

BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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

Councillors (Cllrs) present:

Cllr Alice Laidler (AL) Vice Chair
Cllr Ian Wilson (IW)
Cllr Martin Higgins (MH)

Attending:

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

Apologies:

Cllr Robert Ashdown (RA)
Cllr Mark Targett (MT)
Cllr Ed Winter (EW) Chairman

In attendance: Julie Vear (JV) Clerk & RFO

MOP: 1

Minute #	Agenda item	Who
	1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
253	Apologies were received from Cllrs Winter, Ashdown and Targett	
254	Cllr Laidler welcomed MOP and went on to explain that Cllr. Randall was unable to attend and sadly had to resign with immediate effect on health grounds. Council acknowledged Cllr Randalls significant and meaningful contribution to the Parish in recent years, particularly on highway and planning matters. Council acknowledged that MVDC had been notified and that appropriate vacancy notices would be published on notice boards from 07/11/2024 for 14days.	
	2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
255	No declarations of interest were received	
	3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING	
256	The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7 th October 2024 were approved	

	4. OPEN FORUM	
257	Cllr Laidler invited MOP to introduce themselves and questions re Parish Council general responsibilities and planning were discussed.	
258	Cllr Potter raised the issue of the incomplete works on Well House Lane with Cllr Clack. Cllr Clack took an action to follow up on the works request and encouraged all cllrs to log issues on the recently launched FixMyStreet Cllrs and the clerk commented this had worked well with recent issues, both logging and monitoring on Pebble Hill although there were still some teething problems with issues being closed without appropriate explanation and/or comment.	
259	The clerk commented she had been approached by a MOP and asked to raise with council the issue of the dip in the road just after the village store where the old tunnel used to run. Cllrs commented it did help slow traffic but they would look at the issue and report as appropriate to SCC	
	5. COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT	
260	The police report with incidents from 8 th October – 4 th November 2024 was displayed, discussed, and acknowledged with no action required.	
	6. TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS, FLOODING AND FOOTPATHS	
261	C Cllr Clack provided an update on Pebble Hill further to sharing the recently published SCC report (available on the website under supporting documents). C Cllr Clack thanked the Parish Council and residents of Pebble Hill for their support with the recent works which took just one week to complete, and included not only the drainage works but clearing, cleaning and barrier repairs. It is acknowledged that further work is required to the embankment and this is a major works that needs to continue to be monitored for safety. It is hope that the consultation for a 30MPH on this road will go ahead in 2025 with the support of the police. C Cllr Clack took questions regarding the work and all concluded a really great result for the Parish. The clerk was asked to prepare a letter of thanks to those involved at SCC as they had worked extremely hard to co-ordinate the works to ensure as much as possible could be achieved while the road was closed.	
262	The clerk shared the footpaths report (available on the website under supporting documents) and Cllrs noted with actions for Cllr Laidler and the clerk to progress plans for the litter pick.	
263	The clerk shared the highways report (available on the website under supporting documents) and Cllrs noted with no actions.	

	7. PLANNING	
264	Council acknowledged planning observations made by delegated authority since last meeting	
	Ratified planning observations by delegated authority since last meeting:	
265	MO/2024/1433/PLA Link Station House, Station Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7BZ <u>Proposal</u> : Erection of shed and storage box. <u>Case Officer</u> : Ella Barrett-Patel	No Comment
266	MO/2024/1487/PLA Link Great Oaks, Snowerhill Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AQ <u>Proposal</u> : Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling. <u>Case Officer</u> : Helen Clarke	No Comment
	New applications:	
267	MO/2024/1547/PLAH Link Sutherland, Roothill Lane, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AT <u>Proposal</u> : Erection of a two storey rear extension. <u>Case Officer</u> : Hannah Suchy	No Objection
268	MO/2024/1766/EBC Link The Quarry, 250 Pebble Hill, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7BY <u>Proposal</u> : Upgrade to existing Pole Mounted Transformer(PMT) from 50KV to 200KV <u>Case Officer</u> : Sue Read	No Objection
269	Decisions (2) MO/2024/1359/PLA Link Nionisle House, The Quarry, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7BZ Change of use from offices to 1 No dwelling, reduction in parking area and formation of a garden.	BPC No Comment / MVDC REFUSED
270	MO/2024/1378/PLAH Link <u>Location</u> : Wellwood, Wellhouse Lane, Brockham, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7HH Erection of open fronted garage and secure store.	BPC No Comment / MVDC APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

	8. AMENITIES	
271	It was acknowledged that the play equipment was checked.	
272	It was acknowledged that all 3 defibrillators in the village were inspected.	
273	The clerk provided an update on the area by the bus shelter and village store. Hope Nursery will be supporting improvements in this area with biodiverse planting of the planters.	
274	The clerk provided an update on the benches at Goulburn Green. The benches have been procured and it is expected they will be installed within the next month.	
275	The replacement school railings design to match the work carried out on the opposite side of the entrance on BPC land was discussed further and actions regarding design and permissions remain outstanding as on SCC land.	
276	Cllr Wilson and the clerk provided an update on a recent Burial Ground visit. Cllrs agreed quotes for the works identified should be requested for consideration. Cllrs approved a one-off fee for a memorial replacement of an existing headstone.	
277	Council approved allotment fees remaining the same as administration and overheads remain low and fees are in line with other parishes.	
	9. CLERKS UPDATE	
278	There were no questions or comments on the clerk's report which can be located under supporting files on the website.	
279	The ongoing action log was acknowledged.	
280	County Councillor Clack, District Cllrs and MOP left the meeting.	

281	10. FINANCE The following amounts were approved by council for payment in November: <table border="1" data-bbox="280 286 1254 591"> <tr> <td>IB00719</td><td>HSBC Monthly Bank Charge</td><td>£5.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00720</td><td>Julie Vear – Salary & expenses</td><td>£1029.07</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00721</td><td>HMRC – NI & Tax</td><td>£259.57</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00722</td><td>Hamilton Room November Mtg</td><td>£20.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00723</td><td>Josh Flynn Gardening Services</td><td>£856.50</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00724</td><td>SALC Annual Conference</td><td>36.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00725</td><td>Shires Accountants</td><td>£175.20</td></tr> <tr> <td>IB00726</td><td>Tesco Mobile</td><td>£8.63</td></tr> </table>	IB00719	HSBC Monthly Bank Charge	£5.00	IB00720	Julie Vear – Salary & expenses	£1029.07	IB00721	HMRC – NI & Tax	£259.57	IB00722	Hamilton Room November Mtg	£20.00	IB00723	Josh Flynn Gardening Services	£856.50	IB00724	SALC Annual Conference	36.00	IB00725	Shires Accountants	£175.20	IB00726	Tesco Mobile	£8.63	
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282	Council approved the clerks wage increase, backpay and pension auto enrolment in alignment with the Local Government Pay Claim and contract.																									
283	11. COMMUNITY AND COMMUNICATIONS Council discussed the public consultation paper on remote meetings and felt that although they would like to maintain the monthly full committee meetings in person, they would like the flexibility of ad hoc meetings being remote. The clerk was asked to action the questionnaire reflecting this feedback.																									
284	12. URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING AND FOR INCLUSION ON A FURTHER AGENDA No urgent matters were noted for discretion of the chair																									
285	13. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS (Closed to Public & Press) Council was asked by the clerk to consider a change to the process for signing off supplementary reports and appendix to agendas and minutes and this was approved																									
286 287	14. MEETING DATES to acknowledge and note 2025 meeting dates were approved (available on the website under supporting documents). The following dates were acknowledged: • Next Parish Council Meeting - Monday 2nd December • SALC Planning Webinar – 12th November – Clerk & Cllr Winter • SALC AGM & Conference– 19th November – Clerk • Budget Planning – TBA – Finance Group																									

288	• Interim Internal Audit – 21st November – Clerk • SCC Highways Focus Group – 3rd December -Clerk • SLCC Clerks Forum – 19th December - Clerk PARISH MAGAZINE ARTICLE: TBA	
	MEETING CLOSED AT 9.35pm	
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