

BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the **MEETING** of the **BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL** held on **MONDAY 3rd November 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 Mark Targett (MT)

Attending:

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

Apologies:

County Cllr Helyn Clack (HC)
District Cllr Potter (PP)
Cllr Alice Laidler (AL) Vice Chair
Cllr Govinda Prashar
Cllr Robert Ashdown (RA)

In attendance: Julie Vear (JV) Clerk & RFO

MOP: 0

Minute #	Agenda item	Who
259	1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Council resolved to accept apologies of absence from Parish Cllrs Laidler & Prashar, District Cllr Potter and County Cllr Clack	
260	2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. There were no declarations of interest	
261	3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING Council resolved to approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 6 th October. The minutes were duly signed by the Chair as a correct record.	
262	4. OPEN FORUM Nothing was raised in open forum	
263	5. COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT The police report, despite being chased, had not been received for review by Council. This issue has been raised and the clerk will share the report with Council and publish on the website as soon as available.	

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	6. TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS, FLOODING AND FOOTPATHS	
264	<p>Pebble Hill Consultation:</p> <p>Clr Winter advised the Council that SCC Highways safety have communicated that the consultation preparation has taken longer than anticipated but is expected in coming weeks. 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.</p>	
265	<p>The Street – Speeding</p> <p>Council acknowledged the repainting of the school road signage and discussed the need for similar by the entrance where the children cross to access the school. The Clerk will request that SCC complete this additional school cross hatching. Council discussed the increased traffic in The Street following the implementation of traffic calming in Brockham resulting in satnav apps identifying Betchworth as a quicker route. Council discussed options suggested by SCC Highways for calming and agreed Parishioners should be consulted to progress this. A discussion took place regarding employing highway design consultants to assist the council and it was decided to await designs from SCC before making a decision on this.</p>	
266	<p>Footpaths:</p> <p>Clr Winter advised Council that following reports of barbed wire, brambles and a pallet being used to obstruct footpath 484, SCC, GWR and the Police had been contacted. Despite efforts, checks of CCTV had not yet identified any offenders. Following a visit by the countryside access officer to the site, SCC will be looking to reinstate the signage, open up the access and remove the metal stakes to make the footpath safer and more accessible.</p>	
267	<p>Footpaths 457 and 458 were also visited by Cllrs and the countryside access officer. Council have requested funding matching from SCC to complete resurfacing works on footpath 457 (Church Farm Path) and are awaiting quotes. SCC have agreed to make safe the metal stakes on footpath 458 and look at options to improve the steps.</p>	
268	<p>Gatwick:</p> <p>Council were advised that both GACC & CAGNE have commenced the judicial review process to challenge the lawfulness of the decision made by the Secretary of State to approve the Gatwick Northern Runway development</p> <p>,</p>	

	7. PLANNING	
	Ratification of Planning Observations made since last meeting (0):	
	Applications (4):	
269	Council reviewed the following applications and resolved not to comment:	
270	MO/2025/02406 <u>Link</u> BETCHWORTH QUARRY TRANSFER STATION, STATION ROAD BETCHWORTH Partial discharge of condition 6 and discharge condition 7 of approved planning MO/2023/1085, 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.	
271	MO/2025/02371 <u>Link</u> BETCHWORTH QUARRY TRANSFER STATION, BETCHWORTH RH3 7BP Non-material amendment to allow the Historic Building Record to be completed after commencement of the development.	
272	MO/2025/02379 <u>Link</u> 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	
273	MO/2025/02447 <u>Link</u> DILLON COTTAGE, THE STREET, BETCHWORTH, RH3 7D1 No. leylandii tree to be removed.	
274	Council acknowledged the following:	
	Decisions (2)	
275	MO/2025/02111 <u>Link</u> Gadbrook Cottage, Little Abbots Farm, Snowerhill Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AQ	

	<p>Demolition of outbuilding and the erection of 1 No. detached dwelling with associated parking and landscaping. MVDC: REFUSED BPC: No Comment</p>	
276	<p>MO/2025/02127 Link GRANGE HOUSE THE STREET BETCHWORTH RH3 7DJ Convert an existing garage to provide annex accommodation. MVDC: REFUSED BPC: No Comment</p>	
277	<p>MO/2025/02371 Link BETCHWORTH QUARRY TRANSFER STATION BETCHWORTH RH3 7BP Non-material amendment to allow the Historic Building Record to be completed after commencement of the development. MVDC: APPROVED BPC: No Comment</p>	
278	<p>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. MVDC: REFUSED BPC: No Comment</p>	
279	<p>MO/2025/02406 Link BETCHWORTH QUARRY TRANSFER STATION STATION ROAD BETCHWORTH RH3 7BZ Partial discharge of condition 6 and discharge condition 7 of approved planning MO/2023/1085, 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. MVDC: CONDITIONS APPROVED BPC: No Comment</p>	
280	<p>Appeals (1): MO/2025/0477 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). APPEAL ALLOWED</p>	
	8. AMENITIES	
281	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council noted that the play equipment was checked. 	
282	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council noted that defibrillators were checked. 	
283	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council approved the Burial Ground Permit 	
284		

285	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clerk provided an update on the allotment site. The splitting of plots has resulted in a reduction in the waiting list (3 new tenants have been offered and accepted plots in the last few months). Council approved the use of some CIL money to be spent on the communal area that has allowed the reduction in plot space as it will provide storage opportunity. Council approved the Clerk with the agreement of Cllrs Winter & Wilson to spend the CIL money up to an agreed amount. • The clerk presented a picture of the damaged village gateway. Council agreed they should request the new gateway matches any proposed furniture for Pebble Hill. 	
286	<p>9. COMMUNITY & COMMUNICATIONS</p> <p>Community Survey: Cllr Winter advised he was working on a draft of this and would be including questions relating to The Street traffic calming measures.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Area Committee: The Clerk, supported by Cllr Keay, provided an update and advised that the NAC was being run as a pilot and the first meeting had been held (minutes available in supporting docs on the website). Council were advised that any feedback should be directed via County Cllr Clack.</p> <p>Parish Magazine Article: Cllr Winter advised he would provide an article on the Litter Pick (Saturday 15th November)</p>	
289	<p>10. POLICIES & PROCEDURES</p> <p>Council resolved to approve the new allotment policy which had been shared with councillors and tenants by the clerk, prior to the meeting. It was agreed that all new tenants will receive the policy and it will come into effect for existing tenants from the new financial year and issued with invoices for 2026/27 (01/04/2026). The allotment rules will also be available on the website.</p>	
290 291 292	<p>11. 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> <p>District Cllrs Keay & Budd left the meeting</p>	

	12. FINANCE & GOVERNANCE																			
293	Council acknowledged the successful completion of the internal audit (report available on the website) and that no action was required. The Council congratulated the Clerk on achieving such an outstanding audit.																			
294	The clerk advised of the proposed timeline for the budget and precept setting process and Council were asked to consider and feedback to the clerk on any projects they wished to have considered for 2026/27. Council were advised that following the finance group meeting to review the draft budget on 07/11/2025 the budget would be presented at the December meeting for sign off with the Precept being set and approved at the January meeting.																			
295	Council resolved to acknowledge the following amounts received:																			
	<table border="1"> <tr><td>Allotments</td><td>£0.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Bank Interest</td><td>£55.20</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	£55.20	Burial Ground Income	£0.00	VAT Return	£0.00	MVDC Precept & Grants	£0.00									
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296	Council resolved to approve the following for payment in November:																			
	<table> <tr><td>IB00806</td><td>Clerks Expenses</td><td>£</td><td>126.28</td></tr> <tr><td>IB00807</td><td>Hamilton Room November Mtg</td><td>£</td><td>25.00</td></tr> <tr><td>IB00808</td><td>Mulberry Local Authority</td><td>£</td><td>300.24</td></tr> <tr><td>IB00809</td><td>Shires Accountants</td><td>£</td><td>138.60</td></tr> </table>	IB00806	Clerks Expenses	£	126.28	IB00807	Hamilton Room November Mtg	£	25.00	IB00808	Mulberry Local Authority	£	300.24	IB00809	Shires Accountants	£	138.60			
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297	Council resolved to acknowledge the following scheduled payments for November:																			
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	12. URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING AND FOR INCLUSION ON A FURTHER AGENDA																			
298	No urgent matters were noted for discretion of the chair																			
	13. MEETING DATES to acknowledge and note																			
299	Council resolved to approve the following: January, February and March 2026 meeting dates: January 12 th , February 9th March 2nd 2026																			
300	Council resolved to acknowledge the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full Parish Meeting 1st December – NB: Earlier start time Finance Group Meeting – 7th November 																			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SALC Conference & AGM – 13th November• Litter Pick – 15th November• Capel Parish Council GACC Mtg Gatwick Expansion – 17th November• Charlwood Parish Council GACC Mtg Gatwick Expansion 26th November	
301	MEETING CLOSED AT 9.10pm	