

BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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

Councillors (Cllrs) present:

Cllr Ed Winter (EW) Chairman
Cllr Ian Wilson (IW)
Cllr Martin Higgins (MH)
Cllr Alice Laidler (AL) Vice Chair
Cllr Robert Ashdown (RA)

Attending:

District Cllr Potter (PP)
District Cllr Budd (SB)
District Cllr Keay (PK)
County Cllr Helyn Clack (HC)

Apologies:

Cllr Mark Targett (MT)
Cllr Govinda Prashar

In attendance: Julie Vear (JV) Clerk & RFO

MOP: 1

Minute #	Agenda item	Who
	1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
101	Council resolved to accept apologies of absence from Cllrs Targett and Prashar	
	2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.	
102	Cllr Winter declared an interest in the ongoing planning appeal for Great Oaks	
	3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING	
103	Council resolved to approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 2 nd June. The minutes were duly signed by the Chair as a correct record.	
	4. OPEN FORUM	
104	MOP addressed Council regarding revisiting the proposal for a skate area in Wheelers Lane and installation of a half pipe. Council is supportive of exploring the proposal and requested MOP provide a one pager on the proposal. Further to the proposal, C.Cllr Clack and the clerk advised that following receipt of the paper, they could take an action to review communication with SCC regarding the project which had to be abandoned previously due to legal issues. Council advised MOP if the Wheelers Lane site	HC JV

	was unsuitable, The Elizabeth Bailey field in Brockham maybe a suitable alternative as already cleared and providing facilities for recreation to residents.	
105	5. COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT The police report with incidents from 3 rd June – 7 th July 2025 was displayed. Council commented on the incidents on Pebble Hill and requested CCllr Clack support Council with feeding back these accidents when reviewing the feasibility study and as part of the consultation. CCllr Clack advised the feasibility was due imminently.	
106	6. TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS, FLOODING AND FOOTPATHS Further to the update on the Pebble Hill feasibility study, Cllr Ashdown advised Council that the Highways group had prioritised the Highways issue log. The Pebble Hill study and consultation will initially take priority and a meeting is scheduled for this month.	JV
107	DCllr Budd advised of a meeting with SCC to look at footpath 90A (which runs across the boundary of Betchworth and Brockham) as this footpath becomes virtually impassable safely during winter. Council advised of their support and a representative will be in attendance.	
108	DCllr Potter raised again the issue with the footpath by the village store and was reminded to raise this with the land owner and SCC if he felt appropriate. Council also took an action to add to the agenda for discussions with the estate.	
109	Cllr Winter advised that GACC, as well as GAGNE were in the process of raising funds for legal advice for a potential judicial review of the Gatwick expansion. Cllr Winter also advised Council should be aware of an up-and-coming consultation, expected in the autumn regarding route 4.	
110	7. PLANNING Having reviewed the following applications, Council resolved not to make any comment:	
111	MO/2025/0717/AC Link Orchard Cottage, Gadbrook Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AN Discharge conditions 5, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 18 of planning permission MO/2024/2171 for the demolition of existing dwelling, garage and outbuilding and erection of 1 No. dwelling with detached garage, bin and cycle store, parking and associated landscaping.MO/2025/0853/PLA	

112	MO/2025/1052/PLAH Link 6 Coombe Cottages, The Coombe, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7BT Erection of a two storey side extension, front porch to be relocated to the side extension, erection of a single storey rear extension, erection of 2 No. dormers and 1 No. rooflight to the rear roof elevation and 2 No. rooflight to front roof elevation to facilitate loft conversion.	JV
113	Having reviewed the following application, Council resolved to comment on the appropriateness of materials and the clerk took an action to provide this feedback to MVDC:	
114	MO/2025/1026/LBC Link 3, Church Street, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DN Re-tile the roof of the entire property. (Listed Building Consent).	
115	Council acknowledged the following Decisions:	
116	MO/2025/0696/AC Link April Cottage, Station Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DF Discharge of condition 5 and 6 of approved planning permission MO/2024/2202 for the erection of single storey rear extension following removal of boiler room, garage conversion and alterations.	
117	Council acknowledged the following Appeal starting:	
118	MO/2024/0939/PLA Link Land opposite Great Oaks, Snowerhill Road, Betchworth, RH3 7A Creation of access track to barn.	
	8. AMENITIES	
119	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council noted that the play equipment was checked. 	JV
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122	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council resolved to approve the Memorial Permit 	JV
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124	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council received an update on the current allotment waiting list and acknowledged the spit of the plot recently made available to 2 plots to help reduce the waiting list and ensure the plots are of a manageable size. 	JV
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	Council works through plans for a larger expansion and resolved to approve. The clerk took an action to update plans.	JV
	9. COMMUNITY & COMMUNICATIONS	
127	CCllr. Clack provided an update on devolution (Government reorganisation) and outlined the changes this may mean for the Parish Council. CCllr. Clack explained that Government was consulting on 2 options for this reorganisation, 2 or 3 unitary councils. SCC and MVDC are supportive of the formation of 2 (East and West). These two councils would work with an elected Mayor who would create a new Strategic Authority covering the county of Surrey. CCllr Clack encouraged Council to respond to the Government consultation and Cllrs Winter and Wilson took an action to prepare a response for Councils review for the 5 th August deadline.	EW IW
128	CCllr Clack and DCllr Keay also outlined the intention of MVDC to complete a Community Governance review (CGR) to explore whether changes to parish arrangements might be needed. A recommendation is to be presented on 15 July and if approved, the review would give residents, community groups and other stakeholders the chance to share their views on whether new parish councils should be created, existing ones changed, or boundaries adjusted.	
129	Council resolved to provide a Parish News article for the August magazine covering the Government consultation and encouraging residents to respond. Cllr Winter and the clerk took an action to submit.	EW JV
130	Council reviewed a proposal from the clerk to adopt a Parish Online solution for centralised, cloud-based document storage to support safe and secure sharing of meeting document packs. The solution will also support business continuity planning. Council resolved to approve, and the clerk took an action to progress delivery.	JV
	10. CLERKS UPDATE	
131	There were no questions or comments on the clerk's report which can be located under supporting files on the website.	
132	The ongoing action log was acknowledged.	
133	County & District Cllrs left the meeting	

	12. FINANCE & GOVERNANCE													
134	Council resolved to acknowledge the following amounts received:													
	<table><tr><td>Allotments</td><td>£80.00</td></tr><tr><td>Bank Interest</td><td>£61.21</td></tr><tr><td>Burial Ground Income</td><td>£0.00</td></tr><tr><td>VAT Return</td><td>£1559.24</td></tr><tr><td>Other</td><td>£0.00</td></tr></table>		Allotments	£80.00	Bank Interest	£61.21	Burial Ground Income	£0.00	VAT Return	£1559.24	Other	£0.00		
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135	Council resolved to approve the following for payment in July:													
	IB00785	Clerks Expenses	£	352.40										
	IB00786	SLCC CiLCA	£	365.00										
	IB00787	Hamilton Room	£	25.00										
	IB00788	Josh Flynn Gardening Services	£	792.00										
	IB00789	Microsoft Licensing	£	84.99										
136	Council resolved to acknowledge the following scheduled payments for July:													
		HSBC Monthly Bank Charge	£	5.00										
		HMRC – NI & Tax	£	436.60										
		Clerks Salary	£	1174.09										
		Clerks Pension	£	67.82										
		Clerks Mobile	£	8.00										
		Josh Flynn Gardening Services	£	856.50										
		Hosting Charges	£	8.46										
	13.URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING AND FOR INCLUSION ON A FURTHER AGENDA													
137	No urgent matters were noted for discretion of the chair													
	14.MEETING DATES to acknowledge and note													
138	Council resolved to acknowledge the following:													
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Next Parish Meeting - 4th August• Finance & Governance Day – 10th July													
	15. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS (Closed to Public & Press)													
139	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council reviewed and resolved to approve quote for feasibility study for disability access to St Michaels Church													
140	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council reviewed and resolved to approve membership of ICCM													
141	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council reviewed and resolved to approve quote for attendance at ICCM training session													
142	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council voted on Burial Ground request													
143	MEETING CLOSED AT 10.03pm													

