

BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the **MEETING** of the **BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL** held on **MONDAY 6th October 2025**, commencing at 8pm in The Hamilton Room, Betchworth

Councillors (Cllrs) present:

Cllr Ian Wilson (IW)
Cllr Martin Higgins (MH)
Cllr Alice Laidler (AL) Vice Chair
Cllr Govinda Prashar
Cllr Mark Targett (MT)
Cllr Robert Ashdown (RA)

Attending:

District Cllr Keay (PK)
District Cllr Budd (SB)

Apologies:

Cllr Ed Winter (EW) Chairman
County Cllr Helyn Clack (HC)
District Cllr Potter (PP)

In attendance: Julie Vear (JV) Clerk & RFO

MOP: 0

Minute #	Agenda item	Who
	1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
218	Council resolved to accept apologies of absence from Parish Cllr Winter, District Cllr Potter and County Cllr Clack	
	2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.	
219	Cllr Ashdown declared an interest in planning application MO/2025/02127	
	3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING	
220	Council resolved to approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 6 th September. The minutes were duly signed by the Vice Chair as a correct record.	
	4. OPEN FORUM	
221	Further to the request from Council at the July meeting for further information, District Cllr Budd read out a paper from a resident, outlining his proposal for the provision of a scooter park at the junction of Wheelers Lane and Wellhouse Lane at the old gravel pit. Council fed back that they remained supportive as the proposal provided a facility for older children that were not currently supported with a recreation area, should planning be sought. All acknowledged that there was some work to do to understand how the initiative could be funded and managed long term. Council was clear that the proposal	

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	had their support but there was no commitment for funding or management of the site as a Parish asset and facility.	
222	5. COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT The police report with incidents was displayed, discussed and acknowledged with no further action required.	
223	6. TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS, FLOODING AND FOOTPATHS Highways: Cllr Ashdown provided an update on the recent meeting with SCC Highways safety officers to review Pebble Hill consultation plans, Scheme 7 of the A25 road safety improvements work and speeding issues in The Street.	
224	Pebble Hill Consultation: The SCC Highways safety team has now prepared the proposal for Pebble Hill and plans will be available online for consultation in coming weeks. Council are supporting the SCC team and County Cllr Clack with a drop-in session for Pebble Hill residents to give an opportunity for review, questions and feedback.	
225	Scheme 7 of the A25 road safety improvements work: Following escalation of rejection of improvement recommendations to the crossing at the Betchworth roundabout, SCC safety officers have now agreed to review plans and look at the possibility of improvements to road markings and introduction of bollards. Plans will be prepared and fed back to Council for review.	
226	The Street – Speeding SCC presented some data on speed surveys conducted. Speeds past the school suggest that there may be a requirement for street calming measures and not just signage. Council asked the clerk to take an action to follow up on the request to refresh the school and slow road signage that has been escalated to highways and County Cllr Clack. Council feel it will be beneficial for the speed surveys to be carried out again once this work is complete to see if speeds have reduced.	
227	District Cllr Keay raised that the speeding issue was a particular concern by The Firs as cars and delivery vans were mounting the footpath to avoid collisions	
228	Footpaths: Cllr Laidler advised Council that a MOP had been in contact regarding a safety issue on the footpath off of Wonham Lane as the steps have become dangerous. Although SCC is responsibility Council will escalate and look at possible resolutions. Cllr Prashar suggested if SCC do not have sufficient funds that this may be a good project for a MOP to take forward who has	

	offered funding to support village initiatives such as public right of way enhancements, Council was supportive.	
229	District Cllr Budd advised that SCC had completed improvement work along the whole stretch of footpath 90a, not just the 400yards initially agreed. Council acknowledged the benefit to the network of this path which joins Betchworth and Buckland. Council asked the clerk to take an action to contact SCC about fund matching work on the Church Farm footpath to complete work started by the Parish Council early this year to make further improvements.	JV
230	Council noted that a couple of the kissing gates on this route are not wheelchair accessible and the clerk took an action to investigate.	JV
231	Gatwick Cllr Laidler advised that following the announcement of the successful application for a 2 nd run way at Gatwick, GACC are working with lawyers and looking at options and considering a judicial review.	
	7. PLANNING Ratification of Planning Observations made since last meeting (5): 232 MO/2025/02124 Link HOLMECROFT, PEBBLE HILL ROAD, BETCHWORTH, RH3 7B Demolition of existing outbuildings and the erection of a single storey dwelling.	
233	MO/2025/02127 Link GRANGE HOUSE, THE STREET, BETCHWORTH, RH3 7DJ Convert an existing garage to provide annex accommodation.	
234	MO/2025/02138 Link PARKLAND LODGE, 8 OAKLEY GARDENS, BETCHWORTH, RH3 7AZ Certificate of lawfulness for a proposed development in respect of the erection of a single storey rear extension, rear dormer window to garage roof, 2 No. roof lights to front elevation of garage roof, alterations to fenestrations, and installation of Juliet balconies.	
235	MO/2025/02182 Link LYNCHETS, THE COOMBE, BETCHWORTH, RH3 7BT Erection of a first floor extension with dark green cladding and a grey slate-tiled hipped roof, partial demolition of the rear and west side of the ground floor extension. Removal of one chimney.	
236	MO/2025/02187 Link GREAT OAKS, SNOWERHILL ROAD, BETCHWORTH, RH3 7AQ Discharge of Condition 4 of approved planning application MO/2024/1487 for the demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling.	

237	Applications (1): No Comment was made MO/2025/02333 Link GREAT OAKS, SNOWERHILL ROAD, BETCHWORTH, RH3 7AQ Discharge of Condition 7 approved planning application MO/2024/1487 for the demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling. Council acknowledged the following: Decisions (2)	
238	MO/2025/02187 Link GREAT OAKS SNOWERHILL ROAD BETCHWORTH RH3 7AQ Discharge of Condition 4 of approved planning application MO/2024/1487 for the demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling. MVDC Decision CONDITIONS APPROVED BPC: No Comment	
239	MO/2025/01002 Link SNOWER HILL FARM SNOWERHILL ROAD BETCHWORTH RH3 7AG Prior notification for the change of use of part of the building from agriculture to Storage and Distribution (Use Class B8). MVDC Decision PRIOR APPROVAL REFUSED BPC: No Comment	
240	MO/2025/02138 Link PARKLAND LODGE 8 OAKLEY GARDENS BETCHWORTH RH3 7AZ Certificate of lawfulness for a proposed development in respect of the erection of a single storey rear extension, rear dormer window to garage roof, 2 No. roof lights to front elevation of garage roof, alterations to fenestrations, and installation of Juliet balconies. MVDC : REFUSED BPC: No Comment	
241	MO/2025/02238 Link THE OLD HOUSE SOUTH THE STREET BETCHWORTH RH3 7DJ T1 Silver Birch - Fell, T2 - Sweet Chestnut - Fell. MVDC: NO OBJECTION BPC: No Comment Appeals (0):	
242 243 244	8. AMENITIES • Council noted that the play equipment was checked. • Council noted that defibrillators were checked. • Cllr Wilson provided an update on a recent meeting of the Burial Ground group. A high-level plan of actions has been agreed and a further site visit has identified potential for expansion. Council viewed	

	an outline of additional plots proposed and agreed actions should be progressed to explore the viability.											
	9. COMMUNITY & COMMUNICATIONS											
245	Community Governance Review: Council noted MVDC had launched a district wide Community governance review and, having reviewed the consultation resolved to submit individual Cllr and clerk responses.											
246	Remembrance Sunday Plans Cllr Ashdown offered to lay the wreath on Remembrance Sunday Cllr Laidler advised Cllr Winter will email the poppy group about displaying village poppies and Cllr Laidler and Ashdown will display poppies in The Street											
247	Autumn Litter Pick The date for the autumn litter pick was set for Saturday 15 th November as setting the date after Brockham Bonfire worked well last year to ensure the village was tidied after the event. Cllr Laidler advised that the new owner of the village store was happy to support with free hot drinks for volunteers and Council will provide pastries as previous years.											
	10. CLERKS UPDATE											
248	There were no questions or comments on the clerk’s report which can be located under supporting files on the website.											
249	The ongoing action log was acknowledged.											
250	District Cllrs Keay & Budd left the meeting											
	11. FINANCE & GOVERNANCE											
251	Council acknowledged the signing of bank reconciliations and statements for Q2 (July – Sept) by Cllr Laidler in accordance with the Councils financial regulations.											
252	Council resolved to acknowledge the following amounts received: <table><tr><td>Allotments</td><td>£20.00</td></tr><tr><td>Bank Interest</td><td>£56.97</td></tr><tr><td>Burial Ground Income</td><td>£3200.00</td></tr><tr><td>VAT Return</td><td>£577.47</td></tr><tr><td>MVDC Precept & Grants</td><td>£12878.92</td></tr></table>	Allotments	£20.00	Bank Interest	£56.97	Burial Ground Income	£3200.00	VAT Return	£577.47	MVDC Precept & Grants	£12878.92	
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253	Council resolved to approve the following for payment in October:																									
	<table><tr><td>IB00801</td><td>Clerks Expenses</td><td>£</td><td>167.25</td></tr><tr><td>IB00802</td><td>Hamilton Room Sept Mtg</td><td>£</td><td>25.00</td></tr><tr><td>IB00803</td><td>Hamilton Room SCC Mtg</td><td>£</td><td>25.00</td></tr><tr><td>IB00804</td><td>Mulberry Ass.10 Training</td><td>£</td><td>18.00</td></tr><tr><td>IB00805</td><td>Gardening Services</td><td>£</td><td>90.00</td></tr></table>	IB00801	Clerks Expenses	£	167.25	IB00802	Hamilton Room Sept Mtg	£	25.00	IB00803	Hamilton Room SCC Mtg	£	25.00	IB00804	Mulberry Ass.10 Training	£	18.00	IB00805	Gardening Services	£	90.00					
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254	Council resolved to acknowledge the following scheduled payments for October:																									
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	12.URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING AND FOR INCLUSION ON A FURTHER AGENDA																									
255	No urgent matters were noted for discretion of the chair																									
256	13.MEETING DATES to acknowledge and note Council resolved to acknowledge the following:																									
	• Full Parish Meeting – 3rd November • AGAR Assertion 10 Training – 15th October • Mulberry Internal Audit – 21st October • SALC Conference & AGM – 13th November																									
257	14. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS (Closed to Public & Press) • Council reviewed and resolved to approve the quote for the recommendation for additional resource to support the clerk in the Burial Ground project																									
258	MEETING CLOSED AT 9.36pm																									