

**BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the **MEETING** of the **BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL** held on **MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024**, commencing at 8pm in The Hamilton Room, Betchworth

**Councillors (Cllrs) present:**

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

**Attending:**

District Councillor Keay (PK)  
Chair, Mole Valley Community Fund joined meeting at 8.25pm

**Apologies:**

District Councillor Potter (PP)

**Apologies:**

Cllr Graham Randall (GR)

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

<b>Minute #</b>	<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Who</b>
	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	
<b>385</b>	Apologies were received from Cllr Randall and District Councillor Potter.	
	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	
<b>386</b>	Declaration of interest received from Cllr Hardy relating to item 11 Grant Applications (Buckland & Betchworth Choral Society), Cllr Laidler relating to item 11 Grant Applications (Friends of Buckland & Betchworth Nursery), Cllr Winter relating to item 11 Grant Applications (St Michaels Website) and Cllr Higgins relating to item 11 Grant Applications (Re-Betchworth) the book was signed by all 4 Councillors.	
	<b>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</b>	
<b>387</b>	The minutes of the meeting held on 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 were approved and signed by Councillor Hardy.	
	<b>OPEN FORUM</b>	
<b>388</b>	A parishioner has been in contact asking why the local planning authority were allowing a 'proliferation of buildings' at The Evergreen site at the Betchworth roundabout. This was acknowledged and noted that this has again been referred to the enforcement officer at Mole Valley. District Cllr Keay has agreed to follow this up and report back to Council.	<b>PK</b>

	<b>COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT</b>	
<b>389</b>	It was acknowledged that unfortunately the monthly police report with incidents for February 2024 was not issued, Clerk to follow this up and issue when ready.	<b>CS</b>
	<b>TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS</b>	
<b>390</b>	Cllr Winter provided the Footpaths Officers report, noting that there are several areas that require repair, it was agreed that this would wait until the wet weather had subsided.	
<b>391</b>	Cllr Winter updated Council that a village litter pick has been planned for March 16 <sup>th</sup> , so far there has been a fantastic response from volunteers. Joosje Hamilton has kindly agreed to provide hot drinks at the Post Office following the LitterPick for all volunteers and the Parish Council agreed to provide a pastry.	<b>CS</b>
<b>392</b>	Clerk to issue revised posters stating 10am meet at Goulburn Green and liaise with Betchworth Village Shop & Cafe to organise the refreshments for afterwards. Council agreed to participate and put our name forward for joining the Great Britain Spring Clean campaign.	<b>CS</b>
<b>393</b>	As Cllr Randall was unable to attend the meeting, the highways report was not available, this will be prepared and updated on the website next week.	<b>GR</b>
<b>394</b>	In Cllr Randalls absence Cllr Ashdown and The Clerk updated the Council on the following items relating to Highways:	
<b>395</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The soak away at the bottom of Pebblehill has finally been cleared of all vegetation and silt. The fixing of the drains at the bottom of Pebblehill is still scheduled to take place in March, with the road clearance by MVDC taking place in April, it is hoped that these can be completed at the same time to limit disruption.</li> </ul>	
<b>396</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following on from the letter produced to County Cllr Clack regarding the issues following the diversions which was discussed last month it has been confirmed that the appropriate signage will be put in place for future diversions. The issues regarding the clear-up and drainage on Wonham Lane are now being managed through Highways with County Cllr Clack following a meeting with residents.</li> </ul>	
<b>397</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following representation at Police Commander Zoom meeting and our response to the Police on the net zero accident strategy, we have received an acknowledgement and request from Inspector Green to nominate areas in Betchworth to be actively targeted on regular occasions using</li> </ul>	<b>GR</b>

	casualty reduction officers. Cllr Randall made the following suggestions in writing to the Council with rationale which were unanimously approved at the meeting : Old Reigate Road from Kiln Lane to Station Road, Snowerhill Road and The Street. It was noted that Wonham Lane was excluded as we have already received confirmation that a speed monitoring exercise by Surrey County Council will take place. Cllr Randall to confirm to Inspector Green our request.	
<b>398</b>	The Clerk displayed the revised proposal for the rail replacement bus stops which were approved. The new proposal has been accepted by Buckland PC, who we would like to thank for their involvement and counsel. The Clerk noted that the proposal has been sent to Network Rail and we await their response.	
<b>399</b>	The Clerk displayed the 2 proposed locations for the SCC Blue Heart Scheme which have been suggested by a resident. Council had no issues with either suggestion and would like to consider the verge opposite The Dolphin as discussed last month. Clerk to work with resident to gain approval from landowners and submit to Surrey for a survey.	<b>CS</b>
<b>400</b>	Cllr Winter updated Council on the Gatwick Consultation, confirming that the inspector review is now taking place and the hearings have started. Council will be kept updated and will communicate with parishioners when appropriate.	
<b>401</b>	The Chair, Mole Valley Community Fund arrived at the meeting to present on a topic that was covered under agenda item 9 (Mole Valley Community Fund), it was agreed to bring this item forward as the meeting was at a natural junction.	
<b>402</b>	Cllr Hardy welcomed Chair, Mole Valley Community Fund to the meeting and invited him to speak. The background to the Mole Valley Community Fund was presented and the intentions explained behind it. Council welcomed the objective behind what is to be achieved. It was requested that Council help to raise the Mole Valley Community Fund with residents through any form of media that can be used and also to help advertise the vacancies they have on the panel. Council agreed to publicise. Clerk to arrange.	<b>CS</b>
<b>403</b>	Chair, Mole Valley Community Fund was thanked for the presentation and left the meeting at 8.45pm, the Council resumed back to the proposed order of the agenda.	
<b>404</b>	<b>PLANNING</b>  <b>Ratification of Planning Observations made (1)</b> <a href="#"><u>MO/2024/0126</u></a> <b>Wonham Forge Farm, Wonham Lane, Betchworth, Surrey</b>	

<p>405</p> <p>406</p>	<p>Prior notification for the erection of an agricultural barn of 18.3m x 12.2m for the storage of hay and agricultural machinery <b>No Comment Ratified</b></p> <p><b>New Applications (2)</b> <b>MO/2024/0184</b> <b>The Gardens, Church Street, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DN</b> T1 Yew remove dangerous split main leader, reduce the remainder of the crown by 3 metres and crown lift to 4 metres. Cut all ivy at base. <b>No Comment</b></p> <p><b>MO/2024/0191</b> <b>4 The Old Vicarage, Church Street, Betchworth, Surrey</b> Remove 2 No. Cypress trees (marked T1 and T2 on submitted plan). <b>No Comment</b></p>	
	<p><b>AMENITIES</b></p> <p>407 It was acknowledged that the play equipment was checked 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> February.</p> <p>408 It was acknowledged that 3 defibrillators were inspected by Cllrs Hardy and Winter. It was noted that the correct defibrillators are now displayed on The Circuit.</p> <p>409 It was acknowledged that the new gate has been installed on Goulburn Green with positive feedback. One comment has been made about the closing of the gate being too noisy when closing. Cllr Wilson has been to inspect and suggesting purchasing a rubber stopper, it was agreed by Council to proceed.</p> <p>410 The memorial requests for Holman and Sayce were formally approved by Cllr Wilson ensuring that the correct specifications on size are being used.</p> <p>411 The Clerk displayed the latest playground inspection report which is also displayed on the website. The report was acknowledged and adopted noting that the point raised regarding the gate has now been addressed. Comment was made regarding the cover on the gas cabinet being easy to move, Clerk to notify utility company.</p> <p>412 It was acknowledged that the annual clear up of the wildflower strip on Goulburn Green is due to take place on 6<sup>th</sup> March, as per previous years it was agreed that Betchworth Parish Council would arrange for the removal of the cuttings.</p> <p>413 It was acknowledged that the pruning workshop would not take place again this year, but a working party would complete the pruning of The Orchard on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March. It was agreed that Betchworth Parish Council would arrange and fund the removal of the cuttings for the cost of up to £100, Clerk to arrange.</p>	<p><b>IW/CS</b></p> <p><b>CS</b></p> <p><b>CS</b></p> <p><b>CS</b></p> <p><b>CS</b></p>

	Betchworth Parish Council would like to thank Re-Betchworth for the clearance work.	
	<b>COMMUNITY AND COMMUNICATIONS</b>	
<b>414</b>	The Clerk displayed the previously issued draft response to Martyns Law consultation. It was agreed that Goulburn Green falls into the qualifying conditions as it is used as a provision of entertainment and leisure facilities to the public and the capacity is over 100 individuals. It was noted that this is not yet law as it is in Consultation, but we will need to ensure that we are compliant as owners of Goulburn Green when this comes in force. The Clerk has worked with another Parish Clerk who has shared their response, and it was suggested that we also replicate the response as it is relevant. Council discussed the comments and agreed content. Council agreed to delegate authority to the Clerk to respond back on behalf of Betchworth Parish Council. This will be shared on the website for villagers to see.	<b>CS</b>
<b>415</b>	The Clerk raised the proposal of hosting a Scam Presentation inviting 'Friends Against Scams' to come along and hold an interactive workshop. It was suggested that we can run a couple of these workshops during the day and evenings at The Hamilton Room. The Clerk also noted that she has been in discussion with neighbouring Parishes to see if they would be interested too. Council approved to move forward with this and authorised the expenditure for the room hire. District Cllr Keay also suggested mentioning to the Headley Parish Clerk.	<b>CS</b>
<b>416</b>	Clerk updated Council and reminded them of the date of our Annual Parish meeting due to be held on 25 <sup>th</sup> March.	
	<b>CLERKS UPDATE</b>	
<b>417</b>	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. Special mention was the start of the consultation on the modifications of the local plan. The consultation started on 1 March and will conclude on 23 <sup>rd</sup> April. Clerk to reissue to Councillors the notification and invite comments to be added to the agenda for April to approve.	<b>CS</b>
<b>418</b>	Ongoing action log was acknowledged.	
<b>419</b>	District Keay left the meeting at 9.08pm.	
	<b>FINANCE</b>	
<b>420</b>	Council approved the new gate at Goulburn Green as a new asset at agreed purchase price of £1140 excl VAT, the new asset register	<b>CS</b>

	has been updated and formally adopted by Council reflecting these changes.																												
<b>421</b>	Council acknowledged and approved the movement of £1368 from UNITY (CIL Account) to pay for the gate.	<b>CS</b>																											
<b>422</b>	Cllr Wilson as an uninterested party led the discussion regarding The Grant Applications. The Finance Group had met and made a recommendation which was presented to Council for the approval of the grant requests. The recommendations and rationale were acknowledged and discussed, with the following decisions made. St Michaels website to be awarded £500, Friends of Betchworth & Buckland Nursery to be awarded £2198, Buckland & Betchworth Choral Society to be awarded £923 and Re-Betchworth to be allocated £1250. It was noted that the precept money is not used to allow the provision of grants, the surplus funds that come from the burial ground over years allow us the unique opportunity to provide this facility to our local organisations who are integral to the community.																												
<b>423</b>	Council formally approved the membership of The Countryside Charity (CPRE) and accepted the recommendation from The Clerk to continue to pay the membership fee of £36.00, the increase that was requested may be considered for the next financial year if appropriate.	<b>CS</b>																											
<b>424</b>	Council formally approved the donation of £150 to Surrey County Council History Centre for the archiving of 6 years' worth of Parish Council minutes. This was part of the approved budget to allow adherence to the Document Retention and Disposal Policy and amount was previously approved under minute 163.	<b>CS</b>																											
<b>425</b>	Council acknowledged the receipt of £50.96 interest.																												
<b>426</b>	Clerk displayed the Monthly Financial Summary which was discussed and acknowledged.																												
<b>427</b>	The following amounts were approved for payment in March 2024 by Cllrs Winter & Wilson:																												
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>IB00636</td><td>HSBC Monthly Bank Charge</td><td>£5.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00637</td><td>Cheryl Sexton – Salary &amp; expenses</td><td>£1192.20</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00638</td><td>HMRC – NI &amp; Tax (February)</td><td>£111.47</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00639</td><td>Betchworth Village Hall</td><td>£58.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00640</td><td>Shires Accountants (Backdating Salary)</td><td>£18.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00641</td><td>Farm Fencing (GG Gate)</td><td>£1368.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00642</td><td>Hamilton Room (March Mtg)</td><td>£20.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00643</td><td>CPRE Annual Membership</td><td>£36.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00644</td><td>Unity Bank (Qtly Charge)</td><td>£18.00</td></tr> </table>	IB00636	HSBC Monthly Bank Charge	£5.00	IB00637	Cheryl Sexton – Salary & expenses	£1192.20	IB00638	HMRC – NI & Tax (February)	£111.47	IB00639	Betchworth Village Hall	£58.00	IB00640	Shires Accountants (Backdating Salary)	£18.00	IB00641	Farm Fencing (GG Gate)	£1368.00	IB00642	Hamilton Room (March Mtg)	£20.00	IB00643	CPRE Annual Membership	£36.00	IB00644	Unity Bank (Qtly Charge)	£18.00	
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	IB00645	Mulberry & Co Training New Cllr (Cllr Laidler)	£54.00	
	IB00646	Mulberry & Co Training Finance for Cllrs (Cllr Laidler)	£54.00	
	IB00647	C Sexton (Donation to SCC History Centre approved #163)	£150.00	
428	<b>URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING AND FOR INCLUSION ON A FURTHER AGENDA</b>  A request was received from a resident (after the agenda was issued) suggesting that the bus shelter across from the post office was in poor repair and needed some maintenance, an offer for help was also suggested which we would like to thank the resident for. Cllr Wilson agreed to look at what needs to be done and report back to Council for approval.			IW
429	Cllr Hardy stated her intention that she will not be standing as Chair at the Annual Meeting and will be resigning as a Councillor in May. Council whilst saddened with this news thanked Cllr Hardy for her excellent term as Chair and Councillor.			
430	<b>FUTURE MEETING DATES</b>  The following dates were acknowledged:  a. Next Parish Council Meetings – 8 <sup>th</sup> April, 13 <sup>th</sup> May b. SLCC Meeting – 12 <sup>th</sup> March – Clerk c. Village Litter Pick – March 16 <sup>th</sup> d. 4 B's and Headley Alignment Meeting – 21 <sup>st</sup> March -Clerk e. Betchworth Parish Annual Meeting – 25 <sup>th</sup> March f. MVDC/Clerk Meeting – 3 <sup>rd</sup> April – Clerk g. Transformation Pgm Update for RA/PC -16 <sup>th</sup> April - Clerk h. End of year Internal Audit – 22 <sup>nd</sup> April - Clerk  PARISH MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Invitation for email address, signposting of minutes and Highway report, photo and article for new gate.			
431	<b>MEETING CLOSED AT 9.36pm</b>			
	<b>THIS IS A CONTROLLED DOCUMENT – Betchworth Parish Council will NOT be held responsible for content when downloaded from the website.</b>			