies were received from District Councillor Potter and District Councillor Keay.	
	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
305	Declaration of interest received from Cllr Laidler relating to item 7 a planning application for The Lodge MO/2023/1820, the book was signed.	
	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING	
306	The minutes of the meeting held on 4 th December 2023 were approved and signed by Councillor Hardy.	
	OPEN FORUM	
307	Councillor Hardy welcomed the Member of the Public to the meeting. MOP raised that there has been lots of interest shown through Re-Betchworth for a visit to the Waste Management Centre at Leatherhead to understand the process of what happens to our recycling to help educate all in Betchworth. Council agreed that this would be of interest and agreed to arrange the visit via MVDC and liase with Re-Betchworth.	CS
308	MOP left the meeting 8.10pm	

309	The topic regarding the latest flooding was raised following lots of emails and concerns received about issues facing parishioners. It was reiterated that all flooding issues should be logged centrally with Surrey County Council www.surreycc.gov.uk/community/emergency-planning-and-community-safety/flooding this ensures that everything is formally logged. It was suggested that we co-ordinate with BERT to look at lessons learnt and see what more we as a Parish Council can do to be more proactive in communications.	CS
310	A discussion was had regarding the flooding in Wonham Lane, caused by road flood water, which threatened to flood the 4 properties nearest the Sandy Lane Junction. This is a historic problem which work had started on but phase 2 was not completed. It was noted that this has been raised formally again with SCC Highways and County Cllr Clack is now aware to ensure that the work is completed to resolve this longstanding issue.	
311	Acknowledgement was made to the flooding issues that Pebblehill residents faced due to the blocked, faulty drains. This is part of an ongoing issue which has been escalated to County Councillor Clack who is currently managing these issues with the relevant areas. Council will continue to support residents with the ongoing drainage issues until they reach a conclusion.	
312	Flooding on the top of Pebblehill was raised by several residents via email, District Cllr Budd kindly agreed to spend some time to look at the issues regarding the blocked gullies on the top of Pebblehill Road, Council would like to thank District Cllr Budd for his assistance.	SB
	COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT	
313	The police report with incidents for December 2023 was displayed, discussed, and acknowledged. It was noted that this was an incomplete police report as several known incidents on Pebblehill Road were not recorded here. Clerk to request a breakdown of all reported car incidents on Pebblehill Road and Station Road for November, December and January up to date.	CS
	TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS	
314	Cllr Winter provided the Footpaths Officers report, noting that most footpaths at present are very muddy due to the wet weather. Cllr Laidler will work with Cllr Winter on footpaths moving forward and a litter pick will be planned for March.	
315	A Highways report was displayed and presented by Cllr Randall, discussions were had around each topic. A copy of the report will be added to the website 'supporting files' with the minutes and on the noticeboards.	CS

316	Council acknowledged that The Surrey County Council Draft Vision Zero Road Safety & 20 mph strategy has now been approved by Cabinet and will move to a 10-week public and stakeholder consultation period, we are currently awaiting formal dates.	GR/RA
317	Council thanked Cllr Randall and Cllr Ashdown for circulating a draft response to the strategy which was considered and discussed at the meeting. The discussion around 20mph was debated and Council supported in principle that the introduction of 20mph speed limits will not be implemented across the County but will require consultation and support of local residents and their SCC Councillor. The Street was an example used to show our support of such an area that may benefit from 20mph at least around the school area as this is a clearly delineated area. It was agreed that the response to the consultation would be updated with comments discussed and re-distributed to Council for approval. It was noted that Cllr Randall will continue to liaise with Buckland Parish Councillor Steed. This document will be shared on the website to allow parishioners to consider before commenting.	
318	District Councillor Budd entered the meeting at 8.40pm	
319	Council thanked Cllr Randall for his involvement regarding the issues with the bus stop on Pebblehill and for making a proposed suggestion for a safe stop, Council awaits to hear the outcome.	
320	Cllr Winter updated Council on the Gatwick Consultation, it is currently being worked through and communicated how the process will work for the next phase. It is anticipated to understand what needs to be commented on and by when. Cllr Winter and/or Cllr Wilson will be attending all appropriate meetings to ensure that Council are updated and able to respond accordingly with of course keeping Betchworth Parishioners informed.	
321	PLANNING New Applications (1) MO/2023/1820 The Lodge, The Street, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DJ Erection of a flat roof dormer to rear roof elevation. Council would like to thank resident for comments that were made which were taken into consideration while reviewing this planning application. Council have no comment on the application but would like to remind MVDC planning that it is indeed a listed building.	CS

	AMENITIES	
322	It was acknowledged that the play equipment was checked on 7 th & 17 th December.	
323	It was acknowledged that 2 defibrillators were inspected by Cllrs Hardy and Winter with the Betchworth Village Hall defibrillator to be checked on 10 th January.	JH
324	It was noted that there were no new memorial requests to approve this month.	
	COMMUNITY AND COMMUNICATIONS	
325	Cllr Winter discussed the consultation on Surrey Rights of Way Improvement Plan which he will complete and distribute for comment and approval at February meeting to allow submission by 1 st February. Discussion was had regarding the question 'Would your council be interested in exercising your powers as a Parish Council under Section 43 Highways Act 1980 to maintain public rights of way, or to increase your involvement in other ways?' Council were asked to consider this question and comment to Cllr Winter for inclusion.	EW
326	The Surrey Rights of Way Improvement Plan consultation is also requesting public views, Clerk to issue a note to encourage parishioners to participate and have their say.	CS
	CLERKS UPDATE	
327	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. No further comment.	
328	Ongoing action log was acknowledged.	
329	It was acknowledged that MO/2024/0001 (as a late entry) 5, The Quarry, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7BY. This was discussed and agreed no comment required. To appear on next meeting's agenda to ratify.	CS
330	It was discussed and agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on 25/03/2024. Any ideas for speakers to be sent to Clerk.	ALL
331	District Cllr Budd left the meeting at 9.10pm.	

	FINANCE																
332	The approved budget for 2024/25 which was formally approved at the December meeting was re-presented due to the confirmed income from MVDC. This was formally reapproved and signed by Cllr Hardy and Cllr Winter in the presence of Council and will be displayed on the website.	CS															
333	The precept was formally agreed at £17,425.26 which is an increase of 15% on last year (this is to start to bring the precept into line with the Council Running Costs as agreed last month as part of our budget guiding principles). The increase equates to £3.56 per annum and 30p per month (to Band D equivalent). The precept form was completed and signed by Cllr Hardy and Cllr Wilson in the presence of Council. To be sent to MVDC.	CS															
334	Council acknowledged the receipt of £16,869.86 (£49.15 interest, £370 Burial Ground & £16,450.71 CIL Payment).	CS															
335	Council formally approved the movement of £16,450.71 CIL payment to be moved to UNITY bank account with other CIL money.																
336	Council acknowledged that the bank reconciliations for September, October and November were completed by Cllr Winter. It was noted that there was a typing error in minute 204 which stated receipt of £9,218.70 when it should have stated £9,128.70 paid in on 8 September. It is confirmed that the accounts are correct.																
337	Clerk displayed the Monthly Financial Summary which was discussed and acknowledged.																
338	The following amounts were approved for payment in January 2024 by Cllrs Wilson & Winter:																
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>IB00623</td><td>HSBC Monthly Bank Charge</td><td>£5.80</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00624</td><td>Cheryl Sexton – Salary & expenses</td><td>£1183.11</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00625</td><td>HMRC – NI & Tax (December)</td><td>£120.17</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00626</td><td>Hamilton Room (Jan Mtg)</td><td>£20.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00627</td><td>Viking Stationery (Ink Cartridges)</td><td>£81.12</td></tr> </table>	IB00623	HSBC Monthly Bank Charge	£5.80	IB00624	Cheryl Sexton – Salary & expenses	£1183.11	IB00625	HMRC – NI & Tax (December)	£120.17	IB00626	Hamilton Room (Jan Mtg)	£20.00	IB00627	Viking Stationery (Ink Cartridges)	£81.12	
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	CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS																
339	The tenders for the Grounds Maintenance Contract were distributed prior to the meeting and discussed at the meeting. It was unanimously agreed that the contract will be offered to Josh Flynn Gardening due to good value for money and existing working relationship for a total cost of £5,710 for all works included in the schedule. This figure includes an overall discount of 15-20% and excl VAT.																

<p>340</p>	<p>FUTURE MEETING DATES</p> <p>The following dates were acknowledged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Next Parish Council Meetings - 5th February, 4th March b. SALC Clerk Meeting – 16th January – Clerk c. SALC Councillors Meeting – 17th January – Councillors d. 3 B's Alignment Meeting – 24th January – Clerk e. Gatwick Stakeholder Meeting – 24/30th January – Cllrs Winter and or Wilson f. Highways/Clerks Taskforce Meeting – 31st January – Clerk g. Betchworth Parish Annual Meeting – 25th March 	
<p>341</p>	<p>PARISH MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Invitation for email address, signposting of minutes and Highway report, reminder for grant invitations and Save the Date for Annual Parish Meeting</p>	
<p>342</p>	<p>MEETING CLOSED AT 9.22pm</p>	
	<p>THIS IS A CONTROLLED DOCUMENT – Betchworth Parish Council will NOT be held responsible for content when downloaded from the website.</p>	