

# BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON AT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL ON -THURSDAY 6 JULY 2023 AT 7.30 PM

### Present

Cllr M Munday - Chairman    Mrs J Scott – Clerk    Cllr B Feltwell    Cllr M Bamford  
Cllr J Wheals                    Cllr N Moxey            Cllr A Thomas    Cllr D Schumacher

Also, in attendance - District Councillor D Busby, Tree Warden, Footpath Warden & Speedwatch Co-ordinator, - 7 members of the public

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the agenda was the business to be discussed this evening – anything on the agenda can be discussed in the Public Session but will be limited to three minutes. The Clerk received no notification of anyone planning to film or record this meeting.

1. **To record apologies for absence** - County Councillor Georgia Hall, .Cllr K Spicer and, Cllr D Jones –(Hol).
2. **To receive Declaration of Interest relating to Agenda items:** - Cllr Feltwell declared that he would leave the meeting when the application for Woodfield was being discussed.
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 Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 8 June 2023**  
- Cllr Bamford queried. item 12 in the minutes - To agree Petrol Expenses re Play Area – as he had been cutting the grass in the play area for the last six months. The Clerk told him that the resident had called her – she hadn't realised that he had not been doing it for the last six months. Clerk will contact Maritime to see if they would take it on as there had been no response re the advert in the Bugle. Cllr Bamford will continue until we find someone else. The minutes were approved as a true record and were duly signed.

Proposed Cllr B Feltwell      Seconded Cllr J Wheals      All in favour      CU

5. **Matters arising from the Minutes** -- Register of Members Interest Forms have all now been sent to Babergh – **Page 1177 item 5** – Bentley Bowls Club – cheque returned – they have had a name change Bentley Outdoor Bowls Trust – cheque to be re-issued tonight. – **Page 1179 item 8** - Audited accounts have been sent to the External Auditor PKF Littlejohn – **1180 item 11** - Cllr A Thomas attended Councillor Basic Training Course – cheque £72 to be passed for payment tonight –. Rest covered by agenda items.

## Public Session

**County Councillor G Hall** - Had sent her written report for May which has been circulated to Councillors – **APPENDIX 1** in the minute book and on the website.

**District Councillor D Busby**- Asked if Councillors' Briefing Notes for Town & Parish Councils had been received – it has been received and circulated to Councillors **Appendix 2** in the minute book and on the website. Councillor Busby told the meeting he had been in Bournemouth all day and raced back to attend this meeting – he explained it has been a slow start for the Council as half are new to the Council – the first Cabinet Meeting is on Monday so things should start to improve after that.

6. **Planning Applications –**

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

<b>DC/22/06039</b>	Land Adjacent to 4 & 5 South View Green	<b>Permission has been refused</b>
<b>SCC/0127/22B</b>	Folly Farm, Tattingstone	<b>Application has been approved</b>

Cllr Feltwell left the room

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

<b>DC/23/02710</b>	Woodfield, Bergholt Road	Application of outline planning permission (access points to be considered, appearance, layout, landscaping & scale to be reserved) Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Erection of 1 No one & a half storey dwelling including creation of new vehicular access
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**RECOMMEND REFUSAL** - On the grounds that the development is outside the BUA – the development is within the setting of the AONB and would materially change the approach to the village from the south as well as impact the view of Great Martins Wood (the AONB boundary) from the road - the outline plan implies the requirement to remove two mature trees. All oaks along that stretch of road have TPO's on them. In addition, the Arboricultural Officer has raised concerns about damage to a further TPO oak due to the creation of the new driveway.

Proposed Cllr N Moxey      Seconded Cllr D Schumacher      5 in favour      1 abstention

c) **SCC/0105/22B - Brockley Wood application** – Clerk read out e-mail from SCC Planning Officer who is expecting the Regulation 25 submission in the next week or two. He believes the Agent is looking to get the information submitted in sufficient time for the application to be presented to the September Meeting of the County Council. Clerk to e-mail SCC to find out how much notice we will be given and clarify who is allowed to speak.

<b>Action:</b> Clerk to contact Suffolk Planning
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7. **Report by Exception – Tree Warden/Footpath Warden/Capel Library/ Bentley Long Barn /Footpath Warden & Speedwatch - Tree Warden–.**

Reported that at the previous parish meeting he mentioned the Community Orchard where the WI Williams Pear and one apple tree had started to bear fruit. During the recent long, dry spell, he and Sandra Bond have focussed on keeping the trees watered and Sandra has kindly added more compost. At his last visit the water tank supplied by Don Baker ran dry – he has been promised a full one to replace the empty one. Also, at the previous meeting he referred to a request from a Bentley resident to visit her garden to identify trees and if possible give their approximate age. This was completed on 30 June. A lot of young oaks have sprung up at the Oakleigh development (16 houses)– Tree Warden is going to ask permission from the land owner to remove them and plant elsewhere. **Friends of Capel Library** - As previously mentioned Colin Hawes is resigning as a Trustee and attended his final meeting on 28 June 2023. He will however, continue to volunteer at Capel Library events where possible and continue to report on this event at Bentley Parish Council meetings. **Footpath Warden** – Reported that finger posts may be replaced in August. **Bentley Long Barn** - Nothing to report. **Speedwatch** - There have been three sessions since the last meeting. One at the Village Hall when one vehicle was reported, One at The War Memorial when two vehicles were reported, and One on Capel Road when 16 vehicles were reported. The highest recorded speed was 50 mph. Surprisingly that was recorded at the War Memorial. Pleased to report one new volunteer, who is currently undergoing the Police check.

The Chairman told the meeting that the latest SID data had been circulated -and published on the website so everyone can see it. This data shows the SIDS are working as the majority of people approaching the SID (85%) are within the 30 mph.

**Resident** - Remarked about the e-mail from Anglian Water – re Bergholt Road – which had been put on social media and the Parish Council website - *have spoken to everyone locally (residents within the road closure, residents in Hazel Shrub and also the residents near to Dodnash Nelson Potter)* She lives in Hazel Shrub but had not been contacted by Anglian Water, neither had any of her neighbours. It was thought that the e-mail meant those affected by the water main not traffic. Clerk will contact Anglian Water and clarify.

**Action:** Contact Anglian Water to clarify who they visited

8. **To discuss Landscaping Issues – Rowan Acres** – This was discussed at the January 2022 meeting following a visit from Babergh Enforcement Officer – it was agreed at that meeting to hold fire until the build was completed – they don’t seem to be following Reserved Matters. It was decided to leave this on the agenda to be fully discussed at the September meeting
9. **To discuss Fly Tipping Incident – Hazel Shrub** - On 27 April 2023 Hazel Shrub was blocked by rubbish strewn across the road by an unknown person. It was suggested that Quiet Lanes had become a target for fly tippers and Bentley Parish Council were asked to discuss whether to take down the Quiet Lane signs or put another sign below saying “No fly tipping CCTV in operation”. SCC has been contacted regarding the Quiet Lane signs and have advised Bentley Parish Council to reply to the resident telling him that he should contact Suffolk County Council regarding the designation of the road as the Highway Authority with his concerns rather than the Parish Council. It was proposed that the Clerk write to the resident.

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

**Action:** Clerk to write to resident

10. **To discuss recent Vandalism in the Village** – Graffiti sprayed onto the 30mph sign Capel Road was reported to SCC via their Reporting Tool – they have replied that they believe at this time it doesn’t warrant remedial action. There has been some recent active vandalism in the village – a fire in Hazel Shrub due to a firework. Residents were asked to keep vigilant and report any vandalism to the Clerk who will contact the Police.
11. **To discuss 20’s Plenty Campaign** - In terms of reducing speed in the village 20’s Plenty Campaigners across Suffolk are urging SCC to reduce speed limits. Wales have adopted it –but restricting speed right up to our boundary from 60-20 mph is not feasible. A discussion followed. We now have to decide as a Parish Council whether we want to support this campaign – it needs more discussion – it doesn’t address the Quiet Lane issue – we need a Working Party. It was proposed that the Working Party consist of – Cllr Jones, Speedwatch Co-ordinator and Cllr J Wheals – it will take a bit of work and could include traffic calming. We need an individual plan for the village – there is nothing to stop us approaching Highways for their recommendations – work out what our priorities are – we have now got a timetable – new contractor is taking over from Keir in September (Milestone) – Highways have got to be involved.

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

12. **To discuss how woods can be protected but be accessible** – It was agreed this was about footpaths and wheeled vehicles and Freedom to Roam. Tree Warden told the meeting a footpath is a highway over which the public has a right of way on foot only. It was therefore, decided to take this off the agenda
13. **To discuss request from Bentley Bowls Club Trust for an increase in their grant** – A request had been received from Bentley Bowls Club Trust asking if Councillors could increase their donation - as the Trust had to purchase a new mower at a cost of £1,650 and they are now really short of cash. Councillors wanted to know if Bentley Bowls Club Trust was now a charity – they would also need to see current accounts and know how much the Trust was looking for. There are grants available that Bentley Bowls Club Trust could apply for. Keep on the agenda

14. **To discuss flooding issue – Station Road -** Nothing to report – Take of the agenda
15. **Protection of Trees in Bentley - Update -** Tree Warden confirmed that trees had been logged when the Hedgerow Survey had been undertaken and were digitalised – Veteran Trees had been mapped for the Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Munday will try and track down the digitalised information – it can become an update of the Neighbourhood Plan.
16. **To discuss quotes for Plastic Post and Dog Bin-** Mortimer Contracts have a green plastic 25L Fido dog bin in stock which they can supply and install on a metal post for £200 plus VAT. Alternatively, if we want something bigger and more long lasting they can supply and install a 45L metal bin on a metal post for £325 plus VAT. To remove litter bin from fence, supply metal post and install £100 + VAT. It was also reported that the post has rotted on the dog bin in Bergholt Road. It was proposed that the Fido dog bin be installed on a metal post (£200 plus VAT) – the litter bin be removed from fence and installed (£100 plus VAT) and a metal post be purchased for the dog bin in Bergholt Road.

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

<b>Action:</b> Clerk to contact Mortimer Contracts
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17. **Renewal of Play Area Lease/School Field & Copse – Update –** Nothing to report.
18. **Improvements to War Memorial – Working Party to maintain area around War Memorial - Update** – Nothing to report
19. **Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan (PIIP) – Utilisation of CIL monies –** Cllr Moxey reported 71 total responses – 21 online and 50 by form. There were 11 suggestions and a number of comments. By far the most popular was road safety – repair existing road markings – this could be passed onto Suffolk Highways sub Committee – bench under the village sign, backing on the village sign, bench in The Link and more gym equipment. After some discussion it was decided to go back to residents to refine their choices - Cllr Moxey will collate so it can go in the Bugle and on Facebook – hopefully get a result by September. Clear footpath on Capel Road- this is not actually a footpath – Cllr Bamford & Footpath Warden will attempt to clear – Clerk reminded them to let her know when they do for insurance purposes.
20. **Traffic Calming – SID Data, ANPR - Update** – SID Data has been circulated. ANPR is coming to the village 11 September to 18 September. SID's are definitely doing the job.
21. **Playing Field Society – Purchase of Equipment for events-** Cllr Thomas had met Sovereign Play re surface for gym equipment - we await a quote. Tim Hamstead told the meeting he had now purchased 10 tables, 3 gazebos & 3 sets of sides – 2 pop up gazebos – 3 sides which are in the container.
22. **To receive Correspondence** – The Clerk drew Councillors' attention to the following E-mails. -mail SALC – AGM is on 19 July – 2 x National Grid re East Anglian Green Project – 1 x CEVC Primary School re fence along footway Capel Road – asking for support with repairs – E-mails from Bentley Outdoor Bowls, MAGPAS, FoCL & letters from EACH & Citizens Advice – thanking PC for donations – Citizens Advice have asked us to do a Charity Gift Aid Declaration. 1 x e-mail from PKF Littlejohn – Auto response re accounts, 1 x Bentley Village Hall - Defibrillator for use with Cardiac Arrest – 1 x Maritime – re grass cutting 1 x Ordnance Survey – OS licence (customer) number is changing - 1 x resident re overgrown hedge, landowner was contacted and the hedge was being cut on 5 July. 3 x Suffolk CC – Problem reports – East End Road – pothole should be done within 21 days – Capel Road – Tree and Sign – No remedial action at the present time!!! Email from Anglian Water re works in Bergholt Road – put on website and social media
23. **Exchange of information by Councillors and matters for consideration at future Meetings–**  
None

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

101687	SALC	Councillor Basics Training	£72.00	
101688	Tim Hamstead	Invoices for tables & gazebos	£1,988.89	
101689	Bentley Bowls Club Trust	Replacement cheque re name change	£200.00	
101690	HMRC	Clerks Tax	£29.80	
101691	Mrs J Scott	Clerks Salary - June	£572.43	
		Minus tax	<u>-£29.80</u>	
			£542.63	£640.80
		Plus, Expenses	<u>£97.65</u>	
			£640.80	

It was proposed that these be paid en bloc.

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

**25 To confirm date of next scheduled meeting** – Parish Council Meeting 7 September 2023.  
Preceded by Playing Field Society Meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

**CHAIRMAN:**

**DATE:**