

BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the **MEETING** of the **BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL** held on **MONDAY 7th April 2025**, commencing at 8pm in The Hamilton Room, Betchworth

Councillors (Cllrs) present:

Cllr Ed Winter (EW) Chairman
Cllr Ian Wilson (IW)
Cllr Mark Targett (MT)
Cllr Martin Higgins (MH)

Attending:

District Cllr (PP)
District Cllr Budd (SB)

Apologies:

District Cllr Keay (PK)
County Cllr Helyn Clack (HC)
Cllr Alice Laidler (AL) Vice Chair
Cllr Robert Ashdown (RA)

In attendance: Julie Vear (JV) Clerk & RFO

MOP: 0

Minute #	Agenda item	Who
436	1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received from Parish Cllrs Ashdown & Laidler, District Cllr Keay and County Cllr Clack	
437	2. CO-OPTION OF A NEW COUNCILLOR The Clerk displayed the co-option process and Council voted unanimously for the co-option of Govinda Prashar.	
438	3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There was a declaration of interest regarding the Great Oaks appeal from Cllr. Winter.	
439	4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING The minutes of the meeting held on 3 rd March 2025 were approved and signed	
440	5. OPEN FORUM Councillors reported the positive feedback regarding the recent litter pick and BBQ. The event was well received. MVDC were	

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441	<p>acknowledged and thanked for not only clearing the bags collected at 8am on the Monday morning following the event but also arranging a road sweep of the village.</p> <p>Cllr Targett raised the significant issue of litter on Pebble Hill being discarded by cars as they drive through the village. Council agreed some CIL spend could be considered for signage.</p>	
442	<p>6. COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT</p> <p>The police report with incidents from 3rd March – 7th April 2025 was displayed (including a note regarding the Pebble Hill collision to clarify a reported injury resulting from a traffic collision). Council commented that they will be reviewing village road safety as part of 2025/26 initiatives.</p>	
443	<p>Following on from the conversation on road safety and improvement works, D Cllr Budd asked if Council had received an update on progress on the A25 improvement works as a meeting was expected in January. Council confirmed there had been no update and the clerk took an action to follow up with SCC.</p>	
444	<p>6.TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS, FLOODING AND FOOTPATHS</p> <p>Further to comments regarding highways and road safety covered under agenda item 6, Cllrs Higgins and Targett volunteered to support Cllr Ashdown with Highways and reviewing ideas and projects put forward to be considered for CIL spend.</p>	
445	<p>Councillors reported the positive comments received regarding the recent resurfacing work on part of Church Path Farm. Council acknowledged that ideally resurfacing needed to be extended further along the track and could consider approaching Brockham Parish Council in a joint venture as this is a footpath used heavily by residents from both parishes and this would help with costs.</p>	
446	<p>D Cllr. Budd raised as part of this request a further extension of the coffin route by wheelers lane could be considered as this footpath is virtually unpassable in the winter months.</p>	
447	<p>Cllr Winter updated Council on the Gatwick DCO. The Secretary of State has said she is “minded to approve the application...” but requires changes to two conditions. Firstly, that the Noise Envelope is expanded, which would give more residents around Gatwick greater certainty over future noise levels. This would have minimal, if any, effect on Betchworth. The second condition requires an increase in the percentage of passengers using public transport. GAL are due to respond by the end of April and following that interested parties, including the Parish Council, will be able to</p>	

	comment. Local environmental groups GACC and CAGNE are both taking legal advice with a view to a Judicial review.	
	<p>7. PLANNING</p> <p>New Applications</p> <p>448 MO/2025/0384/PLA Link Land East of Tranquil Cottage, Old Reigate Road, Betchworth, RH3 7DR Erection of a self-build dwelling and associated works.</p> <p>Council chose to object if a condition on the removal of the wall was not applied as the high walls are part of the village's distinctive character and should be maintained and residents' privacy considered. The Council chose to comment it is in support of housing opportunities that allow residents to remain in the village.</p> <p>449 MO/2025/0371/ECL Link Fairview, Gadbrook Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AH Certificate of Lawfulness for an existing development in respect of internal and external alterations and renovations to include the removal of chimney; external walls thermally upgraded; existing timber framed single glazed windows and doors are being replaced by double glazed timber framed windows and doors and roof to the rear has been re-laid using the existing roof tiles and 3 No. roof lights inserted.</p> <p>Council did not comment</p> <p>450 Decisions MO/2024/2140/LBC Link 1 and 2, Fryleigh Cottages, Snowerhill Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AF Replacement of roof. MVDC Decision: APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS BPC: No Comment</p> <p>Observations on any new planning applications and decisions that fall outside of meeting timescales.</p> <p>451 MO/2025/0477/PIP Link The Old Barley Mow, Old Reigate Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7LW Application for Permission in Principle for the erection of 4-6 dwellings (including affordable housing).</p> <p>Council chose to object unless the red line is extended to include all the applicant's ownership, and the area between the proposed houses and the highway is appropriately landscaped, and a legal agreement is in place for</p>	

452	<p>maintenance because the state of the area currently omitted from the application site has been a long running issue.</p> <p>Decisions MO/2024/2201/LBC Link April Cottage, Station Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DF Erection of single storey rear extension following removal of boiler room, garage conversion and alterations (application for Listed Building Consent) MVDC APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS</p>	
453	<p>MO/2024/2202/PLAH Link April Cottage, Station Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DF Erection of single storey rear extension following removal of boiler room, garage conversion and alterations. MVDC: Commented APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS BPC: Commented</p>	
454	<p>Appeal: Great Oaks APP/C3620/C/25/3361867 Council noted</p>	
455 456 457 458 459 460	<p>8. AMENITIES & VOLUNTEERING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council acknowledged that the play equipment was checked. • Council acknowledged that defibrillators were checked. • Council approved Betchworth & Bucklands Society request to use Goulburn Green for their annual BBQ on Saturday 30th August 2025 on the understanding they have appropriate insurance and risk assessments. • Council acknowledged issue of the allotment invoices, and that the water has been switched on. • The clerk provided an update on the water leak and the emergency call out to temporarily fix the standpipe. Council approved replacement of the standpipe and fixing post later in the season so as not to cause disruption. • The clerk provided an update on the waiting list for the allotments, advising there are currently 5 people waiting. Council suggested if there are enquires, they could be directed to Brockham Parish Council who have vacancies. Should a plot become available at the Betchworth site, it will be allocated to the next person on the wait list. 	
461 462	<p>9. CLERKS UPDATE</p> <p>There were no questions or comments on the clerk's report which can be located under supporting files on the website.</p> <p>The ongoing action log was acknowledged.</p>	

	10. COMMUNITY & COMMUNICATIONS	
463	Cllr Winter provided an update on a 2024/25 CIL initiatives meeting held at the end of March, explaining Council had met to discuss ideas for 2025/26 projects and CIL spend. These initiatives had been put forward by residents and Councillors. Cllr Winter explained that having discussed all proposals, the following would be taken forward for further feasibility investigation and scoping:	
464	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highways – Village road safety initiatives considering all roads in the village and opportunities for improvement (to include ideas presented in 2024 for The Street by Cllrs Ashdown & Randall) 	
465	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Michaels Church access feasibility study. Having received a quote for architect's services, it was agreed Cllr Higgins should approach PCC for a 50% contribution. With the feasibility study complete, it will be possible to secure grants for the work. 	
466	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burial Ground Expansion, to include an additional row of burial plots to relieve immediate pressure for burial space and improvements to perimeter fencing 	
467	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation seating area supporting biodiverse planting, separate from Goulburn Green 	
468	Council approved the proposal to nominate Parish Councillors Jones (Buckland) and McLachlan (Capel) to continue to serve as non-voting members of the MVDC standards committee for the 2025/26 financial year.	
469	District Cllrs left the meeting.	
	11. FINANCE & GOVERNANCE	
470	Council acknowledged that the terms of business and engagement letter for Shire Accountants the provider of Payroll has been signed for 2025/26 by the Clerk	
471	Council acknowledged the VAT submission on behalf of Council for £1024.99	
472	Council reviewed the insurance quotes and agreed the insurer for 2024/25 as Zurich	
473	Council acknowledged the increase in facility hire for the Hamilton room from £20-£25 from 01/07/2025	
474	Receipts of £90 from MVDC for litter picking events and interest of £59.08 on savings for March were acknowledged.	

475	<p>The following amounts were approved by council for payment in April:</p> <table> <tr> <td>IB00761</td><td>HSBC Monthly Bank Charge</td><td>£ 5.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00762</td><td>HMRC – NI & Tax</td><td>£ 278.96</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00763</td><td>Hamilton Room (April Mtg)</td><td>£ 20.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00764</td><td>Employee Pension</td><td>£ 52.49</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00765</td><td>Clerks Additional Expenses</td><td>£ 263.16</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00766</td><td>Josh Flynn Garden Services - Contract</td><td>£ 856.50</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00767</td><td>Surrey Hills Maintenance</td><td>£ 120.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00768</td><td>Country Side Charity</td><td>£ 36.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00769</td><td>Surrey Hills Society</td><td>£ 30.00</td></tr> </table>	IB00761	HSBC Monthly Bank Charge	£ 5.00	IB00762	HMRC – NI & Tax	£ 278.96	IB00763	Hamilton Room (April Mtg)	£ 20.00	IB00764	Employee Pension	£ 52.49	IB00765	Clerks Additional Expenses	£ 263.16	IB00766	Josh Flynn Garden Services - Contract	£ 856.50	IB00767	Surrey Hills Maintenance	£ 120.00	IB00768	Country Side Charity	£ 36.00	IB00769	Surrey Hills Society	£ 30.00	
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	<p>12. URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING AND FOR INCLUSION ON A FURTHER AGENDA</p>																												
476	No urgent matters were noted for discretion of the chair																												
	<p>13. MEETING DATES to acknowledge and note</p>																												
477	<p>The following dates were acknowledged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Parish Meeting 12th May • SALC Councillors forum - Wednesday 23rd April • Y/E Internal Audit – Tuesday 22nd April – Clerk • Annual Parish Meeting – 19th May <p>PARISH MAGAZINE ARTICLE: May articles – Litter Pick & APM</p>																												
478	MEETING CLOSED AT 9.34pm																												