

BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the **MEETING** of the **BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL** held on **MONDAY 1st July 2024**, commencing at 8pm in The Hamilton Room, Betchworth

Councillors (Cllrs) present:

Cllr Ed Winter (EW) Chairman
 Cllr Ian Wilson (IW)
 Cllr Graham Randall (GR)
 Cllr Martin Higgins (MH)
 Cllr Robert Ashdown (RA)
 Mark Targett

Attending:

County Cllr Helyn Clack (HC)
 District Cllr Budd (SB)
 District Cllr Keay (PK)

Apologies:

District Cllr Potter (PP)
 Cllr Alice Laidler (AL)

In attendance: Cheryl Sexton (CS), Clerk & RFO supported by newly appointed Clerk & RFO Julie Vear (JV)

Minute #	Agenda item	Who
	1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
99	Apologies were received from Councillor Laidler and District Councillor Potter. Cllr Winter welcomed and introduced Mark Targett to the meeting to be considered for co-option as a new Councillor, and the newly appointed Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer Julie Vear.	
	2. CO-OPTION OF A NEW COUNCILLOR	
100	Cllr Winter introduced the item for co-option of a new parish cllr. to fill the current vacancy and invited Mark Targett to introduce himself and explain his interest in joining the parish council. Questions were invited and the council unanimously agreed to the appointment of Mark Targett with immediate effect. MT signed the declaration of acceptance of office which was witnessed and signed by the Clerk. Cllr Targett was welcomed to the Parish Council.	
	3. APPOINTMENT OF NEW CLERK	
101	Cllr Winter introduced the item of appointment of the new clerk and Julie Vear was invited to provide an introduction. Following this, the Councillors welcomed Julie to her new role. Councillors took the opportunity to thank Cheryl Sexton for all her hard work and acknowledged her exceptional dedication to the parish.	
	4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	

102	Declaration of interest was received from Cllr Winter relating to item 9 (new planning applications) for MO/2024/0937 Great Oaks, Snowerhill Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AQ, the book was signed.	
103	5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING The minutes of the meeting held on 3 rd June 2024 were approved and signed by Councillor Winter.	
104	6. OPEN FORUM An email has been received from a parishioner requesting that the council consider replacing the existing railings at the end of the School Path. The current metal railings are missing the 2 nd , lower rail and this, combined with the design (round and smooth) encourages children to spin around the top rail. It was unanimously agreed that the railings need replacing and rather than a like for like replacement, a style more appropriate to the location should be considered (like the fencing on the opposite side at Goulburn Green). It was agreed that CIL money was appropriate to fund this project. The clerk will provide estimates for consideration at the September meeting	JV
105	7. COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT The police report with incidents for June 2024 was displayed, discussed, and acknowledged with no action required.	
106	8. TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS Cllr Winter outlined the key item for consideration on the footpath report which was the Church Footpath by the cowsheds. The wider section of the path by the cowsheds and the narrower section (now significantly reduced due to new fencing) leading to Brockham was discussed. It is understood that SCC have confirmed ownership of the wider stretch of the path and give authority for resurfacing work but further analysis is required to understand requirements for the narrower section. It was acknowledged by all Councillors this is a high traffic footpath and therefore appropriate to allocate CIL funds to support this project. It was acknowledged that environmental impact and disabled access should be considered when looking at options. Cllrs Randall and Laidler will work together to better understand stakeholders and provide a spec so quotes can be sought and presented to full council.	GR/ AL
107	A highways report was displayed and presented by GR and discussions were had around each topic. A copy of the report is displayed on the website under 'supporting files'.	

108	Cllrs. noted the meeting with Something Special scheduled for 17/07 to discuss damage and disruption caused by large lorries entering and exiting the site.	GR/HC /SB/JV
109	Further to the highways report, an update on the village gateway replacement was provided by Cllr Randal. County Cllr Clack is continuing to liaise with SCC for permission to proceed with a like for like replacement to be funded by parish CIL money.	HC
110	County Cllr Clack provided an update on the Pebblehill issues and explained she is continuing to feed back to Surrey County Council on the eroded embankment, missing footpath railings and faulty drains as priority. It was acknowledged that speed checking in this area is very difficult due to the rail crossing but County Cllr Clack continues to work with SCC to look at options. HC continues to liaise with Betchworth Parish Council and residents over the issues.	HC
111	County Cllr Clack asked for feedback on the Wonham Lane flooding repairs, and it was confirmed there was some improvement but further work could be done to 'the dip' of approx. 20yards between Sandy Lane and Wonham place. County Councillor Clack will continue to monitor.	HC
112	Councillor Winter provided an update on the Gatwick expansion programme. A decision is expected by the end of August from the Planning Inspectors. The Secretary of State will then make a decision to accept or overturn the Planning Inspectors decision. A recent 2-day hearing has resulted in the Planning Inspectors issuing questions to interested parties and Gatwick Airport. The planners have raised the landmark Horse Hill supreme court ruling as a consideration in this application. They question if the climate effect caused by all of the extra flights which the application would allow should be taken into account in addition to the current policy of just those emissions caused within the airport boundary.	
	9. PLANNING	
113	Ratification of Planning Observations made since last meeting (3) MO/2024/0745 Great Oaks, Snowerhill Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AQ Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling No Comment Ratified	
114	MO/2024/0810 Betchworth Lodge, Pebble Hill Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7BW Replace the existing ancillary domestic pool building with a similar sized outbuilding providing an ancillary pool / garden room to the house. No Comment Ratified	
115	MO/2024/0831 Garden Cottage, Church Street, Betchworth, RH3 7DN	

	<p>1 No. Yew tree. Remove large central split and crown lift to 4 metres and reduce remainder of the crown by 3 metres.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">No Comment Ratified</p>	
116	<p>New Applications (2) MO/2024/0804 Meadow View, Station Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DF Green Mesh metal Fencing to front boundary of Meadow View abutting Station road.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Objection</p>	CS
117	<p>Following discussion and an unanimous decision of the councillors, an objection is to be made to the green mesh fencing as considered unsuitable for a rural setting. Industrial fencing is not appropriate at a domestic property and prevents the migration of wildlife through the landscape corridor and is in breach of the original conditions.</p>	
118	<p>Comment is to be made through an enforcement breach regarding the entrance pillars and entrance gate to the property together with the external lighting as these are in breach of the original conditions.</p>	
119	<p>The clerk will provide correspondence for the above to Mole Valley Planning and cc Piers Mason for the attention of the enforcement officer.</p>	
120	<p>MO/2024/0937 Great Oaks, Snowerhill Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AQ Certificate of Lawfulness for a proposed development in respect of the erection of two outbuildings and the laying out of hard surface.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">No Objection</p>	
121	<p>Decisions (2) MO/2024/0553 Orchard Cottage, Gadbrook Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AN Erection of a detached single-storey dwelling with rooms in the roof space and detached garage following the demolition of existing dwelling, detached garage, and outbuilding.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Refused</p>	
122	<p>MO/2024/0581 Great Oaks, Snowerhill Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AQ Certificate of Lawfulness for a proposed development in respect of the erection of 2 No. outbuildings and laying out of hard surfaces within the curtilage of the dwelling.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Refused</p>	
123	<p>Appeal Decisions (0) Other Matters (0)</p>	

	10.AMENITIES	
124	It was acknowledged that the play equipment was checked 5th,12th,19th and 25th June.	
125	It was acknowledged that all 3 defibrillators in the village were inspected.	
126	The proposed memorial request for Forrester was approved.	CS
127	The clerk confirmed the allotment waiting list had been updated to reflect removal of 2 requests for plots.	
128	The Clerk provided an update on the recently installed play equipment. There has been some excellent feedback from residents. It is acknowledged that the safety matting requires seeding to 'soften' the look but agreed that this work would be better carried out in September to allow access to the equipment over the holiday period (a 2-week closure will be required when seeding is completed). The installation of the new bench remains outstanding in this area but the location by the logs has been agreed and will be progressed for recommendation at the next meeting.	CS/JV
129	The Clerk displayed the risk assessment for the stepping logs in the play area. A copy of the report is displayed on the website under 'supporting files. Following review of the assessment and discussion, councilors unanimously opted for option 3 to leave the stepping logs in place and update the information sign in the play area.	AL
130	The clerk displayed an updated visual of the proposed gate for the burial ground entrance. Cllrs agreed that the main gate with addition of a pedestrian gate was appropriate and should be progressed (see also minute 147)	CS/JV
131	Cllr Ashdown presented recommendations for scope of work for maintenance of the railings at Betchworth bridge, the railings are in need of cleaning and painting to make them more visible and aesthetic. Following discussions, it was agreed that the clerk would raise this with SCC as road closure would likely be necessary.	CS/JV
132	Cllr Ashdown presented recommendations for scope of work for maintenance of the railings on Wonham Lane, the railings are in need of clearing, cleaning and painting to make them more visible and aesthetic. Following discussions, it was agreed that the clerk would raise this with SCC as road closure would likely be necessary.	CS/JV
133	Cllr Ashdown presented recommendations for scope of work for maintenance of the clappers at Betchworth bridge. Following	

<p>134</p>	<p>discussions, it was agreed that due to the narrow nature of the clappers it was not appropriate to encourage use, due to risk of falling and therefore no further action would be taken.</p> <p>It was also noted that overgrowing trees and foliage at the bridge continue to restrict line of sight making the bridge dangerous for pedestrians and vehicles to cross safely. It was agreed that this issue would be raised by the clerk with Highways, following prior communication letter to the landowners.</p>	<p>CS/JV</p>
<p>135</p> <p>136</p> <p>137</p>	<p>11. CLERKS UPDATE</p> <p>Clerk displayed the revised Clerks Report which will be added to the website 'supporting files' with the minutes, highlighting areas in red since the issuing of the agenda. Clerk advised the majority of the activity to note was around Highways. There were no questions or comments.</p> <p>Ongoing action log was acknowledged.</p> <p>County Councillor Clack and District Cllrs Keay and Budd left the meeting at 9.25pm</p>	
<p>138</p> <p>139</p> <p>140</p> <p>141</p> <p>142</p>	<p>12. FINANCE</p> <p>The Council acknowledged the receipt of £4,640.07 (£71.07 interest, £4569.00 Burial Ground).</p> <p>The Council acknowledged the transfer of £8,207.75 (CIL Money) from UNITY account to HSBC for playground installation.</p> <p>The Council approved HSBC bank mandate change to signatories for membership to include the new makeup of the Council Cllr Edward Winter, Cllr Alice Laidler, Cllr Graham Randall, Cllr Ian Wilson, Cllr Martin Higgins, Cllr Robert Ashdown, Cllr Mark Targett and Julie Vear as the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.</p> <p>The Council approved UNITY bank mandate change to signatories for membership to The Finance Group and Clerk : Cllr Edward Winter, Cllr Ian Wilson, Cllr Alice Laidler and Julie Vear as the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer</p> <p>The Council acknowledged that the bank reconciliations for March, April and May were completed by Cllr Laidler. It was noted that there was a typing error in minute 52 which stated payment of £141.85 to the Clerk when it should have read £1451.85 paid on 13th May 2024. It was confirmed that the accounts were correct.</p>	<p>CS/JV</p> <p>CS/JV</p>

143	The Clerk displayed the Monthly Financial Summary which was discussed and acknowledged.																			
144	The following amounts were approved for payment in July 2024 by Cllrs Wilson and Ashdown:																			
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>IB00679</td> <td>HSBC Monthly Bank Charge</td> <td>£5.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IB00680</td> <td>Cheryl Sexton – Salary & expenses</td> <td>£1196.33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IB00681</td> <td>HMRC – NI & Tax (May)</td> <td>£107.97</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IB00682</td> <td>UNITY Bank Charge</td> <td>£18.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IB00683</td> <td>Hamilton Room (July Mtg)</td> <td>£20.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IB00684</td> <td>Josh Flynn Gardening Services</td> <td>£856.50</td> </tr> </table>	IB00679	HSBC Monthly Bank Charge	£5.00	IB00680	Cheryl Sexton – Salary & expenses	£1196.33	IB00681	HMRC – NI & Tax (May)	£107.97	IB00682	UNITY Bank Charge	£18.00	IB00683	Hamilton Room (July Mtg)	£20.00	IB00684	Josh Flynn Gardening Services	£856.50	
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145	As there is no meeting in August, Council agreed to delegate responsibility for the payment of invoices in August.																			
	13. URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING AND FOR INCLUSION ON A FURTHER AGENDA																			
146	No urgent matters were noted for discretion of the chair																			
	14. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS (Closed to Public & Press)																			
147	Further to 130, Burial Ground Gate, supplier quotes were considered by the Council. It was agreed that a hard wood rather than softwood gate was appropriate for the burial ground entrance. The finance group were delegated rights to approve spend within the £2k budget by full committee to proceed.																			
	15. MEETING DATES to acknowledge and note																			
148	The following dates were acknowledged:																			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Next Parish Council Meetings – 2nd September b. SALC Clerk Forum – 2nd July – Clerk c. SLCC Clerk Mtg – 3rd July– Clerk d. Something Special Mtg – 17th July – Clerk, HC,SB, GR 																			
149	PARISH MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Introduction to new Parish Council members	CS																		
150	MEETING CLOSED AT 9.44pm																			
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