

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON AT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL ON -THURSDAY 3 OCTOBER 2024 AT 7.30 PM

Present

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

Also in attendance -, - District Councillor D Busby, District Councillor H Davies, Tree Warden, Speedwatch Co-ordinator - 7 members of the public

Cllr Monday 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** - County Councillor Georgia Hall & Cllr M Bamford
2. **To receive Declaration of Interest relating to Agenda items:** - Cllr Spicer & Cllr Campbell declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 14 on the agenda.
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 5 September 2024 -**
The minutes were approved as a true record and were duly signed.

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

5. **Matters arising from the Minutes – Page 1244 item 11** – Notices re Conclusion of Audit were posted on the Notice Boards and Website. Road Closure for Remembrance Service has been applied for and granted. Returned cheque – Citizens Advice – Contacted them – they have moved next door!!!! Cheque has been reposted letter of thanks received from them today. Sent thanks to Ray Bloomfield for cutting perimeter of Playing Field. Rest covered by agenda items.

Public Session

County Councillor G Hall – Had sent her Monthly report which has been circulated to Councillors **APPENDIX 1** in the minute book and on the website.

District Councillor D Busby - Briefing Notes for Town & Parish Councils had been received and circulated to Councillors - **APPENDIX 2** in the minute book and on the website. District Councillor Busby told the meeting Babergh have got a tough year ahead financially. He spoke about devolution – the District Council is Labour run and they want to be involved in decision making – Labour Government want more houses built – increase from 416 to 763. Affordable housing is very difficult to provide at the moment at 80 % of the market rate – Social Housing is 60% - Babergh cannot afford to build them. – watch this space. The first part of the Local Plan has been approved but might get thrown out – things will be clarified in the next few months.

Cllr Munday thanked District Councillor Davies for her support re the Joint Local Plan Part 2 Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report it has been very helpful.

District Councillor Davies – Joint Local Plan Working Group have just completed consultation response NPFF – got to keep working on it – Government want District Councils to have a Plan and want it by next autumn.

Resident: Wondered why planners did not insist on installing solar panels for all new builds – he was told that at the moment it is not mandated

Resident: Worried about the copse at the side of his bungalow 28 West Mill Green – it is very overgrown and he is not able to deal with it. Also the hedge on the Village Playing Field is

growing into the ditch. – Clerk will contact Mortimer Contracts for a quote to clear. Cllr Feltwell will also get quote.

Resident: Reported that the gate into the Village Playing Field is very difficult to open – it has dropped – there was a lot of nettles etc also round the gate posts. Ray Bloomfield had cut the edge of the field - a large branch and parts of the picnic table were in the long grass – they need to be removed - they will be put on the bonfire.

Resident: Re-application - Brockley Wood – Parish Council has an extension on this application until 8 November the website is not showing this – will members of the public have an extension until that date? The Clerk was asked to write to the Planning Officer at Suffolk County Council to clarify if this date is for everybody and if so why the website is not showing those dates.

Action: Clerk to e-mail SCC Planning Officer – Contact Chris Mortimer
--

6. **Planning Applications –**

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

DC/24/03379	Eleanor Gate, Capel Road	Permission has been granted
DC/24/03203	Uplands, Church Road	Permission has been granted

b) **To give comments on any new applications in hand & discuss appeals –**

DC/24/04055	Windy Farm, Capel Road Application for Lawful Development Certificate (Existing)	Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an Existing Use or Operation or Activity including those in breach of a Planning condition. Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) – Confirmation of use of annexe/outbuilding as a separate dwelling
--------------------	--	---

NO COMMENT

Proposed Cllr M Munday	Seconded Cllr B Feltwell	All in favour	CU
------------------------	--------------------------	---------------	----

SCC/0105/22B	Brockley Wood Land off A12 Belstead Suffolk IP8 3JS	Proposal: Extraction, processing and sale of sand and gravel, processing of inert waste materials with associated plant and related sales, access works, phased restoration using inert recovered materials and aftercare plan Re-consultation of Regulation 25
---------------------	---	---

This application has been resubmitted unchanged. Extension applied for and granted until 8 November 2024.

Cllr Munday told the meeting that a group of residents are paying the full cost of the Impact Appraisal by Alison Farmer. We are not going to stop the quarry that is in Suffolk County Council's Waste and Minerals Plan – it is the waste processing plant that is the issue –which will be sited within 10 metres of Brockley Wood, Old Hall Wood and Bentley Old Hall. It is a totally unsuitable site for that activity and it is concerning that SCC is trying to disregard the actual Valued Landscape for this waste processing plant. A meeting with them was requested but refused – all communication to be via the Portal. The inadequate Lorry & Route Management Plan (160 lorries per day) was discussed – Bentley PC are paying SCC for a traffic survey at a cost of £800 to get some data on lorries coming through the village. Residents were urged to re-submit their objections. Tree Warden talked about Dormice which are a protected. Residents were urged to write to SCC and also lobby the Committee – a petition was talked about but apparently would only count as one objection. The Clerk was asked to clarify the decision date for members of the public (will it be 8 November same as Parish Council?) Ways of getting word to the public were discussed. Most of the Suffolk County Councillors that voted for the application didn't even go on the site visit – they don't live in the area and are not familiar with

the problems at the Copdock Interchange. A discussion on how to make people aware of this application followed - a leaflet drop was suggested with details of where to send objections and with a list of Councillors and their e-mail addresses so they can also be lobbied.

Resident told the meeting how much work had been done in the background by Parish Council, Tom Hill and the financial support of a small group of volunteers without which we would not be able to do what we have done.

7. **Potential designation of a Bentley Historic Core Conservation Area - Update -** This is another piece of work to try and protect our Valued Landscape which has been sent to Babergh and been well received. The cost of the report by Heritage expert was met by Bentley PC £5K and Babergh £5K and an individual and it is now up to Babergh to consider a conservation area – we have been told it is receiving serious consideration and there will be a six week consultation period. If we do get this it will be added protection against any future inappropriate developments. Tom Hill has put in a great deal of work on this. District Cllr Busby praised the Parish Council he told the meeting that this PC had gone above and beyond what most Parish Councils would do.

Cllr Munday will send a link to the appraisal document to District Councillor Davies

8. **BPC response to BDC Consultations on Joint Local Plan Part 2 – Development Plan document Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report & the Proposed Approach to the Strategic Housing Land Availability – Update -** Babergh have called for sites and landowners have responded so Babergh have a lot of sites to consider. We will have to keep reviewing our Neighbourhood Plan – there are three sites in Bentley put forward for development by landowners
9. **Report by Exception – Tree Warden/Footpath Warden/Capel Library/ Bentley Long Barn /Footpath Warden & Speedwatch -** **Tree Warden** – Hedgerows and trees are available to order from the Woodland Trust. Tree Warden is going to order 4 Black Poplars (Bentley Parish has just one Black Poplar, a declining species). It has not yet been decided where to plant them. **Footpath Warden** – No report available - **Bentley Long Barn** – Nothing to report. **Speedwatch** – Three sessions have been held since last report with another cancelled because of the weather. One at the Village Hall where two vehicles were reported. One at the War Memorial again where two vehicles were reported One on Capel Road where five vehicles were reported. We were joined by the Police at the War Memorial session as part of their day of action. The highest recorded speed was 39 mph at the Village Hall.
10. **Change of Bank and Online Banking – Update -** Clerk has send all the signed paperwork back to Lloyds. – she was told it could take up to six weeks.
11. **To ratify Payment – Handford Heritage Consulting Ltd (£13,141.92) –** Conservation Area Appraisal carried out over the summer. - See 7 above. It was proposed that this cheque be ratified.

Proposed Cllr B Feltwell Seconded Cllr A Thomas All in favour CU

12. **Insurance Policy Renewal -** The revised renewal figure for the year is £640.89 -Cllrs had been sent all the Insurance documents and it was proposed that the cheque be ratified.

Proposed Cllr B Feltwell Seconded Cllr M Munday All in favour CU

13. **To review Risk Assessment -** The Clerk told the meeting she had started the Risk Assessment but as the banking arrangements were about to change it would be better to wait. Once the details are received the Risk Assessment will be completed.

14. **Gate into School Field from The Case – Update –** Babergh had contacted the Clerk and believe this would require permission as it doesn't fall under Parish Council Permitted Development. The Pub will probably look at the cost before going with a planning application. If the planning application does go ahead it should also include a pedestrian gate into the School Field. This will be taken off the agenda.

15. **To discuss Funding re Bentley Bugle –** Cllr Munday thanked the Parish Council for paying for the print run for the last issue of the Bentley Bugle. Residents have come forward offering

sponsorship and two organisations in the village taken advertising space for the back page. Until the Bugle has a bank account set up people can pay money into PC bank account – Clerk will monitor.

16. **Horse Chestnut Tree – Grove Road/Capel Road – Update -** Tree Warden has been searching he will get back to it next week.
17. **Printer for Clerk – Update –** Deferred
18. **Lorry Watch - Update -** Cllr Thomas reported from 1 September to 30 September a total of 9 HGV's going through the village. - trying to remember the name and number of a lorry when navigating a bend is very difficult – SCC are carrying out the traffic survey – it seems Collins skip lorries are using the A137 at the moment.
19. **Wild Life Sanctuary in the copse -** Nothing to report – take off the agenda until the Spring.
20. **Affordable Housing – Update –** Clerk is still trying to arrange a Zoom meeting with Hastoe.
21. **To discuss 20s Plenty Campaign –** Cllr Jones told the meeting he is writing to County Councillors at the moment re this campaign – we need to apply pressure to make them change their minds – they do not want it and don't even respond to it
22. **Traffic Calming – Weight Restriction– Update -** We will get all the data re the traffic survey and discuss at the next meeting. We do have a good relationship with SCC Officer.
23. **Playing Field Society –** Firework event - 2 November 2024 – Clerk is sorting out the insurance – the TENS licence has been applied for. Clerk to ask Maritime if they are using the field. The Draft Rules were sent to Councillors and will be discussed at the Playing Field Society Meeting in November.
24. **To receive Correspondence–** The Clerk drew Councillors' attention to the following E-mails: - 2 x Resident re Station Road, Can Parish Council push urgent resolution to this problem? 1 x Westerfield PC re quarry – 2 x Suffolk County Council Re-consultation for SCC/0105/22B Brockley Wood & ANPR rota for October/December – it's in Bentley from 28 October to 4 November. 3 x District Cllr Helen Davis & 1 Copdock & Washbrook Parish Council & 1 x Sroughton Parish Council re Local Plan Pt 2 Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. 1 x Babergh Town & Parish Council Survey Planning closing 20 September -. 1 x resident re bollard Church Road – Reported and Footpath Stile 4 x RN Network Assurance – re Remembrance Event -confirmed. 1 x East Anglian Daily Times re Brockley Wood 1 x Capel Parish Council re Landscape Conservation surveys cost/who by and has it been beneficial 1 x Tree Warden – cutting edge of Playing Field 1 x Elan City re Warranty Extension UK665.

Action: Agenda items Station Road flooding – Elan City Warranty Extension - Footpath – Stile- Contact Footpath Warden

25. **Exchange of information by Councillors and matters for consideration at future Meetings–**
Cllr K Spicer – Edwards Electrical, Capel Road -are a Car Dealership. **Cllr Munday** – Childs climbing frame has been put by the SID – Free it has been there for several days – it needs to be removed.
26. **To Authorise Payments-** The following payments were authorised

101777	Community Action Suffolk	Insurance renewal - ratified	£640.89
101778	Handford Heritage Consulting	Character Appraisal - ratified	£13, 141.92
101779	Bentley Village Hall	Hall Hire/Broadband	£98.27
101780	Canon UK Ltd	Bentley Bugle - Printing	£280.00
101781	Peter Baldwin	September grass cutting	£150.00
101782	HMRC	Clerks Tax	£33.40
101783	Mrs J Scott	Clerks Salary – Sept	£615.76
		Minus tax	-£33.40
			£582.36
		Plus Expenses	£69.88
			£596.44

Minus July Tax	<u>£55.80</u>
	£596.44

It was proposed that these be paid en bloc.

Proposed Cllr K Spicer

Seconded: Cllr D Jones

All in favour

CU

27. **To confirm date of next scheduled meeting** - Parish Council Meeting Thursday 7 November 2024 at 7,30 pm Preceded by a Playing Field Society Meeting at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.23 pm.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE:

DRAFT