

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON AT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL ON -THURSDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 7.30 PM

Present

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

Also, in attendance - County Councillor Georgia Hall, District Councillor D Busby Tree Warden, Footpath Warden and 3 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. A risk assessment had been carried out for 9 Councillors and up to 24-28 members of the public with seating 1 metre plus apart.

1. To record apologies for absence: Cllr K Spicer
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 6 January 2022 - The minutes were approved as a true record and were duly signed.

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

5. Matters arising from the Minutes - Page 1096 item 5 - The request made to the LHB team from County Cllr Gordon Jones, was only to recover the road markings that did not meet the required criteria under the SCC maintenance programme. These works consisted of 2No. “Slow” and 2No. Speed Roundels. - **Page 1097 item 8** - The signed Precept Charging Authority Form was sent to Babergh on 11 January 2022 **item 10** Nelson Potter contacted - Oak bench. ordered -£427.50 (same price as the one for Play Area) – cheque to be passed for payment tonight **Page 1098 item 11** – SALC contacted re Internal Audit – it will be on a first come first served basis – same as last year. The Clerk informed Councillors that she had re-declared Bentley Parish Council with the Pensions Regulator. Rest covered by Agenda items.

Public Session

County Councillor G Hall -. Was happy to take any questions. She reported that SCC had waived fees for Platinum Jubilee events on Sunday 5 June 2022 – all applications must be received before 11pm on Sunday 27 March 2022 Traffic management will consist of one road closure sign and an advance warning sign which may be delivered to the chosen drop off point, up to Thursday 2 June 2022. Any applications received after 27 March may still be processed but costs will not be covered by SCC. Bentley road marking - still in a queue.

District Councillor D Busby – Had sent Councillors Briefing Notes – February which had been circulated to Councillors – **APPENDIX 2** in the minute book and on the website. He spoke of Budget – 2% increase this year. New social housing development in Brantham (9 new homes) – 102 new homes have been built in the last 12 months. The energy efficient grant £1.9m from the Government enabling 80 low income homes to be energy efficient. Babergh & Mid Suffolk Councils have been chosen for a pilot to ensure neighbourhoods have a say on planning – particularly to get communities involved and encourage them to get a Neighbourhood Plan. Omicron grants were also mentioned which need to be applied for by 18 February.

Resident – Where is the bench going to be sited on Silver Leys. Two concrete plinths for the Play Area and Silver Leys will be done in-house.

6. **Planning Applications –**

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

DC/21/06493	Holly Oak, Hazel Shrub	Permission has been granted
APP/D3505/W/21/3276691	Land off Hazel Shrub, Hazel Shrub	The Appeal is dismissed

- b) To give comments on any new applications in hand – None received

7. **Report by Exception – Tree Warden/Footpath Warden/Capel Library/ Bentley Long Barn /Footpath Warden & Speedwatch - Tree Warden–**

Recent strong winds have caused large dead tree branches to fall around the Playing field – they will be collected & put on the bonfire a few days before Fireworks night. England’s ancient woodland is being re-mapped at 0.25 hectare scale organised by Natural England - using contractors - by Desktop analysis and fieldwork – The Tree Warden hopes to take part having carried out surveys in the ancient woodlands of Bentley several times for their flora and fauna. The Woodland Trust tree & hedging saplings are gradually being distributed with the help of Rotary Club Ipswich – the aim is to have them planted by the end of February. . Bentley Community Orchard trees have been delivered – the first opportunity for those who have purchased trees to plant them is 6 February between 12 noon & 4pm. Holes have been dug & supporting stakes & protective netting will be provided. There will be further opportunities to plant at a later date but no later than the end of February. If anyone is unable to attend & are happy for someone else to plant their tree please contact the Tree Warden. - **Friends of Capel Library** –The AGM was held on 29 January. At present the Committee comprises 4 Trustees the fifth having stepped down a few days before the AGM. Three of the Trustees are Bentley residents – the ideal number is nine so with fewer Trustees to call on events have been curtailed. Jenny Patch the interim librarian reminded those present at the meeting that Suffolk Libraries is a charity & informed us that grants will be reducing this year – a new Suffolk Libraries Fund Manager has been appointed by the Charity. Jackie Harman (former Library Manager) is going to continue operating the Cinema Evening – next film The Last Bus on 15 February. As there has been little expenditure during the Covid outbreak and no equipment has been purchased the Trustees will not need to call on Bentley or Capel Parish Councils for a grant this year. Only outstanding item is film projector service. In March in support of Suffolk Libraries there will be a Cakes & Craft event at the library and also plan to have a stall at both Capel Fun Day & Bentley Tudor events. Another quiz night is planned for the autumn. **Bentley Barn** – Councillors had been informed by e-mail of an article in the EADT in which Heritage England referred to over 60 Suffolk listed buildings being at risk, amongst which was Bentley Barn - **Footpath Warden** – Nothing to report. **Speedwatch** - 7 sessions held - 24 vehicles reported - 1 Nil return - None at the Village Hall - 6 at War Memorial - 18 at Capel Road - Highest speed was 42 mph. Pleased to report the two new volunteers are now on board and operational.

8. **Play Area – Annual Playground Inspection** – The inspection is due in March and it was proposed that the inspection be undertaken at a cost of £120.

Proposed Cllr B Feltwell Seconded Cllr P Cross All in favour CU

Action: Contact David Bracey Playground Inspections
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9. **To Approve Nine Month Accounts – April – December 2021 -**

Clerk/RFO reported Councillors had been issued with a copy of the nine month Receipts and Payments 2021/221 - Receipts for 9 months for year 2021/22 amount to £22,936.92 this figure includes precept £14,500, VAT repayment £1,816.71, interest (£1.00), £3,500 Locality Budget for Maritime FC - £258.00 Babergh parish grant, £1,664.87, CIL monies & £1196.34 Fireworks. Total payments over the 9 months included general admin £6,508.95 which includes Clerks salary/expenses, Zoom payments etc, grants under the power of S137 £800, S19 £200 – (S142 (Citizens Advice) £100, – grass cutting/leaf clearance –closed churchyard £1,285.00 - unplanned expenditure £8,000.00 Terrain Aeration, £110 for Broadband leaflets and £120 to repaint Bentley Parish Council sign on notice board otherwise payments are within budget. There were three outstanding cheques amounting to £453.00. Current Account Balance at 30 December £6,678.15 - Family Fun Day Tracker Account £4,396.68 (includes firework accounts) and Parish Council Tracker account £9,699.25. It was proposed the accounts be accepted.

Proposed Cllr M Munday Seconded Cllr M Bamford All in favour CU

10. **To Receive Internal Control Report -** This document had been discussed at a Zoom meeting with the Finance Working Party - Cllr Schumacher was happy to sign it off. Cllr Moxey picked up a couple of small changes – yes had been missed and date needed changing to 2022. With these changes it was proposed that the document be accepted.

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

Action Cllr Schumacher to sign the document which will be put on the website

11. **Request to Fund new Village Defibrillator Pad (£57) -** The Pad pack for the defibrillator has to be replaced when it expires – It was proposed that the Parish Council fund the pack just purchased (expiry date October 2024) at a cost of £57 including VAT and again in October 2024.

Proposed Cllr N Moxey Seconded Cllr C Perry All in favour CU

12. **To discuss renewal of Play Area Lease –** Councillors were aware there was only two years left on the Play Area Lease and in view of the time it took to get the lease in place originally (2011-2014) it was proposed that a formal request be made to Suffolk County Council to renew the lease. It was also agreed to ask County Councillor Georgia Hall to keep an eye on it for us.

Proposed Cllr B Feltwell Seconded Cllr P Cross All in favour CU

Action: Contact Suffolk County Council & County Cllr Georgie Hall

13. **To agree format of Annual Parish Meeting –** Following a discussion it was proposed that the format of the Annual Parish Meeting be changed to a more social gathering. Clubs will be asked to submit their reports in advance which will be put on the (website same as last year). Clerk will advise Clubs of the changes when the invitations are sent.

14. **To discuss re-printing Six Country Walks from The Case is Altered –** From March onwards the Footpath Warden will see if the book is still correct. The meeting was told that Peter Utton had updated three of the walks. Cllr Feltwell has a copy of the CD which he will pass over to the Footpath Warden. Leave on the agenda.

15. **To discuss Improvements to War Memorial –** Clerk had not yet managed to get a quote for removing the ivy from the tree at the War Memorial. Ongoing.

16. **To discuss Community Fibre - County Broadband/Openreach -** Peter Chapman told the meeting that following the leaflet drop there were 35 interested residents - out of a potential 400 that was not very encouraging and a bit disappointing. Broadband is the future – but it was difficult to get people engaged. Following a short discussion it was decided to put an item “This is an opportunity to discuss better Broadband” as an agenda item at the Annual Parish Meeting. The Chairman thanked Mr Chapman for his hard work on this project.

Action: This is an opportunity to discuss better Broadband – Agenda item A P Meeting

17. **Purchase of Projector - Update -** Deferred

18. **Traffic Calming – SID/ANPR/Road Markings – Update -** No further news on SID, ANPR or road markings. A new pump is being installed at the Capel Underpass.

19. **Playing Field Society – To discuss Surface for Gym Equipment –** Three quotes have been obtained for the gym equipment – Action Play & Leisure is the preferred supplier – they installed the Play Area equipment and rubber matting – after some discussion it was agreed that the matting which allows the grass to grow through would be a better alternative to the artificial grass and very expensive rubberised surface. The proposal made at the Playing Field Society meeting is once the Parish Council receive CIL money for the gym equipment and providing the surfacing costs did not exceed £2½K - to give the Clerk authority to place the order.

Proposed Cllr M Bamford Seconded Cllr C Perry All in favour CU

Action: Clerk to place order once CIL money is received.

20. **Neighbourhood Plan –Update** - Waiting for Inspector’s Report. Cllr Moxey thought that the April meeting might be a good opportunity to review the Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan – The Annual Parish Meeting would be a good opportunity of going back to the Community for their input. Agenda item at the APM – Get involved in your village – we want your ideas.

Action: Agenda item at APM – Get involved in your village – we want your ideas

21. **To receive Correspondence** – The Clerk drew Councillors’ attention to the following e-mails – M & D Tree Services – re tree at Grove Road –asked to quote for ivy on tree at War Memorial – 3 x re Neighbourhood Plan 1 – David Bracey re Playground Inspection. 1 x Babergh Spring Clean Suffolk 1 x Bouygues ER re LED upgrade on our street lights!!! 1 x Bentley Village Hall - free hire charges for long term users - 3 x resident re Dog incidents with horses, New laws for passing horses & Bus Stop - 1 x SCC Temporary closures of public rights of way 1 x BBC re our stolen post box. 2 x Footpath Warden – quotes for gym equipment surface – 1 x Bentley Bowls need to replace their antiquated mower,

22. **Exchange of information by Councillors and matters for consideration at future Meetings**
Cllr Bamford – Bentley Outdoor Bowls need to replace their 40 year old mower at a cost of £1,200. They are looking for an ex gratia payment from the Parish Council maybe from CIL money. Cllr Moxey said that Bowls England have a grant for lawn mower costs. This will be an agenda item at the next meeting To consider how the Parish Council might support the Bowls Club. **Cllr Feltwell** - found the cost of matting for the Play Area - £450 plus VAT so hopefully matting for the gym area should be well within £2K - **Cllr Wheals** – Concerned that no-one had come forward to take on the Bentley Bugle and asked if the Parish Council could employ someone to do it. A discussion followed and Cllr Munday agreed to keep a skeleton Bugle going until someone could be found to take it over.

Action: Agenda item – How the Parish Council can support Bentley Outdoor Bowls.

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

101567	Nelson Potter (Dodnash)	Oak Bench – Silver Leys.		£427.50
101568	Peter Baldwin	2 nd Leaf Clear		£165.00
101569	Mrs J Scott	Clerks Salary December	£520.00	
		Minus tax	<u>00.00</u>	
			£520.00	£1,018.55
		Plus Yearly Room Allowance	£450.00	
		Plus, Expenses	<u>£48.55</u>	
			<u>£1,018.55</u>	

It was proposed that these be paid en bloc.

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

- 24.. **To confirm date of next scheduled meeting** –. Parish Council Meeting Thursday 3 March 2022 at 7.30 pm.

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

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: 03/03/2022