

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON AT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL ON -THURSDAY 11 JULY 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

Also, in attendance -, County Councillor Georgia Hall – will be arriving late - District Councillor D Busby, Tree Warden, Footpath Warden, - 8 members of the public

Cllr Munday 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 M Bamford, `Cllr Schumacher, District Councillor H Davies, Speedwatch Co-ordinator, Cllr Wheals sent apologies which were not picked up until after the meeting.
2. **To receive Declaration of Interest relating to Agenda items:** - Cllr Spicer declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 11 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 13 June 2024 -** The minutes were approved as a true record and were duly signed.

Proposed Cllr K Spicer Seconded Cllr J Campbell All in favour CU

5. **Matters arising from the Minutes – Page 1233 item 5** – Springy Prancer knobs have been received – cheque to be passed for payment tonight. **Page 1234 item 7** Babergh were contacted re Birch Tree Silver Leys - BDC will not undertake tree removal or pruning, solely due to a perception that a tree is too tall or too big. **Item 8** – AGAR has been sent to PKF Littlejohn and Public Rights Notice put on notice boards. Rest covered by agenda items

Public Session

District Councillor D Busby - Briefing Notes for Town & Parish Councils had been received and circulated to Councillors - **APPENDIX 1** in the minute book and on the website. District Councillor Busby told the meeting the last week's election had put Babergh under tremendous pressure to get things organised. The Election Officer was asked why are results are so slow and it is because the nomination papers were thick so makes counting slower. He will be at the Garden Party on Sunday on the Jig Saw stand raising money for Alzheimer's.

County Councillor G Hall – Had sent her Monthly report which has been circulated to Councillors **APPENDIX 2** in the minute book and on the website.

District Councillor H Davies - Had sent her Monthly report which has been circulated to Councillors **APPENDIX 3** in the minute book and on the website.

6. **Planning Applications –**

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

DC/24/01952

Ruseley, Hazel Shrub

Permission has been granted

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

DC/23/05656	Land at Grove Farm & Land East of the Railway Line	Construction of a solar farm (up to 40 M~W export capacity) with ancillary infrastructure & cabling, DNO substation, customer substation & construction of new & altered vehicular accesses.
--------------------	--	--

Cllr Munday told the meeting this application has gone out for re-consultation for public response. Bentley Parish Council have obtained an extension until 6 September to respond. There is one document uploaded on the planning portal by the applicant in answer to questions raised. There don't appear to be any changes to the design or layout. Everyone has got the right to comment – residents who have commented before have been written to by Babergh. We can put a reminder on Social Media that this item will be discussed at our September meeting.

7. **Brockley Wood Planning Application** - A High Court Judge is looking at the Judicial Review that has been submitted and we are expecting to make a public announcement shortly. District Councillor Busby remarked that they have stopped working on the site at the moment but was told that that work was not part of the planning application.

8. **Report by Exception – Tree Warden/Footpath Warden/Capel Library/ Bentley Long Barn /Footpath Warden & Speedwatch -** **Tree Warden** – Nothing to report – except next Wednesday a number of Rotary members and helpers are planting trees at Whitehouse Primary School – more hedging is being put in. **Footpath Warden** – Reported that it looked as though Footpath 12 had been cut – The Clerk read out an e-mail received from County Cllr G Hall - SCC have spoken to the landowner about this recently and on many occasions previously in terms of the anti-social behaviour he suffers from. You will be aware that we are a very small department in terms of funding but a very large one in terms of the size of the network. We simply have to prioritise the limited resources we are given and this route hasn't been included on the cutting schedule before now. Our contractors have just completed the first cut. The start date of the second cut has yet to be decided, as it is dependent on growth conditions, but the 6 week period will usually commence around the beginning of August. We are hoping to include this route (given the sensitivities) as part of that (and then in future years) but we are not in a position to do anything before that. The landowner was made aware of this. Footpath Warden will endeavour to trim it back in the winter. Tree Warden reported that the bridleway by Hazel Shrub is very overgrown and needs to be cut. **Speedwatch** – In the absence of the Speedwatch Co-Ordinator the Clerk read out his written report **Appendix 4** in the minute book and on the website – 5 Sessions have been held since operations restarted 1 at Village Hall – No vehicles report, 2 at War Memorial- 7 vehicles reported – 2 at Capel Road when 19 vehicles were reported – The highest recorded speed was 42 mph. **Bentley Long Barn** – Nothing to report.

9. **Overgrown Footpath 12** – See 8 above Footpath Warden

10. **To discuss Change of Bank and Online Banking -** It was suggested that the Parish Council transfers its banking to Lloyds they are very receptive to charities and organisations. Tattingstone have changed to Lloyds – Clerk will contact Tattingstone's former Clerk for information. Leave on the agenda.

Action: Contact Former Tattingstone Clerk
--

11. **To discuss gate into School Field from The Case -** If the School Field is used as a car park for special occasions at The Case – the car park is accessed from the main road. If there was a gate from the shop/pub car park into the field it would be a lot easier. The Case would get costings for the gate and to reinforce the ground. It was thought that this might restrict use of the field. A discussion followed. The Clerk pointed out that we had to get planning permission for the gate from The Case to the Play Area – she will check with Babergh Planning. Leave on Agenda.

Action: Contact Babergh Planning

12. **March Minutes – Clarification** - Resident e-mailed re item in the March Minutes re the topping and shaping of the overgrown Yews by G & K Tree Services in the Closed Churchyard cost £1,160.00 which was paid by cheque on 7 March. The March minutes read £192 - which was Clerk's mistake – the minutes are overtyped and the £192 in the February minutes were not changed to £1,160 in the March minutes.
13. **Horse Chestnut Tree – Junction Grove Road/Capel Road** – This tree is looking very sick at the moment – do we need an opinion from an arboriculturist? The Tree Warden told the meeting that the tree won't die. Do we want to replace it with a mature oak as we have lost two major oaks in the village? It needs to be replaced with a native tree. Tree Warden will come up with some suggestions for a feature tree.
14. **To discuss purchase of printer for Clerk** – The Clerk's printer was purchased in 2009 and not compatible with the laptop. It was proposed that we find out about a new printer whether it be coloured or mono.

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

15. **Lorry Watch - Update** - Cllr Thomas reported that 45% of Speedwatch reports show no significant patterns. There has been no real activity – Cllr Jones told the meeting he has been monitoring for three weeks and seen nothing. There was increased activity through the village when they closed the A14 for four Sundays in a row. SCC carried out a survey – we asked them to defer to September but they didn't get the e-mail – they are going to come back in September and do it again. Cllr Thomas was told what he was doing was very useful – this information will be on-going – we need as much information about types of vehicles etc -keep up the good work.
16. **Dangerous trees in the copse** – Cllrs Feltwell told the meeting the plan is to remove all the trees if the grant application is successful – we should know by the end of the month. In Local Green Space documents there is another grant from Babergh if we are not successful with this one. The Bentley School children will be asked to suggest possibilities for the Copse, Otley College will look and critique the plans before the Parish Council decide on the future. This item will be on future agenda's as Wild Life Sanctuary in the Copse.
17. **Affordable Housing – Update** – We have given feedback on the proposed sites and need to get in touch with Hastoe. We have received no response regarding the housing in Grove Road.

Action: Contact Eddie Bacon at Hastoe
--

18. **To discuss 20s Plenty Campaign** – Cllr Jones was told that the Motion has been sent to Suffolk County Council. He told the meeting that if road markings are removed - it makes people uncertain and they do slow down. Not renewing the road markings will save money. CIL money can be used for this purpose – SCC do not replace advisory marking now only mandatory and warning signs.
19. **Traffic Calming – Weight Restriction– Update** - As previously mentioned in 15 above SCC will be carrying out another survey in September. SCC are liaising with us – they won't replace the faded 30 mph road marking but we can pay with CIL money to have them reinstated.
20. **Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan (PIIP)** – The list needs to be carefully considered and costed and we need time to plan this properly. We also need to look at CIL money to make sure we have our basic requirement.
21. **Playing Field Society** – The managing of the School Field rules and regulations were discussed at the meeting preceding the Parish Council meeting also the School Notice Board. The best news of the evening was that the Firework Event will hopefully take place this year on 2 November providing extra help is forthcoming.
22. **To receive Correspondence**– The Clerk drew Councillors' attention to the following E-mails: 4 from residents 2 x Minutes Feb/March/Permission to enter School Field/Path/Pavement obstruction/Closure of Church Road 1 x Village Hall – First invoice since Covid for hall use 1 x

County Councillor Georgia Hall re Footpath 12 5 x Babergh re solar farm 1 x Birch tree on Silver Leys 1 x District Councillor Dave Busby re Solar Farm. 1 Summer Holiday activity programme.

23. **Exchange of information by Councillors and matters for consideration at future Meetings– Cllr Munday** – Church Road Closure by County Broadband for 12 days – This will have a big impact on the harvest – we need to make representations to County Councillor Georgia Hall and contact County Broadband as there will be in the region of 85 grain lorries and 77 potato lorries using the diversion route through quiet lanes. It would be far better to get County Broadband to do the work during the October half term – the harvest will be finished and the school will be closed. Clerk will contact County Councillor Hall, County Broadband, A B Installs and Suffolk County Council.

Action: Agenda item for September Meeting – To discuss funding re Bentley Bugle.

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

101761	Babergh District Council	Dog & litter bin empty 1-4-24 to 31-3-25	£910.80
101762	Action Play & Leisure	Ball ends for Springy Prancers	£92.88
101763	Peter Baldwin	May & June grass cutting	£300.00
101764	Bentley Village Hall	4 Sessions	£60.00
101765	HMRC	Clerks Tax	£25.00
101766	Mrs J Scott	Clerks Salary – June	£615.76
		Backdated April	£86.66
		Minus tax	<u>-£25.00</u>
			£702.42
		Plus Expenses	<u>£69.35</u>
			£736.77

It was proposed that these be paid en bloc.

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

25. **To confirm date of next scheduled meeting** - Parish Meeting Thursday 5 September 2024. Preceded by Playing Field Society Meeting at 7pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: