

BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the **MEETING** of the **BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL** held on **MONDAY 9th March 2026**, commencing at 8pm 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 Govinda Prashar (GP)

Attending:

District Cllr Budd (SB)

Apologies:

County Cllr Helyn Clack (HC)
 Cllr Robert Ashdown (RA)
 District Cllr Keay (PK)
 District Cllr Potter (PP)

In attendance: Julie Vear (JV) Clerk & RFO

MOP: 8

Minute #	Agenda item	Who
	1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
392	Council resolved to accept apologies of absence from Parish Cllr Ashdown District Cllrs Keay & Potter and County Cllr Clack	
	2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.	
393	No Declarations of interest were received.	
	3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING	
394	Council resolved to approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 12 th February 2026. The minutes were duly signed by the Chair as a correct record.	
	4. OPEN FORUM	
395	Cllr Winter welcomed residents of Sandy Lane to present their concerns regarding the proposed development of Hartsfield Manor. Richard Grassley spoke on behalf of those in attendance and presented their concerns (full residents report to follow).	
396	Council clarified that they had met with the consultants acting on behalf of the new owners and had put in writing concerns regarding the development. A	

	<p>follow up meeting is expected early April to receive feedback on various assessments currently being conducted. Council will ensure continued dialogue with residents in order to fully represent views and will look to set up follow up meetings with residents once the reports have been shared. Cllr Winter put questions to Council and residents attending.</p>	
397	<p>The question of the gas pipeline and its location was raised (which has not been previously raised by Council or residents as part of the consultation). Council agreed this should be raised with the consultants at the next meeting. Cllr Winter thanked residents for their contribution to the meeting and a thorough and informative report and presentation.</p>	
398 399	<p>District Cllr Budd joined the meeting MOPs left the meeting</p>	
	<p>5. COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT</p>	
400	<p>The police report with incidents was displayed, discussed and acknowledged with no further action required.</p>	
	<p>6. TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS, FLOODING AND FOOTPATHS</p>	
401	<p>Highways: Council acknowledged the positive Pebble Hill safety consultation result and the benefit these safety improvement works will bring to the village.</p>	
402	<p>Further to Parish Council feedback, Council acknowledged the positive response from SCC in including the roundabout crossing improvement works as part of the A25 safety work.</p>	
403	<p>Council acknowledged the clerk had chased the assessment of The Street calming works with SCC and would continue to do so.</p>	
404	<p>Footpaths: Cllr Laidler advised that there had been no reports of issues on footpaths. Council acknowledged how well the new surfaces on the Church Farm footpath had held up despite all the recent flooding.</p>	
405	<p>The spring litter pick date was agreed as Saturday 11th April and Cllr Laidler took an action to advise parishioners on the volunteer group</p>	AL
406	<p>Gatwick & Heathrow: Cllr Winter updated Council that the judicial review for Gatwick had been delayed as data had to be resubmitted. An outcome is expected before 01/04/2026.</p>	
407	<p>Cllr Winter asked the clerk to display images of options for the new Heathrow route 4. Cllr Winter explained the benefit of the proposed option D and the</p>	

<p>408</p> <p>409</p> <p>410</p> <p>411</p>	<p>supporting data and will write a draft consultation response for review by Council for submission prior to the 28th April 2026 deadline.</p> <p>Flooding: Council were updated on the recent BERT (Brockham Emergency Response Team) meeting to discuss flood mapper and other possible measures Betchworth can take during flood events. Cllr winter advised Council that he remains hopeful the village can be added to flood mapper having submitted images of the mole at various times and dates. Council is also keen to install real time cameras to help produce data and improve comms during flood events. Council will explore the possibility of mounting a camera at the bridge and other potential hotspots.</p> <p>Council were advised that County Cllr Helyn Clack has followed up with SCC about the funding and installation of depth markers at key flood spots.</p> <p>The clerk advised Council that she had followed up with County Cllr Clack who has been involved with residents on Wonham Lane regarding the request to have Wonham Lane recorded as a 'wet spot'. This issue has been escalated again with SCC (reference 3467169 Highways 305894) and they will request jetting works when required. They have advised that this is a low priority as there is low risk to life or property. They have advised that the surface water is temporary and does subside. The water does currently route into a soak away and this can be cleared and jetted with no risk to the Mole. Re routing water into the Mole could be an environmental risk. A new drain cannot be justified as the risk v cost does not add up and redirecting water in this way could result in risk to homes flooding. The Clerk advised Cllr Wilson that should he wish to work with residents of the Lane to obtain more data that suggests there is in fact risk to life and/or homes, this can then be submitted via Cllr Clack to Surrey. Wet spot information Drainage - Surrey County Council</p> <p>CIL funding was discussed to support flooding measures as well as other potential infrastructure projects in the village. Cllr Higgins raised an opportunity with Re-Betchworth which he will explore.</p>	
<p>412</p> <p>413</p>	<p>7. PLANNING</p> <p>Ratification of Planning Observations made since last meeting (0): There were no application to ratify since last meeting.</p> <p>Applications (2):</p> <p>Council resolved not to comment on the 2 planning applications</p> <p>MO/2026/00168 Link GROAT HOUSE, 10 OAKLEY GARDENS, BETCHWORTH, 386 - Black Pine - Hypholoma and Ganoderma west of tree, poor resonance when tapped. Fell. 389 - Sycamore - Pollard at 4 metres retain as habitat stick.</p>	

<p>413</p> <p>414</p> <p>415</p>	<p>MO/2026/00206 Link THE DOLPHIN INN (PH), THE STREET, BETCHWORTH T1, T2, T3, T4, T5 and T6 - Crown reduce by 3 metres</p> <p>Council acknowledged the following:</p> <p>Decisions (2) MO/2026/00017 Link LAND ON THE WEST SIDE OF STATION HOUSE STATION ROAD BETCHWORTH RH3 7BZ Erection of a tool and equipment hut. MVDC APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS BPC No Comment</p> <p>MO/2026/00108 Link ORCHARD COTTAGE GADBROOK ROAD BETCHWORTH RH3 7AN Discharge of conditions 3 & 17 of approved planning application 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. MVDC SPLIT DECISION (TREE OR CONDITIONS) BPC No Comment</p> <p>Appeals (0):</p> <p>Planning Other (0)</p>	
<p>416</p> <p>417</p> <p>418</p>	<p>8. AMENITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council noted that the play equipment was checked. • Council noted that defibrillators were checked. • There were no Burial Ground Permits to approve. 	
<p>419</p> <p>420</p>	<p>9. COMMUNITY & COMMUNICATIONS</p> <p>Cllr. Winter agreed to write an article for the Parish News about the proposal for Route 4.</p> <p>Cllr. Laidler is visiting the school to see how the grant money issued in 2025 has been spent and will work with them to submit a Parish News article to update parishioners.</p>	
<p>421</p> <p>422</p>	<p>10. 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>11.FINANCE & GOVERNANCE</p> <p>423 Council resolved to approve the new additional Burial Ground rates</p> <p>424 Council resolved to approve the recommendation to split the wages on the budget sheet to improve reporting.</p> <p>425 Council resolved to approve the recommendation to amend CIL allocations on the budget sheet for 2026/27.</p> <p>426 Council resolved to acknowledge the following amounts received:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="512 409 1064 524"> <tr> <td>Bank Interest</td> <td>£52.79</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Burial Ground</td> <td>£1350.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>£90.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>427 Council resolved to approve the following for payment in March:</p> <table data-bbox="252 613 1171 748"> <tr> <td>IB00830</td> <td>Clerks Expenses</td> <td>£</td> <td>7.86</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IB00831</td> <td>Hamilton Room</td> <td>£</td> <td>25.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IB00832</td> <td>ICCM Memorial Testing</td> <td>£</td> <td>210.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IB00833</td> <td>Gardening Services</td> <td>£</td> <td>10.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>428 Council resolved to acknowledge the following scheduled payments for March:</p> <table data-bbox="363 857 1246 1055"> <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>571.81</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clerks Salary</td> <td>£</td> <td>1670.47</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> </table>	Bank Interest	£52.79	Burial Ground	£1350.00	Other	£90.00	IB00830	Clerks Expenses	£	7.86	IB00831	Hamilton Room	£	25.00	IB00832	ICCM Memorial Testing	£	210.00	IB00833	Gardening Services	£	10.00	HSBC Monthly Bank Charge	£	5.00	Unity Monthly Bank Charge	£	6.00	HMRC – NI & Tax	£	571.81	Clerks Salary	£	1670.47	Clerks Pension	£	57.65	Clerks Mobile	£	8.00	
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	<p>12.URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING AND FOR INCLUSION ON A FURTHER AGENDA</p> <p>429 No urgent matters were noted for discretion of the chair</p>																																									
	<p>13.MEETING DATES to acknowledge and note</p> <p>430 Council resolved to acknowledge the following: Full Council Meeting Dates 2026/27 Litter Pick - 11th April</p> <p>2026 Monday March 9th Monday April 13th Monday May 11th Monday May 18th - AGM Monday June 8th Monday July 13th Monday Aug 10th Monday Sept 14th Monday Oct 12th</p>																																									

	Monday Nov 9th Monday Dec 14 th 2027 Monday Jan 11 th Monday Feb 8 th Monday Mar 8 th	
431	1. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS (Closed to Public and Press) Council resolved to extend the contract of the Amenities & Support Clerk	
432	MEETING CLOSED AT 21.20	