

# BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 6 APRIL 2017 AT 7.30 PM

### **Present**

Cllr M Bamford - Chairman      Cllr R Feltwell      Mrs J Scott – Clerk      Cllr J Wheals  
Cllr K Spicer      Cllr K Hutchings      Cllr N Moxey

Also in attendance: -, Tree Warden and Footpath Warden - 3 members of the public

Cllr Bamford welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologised for the slightly late start (7.35pm) due to Playing Field Society meeting overrun. The Clerk received no notification of anyone planning to film or record.

1. **To record apologies for absence:** County Councillor Gordon Jones– Cllr A Graffham Holiday Cllr C Goodwin and Cllr P Cross - illness
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 Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 9 March 2017 -**  
**The minutes were approved as a true record and duly signed.**  
  
Proposed Cllr N Moxey      Seconded Cllr J Wheals      All in favour      CU
5. **Matters Arising from the minutes:** - **Page 857** Notice sent to Bentley Bugle re horse riders wearing high viz jackets at dusk **item 90** – Letter sent to Mr Munday – **Page 858 item 10** Quote for cutting Closed Churchyard requested from Mortimer Contracts **item 11** WI contacted re Litter pick – **Page 858 item 15** – Jo Willis contacted.

## Public Session

**District Councillor J Hinton** – Read to a written report – **Appendix 1** in the minute book and on the Council website. He apologised for missing the meeting last month and explained the reasons why. He reported on another “eventful” month at Babergh but for all the wrong reasons – planning is up in the air – finances are another sore subject – Council tax has risen and no one can tell him where the savings are being made. District Councillor Hinton is still chasing Highways England about the pot holes at the Four Sisters which the Ombudsman for Transport was told, were apparently filled in last year. He held up what looked like a business card which had the top 10 achievements for reporting to Parish Councils – he concluded his report by reading out an e-mail from the Chief Executive regarding Babergh & Mid Suffolk Annual Report Cllr Feltwell told the meeting that Bentley Shop, Shotley Pier Project and Westhorpe Village Hall were filmed for a short video clip lasting 30 seconds. Cllr Bamford asked about CIL payments – Self Builds and Affordable Housing are exempt – Tree Warden said Capel is putting a bid in to Capel Parish Council for CIL money for the refurb of the Reception Area.

6. **Planning Applications**
  - a) **To note decisions of Planning Authority on previous applications**  
  
B/17/00184/FHA      3 South View Green      Permission has been granted
  - b) **To give comments on any new applications in hand** – None received
7. **Report by Exception – Tree Warden/Footpath Warden** – **Footpath Warden** remarked that the application to the Secretary of State regarding closure of the railway crossings is going

forward. The Footpath Society's first walk is this coming Saturday round the village looking at the bluebells – going to two areas not usually open to the public. Start 10 am from Village Hall. **Tree Warden** -Read to a written report – **Appendix 2** in the minute book – reported that a reply had been received from SCC regarding trees on verge in Church Road (adjacent to number 25 Highfields) stating that the work on the holly tree growing through the overhead wires is the responsibility of the relevant electricity company. SCC will sent someone to look at the other trees. **Capel Library:** Friends of Capel Library Committee meeting was held on 4 April – improvements to the reception area were discussed. Forthcoming events calendar was updated and the main points of the latest Suffolk Libraries Report were raised – copy has been e-mailed to the Parish Clerk. The Community Cinema is becoming very popular 71 for “Sully” on March 21 – 47 tickets already sold for United Kingdom showing on 18 April. A Facebook page has been set up by Website Manager which is being used by customers and others. Next meeting 6 June. **Bentley Long Barn** The Trustees are very grateful to the Chairman for writing to Babergh District Council on behalf of the Parish Council expressing extreme concern regarding the continuing deterioration of this unique historic building and urging intervention to secure its structural integrity and preserve its significant ecological importance – the current owner is doing all he can to prevent progress. Cllr Bamford had copied the letter to English Heritage.

- 8 **To Instruct SALC to audit End of Year Accounts 2016/17– It** was proposed that the Clerk contact SALC to audit the end of year accounts.

Proposed Cllr J Wheals                      Seconded Cllr N Moxey                      All in favour      CU

**Action:** Clerk to contact SALC

- 9/11. **To discuss benefit and cost of a Neighbourhood Plan** - CIL would be 25% with a Neighbourhood plan 15% without. It would involve an enormous amount of work and expenditure - any development planned for the village would have to be compliant with CS11 etc regulations will be tighter and may be over-ruled anyway. Cllr Hinton remarked that only three neighbourhood plans are going through at the moment – a Village Design Statement would be simpler it influences change of use style density etc. It was proposed that any discussion on a Neighbourhood Plan be deferred for six months – Agenda item at the October Meeting.

Proposed Cllr N Moxey                      Seconded Cllr K Hutchings                      All in favour      CU

**Action:** Neighbourhood Plan – Agenda item at the October meeting

10. **Grass Cutting Contract – Closed Churchyard** – Mr Baldwin’s quote was acceptable and an order was raised by the Clerk so that work could be started. 8 grass cuts a year April ending December as needed. Maintain footpath & clear churchyard of twigs and fallen leaves autumn and winter twice a year £110 per visit. It was proposed that this be ratified.

Proposed Cllr N Moxey                      Seconded Cllr K Spicer                      All in favour      CU

12. **The Great British Spring Clean – Suffolk 2017** - WI undertaking a litter pick (9) on Monday 10 April – litter picking kit picked up from Babergh – we could keep it and loan it out to neighbouring parishes if there is somewhere to store it – got to let Babergh know. Cllr Wheals is happy to store it.

13. **Traffic Calming – Update** - An e-mail received from SCC regarding signage for the play area which gave details of signs – cost in the region of £800 - was discussed. In view of the recommendation by the Play Area Inspector, it was proposed that we write to SCC and go ahead with the purchase two signs asking for a final price and picture.

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

**Action:** Letter Suffolk Highways.

14. **Babergh Alliance of Town & Parish Councils** - Minutes of the February meeting had been received and several e-mails. This will be kept on the agenda

15. **Affordable Housing – Report on progress - Update:** Hastoe have now heard from Anglian Water and it looks as though things may start progressing.
16. **Playing Fields Society** – A meeting was held before the Parish Council Meeting – the date for the Family Fun Day this year is 10 September – accounts for 2016 were explained. An agreement with Capel Football Club is to be formulated – Firework display, dog fouling and Tesco Groundwork were discussed. Tree Warden has spoken with the grass cutter and asked him to not cut the grass too short one metre around the perimeter. Vertas will contact the Clerk to confirm. Vertas are no longer cutting the School playing Field. Next meeting before June Parish Council Meeting.
17. **To receive Correspondence** – The Clerk drew Councillors’ attention to the following 8 e-mails from BAPTC – e-mail Knowhow Cloud – re forthcoming charge £30 e-mail CAS Membership renewal – this has been renewed – e-mail Report and invoice from Play Safety Inspections re Play Area inspection – e-mail from our Chairman to BDC re Bentley Barn – e-mail quote from P Baldwin – e-mail re litter pick and e-mail from Friends of Capel Library – quotation attached re enhancement of reception area – shortfall of approx. £2K asking PC to reconsider a request for grant aid (Agenda item). **Late Correspondence:** E-mail BAPTC – minutes of the meeting held February 2017 – e-mail – Jo Willis re Fun Day Accounts – e-mail from SCC re Playground signs e-mail – Invitation to free War Memorial Workshop Ipswich 17 May and e-mail from Resident re Traffic census this week outside village hall.

**Acton:** Friends of Capel Library – Grant request – Agenda item

18. **Exchange of information by Councillors and matters for consideration at future Meetings** – **Cllr Wheals** – Had been asked about moving the dog bin at South View Green as it smells. This request has been noted. **Cllr Bamford** – remarked on the ivy on the Chestnut tree/ **Footpath Warden** – reported that he had trimmed the overhanging branches of the shrubs (opposite Play Area) and is planning to take all the cuttings away in the near future and have a bonfire. This will be nearer to the end of the field as the hedge between the Playing Field and the School Field needs trimming back. **Cllr Spicer:** Reported she had been in touch with the East Anglian Daily Times regarding the post box – Clerk to send the e-mail she had received saying it would be another 4-6 weeks to Cllr Spicer.

- 19 **To Authorise Payments** - The following payments were authorised

101230	Bentley Village Hall	Hall Hire Jan/Feb/Mar		£40.00
101231	Play Safety Inspections	Annual Inspection		£120.00
101232	Mrs J Scott	Salary March	£474.24	£515.82
		Minus tax	<u>Nil</u>	
			£474.24	
		Plus Expense	<u>£ 41.58</u>	
				£515.82

It was proposed that these be paid en bloc.

Proposed: Cllr N Moxey                      Seconded: Cllr B Feltwell                      All in favour                      CU

- 19 **To confirm date of next scheduled meeting** – Annual Parish Council Meeting Thursday 18 May 2017 at 7.30 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: