

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON AT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL ON -THURSDAY 1 DECEMBER 2022 AT 7.30 PM

Present

Cllr M Munday - Chairman Mrs J Scott – Clerk Cllr B Feltwell Cllr M Bamford
Cllr N Moxey Cllr J Wheals Cllr K Spicer Cllr D Schumacher

Also, in attendance - District Councillor D Busby, Tree Warden, & Speedwatch Co-ordinator - 3 members of the public

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Clerk received no notification of anyone planning to film or record this meeting

1. **To record apologies for absence:** Cllr P Cross (Covid), County Councillor Georgia Hall, and Footpath Warden
2. **To receive Declaration of Interest relating to Agenda items:** - None received
3. **Dispensations – to consider written requests for dispensation of disclosable pecuniary interest in matters relating to Agenda items –** None received
4. **To approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 3 November 2022 -**
The minutes were approved as a true record and were duly signed.

Proposed Cllr K Spicer Seconded Cllr N Moxey All in favour CU

5. **Matters arising from the Minutes -:** **Page 1143 item 4** – Cheque for £314.32 has been sent to The Brain Research Trust. List of landowners needs to be compiled – the letter will be sent asap. Rest covered by Agenda items – Notice of Poll & Situation of Polling Stations re Neighbourhood Plan Referendum – put on notice boards this evening

Public Session

District Councillor D Busby- sent District Report – December which will be circulated to Councillors **APPENDIX 1** in the minute book and on the website. He reported on a review of the last three or four years - end of their term which is on the website in leaflet form – he asked for Councillors views on it.

County Councillor G Hall -. sent her written report which has been circulated to Councillors – **APPENDIX 2** in the minute book and on the website.

Tree Warden; - Gravel extraction application – he had e-mailed Parish Council, Suffolk Wildlife Trust and Trust for Endangered Species – who have both agreed to object to this application. He reported that Ray Bloomfield had cut the verge round the edge of the Playing Field and repaired the bench in the Community Orchard. Clerk will write a letter of thanks.

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| Action: Letter of thanks to Ray Bloomfield |
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6. **Planning Applications –**

- a) **To note decisions of Planning Authority on previous applications –**

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| DC/22/04454 | 18 Highfields | Permission has been granted Approved conditions Outline Planning permission has been granted |
| DC/22/05334 | Bentley Hall, Bentley Hall Road | |
| DC/22/04762 | Ruseley, Hazel Shrub | |

The Chairman asked District Councillor Busby – this was refused on a Highways objection went to Appeal and was dismissed by the Inspector as it was outside the Village boundary and there was a major problem with highway accessibility. District Councillor Busby said they have put in how they are going to achieve it – (40 metre splays is now the standard). JLP will be up for consultation next Spring. Cllr Munday was concerned about the large oak tree in the drive – Tree Warden advised that Babergh won't put a TPO on a tree until it's about to be cut down. County Councillor Busby will take it up with Babergh to see what can be done – if he is sent an e-mail request.

b) To give comments on any new applications in hand –

SCC/0105/22B Brockley Wood, Land off A12 Belstead Suffolk IP8 3JS Extraction, processing & sale of sand & gravel, processing of inert waste materials & concrete batching with associated plant & related sales, associated access works, phased restoration using inert recovered materials & aftercare plan.

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL REQUESTS REFUSAL

Cllr Bamford told the meeting that he had tried to assemble the Parish Council's response to this application which does not seem to consider Bentley as being relevant as far as HGV traffic is concerned, using C Class Roads, Quiet Lanes and the main Village Road. We need to express our concerns regarding the impact on the Village and try and make sure the traffic plan has restrictions to stop HGV's using C Class Roads through Bentley – like the agreement we have with Collins Skip Hire. He went through the document paragraph by paragraph and proposed that it be submitted together with a request that we be represented at the planning Committee associated with this application.

Resident remarked on water pollution – PH balance of water discharged from the plant will change. He also told the Parish Council that the Arboricultural Report had just been made public – Cllr Munday managed to locate the report which listed 46 trees including 8 veteran oaks over the site to be removed – the meeting was horrified – and it was agreed that an additional response be sent once this report has been reviewed. A discussion followed – It was agreed that residents should be made aware. It will be published on the website and James Cartlidge & EADT will be informed of this application - a leaflet drop and banner was suggested. A few additions to the report were agreed and it was proposed that with these additions the response be submitted to SCC, requesting that Bentley Parish Council make a presentation to the Planning Meeting and letting them know that a further response will be submitted regarding the felling of 46 trees.

Proposed Cllr M Munday Seconded Cllr K Spicer All in favour CU

It was proposed that a response to the Tree Report be submitted and to ask the Chair to exercise her discretion to get it submitted.

Proposed Cllr B Feltwell Seconded Cllr N Moxey All in favour CU

It was also proposed that £100 be made available for the printing of leaflets/banner

Proposed Cllr K Spicer Seconded Cllr D Schumacher All in favour CU

Action: Response to be sent to SCC – Presentation request – Further response re Veteran trees

DC//22/05905 1 & 2 Nursery Cottages Erection of 1.2m closed boarded boundary fence

RECOMMEND APPROVAL – WITH CONDITIONS – Bentley Parish Council have no objection to the fence but would object to the removal of the hedge. The hedge should remain on the road side with the fence on the property.

7. **Report by Exception – Tree Warden/Footpath Warden/Capel Library/ Bentley Long Barn /Footpath Warden & Speedwatch - Tree Warden**– sent in a written report which has been circulated to Councillors – **APPENDIX 3** in the minute book and on the website. He reported

on National Tree Week – 50 one year old trees plus stakes & guards were delivered to the Tree Warden and will be planted in Bentley between December 2022 and end of February 2023. UK Ancient Woodland is being re-surveyed to bring Natural England Maps up to date – Individuals or groups who have previously surveyed these woods or have intimate knowledge of them are being invited to assist. The Tree Warden has previously surveyed these woods together with County Recorder Specialists & has volunteered to help with the survey of ancient woodland in Bentley. The TW was informed that One Network would trim trees back from the highway along Bergholt Road on 29 November and that the road would be closed to traffic during this period. The Arboricultural Officer at Babergh was contacted and knew nothing about it. The TW has been asked to visit Dodnash Fruit Farm AONB on 6 December to advise on where to construct a Stag Beetle Stumpery and to assist in building it using the most suitable tree logs for the conservation of this endangered species. A second visit is planned to take place in January

Friends of Capel Library – Quiz Night, Volunteers Celebration and the October & November film evenings were reported on. Residents are urged to become members of the library (£2 pa) – this income will keep them afloat. A warm space is being offered on Wednesday Mornings tea & coffee, warm clothes, blankets etc will be available to take at no cost. There will also be a food bank. Warm clothes and food donations welcomed. **Bentley Barn** – No report available - . **Footpath Warden** – Nothing to report. **Speedwatch** – Unfortunately since the last meeting, because of his own and volunteer unavailability, only two sessions have been held. One at the War Memorial which was a NIL return and one on Capel Road when eleven vehicles were reported, the highest recorded speed was 48 mph. During the month he met with the new Community Engagement Officer, Katie Jarrett. Amongst other things asked why the speed enforcement vans had not visited Bentley recently. She undertook to get back to him. Currently she is covering approx. 400 villages while they recruit a second officer. - **Footpath Society** – New Year’s Day Village Walk 11 am from The Case – returning to The Case.

8. **Rowan Acres – Removal of Trees & Hedges -** Just left two Birches – Enforcement have been on a site visit and an e-mail was read out from the Enforcement Officer. He needs to conduct another site visit to establish what fencing has been installed so he can establish if a breach of planning control has taken place. Clerk to contact to see if a site visit has taken place.

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| Action: Clerk to contact Planning Enforcement – re site visit |
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9. **To ratify cheque – Places4People (£120) - It** was proposed that the payment be ratified.
 Proposed Cllr M Bamford Seconded Cllr K Spicer All in favour CU
10. **Purchase of projector – To agree cost** - Cllr Munday to follow up on the cost.
11. **To consider funding WIFI at the Village Hall –** Not heard anything back from Village Hall Trustees – their AGM is on 19 January – it is hoped a member of the Parish Council will attend. – Leave on the agenda,
12. **To approve Six Month Accounts April -September 2022 –**Working Party had been unable to meet to agree accounts, grants and draft budget due to illness – items 12, 13, 14 deferred until the January meeting.
13. **To consider Grant applications for insertion into the Budget – Deferred** – see above
14. **To Review & Agree Draft Budget** – Deferred- see above
15. **To discuss defibrillator at the Village Hall –** Letter received from Village Hall Trustees they are going to enrol on the government established scheme (administered by Entrust) to seek funds from our local landfill site operator – this has the additional minor potential benefit of giving them a greater choice as to type of defibrillator and cabinet, rather than being limited to those specified by the BHF. They have had confirmation from our local site operator that they are willing to fund a defibrillator at the hall.
16. **Play Area Plinth -** Following receipt of an e-mail from a resident to level the plinth – Cllr Bamford offered to do this work.

17. **Registering a Domain Name for Bentley PC re E-mail addresses for Clerk & Councillors – Update** - Cllr Munday has contacted the supplier (Free Thought) -we can start at £6.50 per month with unlimited e-mails and 5GB disc space – we can upgrade at any time if we start running out of disc space. It was proposed that we go ahead with this package.

Proposed Cllr N Moxey Seconded Cllr M Munday All in favour CU

18. **Renewal of Play Area Lease – Update** – Nothing to report.

19. **Improvements to War Memorial –Litter Bin & Bench replacement & Tree** - The Clerk stated that the orders typed up ready to go but she was unsure about delivery address – It was confirmed that the container was pretty full- Cllr Bamford said it could go in his garage with the one for Silver Leys. The Clerk will contact Chris Mortimer re cost for erecting the litter bin. Two or three residents have offered to maintain the site. An e-mail had been received from a resident saying the War Memorial bench was not safe.

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| Action: Contact Chris Mortimer for costs |
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20. **Traffic Calming – SID’s/ANPR -Update** – SIDs are working. ANPR was here last week outside the Village Hall – we await feedback.

21. **Playing Field Society – Fireworks Display –Accounts** - The Clerk reported on behalf of Tim Hamstead that it was a good night - approx 625 attendance (must up the numbers on the insurance next year) profit of £1,274.17 – Cheque for £219.52 for Insurance is to be passed for payment tonight. Accounts will be finalised once bank accounts have been received.

22. **Neighbourhood Plan –Update** - Cllr Moxey reported that there was not a lot to update - Referendum will take place on 8 December. A number of residents are reading the plan and copies are now in the pub and the shop. How to vote this week is explained on the back page of the plan.

23. **To receive Correspondence** – The Clerk drew Councillors’ attention to the following E-mails. 6 from SCC, County Councillor Georgia Hall, District Cllr Dave Busby & 2 from Belstead Clerk re proposed gravel quarry at Brockley Wood – Footpath Warden re Firework Accounts, - Babergh District Council x Planning enforcement at Rowan Acres, Dog & Litter bins – price increase + list of litter & dog bin sites in Bentley, Precepts & Parish Tax Calculation – 2 from Village Hall Trustees re defibrillator – Tree Warden Hazel Dormouse doc, Collins Skip hire SCC application 2 from Chairman re Rusely application & Bentley Bridge – work starting 16 January for 3 months .

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| Action: BDC -dog & litter bin locations |
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24. **Exchange of information by Councillors and matters for consideration at future Meetings** – Cllr Munday – Had contacted her via one of the Governors asking for support to maintain the School Playing Field – she will have a chat with them. She also asked the Clerk to send a letter of thanks to Nelson Potter for installing a defibrillator on their site.

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| Action: Letter to Nelson Potter |
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25. **To Authorise Payments** - The following payments were authorised

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| 101635 | Brain Research Trust | Donation – Tudor Fair | £314.32 | |
| 101636 | Community Action Suffolk | Insurance - Fireworks | £219.52 | |
| 101637 | Suffolk County Council | Quiet Lanes contribution | £300.00 | |
| 101638 | Cllr M Munday | Software – Bentley Bugle | £19.97 | |
| 101639 | Peter Baldwin | Grass cut/leaf clear – Closed Churchyard | £320.00 | |
| 101640 | SLCC | Clerk Membership Fee | £139.00 | |
| 101629 | HMRC | Clerk’s tax | | |
| 101630 | Mrs J Scott | Clerks Salary - November | £529.10 | |
| | | Minus tax | <u>£0.00</u> | |
| | | | £529.10 | £601.28 |
| | | Plus, Expenses | <u>£72.18</u> | |

£601.28

It was proposed that these be paid en bloc.

Proposed Cllr J Wheals

Seconded: Cllr N Moxey

All in favour CU

26. **To confirm date of next scheduled meeting** – Parish Council Meeting Thursday 5 January 2023 at 7.30 pm. Preceded by a Playing Field Society Meeting at 7pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: