

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON AT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL ON -THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 7.30 PM

Present

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

Also, in attendance, Tree Warden, Speedwatch & 6 members of the public

Cllr Bamford welcomed everyone to the meeting – he explained that two candidates had put their names forward for Co-option onto Bentley Parish Council and each would be given around five minutes to explain why they wish to become a Parish Councillor, give information on their background etc. Councillors would then vote without discussion – it has to be an open and transparent process. The Clerk received no notification of anyone planning to film or record this meeting.

1. **To record apologies for absence**, Cllr J Campbell–, Footpath Warden, County Councillor Georgia Hall & District Councillor Marc Rowland -It was proposed that their apologies be accepted.

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

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 2 October 2025** -. The minutes were approved as a true record and were duly signed.

Proposed Cllr M Munday Seconded Cllr A Thomas All in favour CU

5. **Matters arising from the Minutes** – Nick Taylor & Daniel Meacock were informed that their quotes were unsuccessful – Grant letter has been sent out to Clubs - we have now received an invoice from Vertas – being passed for payment at tonight’s meeting. The Event Form for Remembrance Service has been approved by Suffolk Highways for Sunday’s Service. Colin Rose phoned- He is unable to attend tonight’s meeting but he rang to say what a lovely job Connah Rivers had made of the hedge - it took him a day and a half and he took all the debris away – Resident is very, very pleased. Rest covered by agenda items.

6. **To receive written applications for the office of Councillor & to Co-opt a Candidate to fill the existing vacancy** - The two candidates Mike Whiteman and Alan Horne addressed the meeting and Councillors were impressed with both candidates. Cllr Munday said both had skills that would be welcomed on the Parish Council but there was only one vacancy and she proposed Alan Horne this was seconded by Cllr Spicer and six Councillors were in favour – the Chairman did not vote. Alan Horne was therefore elected onto Bentley Parish Council and signed the necessary Declaration of Acceptance of Office form and was welcomed by Councillors. Cllr Bamford re-iterated that it had been a very difficult decision and thanked Mike Whiteman for his application.

Proposed Cllr M Munday Seconded Cllr K Spicer 6 in favour

Action: Inform Babergh the vacancy has been filled – send Alan Standing Orders etc

Public Session

County Councillor G Hall – sent her report which has been circulated to Councillors **Appendix 1** in the minute book and on the website.

District Councillor M Rowland – Briefing Notes for Town & Parish Councils had been received and circulated to Councillors - **APPENDIX 2** in the minute book and on the website.

7. **Planning Applications –**

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

DC/25/03923	2 Nursery Cottages	Permission has been granted
DC/24/05240	Land East of Capel Road	Planning permission has been refused
Suffolk County Council	Claimed bridleway – Upgrade of Footpath 55	It is recommended that the formal application is rejected with all parties being advised accordingly

b) To give comments on any new applications in hand & discuss appeals –

DC/25/04319	Bentley Old Hall, Old Hall Lane	Notification of works to trees in a Conservation Area - T1 Walnut tree to be removed as shown on marked up Aerial and Ground level photo
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RECOMMEND APPROVAL

Proposed Cllr K Spicer Seconded Cllr J Wheals All in favour CU

c) Brockley Wood – Information re Community Liaison Group - Has not yet been established. A member of Suffolk County Council has to set a date for the first meeting. In the interim Cllr Bamford has been in touch with Brockley Wood Associates about the massive amounts of spoil along the boundary and asked them to explain. Cllr Munday wanted to know if the £20K had been paid re the weight restriction – she referred to correspondence with James Cutting – Cllr Bamford will try and find the correspondence,

d) Appeal Site at Grove Solar Farm - The appeal is going through – the enquiry by the Planning Inspectorate starts on 20 January at Wherstead and takes place over seven days. It's a Public Enquiry so the public can attend. The Parish Council have Rule 6 Party status so can call on expert witnesses to speak for us. We will need to publicise the Enquiry in the village nearer the time. If residents wish to write to the Planning Inspectorate they are still accepting late submissions.

8.a) **Bentley Conservation Area – Revision of Conservation Area Appraisal & Management Plan** – Babergh are still updating the Conservation Management Plan following the Consultation

b) Siting of information board & signage for the Conservation Area – PCC has given permission to site an outdoor lectern in the Closed Churchyard. A donation has been made by the Ganzoni Trust of £5K to fund this and other signage. It was therefore proposed that we take advantage of this money from the Ganzoni Trust to purchase finger post signage and an information board.

Proposed Cllr M Munday Seconded Cllr A Thomas All in favour CU

Cllr Munday will obtain quotes,

9. **Report by Exception – Tree Warden/Footpath Warden/Bentley Barn /Speedwatch – Tree warden** – No reports have come in from residents. Will be starting to record the trees in Engry Wood next week. Message received from Millennium Seed Bank - been asked to collect seed in Dodnash Wood of Butchers Broom. Six Black Poplars have been ordered and are ready for collection – three Male – three Female. . . **Footpath Warden** – Footpath Warden walked the new diversion, it's a bit confusing where the new path joins the old path. Speaking with John Owen he is going to put up some red and white tape for clarity. Once the path is in full use it should be cleared. He has attached "No cycling" signs to the two new finger posts and reported another finger post down, that's now four in total. **Bentley Long Barn** – Is high priority now the Conservation Area has been designated with Babergh looking at possible solutions to renovate. **Speedwatch**- Nothing to report.

10. **SID Battery Management & change of site from Highfields** – SID has been moved to Bergholt Road. The new steel post has been erected at the Highfield site so the SID can be erected with the new solar panel which hopefully will prolong battery life. A Working Party will be organised to do this asap. Councillor Horne volunteered to download SID data. It will be useful to have data from Bergholt Road.
11. **Change of Bank and Online Banking – Update** - The completed form taken to Barclays in Colchester by the Clerk has been lost. Advised to send a letter signed by Councillors tonight to transfer funds.
12. **To ratify payments – P Baldwin- £150.00– Conah Rivers- £180– Community Action Suffolk - £66.00** It was proposed that these payments be ratified.
 Proposed Cllr B Feltwell Seconded Cllr K Spicer All in favour CU
13. **Neighbourhood Plan Review–Update** - Cllr Munday told the meeting we had been quoted a figure of £6,500 for the review by our NHP Consultant which been voted on at the October meeting. Our Plan is robust at the moment and will carry weight with any new planning applications so there is no urgency to get the new one – it will be started in the new year
14. **To discuss Brambles at side of 28 West Mill Green** – Councillors discussed and felt it wasn't the Council's problem. We had paid £560 in April to have this cleared – Cllr Bamford had scythed it – he will go along with the scythe and see what it's like. Take off the agenda
15. **Affordable Housing – Update** – Hastoe were contacted a month ago and did come back with three possible dates for a meeting which were sent to Councillors. We need to contact Babergh and Hastoe to see whether there has been any communication between the two of them. Cllr Bamford will chase.
16. **The Copse – Update** – The grass is growing and Tree Warden has got grass seed to put down on any bare patches. Cllr Spicer is talking to the School who are going to come up with a new plan in the Spring – Suffolk Rural are also going to do some garden designs – Parish Council will make a decision in the Spring re the best way forward. At the moment its being kept under control as a grass area. Debris was mentioned – this will be taken to the bonfire site on the main field.
17. **Playing Field Society** – ~Request for update of Children's Play Area discussed. Branham Athletic finished training – Portaloo removed by Capel Plant. Keys to Maritime units are being returned. Playing Field Entrance – quote accepted – installation date to be agreed.
18. **To receive Correspondence** – The Clerk drew Councillors' attention to the following E-mails: 2 x E-mails Application for vacancy of Parish Councillor 1 x resident re other banners 3 x Suffolk County Council -Event approval/Thermal Imaging Training/Draft Committee Report – Footpath 55 1 x Belstead Ganzoni Trust – grant - £5K Babergh District Council x 1 Babergh Joint Local Plan Call for Sites 2025 & draft 5-year housing land supply position statement – Letter& poster from National Grid.
19. **Exchange of information by Councillors and matters for consideration at future Meetings**–
Cllr Munday: Spoke about the huge telegraph poles now being erected in Bentley By Open Reach -fibre broadband going from pole to pole. They have been erected next to poles that hold the Speed Indicator Devices and so may distract drivers. We do have a right to object to the apparatus under paragraph 77 of the Code and we may exercise that right by giving notice of objection under paragraph 78 of the Code within 12 months of installation. Agenda item at December meeting.

Action: Open Reach telegraph Poles – Agenda item

20. **To Authorise Payments**- The following payments were authorised en bloc
 Community Action Suffolk Annual Website Hosting Fee- **Ratified**

P Baldwin	Grass – Closed Churchyard - Ratified	£150.00
Green Man Gardening	Reduce Hedge – West Mill Green - Ratified	£180.00
Dedham Vale Tree Surgery	Supply & spray weed chemicals – The Copse	£600.00
Vertas Group Limited	Contacted Grounds Maintenance	00
P Baldwin	Grass – Closed Churchyard	£150.00
HMRC/PAYE	Clerks Tax	£48.20
Mrs J Scott	Clerks Salary/Expenses - September	£690.77
Proposed Cllr B Feltwell	Seconded Cllr A Thomas	All in favour CU

21. **To confirm date of next scheduled meeting** – Parish Council Meeting Thursday 4 December 2025 at 7.30 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: