

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON AT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL ON -THURSDAY 5 OCTOBER 2023 AT 7.30 PM

Present

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

Also, in attendance -, District Councillor D Busby, Tree Warden, Footpath Warden - 6 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** - Speedwatch Co-ordinator
2. **To receive Declaration of Interest relating to Agenda items:** - Cllr Spicer declared a non pecuniary interest in Agenda item 13- Request by Bentley Community Pub – Overspill car parking.
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 Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 7 September 2023** - The minutes were approved as a true record and were duly signed.

Proposed Cllr N Moxey Seconded Cllr A Thomas All in favour CU

5. **Matters arising from the Minutes** – Chris Mortimer has replaced the pole on the dog bin vandalised last week – his cheque is being passed for payment tonight but will be ratified at the November meeting. **Page 1191 – item 11** cheque for Royal British Legion & Bentley Outdoor Bowls will be passed for payment tonight. **Page 1192 Item 13** – School has been contacted re fence – not heard back yet. – Not heard back from SCC re Road Closure for Remembrance Service – they have been chased. Rest covered by agenda items.

Public Session

District Councillor D Busby – Briefing Notes for Town & Parish Councils for October had been received – link on website. Councillors were really pleased to see District Councillor Busby – who told the meeting that Babergh are getting to the stage of completing the list of priorities for the next 3½ years – it is going out for consultation and should be able to see the responsibilities to work with communities. Neighbourhood Plans are important – Joint Local Plan first stage – the Inspector is now happy with it - Next year intend to start on Stage two – allocation of sites.

Resident: Representing the Horse Riding Community in the Village asked if it would be possible for Horse Riders in Bentley to put something in the Bentley Bugle - Tips for riders and non-riders to make residents aware as there had been several incidents in the village involving residents and horses. She was told that the Parish Council did not run the Bugle but if you want to contribute contact the Editor. A discussion followed on incidents and it was pointed out that parents who drop their children off at the Riding School often speed along Bergholt Road. Police Support Mounted Volunteer & resident will go and talk to the Riding School. The Chairman commented that we are planning to move SID into Bergholt Road – the road will be closed for 10 days from 23 October (County Broadband) so it will be moved after that date and when the data is downloaded it will give us some idea of the traffic flow/speeding etc.

Resident: Told the meeting that the gate at West Mill Green is now in a very dangerous condition the post is broken and it's about to collapse. People are climbing over it to get to the Playing Field Clerk will contact the school as a matter of urgency.

Cllr Spicer remarked that glasses had been left on the field following the Macmillan event – metal signs for pub gate and play area gate need to be purchased.

Action: Contact CEVC Primary School – re gate

Resident: Brockley Wood – Told the meeting it took three attempts to get the Parish Council response listed on SCC website – he could see no objections from BDC or adjoining parishes and we had not yet been informed when the application is to be heard by SCC. He mentioned that he had seen people taking noise readings. Clerk will contact SCC Planning and ask if the date of the Committee Meeting has yet been agreed as we wish to be notified in good time so arrangements can be made for the Parish Council to make representation. If Tom Hill is available he will represent residents at the meeting.

Action: Clerk to contact SCC - Planning

6. Planning Applications –

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

DC/23/02710 Woodfield, Bergholt Road **Permission has been refused**

b) To give comments on any new applications in hand – None received,

c) SCC/0105/22B - Brockley Wood application – See above (Public Session)

7. Report by Exception – Tree Warden/Footpath Warden/Capel Library/ Bentley Long Barn /Footpath Warden & Speedwatch - Tree Warden–. ~Dodnash Fruit Farm – Wildlife Trust more hedge and trees being planted. **Friends of Capel Library** – Next Film held on 3rd Tuesday in the month – Hypnotic. **Footpath Warden** – Reported that the finger posts at Station Road, Link Lane and Bergholt Road have now been replaced. **Bentley Long Barn** - Nothing to report. **Speedwatch** – Due to various factors only one session has been held since the last report. This was held on Capel Road when 17 vehicles were reported. The highest recorded speed was 41 mph - the press release following the ‘Day of Action’ was discussed. Applying for a weight limit might stop big lorries coming through the village.

Resident – Enquired about strips across the road – she was told these recorded the traffic flow but the Parish Council were unaware of the reason they had been put there.

8. To approve External Audit – To approve Audited Accounts 2023/24 - Councillors had been issued with a copy of the Accounts for Year End 2023/24 – these have now been signed off by the External Auditor (PKF Littlejohn) who noted that the Smaller Authority did not comply with Regulation 15 and failed to answer “No” to Assertion 4 of the Annual Governance Statement. Clerk has made a note to tick the NO box for 2024/25 Audit. Notices have been duly posted on Notice Boards and Website. It was therefore proposed that the audit be accepted.

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

9. To review Risk Assessment – The Clerk told the meeting that she had sent the Asset List to Insurers re uplift and had been unable to complete the Risk Assessment. In future this will be done in August. This item was deferred until the November meeting.

10. Insurance Policy – to ratify decision to accept new quote (£524.56) - It was proposed that this revised payment (due to cancelled Firework Display) be ratified.

Proposed Cllr M Munday Seconded Cllr M Bamford All in favour CU

11. **Horse Riders in Bentley** – As discussed above a notice will be put in the Bentley Bugle regarding use of bridleways and make it clear re behaviour of people close to the bridleway. Unfortunately, the Parish Council has no powers over disputes.
12. **To discuss vandalism in the Village** – The meeting was told that three individuals were making a lot of noise on the Playing Field on Thursday evening and turned the remaining picnic table upside down and started breaking it up - they were fortunately disturbed by residents – they also tried to light a fire in the long grass - one other decided to kick over the dog bin and break to post (South View Green). - The speed bollard in Church Road was broken off and thrown into the hedge – These issues have been reported to the Police – SCC are dealing with the keep left sign and the dog bin has been put in a metal pole. CCTV was discussed – Maritime have CCTV and an image of one of the culprits was recorded the first time. Clerk was tasked with getting advice from SALC re CCTV rules. Once this has been done we can talk to Maritime about extending CCTV if cost effective. Leave on agenda

Action: Clerk to contact SALC for advice

13. **Request by Bentley Community Pub – Overspill Carparking** - The meeting was told that the pub needs overspill carparking when they hold big events and asked if it would be possible to park on the Village Playing Field – via the Case Lane gate – (building work has now finished). This item was deferred until we are clear about the lease of the school playing field. – Leave on the agenda.
14. **To discuss Hedges** – A revised notice was put in the Bentley Bugle asking residents to check their hedges were not reducing the width of the pavement. The hedge at South View Green is in hand. A discussion followed on County Broadband.
15. **Protection of Trees in Bentley- Update** - The Clerk told the meeting that East Bergholt had managed to get TPO’s put on trees in Heath Road. A map of veteran trees had done as part of the Neighbourhood Plan. After some discussion it was proposed that we ask for TPO’s to be put on these trees – as described in the Neighbourhood Plan as per the attached map.

Proposed Cllr N Moxey	Seconded Cllr M Bamford	All in favour	CU
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Action: E-mail Arboricultural Officer at Babergh

16. **To discuss 20s Plenty Campaign** - Cllr Jones talked about the 20 mph limit recently introduced in North Wales which doesn’t seem to be working. We need to decide whether we would like it in Bentley. Also whether we would like to apply for a weight restriction on environmental grounds – there is nothing to stop us applying. It was proposed that as a Parish Council we support the motion 20s Plenty for Suffolk campaign and call on SCC to implement 20mph in Bentley. An article will be put in the Bugle to inform residents.

Proposed Cllr M Munday	Seconded Cllr K Spicer	All in favour	CU
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17. **Renewal of Play Area Lease/School Field & Copse – Update** - Making progress – Cllrs Munday and Feltwell will report back as soon as there is any news.

18. **Improvements to War Memorial - Working Paty to maintain area around War Memorial – Update** - This is continuing on an ad hoc basis- Cllrs Wheals and Bamford are doing ongoing maintenance – maintaining grass and flowers etc. The area around the tree at the top of Grove Road was discussed it is affecting visibility and needs to be trimmed down. – Residents can do it but need to let the Clerk know for insurance purposes. The aim is to get the War Memorial area done before the Remembrance Service – Leave on agenda.

19. **Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan (PIIP) – Utilisation of CIL monies** – The second round of questionnaires were sent out and responses received – 35- multi-use games area – tennis/basketball/5 a side. 17 -Tennis courts – 14 – brick wall & hard standing for basketball hoops – 6 voted for allotments it’s the Parish Council’s statutory duty to provide these. Road marking was also discussed – this is the responsibility of Highways – Traffic Working Party to talk to Highways to see if they will come and paint the road markings. The meeting was told that it is possible to extract the PIIP from the Neighbourhood Plan – rather than making minor

amendments to the NHP. An agenda item to discuss how these items can be implemented will be on the November agenda. It was also proposed that we extract the PIP from the Neighbourhood Plan.

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

Action: Agenda item – To discuss suggested items on PIP

20. **Traffic Calming – SID data – ANPR – Update -** SID data will be downloaded asap. The SID at Highfields needs to be moved to Bergholt Road – this will be done following the road closure by County Broadband. ANPR camera was at the Village Hall for a week recently. Clerk will write and ask them for data.

Action: Write to ANPR Team for data

21. **Playing Field Society- Dog Fouling -Company of Merrie Folk – Update – Maritime – Grass Cutting -** A notice went into the Bugle re dog fouling on the field. Residents are emptying the Playing Field bins. Cllr Moxey told the meeting that the Bentley Fayre made a profit of £430 which she proposed we give to charity. Cllr Munday proposed that half be given to St Elizabeth’s Hospice and half remain in the Playing Field Society account. - Grass Cutting – Maritime – After some discussion it was agreed to leave on both agendas so it can be investigated and discussed fully.

22. **To receive Correspondence** –. The Clerk drew Councillors’ attention to the following E-mails. SCC x 3 – problem report re hedge – No action/keep left sign Church Road -being replaced/confirmation that Bentley PC response re Brockley Wood had been received Resident x 3 Bentley verges/Keep left sign/road works Silver Leys – Maritime FC are taking their bin away – Babergh x 2 Publication of the Inspector’s Report on the Examination of the [Joint Local Plan/Town & Parish Liaison meetings County Broadband x 2 – response to queries by Clerk Community Action Suffolk x 2 Bentley Website hosting fee due in November/Acceptance Insurance renewal 1x Village Hall Trustees – Dates of meetings 2024

23. **Exchange of information by Councillors and matters for consideration at future Meetings – Cllr J Wheals – Bus Routes –** in 1989 there were four routes in and four routes out now there is just one bus leaving Bentley at 9.27am and returning at 14.45pm. We need to investigate what other villages are doing especially Tattingstone. **Cllr Moxey –** She and Councillor Munday had attended a meeting today with Community Action Suffolk on Community Land Trust – with Hastoe, other Housing Associations and the Housing Enabling Officer – discussions were wide ranging and interesting – there are eight different options for affordable housing. Cllr Moxey will send out the presentations. Agenda item – To discuss Community Land Trust.

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

101704	Community Action Suffolk	Insurance Renewal - Ratified	£524.56
101705	J & E P Brewer Ltd	Small feed straw – Bentley Fayre	£12.50
101706	PKF Littlejohn LLP	External Audit Fee	£252.00
101707	Royal British Legion	Donation – Round wreath	£100.00
101708	Bentley Bowls Club Trust	Donation towards new mower	£500.00
101709	Peter Baldwin	August /September invoices grass cut	£300.00
101710	Mortimer Contracts Ltd	Supply & install metal post – dog bin	£120.00
101702	HMRC	Clerks Tax	£29.80
011703	Mrs J Scott	Clerks Salary – September	£572.43
		Minus tax	<u>-£29.80</u>
			£542.63
		Plus, Expenses	<u>£69.05</u>
			£611.68

It was proposed that these be paid en bloc.

Proposed Cllr N Moxey Seconded: Cllr AThomas All in favour CU

18. **To confirm date of next scheduled meeting** - Thursday 2 November 2023. Preceded by a Playing Field Society meeting at 7pm.

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

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: