

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE REMOTE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON ZOOM - THURSDAY 7 JANUARY 2021 AT 7.30 PM

Present

Cllr M Munday - Chairman	Mrs J Scott – Clerk	Cllr B Feltwell	Cllr M Bamford
Cllr N Moxey	Cllr K Spicer	Cllr J Wheals	Cllr D Schumacher
Cllr C Perry	Cllr P Cross		

Also, in attendance - County Councillor Gordon Jones, District Councillor D Busby, Tree Warden and Footpath Warden

Cllr Munday welcomed everyone to the meeting – the agenda states that the meeting is open to the press and public via Zoom by prior request to the Clerk - the Clerk received one notification.

1. **To record apologies for absence:** None received.
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 Remote Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 3 December 2020** - The minutes were approved as a true record and will be duly signed.

Proposed Cllr M Bamford Seconded Cllr N Moxey All in favour CU

5. **Matters arising from the Minutes: Page1037 item 12** – ICO cheque (£40) sent in August has now been cashed. **Page 1039 item 17** MD Tree Services have been informed that their quote was accepted (£650) they are scheduling January over the next few days and will let us know when they are coming to do the work. Clerk to inform the residents of 4 Case Cottages once the information is received. Rest covered by Agenda items.

Public Session

County Councillor G Jones – had sent his written report for December which had been circulated to Councillors – **APPENDIX 1** in the minute book and on the website and was happy to answer any questions. He wished everyone a Happy New Year and told the meeting of the four vaccination hubs – East Bergholt (Constable Country Medical Practice – Hadleigh (Hadleigh Health Centre) – Sudbury & Gt Cornard (Hardwicke House Surgery) and Lavenham (Lavenham Branch of Long Melford Practice) – Should be taking in people from Monday. He reported that Quiet Lanes overall budget had been increased by £50K and ANPR – if Bentley want to put in an application to take part in the ANPR and state the pole positions an e-mail needs to be sent saying we want to be involved. -SID poles are high priority. He was told the grant (£500) for people in need needs publicity and was asked where it is coming from. He will chase up the white lines at the Bergholt Road junction and the Oakleigh Development –PC’s concerns re another entrance near the difficult junction at Bergholt Road with pedestrians accessing the Play area, shop and pub - he was given the number of the Planning Application. The Clerk asked if he could check if Bentley were on the list for filling the grit bins – she had been chasing to get them filled and was told they would be re-filled this week – this will be investigated - County Cllr Jones left the meeting.

District Councillor D Busby – Joined the meeting – He had sent Councillors Briefing notes for Town & Parish Council January 2021 which had been circulated to Councillors – **APPENDIX 2** in the minute book and on the website. He spoke of the cabinet meeting to discuss budget before it goes to full Council. Consultation on the Joint Local Plan has finished now waiting for the outcome.

Resident: - Was concerned about Vertas – grass cutting of the playing field – Maritime deal with the pitches – Vertas cut the three metre wild area round the perimeter – they cut a metre off the wild area last time they cut. – Clerk will give Vertas contact details (phone no). Drainage of the field to be an agenda item at the March meeting.

Action: E-mail County Cllr Jones re ANPR - Clerk to contact Vertas – Drainage of the Field – Agenda item

6. Planning Applications –

a) To note decisions of Planning Authority on previous applications –

DC/20/04739

Holly Oak, Hazel Shrub

Reserved matters have been approved.

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

DC/20/05939

Woodfield, Bergholt Road

Application for works to a tree protected by TPO BT278 – Fell 1 No Oak (T41) Twin stemmed tree is dying back, major deadwood had been removed in 2018, remaining branches are dying back further approximately 20% of the canopy is dead. Replant with a standard Oak close to the stump.

It was proposed that Tree Warden be delegated to look at the Oak and his comments sent to Babergh.

Proposed Cllr M Bamford Seconded Cllr D Schumacher All in favour CU

The Clerk drew Councillors attention to the Discharge of Conditions and Application for a non material application relating to B/17/00003 Oakleigh on Babergh website. A discussion took place on this application even though the Parish Council is not invited to comment as the application has been approved - District Councillor Busby told the meeting they can write to the Planning Officer and stress any problems ie dangerous state of the road ahead, concerns about heavy goods vehicles turning into the site etc and request a site inspection with the Parish Council, himself and the Planning Officer. Clerk will draft out e-mail.

Action: E-mail Planning Officer
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7. Report by Exception – Tree Warden/Footpath Warden/Capel Library/ Bentley Long Barn

Tree Warden –The Woodland Trust trees delivered in November 2020: 30 (3 species/10 of each) have been given Simon Faiers of Hazel Shrub House who will use them to plant a copse on his land. Bentley Community Orchard: At the PC meeting held on 9 January 2020, I mentioned that Sandra Bond of Dodnash Fruit Farm had given me permission to use part of her land to start a community orchard. Discussions continued during 2020 that resulted in a suitable plot of land being chosen for this scheme. Progress made since it began with the WI planting a “Williams” pear tree on 10 December. A further step forward was made this month when three Bentley residents each offered to buy a fruit tree for the orchard. **Friends of Capel Library** – Due to the Government’s lockdown measures all Suffolk Libraries are closed until further notice. **Bentley Barn** – At the December PC meeting I said I would contact John Norman with the view to him writing an article about the barn for the EADT. I confess that I have not yet done this and offer my apologies. Cllr Bamford reported that tiles are now missing on the roof. We need to inform the current Environmental Heritage Officer asap. District Councillor Busby will inform. **Footpath Warden** –Missing finger posts have been sorted. Another tree fell down in Holly Wood and has been cleared. The footpath across the Park reported by Cllr Spicer -the electric fence can be lifted with the handles – it is all clear and signposted so is all acceptable. A discussion followed on the footpath – there is a map of footpaths and bridleways on the website

under Our Village heading. Network Rail - Looks as though just one crossing will be closed one near the triangle is to close other two are staying open.

8. **Provision of dog bin at Potash Lane** – The Chairman met with the landowner and residents and came to an agreement regarding the siting of a dog bin in Potash Lane. Babergh have been informed and we are waiting for their agreement. The Clerk will inform the landowner when the bin is to be installed.
9. **To set Precept & Sign Precept Charging Authority Form** – The e-mail asking Councils to hold precept setting meeting between 8 and 29 January 2021 had not been received. As a result of uncertainties Babergh were recalculating the Council Tax base and will not be formally requesting the precept until they notify us of the confirmed tax base. The Clerk, and Cllrs Cross and Schumacher were of the opinion the precept should remain the same as last year. A discussion followed and it was thought the tax base would not change dramatically - it was therefore, proposed that the Precept be set at £14,500 and that the Precept Charging Authority Form be signed shortly after the meeting with the minutes.

Proposed Cllr M Bamford Seconded Cllr P Cross All in favour CU

Action: Precept Charging Form to be signed

10. **To instruct SALC to Audit End of Year Accounts 2020/21** - It was proposed that the Clerk contact SALC to arrange an internal audit of the 2020/21 Accounts in April/May.

Proposed Cllr P Cross Seconded Cllr N Moxey All in favour CU

Action: Clerk to contact SALC to book audit slot

11. **To appoint Responsible Financial Officer** - Councillors proposed that the Clerk be appointed the Responsible Financial Officer.

Proposed Cllr P Cross Seconded Cllr D Schumacher All in favour CU

12. **Joint Local Plan – Update on Representation by Places4People on behalf of Bentley PC** - Places4People have been commissioned to represent us at the hearing – they have put in 6 presentations on our behalf. re Church Road, and new Station Road area extension. The consultation has ended and it is now up to the Inspectors.

13. **To discuss empty Grit Bins** - The Clerk had been chasing to get the bins filled and has finally been informed the bins will be “re-filled” this week – she asked County Councillor Jones’ help see above to make sure this goes ahead.

14. **Traffic Calming – SID Poles – Update** – Councillor Munday reported that County Councillor Jones has already informed the meeting that the SID poles are now high priority. Three new poles are to be installed with one pole extension. Underground utilities have been investigated and David Chenery will give as a date.

15. **Road Markings, Capel Road/Bergholt Road Junction** - Cllr Munday reported that County Councillor Jones was onsite – Cllr Schumacher told the meeting that the big pot hole had been filled. Concerns were expressed about walkers wearing black and using earphones. The Clerk will send a notice to Bentley Bugle urging walkers to wear high viz jackets so they can be seen when walking at dusk.

Action: Notice Bentley Bugle re walkers

16. **Speedwatch – Update** - Councillors thought that Speedwatch had been out at least once since the last meeting so hopefully the new equipment had performed okay.

17. **Quiet Lanes –Update** - Cllr Munday reiterated what County Councillor Jones had mentioned previously – that the Quiet Lanes budget had been increased by £50K as there had been a 50% greater take up than originally envisaged. Proposal of Designation notice will be issued by Suffolk County Council – it will be displayed in the village and in the EADT with 21 days to make representation to SCC who will make the final decision.

18. **Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr Moxey reported that we are in waiting phase again re SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment). They propose what they are going to assess, which goes out to consultation with Statutory Consultees - should finish on the 22 of this month. Then they write a Scoping Report (concentrating on Church Road and the Fruit Farm should hopefully be finished by end February/March so we might just get the full Plan to BDC in time for a May referendum if these are allowed to go ahead. We may not need to run the Regulation 14 consultation again (unless the SEA finds something we have overlooked) so will need the £1K agreed by Parish Council to pay for the referendum.
19. **Affordable Housing** - Cllr Moxey informed the meeting that she had very briefly spoken to Hastoe – not a lot can happen right now.
20. **Playing Field Society** – Footpath Warden told the meeting that as part of the Working Group he had been to Chelmondiston to look at zip wires and exercise equipment (approx. £10K for zip wire and £6½K for three pieces of equipment – there had only been 10 responses to the notice on the website which was disappointing – the notice will be displayed again. A discussion took place on the drainage of the field – do we need to consider a radical programme for drainage. Resident was unhappy about the state of the school field – the gate at the end of Case Lane is the official entrance to the Playing Field and people should be encouraged to use it - this is between Maritime and the school – the only place on the field not flooded was the playing pitch - Jon Haines to be invited to the February meeting to discuss drainage. Play equipment & drainage on March Agenda.
21. **To receive Correspondence** – The Clerk drew Councillors’ attention to the following E-mails – e-mails from East Bergholt PC, Raydon PC and resident re Quiet Lanes - EE increase in Broadband charges (£6.77 increase) – Suffolk Highways re filling grit bins & advance notice of highways scheme C425 closed at junction with C456 Bentley Hall Road. **Agenda item February Meeting**– residents agreeing to siting of dog bin. - Access to bridle paths – Bentley Manor – **Agenda item at February meeting** – Ipswich BMX Club asking for help. E-mail St Marys Church - trees in closed churchyard - concerned about lime tree branch and 19 yew trees need trimming quote from J Tremaine for £150 for work. – **Agenda item**

Councillors then discussed writing to Suffolk Highways re advance notice of highways scheme for C425 saying there is concern re visual impact, Quiet Lanes and road access for farm vehicles – asking them to give it some time for discussion – proposed Quiet Lanes need passing places. Also to contact landowner saying we would be pleased to come up with an equitable solution - agreed parking area – suggestion for CIL money?

22. **Exchange of information by Councillors and matters for consideration at future Meetings**
- None
23. **To Authorise Payments** - The following payments were authorised

101501	Peter Baldwin	Leaf clear Closed C/yard		£160.00
101502	SALC	Chairman Training – Cllr Munday		£120.00
101503	Cllr N Moxey	Zoom Subscription -January		£14.39
101504	HMRC	Clerk’s Tax		£9.60
101505	Mrs J Scott	Clerks Salary December	£520.00	
		Minus tax	£9.60	£568.39
			£510.40	
		Plus Expenses	£57.99	
			£568.39	

It was proposed that these be paid en bloc.

Proposed Cllr D Schumacher Seconded: Cllr K Spicer All in favour CU

24. **To confirm date of next scheduled meeting** –. - Parish Council Meeting Thursday 4 February 2021 @ 7.30 pm. Preceded by Playing Field Society Meeting at 7.00 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.22 pm.

CHAIRMAN:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. H. ...' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

DATE: 5th February 2021