

DRAFT

BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the **MEETING** of the **BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL** held on **MONDAY 7th October 2024**, 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 Graham Randall (GR)
Cllr Martin Higgins (MH)
Cllr Robert Ashdown (RA)
Cllr Mark Targett (MT)

Attending:

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

Apologies:

District Cllr Budd (SB)

In attendance: Julie Vear (JV) Clerk & RFO

MOP: 0

Minute #	Agenda item	Who
	1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
208	Apologies were received from Cllr Budd	
	2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
209	No declarations of interest were received	
	3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING	
210	The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2 nd September 2024 were approved	
	4. OPEN FORUM	
211	Cllr Winter acknowledged the great work of Re-Betchworth in organising the recent Apple Fest event which was a great success and extremely well attended. The event has become a firm fixture in the village calendar and the Parish Council and Cllrs supported the recommendation that Re-Betchworth is an organisation the parish continue to support and invest in via the grant process to ensure they can continue their work.	
212	Council discussed an enquiry from a parishioner regarding having the village pub listed as an asset of community value. Council agreed in principle with this designation and will investigate how to take this forward. Council further noted that such a designation could be applied to other assets in the village which could be identified at future meetings	

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213	The issue of cars parking on pavements, particularly where visibility is poor, was raised by Cllr. Potter. C.Cllr Clack advised that unfortunately while this is still not illegal there is very little that can be done, other than continuing to petition for a change in the law and raising awareness where appropriate.	
214	The Wellhouse Lane subsidence issue was raised again as work remains outstanding. C.Cllr Clack will chase for update.	
215	The pavement, drop curb, road area outside Knights Garden Centre was raised and an action was taken by cllrs to log with SCC.	
	5. COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT	
216	The police report with incidents from 2 nd Sept – 7 th October 2024 was displayed, discussed, and acknowledged with no action required.	
	6. TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS, FLOODING AND FOOTPATHS	
217	C Cllr Clack provided an update following the meeting held with SCC, BPC and representatives from Pebble Hill. 3 key areas are being taken forward, the possibility of a 30mph, barrier work and clearing (including drainage work and cleaning). The clerk has a meeting with SCC and C Cllr Clack to agree how updates, progress and reporting across these initiatives will be shared with Cllrs and residents. Further to this update, C Cllr Clack highlighted (in response to a question from Cllr Targett) that the installation of 65.5 meters of new pipework in the vicinity of Sunnybank Farm is necessary to address surface water flooding. Extensive drainage investigations have determined that this additional pipework is critical for improving the overall drainage system at this location. While it may seem extensive, these works are required to mitigate future flooding risks, which is the core aim of this project. C Cllr Clack also confirmed that there is not the opportunity to co-ordinate road closures with Network Rail as works are being conducted separately from the Council's drainage improvement activities for safety and logistical reasons. C Cllr Clack shared that she had also fed back to SCC on residents' requests to see a traditional approach to railings.	
218	Cllr Laidler provided an update on the church farm footpath. The tender document will be circulated to potential contractor's w/c 07/10.	
219	Cllr Laider advised that she will soon be circulating potential dates for the autumn litter pick. Cllrs agreed this is an excellent community event and should be appropriately funded and supported as previous litter picks.	
220	A highways report was presented by Cllr Randall and discussions were had around each topic. A copy of the report is displayed on the website under 'supporting files'.	

221	<p>Cllr Wilson informed council that further to following up on a request to better understand the proposed 17 sites location, he had received an email from the Thames Valley Flood Scheme communication and engagement office who explained the current scope of the initiative is to assess which, if any, of the 17 locations are taken forward looking at the ability of an area to reduce flood risk to downstream communities compared to the cost of building a flood storage area. It was made clear in the correspondence that the team were happy to speak to representatives of the parish to hear more about the local area, but it will not influence decisions as to whether or not TV continue to investigate this location, as this will be determined by the cost benefit associated with each area. TV will not be able to gain further funding for any sites that do not pass this cost benefit analysis. For any sites which are taken forward, TV will be writing to people in areas that remain of interest to invite them to meetings and workshops. From the work completed so far, TV commented that it is looking very unlikely that the Mole location will remain an area that they continue to investigate. Further information regarding the results from their analysis and what this means for the future of the 17 locations can be expected in their November newsletter. Cllr Key confirmed that MVDC were also pushing hard to better understand this scheme and potential impact on the area.</p>	
222	<p>Cllr Winter updated Cllrs that nothing was expected on the Gatwick expansion until the new year. The London airspace south consultation is expected for Q1 next year and the Route 4 consultation is expected to follow in Q2.</p>	
	<p>7. PLANNING</p>	
223	<p>Council acknowledged planning observations made by delegated authority since last meeting</p>	
224	<p>Ratified planning observations by delegated authority since last meeting: MO/2024/1359/PLA 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 a garden.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">No Comment</p>	
225	<p>New applications: MO/2024/1378/PLAH Link Wellwood, Wellhouse Lane, Brockham, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7HH Erection of open fronted garage and secure store.</p>	
226	<p>Consideration of Appeal: MO/2024/1220 Crossways Kennels And Cattery, Crossways Farm, Station Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DF</p>	
227	<p>Decisions: MO/2024/1150/PLAH Link</p>	

228	<p>South Lodge, Broome Park, Old Reigate Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DR Erection of single storey rear extension and first floor rear extension. BPC No Comment / MVDC APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS</p> <p>MO/2024/1256/PLAH Link Hazelcombe, Pebble Hill Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7BP Erection of replacement detached garage with loft storage/Gym/Home Office above. BPC No Comment / MVDC REFUSED</p>	
229	<p>MO/2024/1128/LBC Link Dillon Cottage, The Street, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DW Subdivision of existing cottage into 2 No. dwelling units with separate entrances and amenity. Access between the two to be infilled at ground floor and first floor level. External repairs to be carried out to the elevations, including: window and door repairs and repainting, cement-based render to be tested and replaced with lime render, repainting of masonry, repairs and repainting of exposed timber framing, repointing of chimney pots. French drain added to perimeter of cottage. Update and refurbishment of internal finishes to current living standards. BPC No Comment / MVDC APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS</p>	
230	<p>MO/2024/1229/PLA Link Dillon Cottage, The Street, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DW Subdivision of existing cottage into 2 No. dwellings with separate entrances and amenity. External repairs to elevations and internal update to current living standards. BPC Comment / MVDC REFUSED</p>	
231	<p>MO/2024/1142/PLA Link The Builders Yard, Church Street, Betchworth, Surrey Conversion of an existing building from industrial use (Use Class B2) into 1 No. dwelling (Use Class C3). BPC No Comment / MVDC REFUSED</p>	
232	<p>8. AMENITIES</p> <p>It was acknowledged that the play equipment was checked.</p>	
233	<p>It was acknowledged that all 3 defibrillators in the village were inspected. Replacement pads have been fitted at Woodstock Farm</p>	
234	<p>The clerk provided an update on the refurbishment of the bus shelter and clearing of the Village Store forecourt and footpath entrance. Following the paper submitted at the September mtg, the clerk made a request for funds for the planter. Cllrs approved the spend.</p>	
235	<p>The clerk provided an update on the benches at Goulburn Green. The work was expected to be complete by the end of September but there</p>	

	was an issue with the height of the benches and this has slightly delayed installation.	
236	The clerk provided an update on the quote for gates at Goulburn Green. The Cllrs are supportive of spend to enhance the entrance but there is concern around disability and maintenance access to the area. Cllr Wilson and Cllr Winter will visit the site with the clerk as part of their Burial Ground visit.	
237	The replacement school railings design to match the work carried out on the opposite side of the entrance on BPC land was discussed and actions regarding design and permissions remain outstanding.	
238	A memorial request was approved. A second request was approved with the requirement wording colour is in accordance with burial ground policy.	
	9. CLERKS UPDATE	
239	There were no questions or comments on the clerk's report which can be located under supporting files on the website.	
240	The ongoing action log was acknowledged.	
241	County Councillor Clack and District Cllrs left the meeting.	

	10. FINANCE																																		
242	The following amounts were approved by council for payment in October:																																		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>IB00708</td> <td>HSBC Monthly Bank Charge</td> <td>£5.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IB00709</td> <td>Julie Vear – Salary & expenses</td> <td>£1036.10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IB00710</td> <td>HMRC – NI & Tax</td> <td>£259.57</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IB00711</td> <td>Hamilton Room Pebble Hill Mtg</td> <td>£20.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IB00712</td> <td>Hamilton Room October Mtg</td> <td>£20.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IB00713</td> <td>Josh Flynn Gardening Services</td> <td>£856.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IB00714</td> <td>Josh Flynn Foot Path</td> <td>£180.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IB00715</td> <td>C Hamilton Foot Path</td> <td>£150.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IB00716</td> <td>C Hamilton G Green</td> <td>£180.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IB00717</td> <td>Tesco Mobile</td> <td>£8.63</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IB00718</td> <td>Defib Pads</td> <td>£80.28</td> </tr> </table>	IB00708	HSBC Monthly Bank Charge	£5.00	IB00709	Julie Vear – Salary & expenses	£1036.10	IB00710	HMRC – NI & Tax	£259.57	IB00711	Hamilton Room Pebble Hill Mtg	£20.00	IB00712	Hamilton Room October Mtg	£20.00	IB00713	Josh Flynn Gardening Services	£856.50	IB00714	Josh Flynn Foot Path	£180.00	IB00715	C Hamilton Foot Path	£150.00	IB00716	C Hamilton G Green	£180.00	IB00717	Tesco Mobile	£8.63	IB00718	Defib Pads	£80.28	
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243	The Cllrs acknowledged an update to the asset register for the Goulburn Green play equipment with no additional insurance premium.																																		
244	The Cllrs approved a change of contract for the clerks mobile phone as there is no reception at their main place of work.																																		
245	Cllrs noted request for consideration of projects for 2025/26 ahead of budget planning commencement																																		
	11. COMMUNITY AND COMMUNICATIONS																																		
246	The Cllrs requested the clerk make arrangements as per previous years for the purchase of a wreath for Remembrance Sunday on their behalf. Cllr Targett will lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.																																		
247	Arrangements for volunteer groups to site the poppies around the village were discussed and the clerk was asked to make arrangements for some replacements from MVDC as some of the poppies are getting rather old.																																		
248	Clerk to circulate forum packs																																		
	12. URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING AND FOR INCLUSION ON A FURTHER AGENDA																																		
249	No urgent matters were noted for discretion of the chair																																		

250	<p>13. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS (Closed to Public & Press)</p> <p>Cllrs reviewed the planning principles and procedures currently in place and it was agreed that a separate committee was not required given the number of applications for comment. All planning applications, decisions and appeals will continue to be circulated to all Cllrs for final consideration at full committee.</p>	
251	<p>14. MEETING DATES to acknowledge and note</p> <p>The following dates were acknowledged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Parish Council Meetings – 4nd November, 2nd December • SLCC Legal update & Briefing – 17th October (Clerk) • SALC Planning Webinar – 12th November (Cllr Winter, Randall & Clerk) • SALC AGM – 19th November – Clerk • Budget Planning – Finance Group (Cllr's Winter, Wilson & Clerk) • Interim Internal Audit – 21st November - Clerk 	
251	<p>PARISH MAGAZINE ARTICLE: SCC new website and Litter Pick</p>	
	MEETING CLOSED AT 9.35pm	
	THIS IS A CONTROLLED DOCUMENT – Betchworth Parish Council will NOT be held responsible for content when downloaded from the website.	