BENTLEY PLAYING FIELD SOCIETY

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3 September 2026 at the Bentley Village Hall commencing at 19:00.

Present: Cllrs M. Munday, (Chair), M. Whiteman (Vice-chair), M. Bamford, J. Wheals, B. Feltwell, K. Spicer, J, Campbell

PF09.26.02: APOLOGIES

- Council to receive apologies for absence- Apologies were received from Cllr A. Horne and T. Hampstead

PF 09/26.02 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- To consider and approve minutes of previous PFS meeting held on 2 July 2024- Cllr Bamford proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Whiteman, Cllr Spicer abstained.

PF 09/26.03 THE COPSE: UPDATES

- Grass on the Copse continues to be cut by a volunteer, and council was informed that an update on the development of the Copse was supposed to have been given by the end of the Summer term. Resolved that this should stay on agenda. The Tree Warden has placed some stag beetle wood in the Copse to build a stag beetle log pyramid. A resident has offered to provide conifer logs that will be placed horizontally on the ground to provide cover for small creatures such as woodlice.

PF09.26.04

i) To discuss an update on Cars at The Case Event: Council informed that the event went very smoothly, the management, parking, streaming of pedestrians was well organised and the Chair noted that positive feedback from attendees had been received. However, one issue raised was that there were no refreshments on the field for the car owners who did not want to leave their cars unattended. This was noted.

ii) Use of school field for parking: Cllr Whiteman gave an update to the committee. He advised that the event was well organised, however in winter there may be challenges as the ground is not re-enforced. He informed the Trustees that formal licences would be drafted for users of the field setting out the conditions of use. Cllr Spicer asked to be involved in this process. Cllr Whiteman confirmed that the licences would be shared once drafted by the clerk. He noted that there was no segregation of users entering by West Mill Green pedestrian gate from the cars parking on the field for the Case music event on Bank Holiday Monday, but the details for users would be outlined in the Licences. It was agreed that Cllrs Spicer and Whiteman agreed to discuss this separately.

iii) Fireworks display: the Trustees discussed the proposal to hold a fireworks display in the village proposed by a resident. The trustees expressed concerns that not enough time had been allowed for organisation of the event. Proposed by Cllr Bamford and seconded by Cllr Munday to postpone the fireworks until 2027 to allow for better preparation and planning.

PF09.26.05: LICENCES FOR USE OF FIELD

Cllr Whiteman informed the committee that licences would be drafted, for the use of the field to ensure use of the fields was managed effectively. The Committee agreed that Cllr Whiteman, and the clerk would look into this and feedback to the trustees.

PF09.26.06: CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA UPGRADE

The Chair informed the meeting that the resident who had made the suggestion to upgrade the children's play area had been invited to attend 2 PC meetings to discuss this but had not attended. It was suggested that this item be removed from the agenda

PF 09.26.07: THE SPINNEY ADJ TO 28, WEST MILL GREEN

There had been a complaint about the trees being unstable. The tree warden advised that there was no immediate danger to Pub or the property.

The tree warden also provided an update to the trustees on the Community Orchard, The fruit trees have suffered in the recent drought and two have unfortunately died. The tree warden has removed the stakes which were supporting the 22 trees that survived because these had rotted below ground and were no longer giving support. All 22 produced fruit, but on 21 of them the fruit had shrivelled in the heat. A lone plum tree produced excellent fruit. The grass has survived the drought. The tree warden will apply to the National Landscape Team for a grant to replace the dead trees and to plant additional trees, shrubs and wildflower seed on for the Copse.

PF09/26/08: UPDATE: SIGNAGE ON PLAYING FIELD

It was agreed that Cllr's Whiteman, Spicer and Bamford would design a suitable sign to be displayed. It was agreed that this would be done by the 1st week of December 2026

Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 5 November at 19:00 prior to parish council meeting.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 19:30

Signed: **Date:**