

# *BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL*

---

## MINUTES OF THE BENTLEY 2021 REMOTE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ON THURSDAY 6 MAY 2021 AT 7.00 PM

**Present** - Cllr M Munday – Chairman - 8 members of the public and the Clerk to the Parish Council.  
In attendance was, Cllr B Feltwell, Cllr Spicer, Cllr Perry, and Cllr J Wheals Tree Warden, Footpath Warden & Speedwatch Co-ordinator – County Councillor G Jones & District Councillor D Busby – **Apologies received**, Cllr M Bamford, Cllr N Moxey, Cllr P Cross

1. The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00 and welcomed everyone to the Remote scaled down Annual Parish Meeting - It was explained that the APM should be held between 1 March and 1 June but due to Covid restrictions from tomorrow we are required to hold face to face meetings and there was not enough time to organise the APM. Clubs were therefore, invited to write a written report which will be published on the Parish Council website at the end of the meeting.

Councillor Munday introduced two pupils from Bentley CEVC Primary School who told the meeting about their experiences during lockdown – home learning was hard as there was less support as their parents were also trying to work to and they aren't like the teachers. Although they used blogs and discussions on the website, they missed their friends and teachers – also missed the instant support they receive by putting a hand up in class. The first lockdown was overwhelming- the second was easier because they were used to it but came back to school to re-learn social skills and keeping a safe distance from each other. From the last year they have learnt - home is not always the best work space – don't take things for granted – going outside in the garden or for a walk is good for mental wellbeing and that they didn't need to go to town or the shops. They wanted to return to school to see their friends before they go to Secondary School.

Councillor Munday thanked the Head Girl and Head Boy for their very professional and interesting report she also thanked the Deputy Head for organising before she left the meeting.

2. **Parish Council – Chairman's Report** – The Chairman, Councillor Marianne Munday read to a written report attached to the minutes in the minute book. She told the meeting it has been over two years since the last Annual Parish Meeting with last year's meeting being cancelled due to Covid lockdown restrictions and the last year has shown what tremendous spirit the Community of Bentley have. She went on to thank the team of volunteers, including Annie Owen who helped residents who were self isolating, Pub, Shop, Village Hall, St Mary's Church, Baptist Church, Bentley Bugle for all their efforts to continue services during the pandemic and residents for the fantastic creative, seasonal window displays. There were special thanks for our extremely supportive County Councillor, Gordon Jones, who is sadly not standing for re-election but who has helped and supported us enormously with grants from his Locality Budget and helped achieve very worthwhile projects, many thanks to District Councillor David Busby and Cllr Michael Bamford who has contributed greatly to the work of the Parish Council as Chairman for the last 8 years. She talked about the **Neighbourhood Plan** and gave thanks for the hard work of Nicky Moxey and her team, **Road Safety** with thanks to Speedwatch Co-Ordinator and the team of 10 volunteers who have resumed sessions in the village, **Protecting Wildlife** – thanks to Tree Warden, **Play and Recreation Areas** with the refurbished platform slide and thanked the volunteers who donated materials, renovated and moved and re-assembled the equipment. Thank you also to Playing Field Society Working Party including Tim Hamstead and volunteer parents – re additional equipment on the Village Playing Field – we await news of the Viridor grant to help fund gym equipment supplemented by a grant from the Parish Council. The Parish Council expect another busy year ahead with areas of concern including the barrier proposals at Bentley Bridge, the state of Bentley Long Barn and pylons as part of the recently proposed ATNC line from Bramford into Essex. Cllr Munday ended her report with thanks to the Clerk and wished a safe route out of lockdown for all and look forward to returning to face to face Parish Council meetings in the Village Hall from June.

# BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

---

3. **To Receive County Councillor's Annual Report-** County Councillor Gordon Jones written report had been received and forwarded to Councillors. It is on the Parish Council website and in the minute book. He thanked Cllr Munday for her kind words and was happy to answer any questions. He reflected on his eight years working with Bentley Parish Council and the changes that had taken place with the Community Pub and Shop which have brought the Community together and transformed the Village with the PC and team of volunteers. He was happy to support both from his Locality Budget and also to help to obtain funds from outside sources. Bentley has a fully functioning Parish Council and an impressive list of active societies. – The future is bright – Bentley has the most improved Parish Council in 2013-2021. National Grid, National Rail, A12 Copdock upgrade, speeding and ANPR trials are just a few of the future challenges ahead but you have a great community a smashing village and I wish you all the best for the future.

Councillor Spicer and the Pub Chairman told County Councillor Jones it had been a pleasure to work with him – the Chairman, Councillors and Clerk all agreed with her.

4. **To Receive District Councillor's Annual Report -** District Councillor Busby's written report had been received and forwarded to Councillors. It is on the Parish Council website and in the minute book. District Councillor Busby echoed Gordon Jones' sentiments – he enjoyed working with the Parish Council
5. **Reports from Local People & Organisations – To note any written reports & to received nay presentations for local voluntary groups and organisations -** Reports were received from: Bentley CEVC Primary School, Tuesday Club (who are looking for a Secretary and wish to thank the Parish Council for their donation), Link Lunch Club, Whist Club, PCC Report, Scrabble, Bentley Bugle, Carpet Bowls, School Governors, Village Hall & Recorders, Outdoor Bowls, Speedwatch – Co-ordinator would like thanks to 10 Volunteers recorded, Community Shop, Bentley Bluebells WI.

## **The Chairman thanked everyone for their reports**

- . **Resident** – Thanked the Parish Council for organising for the road to be closed during the Commemoration Service at the War Memorial in November - it has made such a difference.
6. **Resolutions|& Open Forum - To discuss any other Village Affairs and to agree Resolutions as may be appropriate including any matters received in writing by members of the public to the Parish Council. (Advance Notice of any Resolution is preferable, in order to deal more quickly with any matters submitted to the Council and to facilitate enquiries prior to the |Meeting and information gathering).** None received.
7. **Discussion and Open Forum – To discuss and consider any other Village Matter -** None
8. **Date of Next Meeting –** To be confirmed – April 2022

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: