

BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the **MEETING** of the **BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL** held on **MONDAY 1st December 2025**, commencing at 7pm in The Hamilton Room, Betchworth

Councillors (Cllrs) present:

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

Attending:

District Cllr Budd (SB)
District Cllr Potter (PP)

Apologies:

County Cllr Helyn Clack (HC)
Cllr Govinda Prashar
District Cllr Keay (PK)

In attendance: Julie Vear (JV) Clerk & RFO

MOP: 0

Minute #	Agenda item	Who
	1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
302	Council resolved to accept apologies of absence from Parish Cllr Prashar, District Cllr Keay and County Cllr Clack	
	2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.	
303	There were no declarations of interest	
	3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING	
304	Cllr Ashdown advised of an update to attendance for the minutes of 3 rd November, this was accepted by Council and the minutes will therefore be reprinted, posted and signed by the Chair as a correct record at the January meeting.	
	4. OPEN FORUM	
305	Nothing was raised in open forum	

306	5. COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT Council acknowledged that the October report has now been received. Council re-viewed the November report and requested the clerk take an action to follow up with the police regarding any possible link between recent break ins. Council commented that it had been many years since there had been burglaries in the village, and these had been to sheds and out building and not homes.	JV
307	6. TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS, FLOODING AND FOOTPATHS Pebble Hill Consultation: The clerk advised that despite a follow up there was still no update on the Pebble Hill consultation. It remains Councils intention to support 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 when the consultation is published.	
308	A25 Safety Works Council acknowledged receipt of an email from the SCC safety team outlining intended safety works to be carried out in the next few weeks. Plans for the Betchworth roundabout have yet to be received for comment. Council acknowledged the article on the Parish website updating Parishioners of SCC intentions for this work.	
309	The Street – Speeding The clerk advised that there had been no further update from the SCC highways safety team regarding feedback on ideas for street calming.	
	Footpaths:	
310	The clerk advised Council that the quote for the resurfacing works of footpath 457 (Church Farm) which SCC had agreed to 50% fund had been received and was an item for approval under confidential items.	
311	The clerk advised Council that the dangerous metal from the steps on footpath 458 had been removed	
312	The clerk advised Council that the bridge on the footpath from Betchworth to Brockham had been improved for mobility scooters.	
313	Cllr Winter advised Council of a recent meeting with the Hamilton Estate at which the following footpath queries were raised:	
314	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kissing Gate Installation A number of kissing gates that were purchased by the Parish Council to improve access have remained uninstalled. The estate requested they do this as they wanted to make further improvements to gateways at the same time. This is being followed up. 	

315 316	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Footpath(s) As part of development on the estate, it was agreed there would be a new footpath from the farm bridge to Sunny cottage to improve safety so walkers did not need to walk on the road. The estate has advised this is still planned and they are looking to implement it as soon as some stewardship issues have been resolved. 	
317	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Village Store Footpath Cllr Winter advised District Cllr Potter that this footpath had been requested to be cleared 	
318	District Cllr. Potter advised Council he had been working with SCC, MVDC and Clarion to try and resolve the issue of clearing the layby on The Street as none of the parties were taking responsibility.	
319	<p>Gatwick:</p> <p>Cllr Winter advised that a couple of the slightly larger local Parish Councils (Charwood and Capel) had run meetings with GACC to update parishioners on the plans for the Gatwick expansion. Following discussing, Council asked Cllr Winter to explore the possibility of a similar meeting for Betchworth parishioners in the new year. Cllr Winter took an action to do so.</p>	EW
	7. PLANNING	
320	<p>Ratification of Planning Observations made since last meeting (0):</p> <p>Applications (3):</p>	
321	Council reviewed the following applications and resolved not to comment:	
322	<p>MO/2025/02546</p> <p>Link</p> <p>BETCHWORTH QUARRY TRANSFER STATION, THE QUARRY, BETCHWORTH, RH3 7BZ</p> <p>Partial discharge of Condition 10 of approved planning application MO/2023/1085 for the removal of condition 6 of approved planning permission MO/2022/1992 for conversion of the existing quarry machinery and grinding room to a single 3 bed dwelling with external alterations, landscaping and parking.</p>	
323	<p>MO/2025/02583</p> <p>Link</p> <p>PARKLAND LODGE, 8 OAKLEY GARDENS, BETCHWORTH, RH3 7AZ</p> <p>Erection of single storey rear extension, insertion of 1 No. dormer window to rear and 2 No. roof lights to front to provide storage space above garage, creation of 2 No. Juliet balconies to first floor rear and changes to fenestration.</p>	
324	Council reviewed the following application and resolved to comment with their support:	
325	<p>MO/2025/02679</p> <p>Link</p> <p>THE BUILDERS YARD, CHURCH STREET, BETCHWORTH, RH3 7DN</p>	

326	<p>Conversion of an existing building from industrial use (Use Class B2) into 1 No. dwelling (Use Class C3).</p> <p>Council acknowledged the following:</p> <p>Decisions (3)</p> <p>MO/2025/0853 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 garden, cladding of the exterior and provision of slate to the roof in place of the existing concrete tiles. MVDC: APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS BPC: No Comment</p> <p>327 MO/2025/02379 Link CENTRE OF POND 40M FROM 3 HOME FARM CLOSE 67M FROM HOME FARM CLOSE HOME FARM CLOSE BETCHWORTH RH3 7DX T1 Alder to pollard the tree to 10 meters, T2 Sycamore with heavy lean to remove lowest side limb to balance tree, T3 Ash to fell to ground level due to Ash Die back MVDC: NO OBJECTION BPC: No Comment</p> <p>328 MO/2025/02447 Link DILLON COTTAGE THE STREET BETCHWORTH RH3 7DW 1 No. leylandii tree to be removed. MVDC: NO OBJECTION BPC No Comment</p> <p>Appeals (0):</p>	
329 330 331	<p>8. AMENITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council noted that the play equipment was checked. • Council noted that defibrillators were checked. • Council approved the Burial Ground Permit 	
332 333 334	<p>9. COMMUNITY & COMMUNICATIONS</p> <p>Councillor Winter thanked volunteers for ensuring the poppies were displayed around the village for remembrance Sunday.</p> <p>Councillor Winter acknowledged the hard work and success of the litter pick and thanked volunteers and The Village Store who had supplied hot drinks free of charge to those involved.</p> <p>Community Survey: Cllr Winter advised he is working on a draft of this.</p>	

335	Neighbourhood Area Committee: The clerk updated Council that she will be attending an update meeting on the 3 rd December and will circulate papers on the findings of the pilot.																									
336	Parish Magazine Article: Following discussion of the police report and the break ins, Council requested the clerk take an action to provide an article on this topic.	JV																								
	10. CLERKS UPDATE																									
337	There were no questions or comments on the clerk’s report which can be located under supporting files on the website.																									
338	The ongoing action log was acknowledged.																									
339	District Cllrs Potter & Budd left the meeting																									
	11. FINANCE & GOVERNANCE																									
340	The Clerk provided an update from the group finance meeting on 7 th November where the draft 2026/27 was presented by the clerk and reviewed by the group for sign off at full council at the January meeting. The agenda for the finance meeting also covered a mid-year review of the 2025/26 budget which showed council to be on track and managing Parish funds appropriately and to budget.																									
341	Council resolved to approve the new finance schedule of regular payments																									
342	Council resolved to acknowledge the following amounts received: <table><tr><td>Allotments</td><td>£0.00</td></tr><tr><td>Bank Interest</td><td>£54.93</td></tr><tr><td>Burial Ground Income</td><td>£0.00</td></tr><tr><td>VAT Return</td><td>£0.00</td></tr><tr><td>MVDC Precept & Grants</td><td>£0.00</td></tr></table>	Allotments	£0.00	Bank Interest	£54.93	Burial Ground Income	£0.00	VAT Return	£0.00	MVDC Precept & Grants	£0.00															
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343	Council resolved to approve the following for payment in December: <table><tr><td>IB00810</td><td>Clerks Expenses</td><td>£</td><td>172.00</td></tr><tr><td>IB00811</td><td>Hamilton Room December Mtg</td><td>£</td><td>25.00</td></tr><tr><td>IB00812</td><td>SALC Ltd</td><td>£</td><td>48.00</td></tr><tr><td>IB00813</td><td>Shires Accountants</td><td>£</td><td>21.00</td></tr><tr><td>IB00814</td><td>Autumn Works</td><td>£</td><td>660.00</td></tr><tr><td>IB00815</td><td>Gardening Services</td><td>£</td><td>40.00</td></tr></table>	IB00810	Clerks Expenses	£	172.00	IB00811	Hamilton Room December Mtg	£	25.00	IB00812	SALC Ltd	£	48.00	IB00813	Shires Accountants	£	21.00	IB00814	Autumn Works	£	660.00	IB00815	Gardening Services	£	40.00	
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344	<p>Council resolved to acknowledge the following scheduled payments for December:</p> <table> <tr> <td>HSBC Monthly Bank Charge</td><td>£</td><td>5.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unity Monthly Bank Charge</td><td>£</td><td>6.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>HMRC – NI & Tax</td><td>£</td><td>412.59</td></tr> <tr> <td>Clerks Salary</td><td>£</td><td>1075.25</td></tr> <tr> <td>Clerks Pension</td><td>£</td><td>57.65</td></tr> <tr> <td>Clerks Mobile</td><td>£</td><td>8.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Josh Flynn Gardening Services</td><td>£</td><td>856.50</td></tr> </table>	HSBC Monthly Bank Charge	£	5.00	Unity Monthly Bank Charge	£	6.00	HMRC – NI & Tax	£	412.59	Clerks Salary	£	1075.25	Clerks Pension	£	57.65	Clerks Mobile	£	8.00	Josh Flynn Gardening Services	£	856.50	
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345	<p>12.URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING AND FOR INCLUSION ON A FURTHER AGENDA</p> <p>No urgent matters were noted for discretion of the chair</p>																						
346	<p>13.MEETING DATES to acknowledge and note</p> <p>Council resolved to acknowledge the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Parish Meeting 12th January 2026 • MVDC Clerks Mtg – 3rd December • SLCC Surrey Branch Meeting - 10th December 																						
	<p>14 . CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS (Closed to Public and Press)</p> <p>Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media are excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.</p>																						
347	Council approved the quote for resurfacing works of footpath 457 and the clerk took an action to advise SCC works were approved	JV																					
348	Council acknowledged receipt of quotations for various project works to be considered for CIL spend. Working groups for these projects will look to progress in the new year with recommendations to Council.																						
349	MEETING CLOSED AT 20.08																						