

# BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON AT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL ON -THURSDAY 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024 AT 7.30 PM

### Present

Cllr M Munday - Chairman	Mrs Fiona Coley – (Stand in Clerk)	Cllr K Spicer	Cllr B Feltwell
Cllr M Bamford	Cllr J Campbell	Cllr A Thomas	Cllr J Wheals

Also in attendance - District Councillor D Busby, Tree Warden, Footpath Warden & Speedwatch Coordinator - 2 members of the public

Cllr Munday 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** - Cllr D Jones, Cllr D Schumacher, District Cllr H Davies, County Cllr Georgia Hall.
2. **To receive Declaration of Interest relating to Agenda items:** - Cllr Munday declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning item DC/24/04947, relating to Redwoods.
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 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024** - The minutes were approved as a true record and were duly signed.

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

5. **Matters Arising: Page 1254 item 15** – Flooding Station Road - this was taken off the agenda but resident has contacted Paul West at SCC and was wondering if the Parish Council could send an e-mail reinforcing his comments and giving a bit of weight. **Page 1255 item 23** - Sent an e-mail to Nagasura at Hastoe deferring the Zoom meeting until the New Year. **item 28** - An e-mail has been sent to Enforcement Officer at Babergh re business at Leslie View reply received. Rest covered by agenda items.  
Speedwatch - Three sessions have been held since my last report. One at the Village Hall which was a nil return, one at the War Memorial when one vehicle was reported, one on Capel Road when eight vehicles were reported. The highest recorded speed was 42 mph.'  
Bentley Bridge – E-mail received from Graeme Mateer - once they know the actual start date they will communicate with us and other parties. The design of the scheme is similar to the same design as agreed with David Chenery in 2021.

### *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 - Report was not discussed.

**District Councillor D Busby** - *Cllr Busby apologised for not being present at last month's meeting. He explained that he attended the Innovation Awards night that some local companies had been nominated for. Cllr Busby explained that there is an opportunity to see a presentation on CIL funding delivered via Teams by Babergh and there are some good slides to help people work through any CIL applications.. Cllr Busby confirmed that the Conservation Area designation has been signed off today for consultation. Re Brockley Wood application, he explained that he and Cllr Helen Davies had met with Cllr Andrew Stringer (cabinet member for BDC and SCC) and advised that there was a similar quarry site he was aware of and when the A14 was closed the site was closed. Cllr Busby advised that there is a couple of months before Brockley Wood is decided which will give time for people to campaign. He also confirmed that*

*Cllr Stringer looked at the number of waste sites and SCC have said that there is no need for any more. Therefore no particular need for the proposed waste processing site. It is hoped that this will be brought to a positive end in February 2025. Cllr Busby addressed the speculation in the press about District Councils going to disappear. He confirmed that this is under review and one option could be that Suffolk and Norfolk are combined. He stated that the Government is looking for the best savings and the white paper will come out next week. MB asked if there would be a referendum and Cllr Busby explained that it is unlikely, meaning that it would just be imposed.*

**6. Planning Applications –**

- a) To note decisions of Planning Authority on previous applications **None**
- b) To give comments on any new applications in hand & discuss appeals –

DC/24/04947 – Cllr Spicer proposed, Cllr Feltwell 2nd aif – Cllr Munday abstained.

**Recommend approval**

DC/24/04972 - Cllr Bamford proposed, Cllr Campbell 2nd aif. **Recommend approval**

DC/24/05048 – Cllr Bamford proposed, Cllr Spicer 2nd aif . **Recommend approval**

DC/24/05049 – Cllr Bamford proposed, Cllr Spicer 2nd aif. **Recommend approval**

DC/23/02710 – appeal dismissed - **No Comment**

- 7. **Bentley Bridge barrier and the re-routing of footpath -** *Cllr Munday explained the previous situation in 2021. The work by Network Rail is due to go ahead and the road will be shut for several months. Cllr Munday showed a diagram of what the work would entail.*

**Action:** Clerk to follow up if access will be permitted to pedestrians and equestrian during the works on the bridge when the road is closed to vehicles.

**Action:** Clerk to follow up about the removal of the Oak trees alongside the new footpath that is to be diverted.

- 8. **Potential designation of a Bentley Historic Core Conservation Area - Update** – Resident requested that his property be removed from the proposed area. Cllr Munday explained that the proposed area was agreed by 2 independent heritage experts and that the final appraisal document was now with Babergh District Council for their consideration and that this would be their legal decision. The resident enquired as to whether the Parish Council could object, Cllr Munday explained that this was not like a planning application. Cllr Munday advised that Babergh would hold a 6 week consultation period, and there will be an opportunity to have your say to Babergh District Council. Cllr Munday advised the resident to contact Babergh with his comments during the consultation period. Cllr Munday explained that letters will be sent out to all relevant parties that are affected, over the next week or so. Documents will be published on the PC website and on Facebook. Babergh District Council are planning to hold a public meeting in the New Year, which will probably take place in the Church and will give residents the opportunity to ask officers questions.

- 9. **Report by Exception – Tree Warden/Footpath Warden/Bentley Barn /Speedwatch –**

**Tree warden** - provided an update.

**Footpath warden** – Nothing to add.

Cllr Wheals advised that the village walk did not take place, however the next one would be on New Years day.

**Speedwatch** – Nothing to add.

**Action:** Clerk to contact Highways in relation to the tree at the corner of Grove Road.

**Action:** Put item on the agenda to discuss contacting BDC about the trees on Silver Leys green that need trimming.

- 10. **Change of Bank and Online Banking – Update -** Cllr Munday advised that they are still trying to set up on line banking, the clerk is dealing with this.

11. **To approve six month accounts April-September 2024** – Cllr Munday read out Damion Schumacher's email to agree the accounts.
- Proposed Cllr B Feltwell      Seconded Cllr K Spicer      All in favour      CU
12. **To consider grant applications for insertion into the Budget -** Carry over to next month's meeting.
- Action:** Carry over to January's meeting.
13. **To discuss Draft Budget/Precept** – Carry over to next month's meeting.
- Action:** Carry over to January's meeting.
14. **Recognition of Long Service & Commitment given by Pam Rayment re Bentley Toddler Group**  
Cllr Bamford proposes that recognition is given to Pam Rayment and that maybe a letter of thanks is sent to her. Item to be put on agenda in order to discuss ideas for a gift.
- Proposed Cllr M Bamford      Seconded Cllr K Spicer      All in favour      CU
- Action:** Put on agenda to come up with ideas of how to mark the occasion.
15. **Elan City Warranty Extension- Update -** Clerk to check if solar panel and batteries are included in the price.
- Proposed Cllr K Spicer      Seconded Cllr M Munday      All in favour      CU
- Action :** Clerk to check solar panels and batteries are included in the price.
16. **To discuss purchase of trees, bird & bat boxes** – Colin Hawes stated that *Richard Parmee might provide the trees. Clerk to check if the price quoted includes the trees. A decision was made to spend £200 on bird and bat boxes.*
- Proposed Cllr B Feltwell      Seconded Cllr M Munday      All in favour      CU
- Action:** Clerk to check if price includes the trees.
17. **To Review Risk Assessment** – Agenda item for next meeting.
- Action:** Put on agenda for January's meeting.
18. **Stile/footpath update** – Agenda item for next meeting.
- Action:** Put on agenda for January's meeting.
19. **Replacement tree–Grove Road/Capel Road – Update** Contact Highways to check who owns the land on the triangle before doing anything further.
- Action:** Clerk to contact Highways.
20. **Printer for Clerk – Update** – Payment agreed.
- Proposed Cllr M Munday      Seconded Cllr B Feltwell      All in favour      CU
21. **Lorry Watch - Update -** Cllr Thomas provided an update and Cllr Munday suggested that this is revisited when item 24 is discussed with SCC. Cllr Bamford proposed that the figures have been noted and that a more systematic system is used in the future.
22. **Affordable Housing – Update** – Defer until the New Year
- Action:** Put on agenda for January's meeting.

23. **To discuss 20s Plenty Campaign –** Defer until the New Year

**Action:** Put on agenda for January's meeting.

24. **Traffic Calming – Weight Restriction– Update -** There was a 2 week traffic survey on the main road through the village, and Bentley Hall Rd/Church Rd. Cllr Munday stated that data from National Highways on A12 traffic (from junction 32a to Copdock Interchange) for the same period shows how slow moving traffic on the A12 correlates with an increase in traffic on the village roads. A meeting is being arranged with Highways to discuss the results and possible weight restrictions.

25. **Playing Field Society –** Cllr Munday advised that Jon Haines will no longer be using the playing field which means that he will not be cutting the field. It also appears that the bin is not being emptied and rubbish is being thrown on the ground. Colin Hawes has agreed to empty the bins and Cllr Munday thanked him for that. The purchase of the Maritime containers will be discussed at the next meeting.

**Action:** Approve signage for the playing field at next meeting.

**Action:** Cllr Bamford proposed that a letter of thanks to Jon, also advising him that the containers will be discussed at the next meeting.

26. **To receive Correspondence** – 4 x e-mails – Babergh –Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles Consultation/ Precepts/Adoption of the Supplementary Planning Document/Enforcement Case EN/24/00658 Leslie View - 2 x SALC – Subscription Rises25/25 / Jim Friend Retiring - 1 x Friends of Capel Library Grant application 1 x Elan City – Warranty Extension – 2 x Ed Seeley Gardening – Parish Grounds Maintenance - 1 x Maritime – Bentley Playing Fields – 4 2 x resident x Suffolk County Council Brockley Wood postponed 4 Feb/Loft Insulation discount for everyone in Suffolk & 2 x Bentley Bridge, Church Road – 2 x Resident re Flooding Station Road 1 x Resident Footpath encroachment - Noted

27. **Exchange of information by Councillors and matters for consideration at future Meetings–** Cllr Spicer reported that there has been a fire on the school playing field and litter bins from the pub garden vandalised. Letters need to be sent to individual residents about over hanging hedges on footpaths. Cllr Thomas is going to provide the addresses. Talk to contractors working on Oakleigh, Capel Road about cars parking on verge opposite and obstructions.

28. **To Authorise Payments-** Agreed en bloc

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

29. **To confirm date of next scheduled meeting** - Parish Council Meeting Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 at 7.30 pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

**CHAIRMAN:**

**DATE: 05/12/2024**