

# BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON AT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL ON -THURSDAY 6 OCTOBER 2022 AT 7.30 PM

### Present

Cllr M Munday - Chairman      Mrs J Scott – Clerk      Cllr J Wheals      Cllr K Spicer  
Cllr P Cross      Cllr B Feltwell      Cllr N Moxey

Also, in attendance - 8 members of the public

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that Councillors are only allowed to discuss agenda items – if matters are brought up in the public session that are not related to the agenda – they could be put on the next agenda. The Clerk received no notification of anyone planning to film or record this meeting

1. **To record apologies for absence:** Cllr M Bamford, Cllr D Schumacher, County Councillor Georgia Hall, District Councillor D Busby (could arrive late), Tree Warden, Footpath Warden & Speedwatch Co-ordinator
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 1 September 2022 -**  
The minutes were approved as a true record and were duly signed.

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

5. **Matters arising from the Minutes -:** **Page 1129 Item 5** Bus shelter – County Cllr Hall has confirmed it is an asset of Suffolk County Council **-Page 1131 item 9-** 2 SIDs have been added to the Asset List and a revised quote obtained from CAS – cheque to be ratified at tonight's meeting. **Page 1133 item 21** E-mail sent to resident informing her to contact the farmer. - SCC have been contacted and the necessary paperwork submitted regarding road closure for the Remembrance Day Service.

## Public Session

**County Councillor G Hall** -. No report available.

**District Councillor D Busby** – No report available.

**Resident:** Asked about the proposed solar farm and was told that it will go on the agenda when a planning application is received so until that time Councillors are not in a position to discuss anything – certain documents need to be received so we are not in a position to comment at this moment in time. We will have a public meeting so residents can comment and the Parish Council will take on board those comments but to be clear the Parish Council do not have a decision-making role the final decision is made by Babergh District Council - we can only make recommendations.

### 6. **Planning Applications –**

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

**DC/22/03520** Holly Oak, Hazel Shrub

**DC/21/02823** Rowan Acres, Capel Road

**Permission has been granted  
Discharge of conditions**

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

**DC/22/04454** 18 Highfields, Erection of a single storey rear extension  
(following demolition of existing sunrooms)

, **RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

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

**DC/22/04762** Ruseley, Hazel Shrub          Application for outline planning permission  
(Access Points to be considered, Appearance,  
Landscaping, Layout & Scale to be reserved)  
Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as  
amended) – Severance of garden & erection of  
1No dwelling & creation of new vehicular  
access

**RECOMMEND REFUSAL** on the grounds the application is outside the built-up area and would contribute to a proliferation of individual dwellings along this rural lane within the wider Parish. Councillors couldn't see any difference between this application and application DC/21/00989 which was refused by Babergh Planning, went to Appeal and was subsequently dismissed. Councillors continue to have concerns about highway safety in terms of achieving an adequate visibility splay. We are very concerned that the plans state "The visibility splays would include the cutting back of vegetation situated on Highway verges and land within the applicant's control – Verges would be cleared to aid pedestrian safety." The Parish Council would not support this. The site is within the setting of the Suffolk Coasts and Heaths AONB, the boundary of which is only approximately 130 metres away. The removal of hedges and clearing of verges would change the character of this single track rural lane considerably and affect the visual amenity of users of this designated 'Quiet Lane'. This development is contrary to Policy BEN7 in the Bentley Neighbourhood Plan (which is at Referendum stage).

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

7. **Report by Exception – Tree Warden/Footpath Warden/Capel Library/ Bentley Long Barn /Footpath Warden & Speedwatch - Tree Warden**– No report available. **Friends of Capel Library** –No report available. **Bentley Barn** – Babergh's Heritage Officer will update District Councillor Busby once she has had the opportunity to speak to the owner and review the case. **Footpath Warden** – Brush and undergrowth removed from various Fingerposts and way markers. **Speedwatch** - Since the last meeting there have been 9 sessions held.6 at the Village Hall 3 on Capel Road. 62 vehicles were reported 17 at the Village Hall 45 on Capel Road. The highest recorded speed was 42 mph. One session was held in misty conditions when you would hope that speeds would be generally lower, in fact it was the busiest session of them all in which the highest speed was recorded. My thanks to Peter Day who has organised and run sessions in my absence. Cllr Munday thanked Mr Day who was at the meeting.
8. **Resignation from the Council-** The Chairman reported that Councillor Perry had tendered her resignation as she felt she did not have the time to dedicate to the role due to work and parental commitments. The Council recorded its thanks to Mrs Perry for her contributions as a Councillor. The Clerk advised that the Electoral Registration Officer at Babergh DC would be informed and a notice of Casual Vacancy would be published. This invites electors to request an election by the due date and if at least ten electors do so a notice of election would be published and candidates invited to stand. If there was no valid request for an election by the due date the Council was at liberty to co-opt the vacancy. A letter of thanks will be sent to Mrs Perry from the Council.

<b>Action:</b> Letter of thanks to be sent to Mrs Perry – BDC Electoral Registration Officer to be informed.
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9. **To Review Risk Assessment** – Councillors had been issued with a copy of the Risk Assessment – assets had been uplifted. The Oak bench for Silver Leys, Outdoor Gym equipment and Solar SID have been added to the list and it was proposed that the document be approved.

Proposed Cllr P Cross                      Seconded Cllr B Feltwell                      All in favour      CU

10. **To approve External Audit –2021/22** - Councillors had been issued with a copy of the Accounts for Year End 2021/22 – these have now been signed off by the External Auditor (PKF Littlejohn) – Notices have been duly posted on Notice Boards and Website. It was therefore proposed that they be accepted.

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

11. **To discuss Link Lunch Club** – It is starting up again on 20 October 2022. The Clerk told the meeting there were grants available from Babergh (Community Development grant) to create a warm hub for people to meet – she will contact Village Hall Trustees to make them aware

**Action:** Contact Village Hall

12. **Health & Safety Issue – Copse, Capel Road** – The Clerk had reported the state of the trees in the copse via SCC Reporting Tool – SCC have replied “*The issue you have raised is not on a highway maintained by us and we are therefore unable to take any action*” This is however, land owned by SCC and Clerk will pursue this with County Councillor Georgia Hall on her return from her holiday.

**Action:** Contact County Councillor Hall re state of trees in copse

13. **To discuss defibrillator at the Village Hall** – The Clerk read out a letter received from Bentley Village Hall re possible defibrillator at the Hall. Councillors felt that one should be sited further down Capel Road – either the hairdressers or the Baptist Church. A discussion followed and it was proposed that one should also be sited at the Village Hall – the Clerk will write and ask Trustees for a detailed breakdown of costs so the Parish Council can consider a contribution and buy it.

Proposed Cllr M Munday                      Seconded Cllr P Cross                      All in favour      CU

**Action:** Letter to Village Hall Trustees

14. **E-mail addresses – Clerk & Council – Update** - This is something we should pursue. Cllr Munday will follow up.

15. **To discuss finding out Specific Plans by Landowners re 2023 Harvest** - The number of fires caused by combine harvesters was 800 in the UK - in addition to other fires. Following the recent fire in Bentley it was felt that the Parish Council should write to farmers to find out their plans for fire safety for the next harvest. It was therefore proposed that the Clerk write to landowners and contractors asking for their plans.

Proposed Cllr B Feltwell                      Seconded Cllr K Spicer                      All in favour      CU

District Councillor Dave Busby joined the meeting (8.20pm).

**Action:** Write to Landowners & contractors re Harvest 2023 safety

16. **To ratify payments to CAS Insurance (£515.05), J & E P Brewer (£125), D Whiting (£140) & Bentley Blooms (£50)**– It was proposed that the cheques be ratified.

Proposed Cllr N Moxey                      Seconded Cllr P Cross                      All in favour      CU

17. **To discuss formalising Case Lane entrance to Parish Field** - Following a short discussion this will be removed from the agenda.

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

19. **Improvements to War Memorial –Litter Bin & Bench replacement & Tree** - The Clerk had forwarded quotes for benches & litter bins to Councillors- after some discussion it was proposed to purchase The Lest We Forget Bench (£1395+VAT+Delivery) & hooded litter bin (£169.95) – dimensions will be checked before ordering.

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

**Action:** Order once dimensions are checked.

20. **Reprinting Six Country Walks from the Case is Altered - Update** – Last walk validated and passed on to Chair person. Footpath Warden considers this closed from his perspective. A Coronation will be taking place next year so hopefully it will be published for that.

21. **Traffic Calming – SID's/ANPR -Update** – The Solar powered SID has now been installed on Capel Road – the other SID needs to be moved to Bergholt Road – Cllr Munday will speak to Cllr Schumacher. ANPR – having a few technical issues – not yet had a reply from SCC. Bentley wants to be included in any extended trials. A discussion followed on Speedwatch speeding figures re misty morning. Cllr Busby told the meeting speeders could be reported on the Police Website – who report three key issues each month.

22. **Playing Field Society – Tudor Re-enactment – Update** Cllr Moxey told the meeting that everything is in now. We made a small profit of £300 and it was originally suggested that we send half the profit made to Brain Research Trust but Councillors proposed that £300 be sent to the Brain Cancer Research Trust.

Proposed Cllr N Moxey      Seconded Cllr P Cross      All in favour      CU

Fireworks are in hand. –Display is on 5 November 2022.

23. **Neighbourhood Plan –Update** - Cllr Moxey reported that we are close to the referendum. The Plan is with Paul Bryant at Babergh who will set the Referendum date – Village Hall will be hired – there will be a six-week consultation period - It is simply a Yes or No vote – then it will be law.

24. **To receive Correspondence** – The Clerk drew Councillors’ attention to the following E-mails BDC x 6 -Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement – Launch of targeted consultation, CIL funding Bid Window, Tree Canopy Survey, Suffolk Recycles Autumn newsletter, Parish Council Election 2023 cost estimate Contested £1,262 84 Uncontested £134.63 & Draft 5 year housing land supply position statements consultation September 2022 – E-mail County Councillor Georgia Hall – Bus shelter is SCC asset – Citizens Advice – invitation to AGM. 1 x Green Switch Capital – Public Consultation – Solar Farm Development. District Cllr Dave Busby Bentley Hall Barn notification SCC x 2 re Copse Capel Road – No action to be taken!!! E-mail Cllr Perry resignation 2 x UK Power Networks re Poles blocking footway Church Road & Capel Road – UK Power Networks have chased Open Reach so has the Clerk – e-mail from resident re dangerous trees in copse E-mails from Capel Clerk & E Bergholt chair re Solar Farm Bentley. Letter and brochure from EACH.

25. **Exchange of information by Councillors and matters for consideration at future Meetings** – Cllr Munday – Consultation re BDC five year land supply – there is an omission on their list of Category A Commencing Developments for Bentley – they haven’t included the 16 in Oakleigh which has just started. The projector that was picked up from SALC is not compatible with new technology - despite purchasing two connectors from Amazon. We therefore need to purchase a new projector. Agenda item at the next meeting. Cllr Munday and Cllr Moxey have agreed to publish information and enquiry form re the Village Hall on Council website and FB page. WIFI at the Hall as discussed – do need the internet the proposal was that we might consider between us funding WIFI at the Village Hall – Agenda item next meeting. Cllr Spicer – was concerned about of the state of the pavement at East Mill to the Baptist Church – the pavement has crumbled – it was agreed that the pavement was in a bad state from the War Memorial to the pub. Clerk will contact SCC.

**Action:** Purchase Projector - WIFI at Village Hall– Agenda items – Clerk to contact SCC re Pavements.

**26. To Authorise Payments** - The following payments were authorised

101621	Community Action Suffolk	Cheque cancelled	-£515.00
101622	J & E P Brewer Ltd	Small Feed Straw - <b>Ratified</b>	£125.00
101623	Showlight Sound & Light	P A System Tudor Fair - <b>Ratified</b>	£140.00
101624	Bentley Blooms	Wreath – War Memorial - <b>Ratified</b>	£50.00
101625	Community Action Suffolk	Insurance Premium - <b>Ratified</b>	£515.05
101626	PK~F Littlejohn LLP	External Audit Fee	£240.00
101627	Cllr M Munday	Software – Bentley Bugle	£19.97
101628	Royal British Legion	Chaplet – Remembrance Day	£100.00
101629	HMRC	Clerk’s tax	£33.00
101630	Mrs J Scott	Clerks Salary - September	
		Minus tax	£529.10
		Plus, Expenses	<u>33.00</u>
			£496.10
			<u>£70.64</u>
			<u>566.74</u>

It was proposed that these be paid en bloc.

Proposed Cllr NB Moxey                      Seconded: Cllr K Spicer                      All in favour                      CU

Cllr Dave Busby was thanked for his report in East Anglian Daily Times re proposed Solar Farm. He told the meeting about Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme – People on Universal Credit pay 5% of their Council Tax - this has to be re-calculated every month – BDC are planning to abolish this – they will lose some Council Tax but save hugely on administration costs. It is going out to consultation and will be on the website shortly.

**27. To confirm date of next scheduled meeting** –. Parish Council Meeting Thursday 10 November 2022 at 7.30 pm. Preceded by a Playing Field Society Meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

**CHAIRMAN:**

**DATE:**