

BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the **MEETING** of the **BETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL** held on **MONDAY 3rd March 2025**, 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 Robert Ashdown (RA)

Attending:

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

Apologies:

District Cllr Potter (PP)
Cllr Mark Targett (MT)

In attendance: Julie Vear (JV) Clerk & RFO

MOP: 0

Minute #	Agenda item	Who
404	1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received from Parish Cllr Targett and District Cllr. Potter	
405	2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were declarations of interest regarding grant applications from Cllr Wilson (Betchworth Archives) Cllr Higgins (Re-Betchworth) and Cllr Laidler (Nursery, School and Choir).	
406	3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING The minutes of the meeting held on 3 rd February 2025 were approved and signed	
407	4. OPEN FORUM Cllr Winter raised the issue of the flooding issues on Wonham lane. Council discussed the background and challenge of the issue as the drain outlet does not function (and has not for 42 years plus) is on private land. It was suggested that a 2-phase approach to resolve the issue had been commenced in 2019 (with new drains being	

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	installed in Sandy lane) but with the 2nd phase, a drain directly into the river mole was not completed and the issue had actually been made worse. C Cllr. Clack took an action to follow up with SCC to investigate if this was actually the case and a planned phase 2 was possible and could be progressed.	
408	5. COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT The police report with incidents from 13 th Feb – 2 nd March 2025 was displayed (including additional information from The Street incident), discussed, and acknowledged with no further action required	
409	6. TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS, FLOODING AND FOOTPATHS Cllr Ashdown advised that following his handover with Cllr Randall he continues to monitor items raised with SCC. Council will review the outstanding items in full as part of the meeting to review the programme of work for 2025/26.	
410	Cllr Laidler updated Council on the footpaths issues she had raised on fixmystreet	
411	Cllr Laidler updated Council that the litter pick would be going ahead on 05/04/2025 and Cllr Winter had suggested a BBQ on Goulburn Green for volunteers. Cllr Laidler took an action to update volunteers.	
412	Cllr Laidler provided an update on the Church Farm footpath. Following feedback from walkers, resurfacing work of the worst part of footpath will commence on 17/03/2025. The footpath will remain open but some disruption is expected. Cllrs then discussed the 'coffin route path' more generally and possible options for improvements and funding.	
413	Councillor Winter provided an update on the Gatwick expansion proposal. The Planning Inspectors who conducted the public consultation have recommended refusal unless Gatwick make two changes to their proposal: firstly to ensure that a higher percentage of passengers and staff use public transport, and secondly to make some adjustments to the mandatory noise envelope. The Secretary of State has said that if these changes are made she is minded to grant the application. Interested parties, including Betchworth Parish Council, have been invited to comment.	
414	GACC are currently consulting with lawyers to determine if there are and grounds to launch a judicial review at this stage. They are currently crowdfunding to cover legal costs.	

415	<p>7. PLANNING</p> <p>New Applications Link MO/2024/2140/LBC1 and 2, Fryleigh Cottages, Snowerhill Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AF Replacement of roof. BPC: No Comment</p> <p>Decisions (0) Appeal Decisions (0) Other Matters (0)</p>	
416 417 418 419 420	<p>8. AMENITIES & VOLUNTEERING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council acknowledged that the play equipment was checked. • Council acknowledged that defibrillators were checked. • Council received an update from the clerk on the Burial Ground allotment & Goulburn Green Autumn works. The clerk and contractor had completed a review of the work. It was noted that the delay in the hedge work was due to the estate being late in topping and cutting but this had been followed up and was now complete. • Council discussed the issue with the Goulburn Green barrier as it had again become loose, and Council would like to replace with something more in keeping with the recent fencing and gate installed at the opposite end of the green. The gate had previously been discussed at Council with estimates presented but the solution was not considered fit for purpose for access for maintenance, push chairs and wheelchairs. The clerk was asked to follow up and present estimates. • The latch on the burial ground gate was also raised and the clerk took an action to follow up on options. 	
421 422	<p>9. 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>	
423	<p>10. COMMUNITY & COMMUNICATIONS</p> <p>C Cllr Clack provided an update on devolution and a paper can be found in supporting docs on the website</p>	

424	Council discussed the benefit of a village questionnaire to ensure data was available from residents to support decision making at full council meetings. It was agreed this should be picked up and discussed as one of the 2025/26 initiatives.																															
425	The clerk displayed the village website and gave an update on some of changes that had been made and were in progress with local groups and organisations. Council had previously approved £1500 for a website upgrade and rewrite as back-end functionality was out of date and unsupported and the front-end content in part was dating back to 2018. Having completed some remedial work, the clerk recommended that with the website now providing the requirements of the Parish Council and moving towards updated village content, the budget be reduced to £500 and the £1000 be moved to a small projects pot for village improvements. Council approved.																															
426	District Cllrs left the meeting.																															
	11. FINANCE & GOVERNANCE																															
427	Receipts of £13,486.20 from the burial ground and interest of £276.20 on savings from Nov-Feb were acknowledged.																															
428	The following amounts were approved by council for payment in March: <table border="0"> <tr> <td>IB00751</td> <td>HSBC Monthly Bank Charge</td> <td>£ 5.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IB00752</td> <td>HMRC – NI & Tax</td> <td>£ 278.96</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IB00753</td> <td>Hamilton Room (March Mtg)</td> <td>£ 20.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IB00754</td> <td>Employee Pension</td> <td>£ 52.49</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IB00755</td> <td>Clerks Additional Expenses</td> <td>£ 287.64</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IB00756</td> <td>Josh Flynn Garden Services - Contract</td> <td>£ £856.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IB00757</td> <td>Josh Flynn Garden Services – Autumn Works</td> <td>£ £1,920</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IB00758</td> <td>Mulberry Training – New Financial Regs</td> <td>£ 18.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IB00759</td> <td>Bill Kear - Footpath Resurfacing works</td> <td>£ 5,094.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IB00760</td> <td>Bill Kear - Footpath Resurfacing works</td> <td>£ 990.00</td> </tr> </table>	IB00751	HSBC Monthly Bank Charge	£ 5.00	IB00752	HMRC – NI & Tax	£ 278.96	IB00753	Hamilton Room (March Mtg)	£ 20.00	IB00754	Employee Pension	£ 52.49	IB00755	Clerks Additional Expenses	£ 287.64	IB00756	Josh Flynn Garden Services - Contract	£ £856.50	IB00757	Josh Flynn Garden Services – Autumn Works	£ £1,920	IB00758	Mulberry Training – New Financial Regs	£ 18.00	IB00759	Bill Kear - Footpath Resurfacing works	£ 5,094.00	IB00760	Bill Kear - Footpath Resurfacing works	£ 990.00	
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429	Completion of bank reconciliations for the last quarter by Cllr. Laidler were acknowledged and accepted																															
430	Approval for renewal of CPRE (The Countryside Charity) membership was agreed.																															
431	The clerk displayed the grant applications for 2025/26 from Re-Betchworth, FONDS North Downs School, Village Archives, Betchworth and Buckland Children’s Nursery Friends and Buckland and Betchworth Choral Society. Cllr Winter presented the recommendation of the finance committee. Cllr Winter explained it was the 4 th year the Council were able to make the offer of grant funding to local groups and organisations and explained it had again been oversubscribed. The finance group had																															

432	<p>recognised the value that the groups and organisations have within the village and what they do to support the Parish Council and the village. Following questions from councillors, Council approved the grant applications as recommended.</p> <p>Cllr Winter advised council he had had a 1:1 with the clerk regarding the annual pay review and following satisfactory completion of probation and in line with her contract, pay would increase by one scale point from 01/04/2025</p>	
433	<p style="text-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>	
434	<p style="text-align: center;">13. MEETING DATES to acknowledge and note</p> <p>The following dates were acknowledged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerks holiday 15th – 23rd March • Next Parish Meeting 7th April • Litter Pick Saturday 5th April • SALC Clerks forum - Tuesday 22nd April - Clerk • SALC Councillors forum - Wednesday 23rd April • Y/E Internal Audit – Tuesday 22nd April – Clerk • Annual Parish Meeting – 19th May 	
435	<p>PARISH MAGAZINE ARTICLE: April article – Devolution & Grant update April Deadline – 17th March</p>	
MEETING CLOSED AT 9.50pm		