

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 1 DECEMBER 2016 AT 7.30 PM

Present

Cllr M Bamford - Chairman Mrs J Scott – Clerk Cllr R Feltwell Cllr P Cross
Cllr K Spicer Cllr C Goodwin Cllr N Moxey Cllr J Wheals
Cllr A Graffham

Also in attendance: -, County Councillor Gordon Jones, District Councillor J Hinton, Tree Warden and Footpath Warden - 4 members of the public

Cllr Bamford welcomed everyone to the meeting, The Clerk received no notification of anyone planning to film or record.

1. **To record apologies for absence:** – Cllr K Hutchings
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 3 November 2016 -**
The minutes were approved as a true record and duly signed.

Proposed Cllr n Moxey Seconded Cllr C Goodwin All in favour CU

5. **Matters Arising from the minutes:** - **Page 841 item 6** - Babergh Planning contacted - Planning Decision for Bentley Plants was received on 13 November. – no explanation for delay – **Page 842 item 11** – E-mailed Anglian Water - not yet replied **Page 843 item 12** Post Box – Phoned Royal Mail – they were going to get back to me.- Clerk to chase - **item 13** – Form Completed re Transparency Fund - rest will be covered by agenda items. Cllr Spicer asked if the post box could be removed from the wall of the shop and set into a brick column – like the one in Long Melford.

Public Session

Police Report: Cllr Graffham reported that the November Report on the website gave figures for October - 9 crimes in the area. However, Police Connect report that two sheds were broken into at a dwelling in Hazel Shrub between 2pm on Thursday 24th and Saturday 26th November. Three cans of petrol and some screen wash were stolen. Between 1pm and 4pm on Tuesday 29th November, a house in Station Road was broken into after a rear window was forced open. It is not yet known if any property was stolen. Between 2.15pm and 4.45pm Tuesday 29th November a house in Capel Road was broken into. A ground floor rear window was smashed using considerable force to gain entry to the house. Cash and a car key were taken and a black Ford Mondeo, registration number AY66NGN was stolen from the secluded driveway.

County Councillor G Jones - Reported that the initial draft of the budget is being prepared and a saving of £46 million needs to be made this year – getting harder and harder to make savings so it is likely that some will come out of reserves. The main overspend will be Children's Services – an extra £5 million will be put in next year to reflect the increased demand. Trialling ANPR devices in the Samford District– being tested in Holton St Mary at the moment – they are not much more expensive than SID - mobile VAS which are moved regularly are more effective than static ones. Bentley might want to be included in the scheme. County Councillor Jones concluded by reporting that the Ofsted figures quoted on Look East were not correct – in the last academic year good and outstanding schools in Suffolk are now 87%. Most of the schools requiring improvement are sponsored academies.

– (Report will be **Appendix 1** in the minute book and on the website.) County Cllr Jones was asked if the vehicle registration system kept a record of everything that goes through the village – yes - it takes a picture of the car registration and the speed in which it is travelling. County Councillor Jones left the meeting.

District Councillor J Hinton – Read to a written report – **Appendix 2** in the minute book and on the Council website He commented on Safer Neighbourhood Team meeting- shed alarms can still be purchased from a open Police Station – Bury St Edmunds, Ipswich, Lowestoft) They can be purchased by credit card over the phone and the Police will drop them off. He urged residents to be vigilant and to lock doors and cars. The effectiveness of Bentley Speedwatch and the “magic mushrooms” were mentioned at the Safer Neighbourhood Team meeting. He also reported on devolution, and that Babergh voted in principle to borrow up to £50 million to invest, the proposed move to Endeavour House and a new Planning Charter.

Resident: Thought the Post Box could be put in the telephone kiosk.

6. Planning Applications

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

B/16/01278/FHA	1 East Mill Green	Permission has been granted
B/16/00635/FUL/LJB	Bentley Plants Ltd, Bergholt	Permission has been granted
B/16/00949/FUL	Ivy Cottage, Capel Road	Permission has been granted

b) To give comments on any new applications in hand – All Councillors have a non Pecuniary Interest in the following application.

B/16/013912/FUL	1 West Mill Green	Erection of 1 no dwelling & creation of new vehicular access
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RECOMMEND REFUSAL: for the following reasons - Over development of the plot both in footprint and height. Concern regarding access onto the public highway – Overlooking neighbouring properties – inappropriate to street scene and potential damage to an established Oak tree.

Proposed Cllr J Wheals Seconded Cllr A Graffham All in favour CU

7. Report by Exception – Tree Warden/Footpath Warden – Tree Warden reported that the large oak at Oaklands, Capel Road remains untouched, as promised by the owner. Also examined work undertaken on land due for development in Link Lane – no damage to TPO Oak (240) roots. Tree Warden is to attend a meeting to be held at Cockfield Village hall on Wednesday December 7 2016. Capel Library: At the committee meeting held on 29 November 2016 the cuts to Suffolk Libraries budget was discussed along with Treasurer’s Report, programme for 2017 and replacement for Minecraft Leader. Suffolk Libraries is now in its fifth year of operation and each year has lived within its means and saved increasing amounts of Council Tax. This has been achieved with the sustained hard work of library staff, help from Community groups, local volunteers and support from customers. Bentley Barn Trustees have put forward another proposal. Footpath Warden Nothing to report.

District Councillor Hinton left the meeting.

8. To discuss Budget/Precept- Councillors had been issued with a copy of the proposed budget. Cllr Cross reported that the Finance Working Party had met to discuss the budget and as the grant from Babergh District Council has now ceased he proposed a modest increase in the precept this year of £500 to cover us for expenditure which we believe will rise ie administration costs, possible purchase of a SID etc. After some discussion the budget and precept request for 2017/18 were agreed.

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

Following a further discussion on whether to uplift the Precept by £1K or £500 it was proposed that the Precept be increased by £500 to £14,500.

9. **To consider grant application for insertion into the Budget – Friends of Capel Library, Outdoor Bowls and Tuesday Club - Councillor** Moxey was concerned that the grant criteria set by Bentley Parish Council in 2010 had not been adhered to Grants *could be awarded to finance specific projects or to provide emergency financial aid should a club or society be in danger of folding*. After some discussion it was proposed that the Clerk write to the above Clubs requesting required information and that this item be deferred until the January meeting.

Proposed Cllr M Bamford Seconded Cllr A Graffham All in favour CU

Action: Clerk to write to Capel Library, Bowls Club and Tuesday Club

10. **Traffic Calming – Gateway Treatment & possible purchase of SID** – The Clerk reported that she had contacted Sgt Gary Milbourne re speed enforcement and he has sent an e-mail to SpeedCam Department and they will put in the speed survey strips in the road (he is not sure when this will happen but it is in the pipeline). The Clerk also explained to the meeting that Parish Councils can purchase a SID but not a VAS. Speedwatch Co-ordinator was concerned that a SID would have to be moved and charged which meant climbing up a step ladder to move the device. Following a request from the Clerk SALC had distributed an e-mail to all Clerk's in the area regarding a Gateway Treatment and the consensus of opinion was that they do not work so it was proposed that on the basis of the information received that we forget about a Gateway Treatment.

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

It was also proposed that discussion on SID be postponed for the time being and that Bentley request to be included in County Councillor Jones' scheme re ANPR trials. This will be put on the January agenda.

Proposed Cllr M Bamford Seconded Cllr C Goodwin All in favour CU

Action: Request to be included in ANPR Scheme – Agenda item

11. **HGV Road Damage – Bergholt Road-** Awaiting reply from Anglian Water.
12. **To discuss Litter problem at Hazel Shrub-** The Clerk reported that she had received a telephone call from a resident in Hazel Shrub who was concerned about the amount of litter being dropped from cars on their way to Dodnash Priory Farm. After some discussion it was proposed that the Clerk write to the owner of Dodnash Priory Farm.

Proposed Cllr C Goodwin Seconded Cllr K Spicer All in favour CU

Action: Letter to owner of Dodnash Priory Farm

13. **Allotments – Review** - No further developments – Defer until February.
14. **Babergh Alliance of Parish & Town Councils – Update** - Meeting in December – Cllr Bamford will try to attend.
15. **Affordable Housing – Report on progress** – Hastoe are still waiting for a response from Babergh Planning regarding their initial thoughts on the sites. Clerk to contact Hastoe, BDC and CAS to chase.

Action: Clerk to contact Hastoe, BDC and CAS

16. **Playing Fields Society** – Nothing to report – Next meeting February 2017. Leave off January agenda.
17. **To receive Correspondence** – The Clerk drew Councillors' attention to the following E-mails from District Councillor Hinton re VAS signs & CIL (Library) – e-mail Grant

applications from Bentley Outdoor Bowls and Tuesday Club – Letter St Elizabeth Hospice – Letter from St Mary’s Church Warden – re churchyard Maintenance – e-mail BAPTC – re next Babergh Alliance of Parish & Town Councils suggesting meeting December – E-mail – SALC subscription 2017/18 £329.28 and letter from SLCC re Clerk’s membership subscription. **Late Correspondence:** Email from Network Assurance re Notification of Temporary Traffic Order C426 22 January 2017.

18. Exchange of information by Councillors and matters for consideration at future Meetings – Cllr Bamford – Churchyard Maintenance – Job specification agenda item

19. To Authorise Payments - The following payments were authorised

101221	Speedwatch Co-ordinator	Donation- Electricity used	£10.00
101222	SLCC	Clerks Membership	£93.00
101223	ALCC	Clerks Membership	£10.00
101224	Mrs J Scott	Salary November	£474.24
		Minus tax	<u>Nil</u>
			£474.24
		Plus Expenses	<u>£73.79</u>
			£548.03

It was proposed that these be paid en bloc.

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

20. To confirm date of next scheduled meeting – Thursday 5 January 2017 at 7.30 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: