

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON AT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL ON -THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 7.30 PM

Present

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

Also in attendance -, - County Councillor Georgia Hall, District Councillor J Wyman, Tree Warden, Footpath Warden & Speedwatch Co-ordinator - 7 members of the public

Cllr Monday welcomed everyone to the meeting she asked that everyone keep their comments brief in the public session. The Clerk received no notification of anyone planning to film or record this meeting.

1. **To record apologies for absence** - District Councillor D Busby &, District Councillor H Davies,
2. **To receive Declaration of Interest relating to Agenda items:** - Cllr Munday declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 19 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 3 October 2024** - The minutes were approved as a true record and were duly signed.

Proposed Cllr K Spicer Seconded Cllr A Thomas All in favour CU

5. **Matters arising from the Minutes** – Event Notice of Road Closure for Remembrance Service put on Notice Boards - Grant letters have been sent out to Clubs. Also cheque for fireworks to be ratified tonight has been cancelled it was made out to Business Services Community Action Suffolk – should have been Business Services at CAS – cheque no 101784 has been cancelled and re-issued cheque 101788 to be passed for payment tonight.
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. She spoke about SCC Transport Plan investing in 38 new buses and the consultation which includes fifteen Area Transport Plans and a Suffolk Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and urged residents to complete any surveys. She has sent an e-mail reinforcing her support for Bentley re Brockley Wood application & stated that she felt SCC handing of the application was not acceptable but hoped there would be another site meeting. The Chairman told her that SCC will not consider another site meeting as it was deemed not necessary because there has been no significant change to the site or its surroundings since the last inspection on 15 December 2023 Cllr Munday read out the e-mail and said that if the Parish Council only have 2½ minutes to speak at the Committee Meeting to ask for a site visit and get over the relevant points was almost impossible in that time. She also pointed out that it had taken a Senior Executive two weeks to send a reply to her e-mail request. County Councillor Hall said she would try to get a site visit but didn't hold out much hope due to SCC's Development Management Charter. District Cllr John Wyman told the meeting that in Babergh's Planning Charter a District Councillor can propose a site meeting. A discussion followed on the last site meeting which six members attended (only four attended the Committee Meeting) they didn't come through Bentley – showed no concern about HGV's going through the village and showed complete disrespect for the 40 residents who attended.

District Councillor J Wyman - 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 Whyman thought that County Councillor Hall would do her best and assured the

meeting that the District Council takes planning applications very seriously and that District Councillor Busby has been working hard on this – Babergh put in an objection and he and Cllrs Helen Davies and Dave Busby will be at the SCC Committee Meeting. He also told the meeting that the Chair of the Committee has the authority to give speakers more time. The Chairman told the meeting SCC didn't see fit to consult the National Landscape Team despite the fact that the site is in the Additional Project Area of the National Landscape (was AONB). District Councillor Wyman said the Solar Farm application has not yet been determined but suspects it will be determined within three to four weeks. If it's refused it won't go to Committee but will go to Committee if approved. He spoke about trip to Incinerator Plant. Also Battery Site Application at Bramford – waiting for strategy from Government and their expectations he has been working with colleagues to consider an overall landscape mitigation plan. – looking for sites that would be acceptable. He ended his report by telling residents of his Resident Surgeries held once a month at Capel Library next one 12 November.

Resident: Had sent his objection re Brockley Wood application – SCC seem to be ignoring the law concerning the Hazel Dormouse heritage area – the ecologist who surveyed the site did not find any evidence of the dormouse being present however “absence of evidence is not evidence of absence” There are 101 records of the Hazel Dormouse from these woods gathered by the Essex & Suffolk Dormouse Group led by Dr Simone Bullion, assisted by volunteers including myself who annually checked dormouse nest boxes and nest tubes – he has taken photographs showing dormice being surveyed and weighed at Bentley Long Wood – one of these shows a dormouse asleep in his hand – he also sent a map showing the distribution of dormice in Bentley.

Cllr Bamford said they also failed to notice deer, owls and a very large badger set but they are not going to re-visit that.

6. Planning Applications –

a) To note decisions of Planning Authority on previous applications - None received

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

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
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Cllr Munday told the meeting that the deadline for this application had been extended until tomorrow not only for the Parish Council but also for residents to respond. We have received advice from our Barrister re the applicant's response to the Judicial Review claim. Alison Farmer Associates have re-confirmed it is a valued landscape and we should ask for a re-siting of the waste processing plant which has an impact on residents Cllr Bamford reiterated that the Valued Landscape should be considered and the siting of the industrial plant in the most sensitive part of the site is not appropriate – we have some pretty strong evidence for them to consider an alternative site for these works. SCC would be foolish having had a Judicial Review against them not to consider the valued landscape. HGV traffic -The recent surveys undertaken by SCC at a cost of £855 plus VAT show clear evidence of an increase in traffic through the village coming from the A12 when there is slow moving or queuing traffic particularly on the northbound carriageway – on Bentley Hall Road traffic increased by 50% - We need to carry out that survey before SCC would consider a weight restriction. The next step is for SCC to carry out a feasibility study which is costly. It was proposed that our response should include a provision that the applicant will have to pay for a weight restriction on our road – also that Planning Officers get a Grampian Order that the weight restriction has to be in place before the works commence. It was therefore proposed that we would continue to object to the unchanged application that has been re-submitted as the four grounds in the Judicial Review are still live and to base Bentley Parish Council's response on those grounds.

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

Cllr Feltwell thanked Cllr Munday and the group for all the hard work put into this application.

DC/24/04817 Level Crossing to The East of Church Road Discharge of Conditions A) Received dated 31 October Status: Pending Consideration/Case Type : Planning Application – Application for DP1/V3500/17/13 – Conditions 3 (Landscaping Scheme) & Ecology

Network Rail is diverting the footpath at the Island. We don't know whether we will have any input but they plan to take out oak trees along the boundary to accommodate the 18 metre high fence they are going to be putting in.. Clerk has informed Babergh Arboricultural Officer and asked for TPO's to be put on trees. District Councillor J Wyman will look into it.

7. **Bentley Bridge Barrier -** Back in 2021 we were in discussion with SCC about the barrier at Bentley Bridge re design etc – it was going ahead on 11 November but has now been delayed until next year – the road will be closed for several months whilst the work is being carried out.
8. **Potential designation of a Bentley Historic Core Conservation Area - Update** – The Conservation Area Appraisal was sent to Babergh who engaged their own Heritage Experts (Iceni) to review the appraisal – Iceni have agreed that the area is suitable for designation. Babergh has asked for further work to be done in response to Iceni's feedback. We have received a quote from Steve Handforth to carry out this additional work (including a site visit) [REDACTED] plus VAT & expenses – Babergh have agreed to pay 50% of the invoice so it will cost BPC an additional [REDACTED] – we have received clearance from Babergh that we can use CIL money for this. Once this additional work is completed, Babergh will put our request for a Conservation Area to the full Cabinet at their meeting in December. It was therefore proposed that we fund the extra work required to complete the Conservation Area Appraisal.

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

9. **Report by Exception – Tree Warden/Footpath Warden/Capel Library/ Bentley Long Barn /Footpath Warden & Speedwatch -** **Tree Warden** – Has passed on Tree Warden box of files to Fletcher Telling. Three trees died during the drought in the Community Orchard but the rest are doing well. Someone in the village has offered to buy two of the trees – the Tree Warden would like to buy a couple more trees - he would also like to purchase some bird and bat boxes from John Baker's team who were demonstrating building boxes at ~Christchurch Mansion -for trees in Silver Leys, the School Field and the Copse – 25 would be needed at £8 each from Christchurch Museum total £200. This will be an agenda item at the December meeting. **Footpath Warden** – Nothing to report - **Bentley Long Barn** – Nothing to report. **Speedwatch** –'Nothing to report. **Footpath Society** – Cllr Wheals Next walk is on 23 November 10.30 at the Village Hall. On 13 November there is a meeting at the Village Hall to decide the future of the Group.

Action: Agenda item Purchase of trees, bird & bat boxes

10. **Change of Bank and Online Banking – Update -** Nothing to report
11. **To ratify acceptance of quote from Steve Handforth to carry out additional work, including a site visit ([REDACTED]) plus VAT & Expenses –** It was proposed that the acceptance of the quote be ratified.

Proposed Cllr B Feltwell Seconded Cllr J Wheals All in favour CU

12. **Alison Farmer Report – Landscape Advice on Brockley Wood Application -** The cost of this report is being met by a group of residents for which we thank them very much.
13. **To ratify cheques to CAS £219.52 Insurance Fireworks & Royal British Legion £100 – Chaplet –** As already stated in Matters Arising original cheque for fireworks has been cancelled and re-issued to be paid tonight – it was proposed that the cheques be ratified.

Proposed Cllr B Feltwell Seconded Cllr J Wheals All in favour CU

14. **To approve Six Month Accounts April-September 2024 –** Deferred until December meeting
Accounts Working Party had been unable to meet.

15. **To discuss Flooding – Station Road -** Resident had been writing to Suffolk County Council regarding this flooding – the road is disintegrating because of the water. County Councillor Hall has tried to resolve – as has the Parish Council – SCC deem it low priority. The meeting was told a Collins Skip lorry met an articulated lorry coming the other way – it was an interesting watch but it did more damage to the bank. The Clerk was asked to write to the resident telling him it has been discussed but there is nothing we can do at the moment.

Action : Clerk to e-mail resident

16. **To discuss Elan City Warranty Extension -** Following a discussion (a) do we get a discount as we have two SIDS? – is solar panel included? – We don't need support with training. Just parts & labour – it would be £300 pa. Clerk to contact Elan City for more information.

Action: Contact Elan City

17. **To review Risk Assessment –** Deferred until Online Banking is sorted out

18. **To discuss Stile – Footpath -** This stile is on the footpath behind the Village Hall - the gap between the top and the bottom is very narrow it is difficult for shorter people to get their legs over. The stile is the landowners – Bentley Grove. Clerk will contact.

Action: Contact landowner

19. **To discuss Funding re Bentley Bugle –** Cllr Munday told the meeting that the Parish Council had kindly funded the last issue. The accounts have been sorted out – there have been offers from a couple of residents who will be sponsoring printing costs – also a couple of organisations so it should now be possible to be self funding. Take off agenda

20. **To discuss replacement tree – Grove Road/Capel Road –** A discussion took place on the type of tree and it was recommended that we accept Tree Warden's advice and support him in his choice of tree.

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

21. **Printer for Clerk – Update –** Deferred

22. **Lorry Watch - Update -** Five lorries were observed by Cllr Thomas from 1 October to 31 October. Two Collins, one grab lorry (which might have been for someone in the village), one Artic and one pantechnican. Cllr Munday told the meeting SCC have advised of the different lengths of vehicles as part of our traffic survey – she gave Cllr Thomas diagram.

23. **Affordable Housing – Update –** Defer until the New Year – until Government plans and decisions are clear.

Action: Contact Hastoe re meeting

24. **To discuss 20s Plenty Campaign –** Cllr Jones told the meeting this is still going on – nothing to report at the moment.

25. **Traffic Calming – Weight Restriction– Update -** See 6 above

26. **Playing Field Society –** Firework event 2 November was a huge success – thanks to Tim, Jan and Team. Clerk to seek quotes re cutting fields/ Play Area/Gym/hedge and land next to 28 West Mill Green. Next meeting is 6 February 2025.

27. **To receive Correspondence–** The Clerk drew Councillors' attention to the following E-mails: -
3 x resident re Station Road - 3 x resident Queries re minutes 4 x Suffolk County Council
Pothole prevention programme/problem report bollard Church Road/reply to request from Bentley PC re Brockley Wood/Road closure Church Road will not be taking place on 11 November 2 x Tree Warden Tree to replace Horse Chestnut on Grove Road/SCC Ecologist &

Brockley Wood Planning application 1 x Hastoe re-schedule Zoom meeting 1 x resident Trees & hedges Grove Road- 1 x Babergh District Council David Pizzey re oaks Island level crossing application 1 x Speedwatch Co-ordinator – resignation 1 x Headway -Grant application – 1 x Ed Seeley Gardening – Parish Grounds Maintenance

Contact Ed Seeley for quote re Playing Fields

28. **Exchange of information by Councillors and matters for consideration at future Meetings–**
Cllr M Bamford – Wanted to know if residents are going to be informed re the removal of the Chestnut tree – Grove Road. A notice will be put in the Bentley Bugle and this will be an agenda item at the December meeting. **Cllr Spicer** - Edwards Electrical, Capel Road -are a Car Dealership – you have to book an appointment – this is a change of use. District Councillor Wyman will investigate.

Action: Removal of Chestnut Tree Grove Road
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29. **To Authorise Payments-** The following payments were authorised

101784	Community Action Suffolk	Insurance Fireworks - Cancelled	£219.52
101785	Royal British Legion	Donation – Chaplet - Ratified	£100.00
101786	Suffolk County Council	4 Traffic Surveys in Bentley	£1026.00
101787	Bentley Community Shop	Defibrillator Electrode Pads	£84.00
101788	Business Services @ CAS	Insurance - Fireworks	£219.52
101789	Peter Baldwin	October grass cutting	£150.00
101790	HMRC	Clerks Tax	£33.40
101791	Mrs J Scott	Clerks Salary – Oct	£615.76
	NB- Expenses include BACS	Minus tax	<u>-£33.40</u>
	payment to One Suffolk (£60)		£582.36
	for Annual Website Hosting	Plus Expenses	<u>£132.08</u>
	Renewal.		£714.44

It was proposed that these be paid en bloc.

Proposed Cllr J Wheals Seconded: Cllr M Munday All in favour CU

To confirm date of next scheduled meeting - Parish Council Meeting Thursday 5 December 2024 at 7.30 pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: