

BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the **MEETING** of the **BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL** held on **MONDAY 13th JANUARY 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 Robert Ashdown (RA)
Cllr Mark Targett (MT)

Attending:

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

Apologies:

County Cllr Helyn Clack (HC)
District Cllr Potter (PP)
Cllr Alice Laidler (AL) Vice Chair

In attendance: Julie Vear (JV) Clerk & RFO

MOP: 0

Minute #	Agenda item	Who
	1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
337	Apologies were received from Parish Cllr Laidler, County Cllr Clack and District Cllr. Potter	
	2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
338	Cllr M Higgins declared a non pecuniary interest regarding the Wassail event as a trustee of Re-Betchworth	
	3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING	
339	The minutes of the meeting held on 2 nd December 2024 were approved and signed	
	4. OPEN FORUM	
340	No matters were raised	
	5. COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT	
341	The police report with incidents from 2 nd Dec – 13 th January 2024 was displayed, discussed, and acknowledged with no action required.	

6.TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS, FLOODING AND FOOTPATHS		
342	Cllr Ashdown updated Council that as part of his highway's handover with Cllr Randall, he had reviewed projects for The Street. These included road redressing, improved signage/markings, VAS and repeater signs. These will continue to be progressed with support from C.Cllr Clack.	
343	D.Cllr Budd updated council on proposals from BERT (Brockham Emergency Response Team) to SCC for improved flooding signage when roads/bridges are flooded and/or road closures are in place. If this goes ahead, this will extend to Betchworth and D.Cllr Budd will ensure liaison to help identify most appropriate locations for signage and local resident support.	
344	Council raised the ongoing issue of overhanging foliage on footpaths towards the north west end of The Street. Council took an action to report to SCC and individual residents where appropriate.	
345	Cllr. Winter provided an update on the alternative bus route that is currently in place when the rail service is closed. Councillors and local residents have been working with Network Rail, GWR and SCC to get approval for this alternative route and will continue to do so until a safer and less disruptive alternative can be made available.	
346	Cllr. Winter provided an update on Church Farm Path. Cllr Laidler and the clerk will be meeting with contractors on site in the next couple of weeks to review the tender and options.	
347	Cllr. Winter provider an update from the Hamilton estate that they would be progressing the provision of footpaths from Snowerhill Farm to Betchworth Bridge and Sunny Cottage. A very welcome addition to the Betchworth footpath network.	
348	Councillor Winter provided an update on the Gatwick expansion inquiry. The secretary of state has sent questions to interested parties and GAL for clarification and a decision is expected later in the year. It is expected permission is likely to be granted for the expansion and therefore campaign groups such as GACC are lobbying for conditions, such as increased night flight restrictions, being applied to the application under section 106 to reduce impact. GACC are continuing to lobby local MP's for support.	

	7. PLANNING	
349	<p>New Applications MO/2024/1704/PLAH Link Cobblers Cottage, Gadbrook Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AN Demolition of existing workshop and erection of a rear single storey extension with a low pitched roof.</p> <p>Council chose to comment regarding appropriateness of application regarding dimensions and materials for parking at the front of the property.</p>	
350	<p>MO/2024/2126/CAT Link 1, Fryleigh Cottages, Snowerhill Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AF Fell 1 x Cherry. Standing dead with lower trunk half rotten. Betchworth Estate</p>	
351	<p>Decisions MO/2024/1487/PLA Link Great Oaks, Snowerhill Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7A Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling. MVDC APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS BPC No Comment</p>	
352	<p>MO/2024/1547/PLAH Link Sutherland, Roothill Lane, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AT Erection of a two-storey extension to the southeast. MVDC REFUSED BPC No Comment</p>	
353	<p>MO/2024/1822/PLAH Link North Lodge, Brockham Park, Middle Street, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AL MVDC APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS BPC Comment</p>	
354	<p>Appeal Decisions (0) Other Matters (0)</p>	
	8. AMENITIES	
355	Council acknowledged that the play equipment was checked.	
356	Council acknowledged that defibrillators were checked.	
357	Council acknowledged burial ground permits approved by delegated authority.	
358	Council approved the use of Goulburn Green for the Wassail event organised by Re-Betchworth on the understanding that their insurance covers planned events and a risk assessment has been completed.	

359	Cllr Ashdown provided an update on a tentative enquiry from the proposal put forward by a local resident regarding the creation of parking spaces in the vicinity of the station on his land for those wishing to use the station. The Council discussed the implications of options presented, including the possibility of the Parish Council taking on a lease for the spaces, if the project materialised. After careful consideration and review of the potential options proposal and associated analysis, it was determined that entering into a lease for the parking spaces would not be viable. However, with the agreement of the landowner, the Council expressed support for further exploration of alternative options for the parking area. The Council will continue to engage informally with the landowner proposal will be revisited pending further updates	
9. CLERKS UPDATE		
360	There were no questions or comments on the clerks report which can be located under supporting files on the website.	
361	The ongoing action log was acknowledged.	
362	District Cllrs left the meeting.	
10. COMMUNITY & COMMUNICATIONS		
363	Applications for the Parish Councillor Vacancy have now closed and Councillor Winter will be following up with applicants ahead of interviews with a decision to be announced at the March Parish meeting.	
364	The clerk displayed the update from Re-Betchworth and Council acknowledged the positive work achieved in 2024.	
11. FINANCE		
365	Cllr Winter provided an overview of the budget and precept recommendations resulting from the finance group meetings held in November and January. Cllr Winter stated the recommendations aligned to the guiding principles. Cllr Winter explained the greatest impact on the budget over last year was employment costs due to the employer NI increase effective from April 2025 and the increased clerk hours currently required to deal with issues raised by residents such as highways.	
366	Council acknowledged and approved the budget guiding principles (available in supporting documents on the website)	

<p>367</p> <p>368</p> <p>369</p> <p>370</p> <p>371</p>	<p>Council discussed the finance group recommendation for the precept and approved the 2025/26 Precept at £22,652.88. The precept has been set based on the guiding principle, that aim to ensure that the Parish Precept covers not only direct staff costs but also the running costs associated with maintaining local services and facilities such as Goulburn Green. It was noted that the 2025/26 precept will still only cover around 75% of these running costs so to ensure the Parish can continue to provide and maintain the facilities it is responsible for to a high standard, the Parish Council will continue raising the precept gradually in future years to reach a point where the running costs are fully covered. For a Band D property, the 2025/26 increase will equate to an additional £8.07 per year, or approximately 67p per month. The Council will continue to use reserves and burial ground income to cover any short falls until the required level is achieved. Cllrs Winter and Wilson signed the Precept form for submission to MVDC.</p> <p>Council supported the recommendation to spend the budgeted CIL allocation by the end of 2025.</p> <p>Council acknowledged and approved the 2025/26 Budget including the 2025/26 Burial Ground rate sheet (snapshot available in supporting documents on the website)</p> <p>Council acknowledged and approved the Financial Risk Register 2025/26</p> <p>The following amounts were approved by council for payment in January:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="280 1122 1257 1352"> <tr> <td>IB00739</td> <td>HSBC Monthly Bank Charge</td> <td>£5.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IB00740</td> <td>HMRC – NI & Tax</td> <td>£278.96</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IB00741</td> <td>Hamilton Room (Jan Mtg)</td> <td>£20.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IB00742</td> <td>Employer Pension</td> <td>£52.49</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IB00743</td> <td>SLCC Membership</td> <td>£190.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IB00738</td> <td>Tesco Mobile</td> <td>£75.94*</td> </tr> </table> <p>*Represented from December at amended monthly figure</p>	IB00739	HSBC Monthly Bank Charge	£5.00	IB00740	HMRC – NI & Tax	£278.96	IB00741	Hamilton Room (Jan Mtg)	£20.00	IB00742	Employer Pension	£52.49	IB00743	SLCC Membership	£190.00	IB00738	Tesco Mobile	£75.94*	
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<p>372</p>	<p align="center">12. URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING AND FOR INCLUSION ON A FURTHER AGENDA</p> <p>No urgent matters were noted for discretion of the chair</p>																			
<p>373</p>	<p align="center">13. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS (Closed to Public & Press)</p> <p>No confidential items were raised</p>																			

	14. MEETING DATES to acknowledge and note	
374	<p>The following dates were acknowledged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Parish Meeting – Monday 3rd February • Clerk Forum - Tuesday 21st January 2025 - Clerk • Councillors Forum - Wednesday 22nd January – Cllrs • MVDC Clerk Mtg – Wednesday 5th February - Clerk 	
375	<p>PARISH MAGAZINE ARTICLE: February articles Grant and CIL Projects March Deadline - 10th February</p>	
376	MEETING CLOSED AT 9.29pm	
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