

# BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON AT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL ON -THURSDAY 5 JANUARY 2023 AT 7.30 PM

### Present

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

Also, in attendance - County Councillor Georgia Hall, District Councillor D Busby, Tree Warden, Speedwatch Co-ordinator & 8 members of the public

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Clerk received no notification of anyone planning to film or record this meeting

1. **To record apologies for absence** Cllr M Bamford & Footpath Warden
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 1 December 2022 -**  
The minutes were approved as a true record and were duly signed.

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

5. **Matters arising from the Minutes Page 1146** - E-mail thanks have been sent to Ray Bloomfield for cutting the verge round the edge of the playing field and repairing the bench in the Community Orchard. **Page 1148 item 17** The Domain name for Bentley PC is being registered with Freethought (cheque to be signed tonight). **Page 1149 item 23** - Map showing dog and litter bin locations were sent to Babergh District Council. Rest covered by Agenda items

## Public Session

**County Councillor G Hall** -. sent her written report which has been circulated to Councillors – **APPENDIX 1** in the minute book and on the website. She commented on Warm Spaces – there isn't one yet in Bentley – Council Tax increase 3.99% which is going towards adult care – (Band B £47 pa – Band D £57 pa) – Devolution – which will give the powers needed to help achieve net zero ambitions and create the greenest County.

**Resident:** Told the meeting about the Veteran Oak Tree at Hazel Shrub - situated on what appeared to be the Highways verge - that was nearly cut down on 10 December – he alerted the Tree Warden and the Parish Council and the contractors were persuaded to stop until Babergh District Council could be contacted. The contractors had no signage or PPE and were very intimidating – this tree was being taken out so the owner of the site's caravan could be manoeuvred onto the track. David Pizzey was contacted to try and get a TPO put on the tree but as it was on the highway the Clerk was referred to SCC. On the 27 December the contractors turned up again to remove the tree – they were told it would be discussed at the PC Meeting on 5 January and they left the site. It was reported to SCC by the Clerk who asked them to investigate asap. However, at 6.30 am on 30 December the oak was cut down and the verge damaged - the fence was also damaged and the repair has been screwed to the resident's fence post. There is asbestos on the site and there are also two other large oaks on that property that could be in danger. The Tree Warden told the meeting he had approached David Pizzey 3 or 4 years ago because the tree was under threat. District Councillor David Busby was asked how we get a TPO put on a tree – we are unique in Bentley and have a lot of veteran oaks that need protecting.

**District Councillor D Busby-** Wished everyone a Happy New Year and reported on the budget - merger with Mid Suffolk Council which is going to be discussed again - work as one Council - the proposed development at Capel being withdrawn – JLP is on hold at the moment and Sudbury Belview Park. He told the meeting that Copdock PC was impressed with what had been done so far re Brockley Wood application and will support us. SW Ipswich Planning meeting next Thursday – parishes around SW Ipswich to work together on Planning issues. BDC Council tax £5.17 – 2.99%

**Resident:** Told meeting that objections (Brockley Wood) have been listed after the closure date. Yet another response has gone astray. Waiting for planning officers to visit and walk the footpaths for about two months. County Councillor Hall was told about the struggle re documents for this application and the fact that major Consultees like Suffolk Wildlife Trust had not been consulted. Tree Warden had contacted the Tree Officer at SCC but as yet had received no response he said that SCC Ecology Report was not satisfactory – this application will have a critical effect on dormice and badger sets. A letter of complaint and a FOI re the waste processing was discussed. County Councillor Hall will investigate.

**6. Planning Applications –**

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

<b>DC/22/02041</b>	Bentley Hall, Bentley Hall Road	<b>Approved conditions</b>
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b) To give comments on any new applications in hand –

<b>Appeal Ref:</b>	Windy Farm, Capel Road	Full Planning application – Erection of 1 No detached dwelling (following demolition of existing annex & outbuilding)
<b>APP/D3505/W/2</b>		
<b>2/3303184</b>		The installation & use of a general purpose building: a spray shop building together with some additional hard standing along with the installation of an underground diesel tank. Retrospective application of the installation & use of a secondary weighbridge, welfare unit four lighting columns & haul road.
<b>SCC/0127/22B</b>	Folly Farm, Tattingstone	

**NO COMMENT**

Councillors had no comment on either of these items

Proposed Cllr M Munday	Seconded Cllr P Cross	All in favour	CU
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<b>DC/22/06176</b>	Maltings House, Church Road	Application of Listed Building Consent – Repair of listed pump
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**NO COMMENT**

Proposed Cllr N Moxey	Seconded Cllr P Cross	All in favour	CU
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<b>DC/22/06039</b>	Land Adjacent to 4 & 5 South View Green	Erection of 1 No single story detached dwelling with associated parking (amended scheme to DC/21/01223)
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**RECOMMEND REFUSAL –** On the grounds of over density of development and impact on neighbours - Planning Inspector refused the appeal on the previous application and the Council think the revised proposal would still cause moderate harm to the character and appearance of the area, and unacceptable harm to the living conditions of occupiers of the neighbouring properties, No 4 & 5 South View Green and No 10 West Mill Green.

Does not support the Development Design criteria in Policy BEN 3 of Bentley Parish Council’s Neighbourhood Plan - b) materially harm the amenities nearby residents by reason of noise, smell, vibration, overshadowing, loss of light and outlook, other pollution (including light pollution), or

volume or type of vehicular activity generated, and/or residential amenity unless adequate and appropriate mitigation can be implemented; c) produce designs that respect and address the character, scale, height and density of the locality; Also concern that it doesn't meet parking criteria of BEN 5 – Minimum 2 parking spaces per dwelling

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

**DC/22/02041**                      Land at, Capel Grove, Capel      Outline Planning Permission (Access to be  
**WITHDRAWN**                      St Mary                                      considered all other matters reserved) –  
Residential development of up to 519  
dwellings, provision of up to 5000 sqm of Class  
E (Commercial, business & service), C2  
(Residential Institutions), early learners centre,  
extension to existing playing field, open space,  
allotments & associated infrastructure

**SCC/0105/22B** - Brockley Wood application - To discuss Arboricultural Report & review of Air Quality Environmental Impact Assessment etc. County Councillor Georgia Hall was informed of the struggle Bentley Parish Council was experiencing with SCC regarding this application – important documents that couldn't be downloaded or being uploaded by SCC well after the consultation had started including the Arboricultural, Air Quality and Geology Reports. Copdock Parish Council were keen to have a Zoom meeting with Bentley Parish Council and the Clerk will arrange asap.

It was proposed that Bentley Parish Council would send a comment to SCC regarding these latest reports and the impact that 'drip-feeding' documents has on the fairness of the consultation

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

**Action:** Clerk to arrange Zoom meeting with Copdock Councillors asap

7. **Report by Exception – Tree Warden/Footpath Warden/Capel Library/ Bentley Long Barn /Footpath Warden & Speedwatch - Tree Warden**– sent in a written report which has been circulated to Councillors – **APPENDIX 2** in the minute book and on the website. He reported that following his emails to SWT & PTES (Planning application SCC/0105/22B) he e-mailed the SCC Tree Officer, the SCC Ecologist, Suffolk Naturalists Society & our District Councillor and gave them all the flora, fauna and other information about the proposed site as well as asking them to offer their support to our objection. **Dodnash Fruit Farm** - He attended meeting at DFF AONB where he demonstrated & helped construct a stag beetle loggery (using apple wood) for stag beetles that are known to inhabit this site. A second visit to discuss wildlife improvement is planned for January 17. He attended the threat to veteran Oak at Hazel Shrub on 10 December & asked the tree surgeon and the owner not to fell it until they had contacted David Pizzey to which they agreed – after he left the site, he learned that they had removed all the tree's branches leaving it in such a condition that it was no longer worthy of a TPO – it was later cut down. **Friends of Capel Library** – AGM is on 28 January. Trustee Meeting 8 February Next Film Mrs Harris Goes to Parish 17 January. Tree Warden will stand down in June 2023 having completed 10 years as a Trustee. **Bentley Barn** – No report available -. **Footpath Warden** – All the reports submitted via the Highways reporting tool in July 22 (items 00366736, --737, --738, ---739, --734) seem to have been removed from the reporting tool without being actioned. All reports re-submitted. **Speedwatch** – Only three sessions have been held due to the Xmas break and the weather. Two at the Village Hall, one of which was a NIL return, while the other had 3 vehicles reported and one session on Capel Road when 14 vehicles were reported. The highest recorded speed was 42 mph. The annual review of Agreement forms for volunteers requested by the Police has been carried out. Two volunteers have officially retired. That leaves 12 including me. However, 4 of those are on long term absences. Finally, I have been informed that the Police and/or the speed enforcement van will be out and about towards the end of the month although I cannot confirm if they will be visiting Bentley.' **Footpath Society** – Reported a very successful New Year's Day Walk - 18 people two children and a dog. – they intend to do the same each season – four walks a year.

8. **To consider grant applications for insertion into the Budget** -The Clerk told the meeting that they had received applications from Friends of Capel Library, Citizens Advice -Ipswich, Headway, EACH and MAGPAS. Following a short discussion, the following was proposed.

Friends of Capel Library	£250
Citizens Advice - Ipswich	£100
Headway	£100
EACH	£100
MAGPAS	£100

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

<b>Action:</b> Inform the above
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9. **To review & agree Draft Budget** - Cllrs had been issued with a copy of the proposed Budget – & 8 month accounts - the Finance Working Party had gone through the budget with the Clerk via a Zoom meeting and were happy with the projected figures – The Clerk explained that amounts reserved for purchase of Fencing round the gym equipment & Printing 6 Walk booklet £2K plus £3K for other projects, also included is a £5K contingency for additional training etc and £1,500 to pay for NHP Referendum - Fees for internal and external audits have also been included. Administration costs amount to £10,419.69 - Bank Statement Balances for 8 months) --Current Account £20,617.60- Parish Council Tracker Account £9,703.21 and Family Fun Day Tracker Account £7045.83 (£1,178.76 is to be transferred to Current Account – Cost of fireworks & Insurance). Cllr Schumacher told the meeting he was happy with the uplifts and extra increases – in terms of the in terms of the financial position which is healthy it was therefore proposed that the budget be accepted.

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

10. **To set Precept & Sign Precept Charging Authority Form** - The Clerk, Cllrs Cross and Schumacher were of the opinion the Precept should remain the same as last year giving a Council Tax increase for 2023/24 of -2.11%. 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 Munday      Seconded Cllr D Schumacher      All in favour      CU

11. **To approve Six Month Accounts April -September 2022** – Clerk/RFO reported Councillors had been issued with a copy of the Half year Quarterly Receipts and Payments 2022/23 - Receipts for the 6 months for year 2022/23 amount to £32,282.31 this figure includes precept £14,500, VAT repayment £2,738.86, interest (£5.41), S106 money £1, 159.59 & CIL monies 12,950.13. Total payments over the 6 months included general admin £4,322.98 which includes Clerks salary/expenses etc, grants under the power of S137 £550, S19 £400 – (S142 citizens Advice £100), – grass cutting/leaf clearance –closed churchyard £750 – Gym equip £9,750- unplanned expenditure £550 Ivy removal Tree at War Memorial, Printing Recipe Book ££270 & £116.48 Bugle software, Tudor Fair £560, Fireworks £959.17 and £50 for wreath for Queen at War Memorial otherwise payments are within budget. There were five uncleared cheques amounting to £498. Current Account Balance at 29 September 2022- £10,772.68 – Family Fun Day Tracker Account £4,398.48 which includes firework accounts and Parish Council Tracker account £9,703.21. It was proposed that the accounts be accepted

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

12. **To ratify cheque – Canon – (Leaflet re Brockley Wood - £60)** - It was proposed that the payment be ratified.

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

13. **Rowan Acres – Removal of Trees & Hedges** - Chairman explained this was a problem with the size of fencing that had been installed – Enforcement have been on a site visit and an e-mail

was read out from the Enforcement Officer it was agreed to hold fire and wait until it is completed.

14. **To discuss Oak Trees at Hazel Shrub** - Already discussed see Public Session above.
15. **Purchase of projector – To agree cost** - The cost of the projector is £175 – it was agreed it was useful at meetings and it was proposed that Bentley Parish Council purchase it.

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

16. **To consider funding WIFI at the Village Hall –** It was proposed that we ask the Village Hall Jubilee Fund for a grant to fund this.

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

17. **To discuss traffic – Collins Skips** - Following a short discussion it was proposed that a letter is sent to Collins Skips to reinforce the agreement that lorries do not come through the village, especially as they are planning to expand the business.

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

<b>Action:</b> Letter to Collins Skips
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18. **To discuss the School Field** - The Chairman told the meeting she had been contacted by a Governor of the Primary School asking if she would attend a meeting – to include SCC Officer - to discuss the use of the school field. Finances are extremely tight and they are having to fund the taking down of the trees in the copse. The meeting has not yet taken place.

19. **Renewal of Play Area Lease – Update –** Nothing to report.

20. **Improvements to War Memorial –Litter Bin & Bench replacement & Tree** - The Clerk told the meeting that the litter bin and posts etc had been ordered. A cheque for £399.18 to be passed for payment tonight to pay pro-forma invoice. Mortimer Contracts had quoted £100 plus VAT to install. She had also ordered the bench. It was proposed that Mortimer Contracts quote be accepted and the Clerk was instructed to get them to quote for installing the bench.

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

<b>Action:</b> Contact Mortimer - quote to install bench
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21. **Traffic Calming – SID’s/ANPR -Update** – Both SIDs are working. Not yet received any ANPR data.

22. **Playing Field Society – Fireworks Display –Accounts -** The Clerk reported - £2,664.69 had been paid into Account 70075744 – Fun Day Tracker account. Fireworks - £959.17 and Insurance £219.52 had been paid from PC account 30101192. £1,178.76 will be transferred into this account from the Fun Day Tracker leaving a total in this account of £5,867.00. There was concern re children jumping on the Buddleia tree and breaking the branches. The Village Fair was discussed.

23. **Neighbourhood Plan –Update** - Now the Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted this item can be replace with Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan (PIP).

24. **To receive Correspondence** – The Clerk drew Councillors’ attention to the following E-mails. E-mails received. SAA Smaller Authorities – Littlejohn has been appointed as Bentley Auditor – Tree Warden – SC Ecology response – 2 x James Carlidge, Resident x 1 & Copdock Parish Council x 2 – Brockley Wood application – BDC x3 NHP Referendum- declaration of results – Formal adoption of NHP & Planning enforcement Rowan Acres. - Resident x 3, SCC x 2 & David Pizzey x 1 Oak tree behind Ruseley – Mortimer Contracts – quote install litter bin £100 plus VAT.

25. **Exchange of information by Councillors and matters for consideration at future Meetings – Cllr Munday** – Told the meeting she is to continue permanently with Christine Campbell to

produce the Bentley Bugle. There will be one more Adobe invoice and there will be a change to a much cheaper software. **Cllr K Spicer** – Suggested a visual Village Diary – which would show events going on in the Village – it will need a frame - which would be displayed outside the shop - to put it in and she asked if the Parish Council would be agreeable to funding it. This will be an agenda item at the February meeting

<b>Action:</b> Agenda item at February meeting
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**26. To Authorise Payments** - The following payments were authorised

101642	Canon	Leaflet Printing Gravel Pit - <b>Ratified</b>	£60.00
101643	Suffolk County Council	Solar SID Pole	£570.00
101644	Cllr M Munday	Software – Bentley Bugle	£19.97
101645	Freethought	Domain Name Registration	£155.00
101646	ESE Direct	Litter bin & fixings – Pro Forma invoice	£399.18
101647	HMRC	Clerk’s tax	£33.00
101648	Mrs J Scott	Clerks Salary - December	£529.10
	.	Minus tax	<u>-£33.00</u>
			£496.10
		Plus, Expenses	<u>£81.23</u>
			<u>£577.33</u>

It was proposed that these be paid en bloc.

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

**27. To confirm date of next scheduled meeting** – Parish Council Meeting Thursday 2 February at 7.30 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

**CHAIRMAN:**

**DATE:**