

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL THURSDAY 9 MAY 2024 AT 7.30 PM

Present

Cllr M Munday - Chairman Mrs J Scott – Clerk Cllr B Feltwell Cllr M Bamford
Cllr J Wheals Cllr K Spicer Cllr A Thomas

Also in attendance: Tree Warden, District Councillors D Busby & H Davies & 2 members of the public.

The outgoing Chairman Cllr Munday welcomed everyone to Bentley's Annual Parish Council Meeting and apologised for the slightly late start. The Clerk received no notification of anyone planning to film or record this meeting.

- To Elect Chairman for Forthcoming Year** – It was proposed that Cllr Munday be elected Chairman for the forthcoming year to continue her excellent service. Cllr Bamford said she had been a fantastic Chair over the last few years and the Clerk and Councillors agreed. There were no other nominations. Cllr Munday was willing to stand for one more year to see through issues for Bentley that were ongoing at the moment and that she felt responsible for seeing through. She was therefore duly elected – Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed and witnessed.

Proposed: Cllr M Bamford Seconded Cllr A Thomas All in favour CU

- To appoint Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year** – It was proposed that Cllr Feltwell be elected Vice Chairman. There were no other nominations. Cllr Feltwell was willing to stand and was duly elected. Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed and witnessed.

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

- To record apologies for absence:** Cllr D Jones (Hol), Cllr J Campbell
- To Receive Declaration of Acceptance of Office Forms** - The Clerk accepted the completed Declaration of Acceptance of Office Forms.
- To Receive Declarations of Interest relating to Agenda Items** – None received
- Dispensations – to consider written requests for dispensation of disclosable pecuniary interest in matters relating to Agenda items** –None received.
- To appoint Council Representatives** – The Tree Warden, Footpath Warden, Cllr Munday and Cllr Wheals were all willing to carry on and it was proposed they be elected en bloc.

Mr C Hawes – Tree Warden

Mr T Hamstead – Footpath Warden

M Munday –Website

Cllr J Wheals – Folly Farm Representative

Clerk – Village Correspondent

Proposed: Cllr M Bamford Seconded Cllr B Feltwell All in favour CU

- To approve payment of subscriptions for 2024/25** - It was proposed that the SALC membership fee be paid

SALC £393.29 Community Action Suffolk Membership free

Proposed: Cllr M Munday Seconded Cllr J Wheals All in favour CU

- To approve minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4 April 2024** – The minutes were approved as a true record and were duly signed.

Proposed: Cllr K Spicer Seconded: Cllr B Feltwell All in favour CU

- 10 **Matters Arising from the minutes –: Page 1225** – Pothole opposite the Play Area was reported but unfortunately, at this time SCC are unable to take further action as this does not meet their intervention criteria. They will, however, continue to monitor the location as part of their routine inspections. – **item 10** – Village Hall Trustees informed that PC will pay half Wi-Fi monthly cost to be added to monthly hall charge **item 12** – Carpet Bowls have been informed of their grant – **item 13** – Neighbourhood CIL Report has been sent to BDC. Rest covered by agenda items

Public Session

County Councillor Georgia Hall had sent her written report which has been circulated to Councillors – **APPENDIX 1** in the minute book and on the website.

District Councillor David Busby had sent his written Annual Report which has been circulated to Councillors – **APPENDIX 2** in the minute book and on the website. He spoke about the four year term being beset by financial concerns – one of the issues being car parking fees which will be sorted out and will help to reduce the shortfall – Joint Local Plan – First Part- which in his opinion fails to protect that which is dear to us but over protects against other Housing developments. Locally there have been planning battles over solar farms and BDC will continue to have battles throughout the next three years. The second part of the JLP – allocation of sites is being worked on now – so if you have any sites in mind. Due to Covid there is a build -up of outstanding maintenance work on the Council House Portfolio which needs to be addressed. He thanked County Councillors Helen Davies and John Whyman for giving his parishes valuable support – he ended his report by telling the meeting that Babergh along with Mid Suffolk had won Council of the Year.

Resident: Told the meeting that he was driving back to Bentley from Capel and a lorry was parked on the left hand side of the road (on some of the pathway) – unfortunately he was blinded by the sun and hit the lorry – luckily not a great speed as his airbag didn't go off. He asked the Council if they could take it up. He was told that part of the road would come under Capel St Mary PC. He insisted that the PC should take it up as safety of residents is paramount. The Clerk will contact Capel Clerk and ask if they will contact Suffolk Highways about how the parking issue can be resolved.

Action: Contact Capel Clerk

Planning Applications

- a) To note decisions of Planning Authority on previous applications – None received
b) To give comments on any new applications in hand –

DC/24/01531	Eleanor Gate, Capel Road	Erection of single storey front & rear extensions (following demolition of garage and conservatory)
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RECOMMEND APPROVAL -

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

DC/24/01952	Ruseley, Shrub	Hazel	Application under S73 for the Removal or Variation of a Condition following grant of DC/24/00189 dated 26-2-24 Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). Erection of 1 no dwelling & cart lodge. To remove Condition 7 (Restriction on Development – Obscure Glass) as it is not necessary
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APP/D3505/W/24/3340284 Woodfield, Bergholt Application for 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 and a half storey dwelling including creation of new vehicular access

c) **Solar Farm** – Not heard anything.

11. **Report by Exception – Tree Warden/Footpath Warden/Capel Library/Bentley Long Barn/Footpath Warden & Speedwatch–** **Tree Warden** – Told the meeting he had still got trees which are now 2-3 years old and are in pots - there is a Walnut and some Oaks. **Friends of Capel Library-** No report available. **Footpath Society** – Cllr Wheals told the meeting about the walk on 25 May. - **Footpath Warden** – **Report reference number** 00469517 re Footpath 050 reported on 7 May 2024 - Finger post rotted and fallen over. Currently propped up. Cllr Bamford reported finger post at the bottom of Old Hall Lane. **Bentley Long Barn** – No further news - **Speedwatch** No report available

12. **To Award Grants to Village Organisations for Financial Year 2023/24** – It was proposed that the following grants be paid.

Friends of Capel Library	S137	£200
Tuesday Club	S137	£200
Bentley Bluebells WI	S137	£200
Outdoor Bowls	S19	£200
Carpet Bowls	S19	£100

Proposed: Cllr M Bamford Seconded: Cllr K Spicer All in favour CU

13. **To Award Grants to Other Organisations for Financial Year 2023/24** –

Citizens Advice	S142	£100
SARS	S137	£100
Headway	S137	£100

With the addition of SARS it was proposed that the following grants be paid.

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

Action: Inform Clubs & Organisations – letter & cheques to be sent out in June

14. **To discuss Annual Playground Inspection Reports-** Councillors had been issued with a copy of the Inspection Reports. Work required was noted and will be acted upon. The Clerk told the meeting she had ordered the knobs for Springy Prancer last year – but they had not been forthcoming - she will chase. It was proposed that the report be accepted – cheque (£168) to be passed for payment at tonight’s meeting.

Proposed: Cllr K Spicer Seconded: Cllr M Bamford All in favour CU

Action: Clerk to contact Action Play & Leisure

15. **Land for Nature Recovery/Copse** – Following a meeting with Babergh on site Cllr Feltwell suggested that the PC put together a bid to try and get some money to employ tree surgeons and hire a chipper to start clearance of the land – get rid of the trees etc. Cllr Feltwell and Cllr Spicer will put together a bid.

16. **Affordable Housing – Update** – CAS had suggested- ‘Call for Sites’ which would provide evidence of transparency by encouraging anyone to put forward a site for discussion. Cllr Munday felt we needed to give feedback on some of the inaccuracies in Hastoe’s report before we do a call for sites at this stage. A discussion followed on houses already built in the village. Cllr Munday asked Councillors to feedback comments re the Void Report to the Clerk.

17. **Road Works/Flooding Cadent/Anglian Water – Update –** It was agreed that we need feedback on the road and whether they can give us that information. A discussion followed on the various Broadband companies.
18. **20's Plenty Campaign – Update -** The Motion needed to be sent to SCC – The Clerk will contact County Councillor Georgia Hall to find out where to send it. No other information available as Cllr Jones is on holiday.

Action: Clerk to contact County Councillor Hall
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19. **Traffic Calming/SID data/Weight Restriction - Update -** Cllr Munday told the meeting she had met with Graeme Mateer – Head of Transport Strategy, Growth, Highways & Infrastructure and had done a drive round Bentley roads pointing out the issues including restricted road width at the level crossing, Bentley Hall Road, Capel Road, the dangerous junction at Bergholt Road, the narrowness of the pavements and proximity of houses to the carriageway. He is now going to do a feasibility study (we seem to have SCC's interest at the moment). Cllr Munday has a meeting next week with Melanie Hall regarding traffic calming. We had been informed that additional slow marking and speed roundels will need to be funded by the Parish Council at a cost of £5,638 – Georgia may be able to give a small amount from her Locality Budget. A specific response to County Councillor Hall's quote is required before a decision can be made.
20. **Collins Skiphire – Lorry Watch –** SCC Planning Officer has replied re the new planning application for extension to the quarry at Folly Farm that any vehicles leaving or entering that site should not be going through Bentley. SCC will need photographic evidence of what is going on in the village – with registration numbers time and date of each vehicle so we need volunteers to get this evidence – a discussion followed Cllr Wheals will go and see Billy Richmond and Cllr Thomas will lead a group to get photographic evidence.
21. **Changes to Procurement Thresholds – Standing Orders (Section 28) & Financial Regulations (Section 11) -** The Clerk told the meeting that the new Model Financial Orders had just been issued by SALC but can't be used at this time– this item will be deferred until the June meeting.
22. **Playing Field Society – Date of Next Meeting –** Before the July PC meeting. The Clerk had contacted Maritime about golf on the Playing Field. Apparently most public fields ban golf because it's dangerous and it causes a lot of damage to the ground. Cllr Bamford said the Play Area was now overgrown and the litter bin on the field is overflowing. The PTA had asked permission to put up a board advertising the School Fete – it was agreed that could go ahead. The school notice board needs refurbishing.
23. **Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan -** This needs to be looked at very carefully we have had a response back from SCC about renewing the roundels etc and we can use CIL money if we have to pay.
24. **To receive Correspondence –** The Clerk drew Councillors' attention to the following – E-mail x 1 HMRC VAT Claim confirmation – £1,832.99 now paid into the bank 2 x CAS Call for sites & community led housing zoom events 1 x SARS re grant application - 2 x County Councillor Hall - Give Way signs & Junction ordered by Highways Assessment Officer & April Report 2 x Suffolk County Council – re Weight Restriction on Station Road 2 x Babergh District Council - District CIL bid round 13 Alert – April reminder & BDC Taxi policy consultation 1 x Katie Jarrett – re Police Surgery (Saturday mornings !!) 1 x District Councillor Dave Busby – 2023/24 Annual Report -1 x National Landscapes- Apply Now – Sustainable Development Fund 1 x resident re Land behind Ruseley, Hazel Shrub.
25. **Exchange of information by Councillors and matters for consideration at future meetings –** Cllr Munday – Katie Jarrett our new Community Engagement Officer would like to meet with residents on a Saturday morning – after some discussion Cllr Spicer will ask permission to open The Case. Cllr Spicer- The date of the June Parish Council meeting coincides with the D Day Commemoration – Several Councillors are involved so she asked if the Parish Council meeting could be moved to 13 June. The Clerk will contact Village Hall to see if it is free.

Action: Clerk to contact Village Hall to see if Hall is free for 13 June

26. To Authorise Payments - The following payments were authorised.

101741	SALC	Subscription 2024/25	£393.29
101742	J Scott	Expenses Annual Parish Meeting	£9.94
101743	Mortimer Contracts	Refix new dog bin at Hazel Shrub	£72.00
101744	David Bracey	Annual Play Inspections	£168.00
101745	Cllr M Munday	Annual renewal – anti virus s/ware	£39.99
101746	P Baldwin	Grass Cut/strim Closed Churchyard	£150.00
101747	HMRC	Clerk’s Tax	£25.00
101748	Mrs J Scott	Salary - April	£572.43
		Minus tax	<u>-£25.00</u>
			£670.53
		Plus Expenses	£547.43
			<u>£123.10</u>
			£670.53

It was proposed that these be paid en bloc.

Proposed: Cllr J Wheals Seconded: Cllr M Bamford All in favour CU

27. To confirm date of next scheduled meeting – Thursday 13 June 2024.

28. To consider the exclusion of the public & press in the public interest due to the confidential nature of business to be transacted – The attending public had left the meeting before this item was reached.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: