

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON AT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL ON -THURSDAY 4 APRIL 2024 AT 7.30 PM

Present

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

Also, in attendance -, County Councillor Georgia Hall, District Councillor J Wyman, Tree Warden, - Speedwatch Co-ordinator - 4 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 - Cllr D Schumacher & District Councillor D Busby
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 Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 7 March 2024
- The minutes were approved as a true record and were duly signed.

Proposed Cllr M Bamford Seconded Cllr J Wheals All in favour CU

5. Matters arising from the Minutes – Invitations have been sent out to Clubs, County Councillor Hall, District Councillors D Busby & H Davies re Annual Parish Council Meeting 11 April 2024 – Reports have been received from some of the Clubs. Open Reach were very difficult to contact but UK Power Networks have logged the matter of the tree on overhead lines at Tattingstone – Babergh Planning Enforcement has written to the landowner, via their Planning Agent advising of the alleged breach and requesting some information from them and advising if the access is not permitted that we will investigate further. Rest covered by agenda items.

Public Session

County Councillor G Hall - Had sent her written report for March and Annual Report which has been circulated to Councillors – **APPENDIX 1** in the minute book and on the website. She told the meeting SCC had been very busy regarding the budget – School Travel all parents whose children are eligible for SCC funded school travel must opt in by 31 May if they wish to continue to receive it. She had spoken to the Planning Officer re weight restriction – she was sorry that it was felt she did not support the campaign re Brockley Wood but she has spoken to Andrew Sierakowski and had a Zoom call discussion – she has been passed on to another Officer who is not back in the office until 8 April. It is very difficult to get a weight restriction on just one Planning Application but will do everything she can to make this happen. SCC require photographic evidence of HGV lorries going through the village. Cllr Munday told County Councillor Hall she was very disappointed that Bentley had not been considered properly by SCC Highways with two quarries either end of the village – Tattingstone Folly Farm and now Brockley Wood – She wanted to know why no account was taken of Bentley PC’s comments by SCC when drawing up conditions for the continuing operation of the plant at Folly Farm which will continue for at least 15 years. Conditions were included for Tattingstone residents but not Bentley residents. We will be providing you with enough evidence – We have HGV vehicles using our C class roads through the village on a daily basis – last year we had a complaint from a resident re 100 loaded lorries containing top soil ordered by Shotley Holdings to cap off the landfill sites that were coming through the village. This is having a major impact on our residents with pollution and noise. This is a real issue. No one came through Bentley or the surrounding area

on the site visit or took any notice of the 40-50 protesting residents – we have not been taken seriously. The verges and roads are damaged and this will only get worse

District Councillor J Wyman – told the meeting that the Babergh District Council were against the Brockley Wood application. There are two threads – look to contest the decision or use a mitigating process – District Councillor Sallie Davis is trying to mitigate the process by looking at weight restrictions and forming a plan to keep these heavy vehicles off these roads - we need to make sure we have a process re our 18th Century roads and 21st Century traffic as we cannot keep up with road damage and deterioration.

Cllr Bamford told the meeting a pothole repair done at Tattingstone crossroads lasted less than a day. He told the meeting that we gave good evidence in advance that Brockley Wood will result in A12 traffic going through our small back roads putting lives of residents in danger and there were good reasons why it should not have gone through. County Councillor Hall will do her best.

Resident: There are a very high proportion of horses coming down our roads.

District Councillor J Wyman – Told the meeting he had attended the Parish & Police Forum meeting in Hadleigh – other places do need to see a police presence – up and coming election – you need a voter ID – drivers licence/passport – Energy Efficient Council homes £2.25m already committed plus £1.7m boost in government funding. Pushing against National Grid -Norwich Tilbury impact on the countryside is too great. Parking charges – decision will take place on Monday – Got to give Council Tax paying residents some value. Spent a long time looking at Neighbourhood Plans. He concluded his report by telling the meeting that he holds a Residents Surgery at Capel Library.

Resident: Asked if there was a chance to get passing places in Church Road.

6. Planning Applications –

a) To note decisions of Planning Authority on previous applications

SCC/0024/23B	Land at Folly Farm, Tattingstone	Application approved
SCC/0209/17B/VOC	Folly Farm, Tattingstone	Application approved
SCC/0125/22B/VOC	Folly Farm, Tattingstone	Application approved
SCC/0105/22B	Brockley Wood Land off A12 Belstead	Application approved

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

DC/24/01265	Dodnash Fruit Farm, Hazel Shrub	Erection of a replacement agricultural building
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RECOMMEND APPROVAL

Proposed Cllr M Bamford 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** - Walked past the Community Orchard on Tuesday and the first apple tree is flowering. **Friends of Capel Library** – The Friends events are now published in Bentley Bugle but the next film is well worth watching – One Life about Nicholas Winter who rescued hundreds of Jewish children from Czechoslovakia. **Footpath Warden** – No report available. **Footpath Society** – Cllr Wheals told the meeting the walk as advertised on 21 May should be 25 May. **Speedwatch** – Only one session has been held which was at the War Memorial when two vehicles were reported. The highest speed was 38mph. Due to the continuing bad weather, various road closures, his own unavailability and the unavailability of volunteers no other sessions have been held. For Speedwatch to continue in Bentley we need to recruit more volunteers. Capel Road is by far the worst area. The Chairman thanked Co-

ordinator for all he does. Pothole opposite play area was discussed – Clerk to check if it has been reported. - **Bentley Long Barn** – Nothing to report.

Action: Check to see if pothole has been reported

8. **To receive written applications for the office of Parish Councillor & to Co-opt a candidate to fill the existing vacancy –** Only one application had been received from John Campbell – the application had been sent to Councillors who were happy to propose that John Campbell be co-opted onto Bentley Parish Council. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office form was duly signed and John Campbell was invited to join Councillors. The Clerk will contact Babergh Elections to let them know.

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

9. **Play Area/Gym Equipment – Annual Inspection –** The Clerk told the meeting she had contacted David Bracey and he will undertake the inspection at the end of April. Fees same as last year £140 plus VAT = £168.00 in total.

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

10. **WiFi at the Village Hall -** E-mail received from Village Hall Trustees – the proposal which the Village Hall Trustees provisionally agreed was half the cost of the wifi – they don't know if there will be additional equipment required to boost the signal to appropriate areas – if there is a cost they expect the Parish Council to pay half this cost too. On this understanding Broadband has been arranged with BT at £29 per month on a 24 month contract starting 18 April (with annual increases as is normal). We will be advised when the kit is received as a Councillor may wish to be involved in checking coverage and possible booster requirements. The £14.50 cost can be added to the quarterly hall hire invoice – or a standing order can be set up. Clerk will decide. It was proposed that the Parish Council pay half of the monthly cost and half of any other costs incurred.

Proposed Cllr M Munday Seconded Cllr A Thomas All in favour CU

Action: Clerk will inform Village Hall Trustees

11. **Community Litter Pick – 2024 -** After some discussion it was decided that this subject should be brought up at the Annual Parish Meeting. The main part of the village is kept litter free by residents and dog walkers but a couple of areas by Long Barn and Capel Road towards A12 could be targeted. Keep on the agenda

12. **Request for Grant - Bentley Carpet Bowls –** It was proposed to grant Indoor Bowls £100 – the payment will be agreed at the Annual Parish Council Meeting with the grants that were put in the budget.

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

Action: Clerk to inform Indoor Bowls

13. **To agree and Sign Neighbourhood CIL Report –** Councillors had been sent copies of the Neighbourhood CIL Expenditure Report and it was proposed that it be signed and sent off to Babergh. It will also be put on the website,

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

Action: Send report to Babergh

14. **Changes to Procurement Thresholds – Standing Orders (Section 18) & Financial Regulations (Section 11) –** The Clerk told Councillors that the thresholds were updated from 1 January 2024 – The new updated Financial Regulations will take these figures into account and will be available in due course. Councils can amend the Standing Orders (Section 18) and Financial Regulations (Section 22) if they wish to, to reflect this update. This will be done when the new updated Financial Regulations are received.

15. **To discuss dangerous trees in the copse** – A meeting had been arranged for 2.30 on 4 April 2024 with Richard Parmee – Babergh – re Land Recovery (item 18 below) with Councillor Feltwell and Tree Warden. Cllr Feltwell told the meeting that Richard Parmee will come back with some recommendations – he agrees with getting rid of the fir trees – keep the walnut tree and making it into an area people can walk through – new shrubs and trees will be added – this is a long term project. Tree Warden knows people who may be able to help remove some of the fallen trees which is quite encouraging – the logs from the conifers would be stacked making it a proper wildlife area. This item will be amalgamated with call for land for nature recovery (item 18).
16. **Affordable Housing – Update** - Walkabout took place in Bentley on 27 March with Hastoe, Babergh Senior Planning Officer, CAS and Cllrs Feltwell & Spicer. Seven sites were identified – elements need to be progressed – we await Hastoe’s report
17. **Road Works /Flooding re Cadent** - The Clerk will contact Cadent and Anglia Water re a village meeting

Action: Contact Cadent & Anglian Water re Village meeting

18. **Call for Land for Nature Recovery – Update** – See 15 above
19. **To discuss 20s Plenty Campaign** – Clerk told the meeting the Motion re the 20s Plenty Campaign had not yet been sent as we need to specify where we want it. A long discussion commenced on speed limits, traffic calming ideas etc – County Councillor Hall would try and get the Community Liaison Officer at SCC to do a site visit – It was agreed that this would be useful to see if we can do something in the Village. It was finally proposed that the Motion should be sent to SCC stating that 20mph area should be from Highfields to Bergholt Road Junction. Speedwatch Co-ordinator remarked that it would need a buffer zone as you can’t go from 60 mph to 20mph.

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

Action: Motion to be sent to SCC?

20. **Traffic Calming – Weight Restriction– Update** - See County Councillor Georgia Hall report above.
21. **Playing Field Society** – A request had been received from a resident re golf. It was agreed not on the School Field. Clerk will contact Jon Haines for his views – as long as it is safe.

Action: Contact Maritime

22. **To receive Correspondence**–The Clerk drew Councillors’ attention to the following E-mails: Babergh re Planning Enforcement EN/24/00135 – Bergholt Road – 1 from Cubiquity Media – Clerk has ordered Kings Portrait – 1 from PKF Littlejohn – AGAR Forms for End of Year Accounts, 1 x Application re Councillor Vacancy – 1 x Grant Request from Indoor Bowls, 2 x County Cllr Georgia Hall March Report & Annual Report & Brockley Wood Post Application Response 3 x Brockley Wood Post application responses from County Councillor Hudson, Copdock & Washbrook PC, & District Cllr Wyman. E-mail from Resident re Bentley Playing Field – he wants to chip some golf balls

23. **Exchange of information by Councillors and matters for consideration at future Meetings**– None.

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

101737	GeoXphere Ltd	Parish Online Subscription	£90.00
101738	Peter Baldwin	April Invoice – grass Closed Churchyard	£150.00
101739	HMRC	Clerks Tax	£30.00
101740	Mrs J Scott	Clerks Salary – March	£572.43
		Minus tax	-£30.00
			£542.43
			£616.65

Plus Expenses	£74.19
U/Payment December	<u>0.03p</u>
	<u>£616.65</u>

It was proposed that these be paid en bloc.

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

To confirm date of next scheduled meeting - Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 11 April.
Annual Parish Council Meeting Thursday 9 May 2024.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE:

DRAFT