

## BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the **MEETING** of the **BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL** held on **MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026**, commencing at 8pm in The Hamilton Room, Betchworth

**Councillors (Cllrs) present:**

Cllr Ian Wilson (IW)  
Cllr Martin Higgins (MH)  
Cllr Robert Ashdown (RA)  
Cllr Govinda Prashar (GP)

**Attending:**

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

**Apologies:**

County Cllr Helyn Clack (HC)  
Cllr Ed Winter (EW) Chairman  
Cllr Alice Laidler (AL) Vice Chair

**In attendance:** Julie Vear (JV) Clerk & RFO Katie Leak (KL) Facilities Clerk **MOP: 1**

Minute #	Agenda item	Who
	<b>1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	
433	Council <b>resolved</b> to accept apologies of absence from Parish Cllrs Winter & Laidler and County Cllr Clack.	
434	Council acknowledged the resignations of Cllr Targett and the Clerk and RFO due to relocation outside of the village. Council <b>resolved</b> to accept their resignations.	
	<b>2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.</b>	
435	Declarations of interest regarding the Hartsfield Manor development were received from Cllrs Wilson, Ashdown and Prashar.	
	<b>3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</b>	
436	Council <b>resolved</b> to approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2026.	

437	<p><b>4. OPEN FORUM</b></p> <p>District Cllr Potter raised the issue of the water at the allotments. Council advised that the quote for the repair of the tap was on the evenings agenda to be approved and the work would be completed as soon as possible. An <b>action</b> was taken to fill the water butt at the site while the tap is out of service.</p>	JV KL
438  439	<p><b>5. COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT</b></p> <p>The clerk advised that the police report had not yet been received for March and it would be circulated to Council as soon as available.</p> <p>District Cllr Keay advised council that at a recent meeting they had been told that there had been an increase in burglary in sheds and particularly E-Bikes, and that the police have a targeted campaign to reduce this type of crime.</p>	
440  441  442  443  444	<p><b>6. TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS, FLOODING AND FOOTPATHS</b></p> <p>Highways: Council acknowledged the crossing improvement works at Betchworth roundabout that had been recently approved and implemented following feedback from Council to SCC. It was agreed they had much improved the crossing and resulted in a safer crossing for access to the station and footpath network.</p> <p>Council acknowledged the update from SCC regarding the Pebble Hill speed reduction work, and contractors have been approached for quotes so this work can commence.</p> <p>Council will continue to follow up with SCC regarding options for the The Street calming works with SCC.</p> <p>Footpaths: Council acknowledged the success of the spring litter pick and thanked those that had attended. Despite slightly reduced numbers due to Leith Hill music festival and Easter break, around 30 bags were collected. Council were advised of the footpath work to improve accessibility at the Coombe. The Clerk advised of an issue on an estate footpath 579 that had become very narrow next to a barbed wired fence.</p> <p>Gatwick &amp; Heathrow: Council were advised that the outcome for the judicial review was imminent, but the expected date of 01/04 had been missed. The clerk advised Council that Cllr Winter will circulate a proposed submission for the new Route 4 for review by Council for submission prior to the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2026 deadline.</p>	EW

445	<p><b>Flooding:</b></p> <p>Council advised they have identified a potential building to mount a camera for observing and recording flood levels. This camera could help with comms to the village and also recording data to establish when a flood event was likely.</p>	JV
446	<p>The Clerk took an action to arrange a meet up with the estate about the opportunity for the camera and the footpath</p>	
447	<p>The Clerk advised that further to Cllr Higgins action to follow up with Re-Betchworth regarding a potential opportunity to help mitigate flooding, a paper had been produced and circulated to Council prior to the meeting. Norman Jackson was present to answer questions. The Clerk presented the paper on the screen which outlined the opportunity to purchase land referred to as Tranquil wood. The land is within Betchworth and Buckland and could provide additional footpaths and secure a sanctuary for wildlife. Council were advised the land was available for approx 10% of market value. Council discussed potential issues regarding, access, risks and ongoing funding. District Cllr Key confirmed that flood attenuation of water from Buckland had been identified on the priority list for Strategic CIL funding and suggested this might be an additional funding source. Council resolved to progress with a business case and to be prepared to provide further details as part of an ongoing consultation for parishioners and neighbours at the APM in May.</p>	
448	<p>MOP left the meeting</p>	
<p><b>7. PLANNING</b></p>		
449	<p><b>Ratification of Planning Observations made since last meeting (0):</b> There were no application to ratify since last meeting.</p> <p><b>Applications (2):</b></p>	JV
450	<p>Council reviewed the 2 applications that had fallen outside of Agenda Timetables and <b>resolved</b> not to comment.</p>	
451	<p>MO/2026/00407 <a href="#">Link</a> ORCHARD COTTAGE, GADBROOK ROAD, BETCHWORTH, RH3 7AN Discharge of Condition 17 of planning permission MO/2024/2171 for demolition of existing dwelling, garage and outbuilding and erection of 1 No. dwelling with detached garage, bin and cycle store, parking and associated landscaping.</p>	
452	<p>MO/2026/00452 <a href="#">Link</a> APRIL COTTAGE STATION ROAD BETCHWORTH RH3 7DF Internal alterations to provide a ground floor shower room and first floor bathroom. Application for Listed Building Consent.</p> <p><b>Decisions (0)</b></p>	
453	<p>Council acknowledged the following appeals and asked the Clerk to take an <b>action</b> to follow up with MVDC to ensure enforcement:</p>	

454	<p><b>Appeals (2):</b>  <b>MO/2024/0939</b>  <a href="#">Link</a>  Land Opposite Great Oaks, Snowerhill Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AQ  Creation of access track to barn.  <b>Appeal Decision:</b> DISMISSED</p>	
455	<p><b>2024/0034/ENF</b>  Land Opposite Great Oaks, Snowerhill Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AQ  without planning permission:  a) The erection of a building in the approximate position shaded black on the attached plan; and  b) The creation of a hard surfaced access drive and area surrounding the building in the approximate position shaded blue on the attached plan  c) the erection of iron railings to the side of the access drive.  <b>Decision:</b> ALLOWED IN PART</p>	
456	<p><b>Planning Other (1)</b>  <b>Hartsfield Manor</b>  Council were advised that the meeting with the Hartsfield consultants had been disappointing as feedback at the earlier meeting had in the main been ignored with just minor adjustments being made to plans. Council were advised to expect the full application to be submitted in the next couple of weeks. Council will prepare a response once the application has been received and reviewed.</p>	
457 458 459	<p><b>8. AMENITIES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council noted that the play equipment was checked.</li> <li>• Council noted that defibrillators were checked.</li> <li>• There were no Burial Ground Permits to approve.</li> </ul>	
460 461	<p><b>9. COMMUNITY &amp; COMMUNICATIONS</b></p> <p>460 Council were advised that articles had been drafted for the litter pick, APM and vacancies. Council <b>resolved</b> to approve.</p> <p>461 The clerk displayed the proposal to nominate Parish Cllrs Jones and McLachlan to continue to serve as non-voting members of the MVDC standards committee for 2026/27. Council <b>resolved</b> to approve.</p>	
462	<p><b>10. POLICIES &amp; PROCEDURES</b></p> <p>462 The Clerk displayed the updated Burial Ground Policy document which had previously been circulated to Cllrs. Council <b>resolved</b> to approve the policy with one addition for script requirements. KL took an <b>action</b> to update</p>	KL

	<b>11. CLERKS UPDATE</b>																						
463	There were no questions or comments on the clerk's report which can be located under supporting files on the website.																						
464	The ongoing action log was acknowledged																						
465	District Cllrs left the meeting																						
	<b>12. FINANCE &amp; GOVERNANCE</b>																						
466	Council <b>resolved</b> to approve Mulberry as internal auditor for 2026/27																						
467	Council acknowledged that the terms of business and engagement letter for Shire Accountants Payroll provider had been signed for 2026/27 by the Clerk.																						
468	Council acknowledged receipt of the VAT return for £1431.22 Council <b>resolved</b> to acknowledge the following amounts received:																						
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Bank Interest</td> <td>£47.74</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Burial Ground</td> <td>-£6030.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VAT</td> <td>£1431.22</td> </tr> </table>	Bank Interest	£47.74	Burial Ground	-£6030.00	VAT	£1431.22																
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469	Council <b>resolved</b> to approve the following for payment in April:																						
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	<b>13. URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING AND FOR INCLUSION ON A FURTHER AGENDA</b>																						
471	No urgent matters were noted for discretion of the chair																						

472	<p><b>14.MEETING DATES to acknowledge and note</b></p> <p>Council <b>resolved</b> to <b>acknowledge</b> the following:  Internal Audit April 30<sup>th</sup> 2026  Allotment Inspections 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026  APM 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026  Full Council Meeting Dates 2026/27</p> <p>The APM was discussed and Cllr Wilson took an action to prepare the slide pack as last year. Cllrs and Clerks to provide photos.</p> <p><b>2026</b>  Monday March 9th  Monday April 13th  Monday May 11<sup>th</sup>  Monday May 18<sup>th</sup> - AGM  Monday June 8th  Monday July 13th  Monday Aug 10th  Monday Sept 14th  Monday Oct 12th  Monday Nov 9th  Monday Dec 14<sup>th</sup></p> <p><b>2027</b>  Monday Jan 11<sup>th</sup>  Monday Feb 8<sup>th</sup>  Monday Mar 8<sup>th</sup></p>	IW ALL
473	<p><b>15.CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS (Closed to Public and Press)</b></p> <p>The Clerk displayed the quotes paper for amenities improvement work circulated prior to the meeting and Council discussed the proposal. Council <b>resolved</b> to accept the proposal by the BG &amp; Finance group for the facilities improvement work with the exception of memorial planting. It was agreed this area needed further scoping work to understand the requirement. It was agreed that the Allotment improvement work was going ahead as part of the general improvement of the overall site and any income from the allotments should be included.</p>	
474	<p>The Clerk displayed the grant recommendations for 2026/27 which had been recommended by the finance group and circulated prior to the meeting. Council <b>resolved</b> to accept the proposal with the request that organisations receiving grants prepared a village article outlining how 2025/26 funding had been used.</p>	
475	<p>The Clerk displayed the Insurance options paper circulated prior to the meeting and Council <b>resolved</b> to accept the recommendation to remain with Zurich for 2026/27.</p>	
<b>MEETING CLOSED AT 21.32</b>		