

# BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 9 MARCH 2017 AT 7.30 PM

### Present

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

Also in attendance: - County Councillor Gordon Jones, Tree Warden and Footpath Warden - 3 members of the public

Cllr Bamford welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that as this meeting clashed with East Bergholt County Councillor Jones and District Councillor Hinton would be arriving late to give their reports. The Clerk received no notification of anyone planning to film or record.

1. **To record apologies for absence:** Cllr K Hutchings – Holiday
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 February 2017**  
The minutes were approved as a true record and duly signed.

Proposed Cllr P Cross      Seconded Cllr C Goodwin      All in favour      CU

5. **Matters Arising from the minutes:** - **Page 853** Post Box - Reply received on 28 February the box will be installed within the next 4-6 weeks - this has taken longer than expected – please accept sincere apologies for the inconvenience caused. **Page 854** e-mail sent to shoot organiser no reply received to date. – **Page 855 item 9** – invitations have been sent to clubs re Annual Parish Meeting – agenda will be sent out nearer the time. **Item 11.** Playground inspection has been arranged for March 31 **item 14** – Meeting of Babergh Alliance of Parish & Town Councils was arranged for Tuesday 24 February –minutes of the previous meeting have not yet been received. Rest will be covered by agenda items.

## Public Session

**Resident** - reported that a resident had received a fright whilst driving in Bentley at dusk - and had just missed a horse whose rider was not wearing a high viz jacket – a reminder will be put in the Bentley Bugle and on the Parish Council website.

**Resident** – reported the road sign indicating the East Bergholt turning is completely hidden by vegetation following Storm Doris – the Footpath Warden offered to deal with this and also reported that a branch had been broken off an Oak tree at the top of Church Road and nearly blocked the footpath but that has been removed.

Agenda item 8 was moved up the agenda to allow Chris Bowden to give his presentation

8. **Neighbourhood Plan – Talk on benefits, creation and options that may be available –**  
Chris Bowden started his presentation by asking the following - What is a Neighbourhood Plan - what it can do – what it can't do could a plan help in Bentley. A plan has to be positive about what will happen to your community over the next 15-20 years ie do we want to prepare a positive plan for the community and what can we achieve. Housing can get what you want for your community and is based on needs but you can allocate sites for development and state the mix and type of houses. It would also be possible to produce a joint plan with a neighbouring parish. Chris went on to say that creating a plan is quite an extended process the average time is 2½ years. Costs were discussed and grants are available

£9K from the Government and if sites are allocated a further £6K – total £15K. Also it doesn't need to be done by the Parish Council it can be done by the community covering issues that are important to Bentley. It was agreed this needed exploring further and would be a future agenda item. Chris Bowden left the meeting.

**County Councillor G Jones** –written report **Appendix 2** in the minute book and on the Council website had been received and forwarded to Councillors. County Councillor Jones reported on Council tax with reasonable settlements to the adult care market. He was asked about Highways – any information about the Four Sisters – a date has been set – it will be sooner rather than later. - Copdock is on the rota. Results of the ANPR trial at Halesworth due in later this month. CIL monies were mentioned re road safety and traffic calming – but there is a big increase in self builds. Education is improving significantly in the secondary sector.

**Action:** Inform Bentley Bugle re horse riders and high viz jackets

**6. Planning Applications**

a) To note decisions of Planning Authority on previous applications - None received

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

<b>B/17/00184/FHA</b>	3 South View Green	Erection of front porch and detached outbuilding for storage purposes
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**RECOMMEND APPROVAL** – Subject to ensuring the neighbouring property's gate access is still maintained.

Proposed Cllr J Wheals	Seconded Cllr P Cross	All in favour	CU
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**7. Report by Exception – Tree Warden/Footpath Warden – Tree Warden** reported that he had completed the online form for reporting overgrown Oak tree blocking light at 45 Highfields (corner of Church Road). **Capel Library:** Two more quotes received for the reception area re-vamp. 59 people attended the film Bridget Jones Baby. Next film Sully – Tuesday 21 March – The next Committee Meeting – Tuesday 4 April. **Bentley Barn** There was a conference call on Monday 6 March – discussion with reference to the way forward – update on present situation – project requirements. Today learnt of the Architectural Heritage Fund and their off shoot The Heritage Trust Network. **Playing Field** - Application completed for funding from the Tesco Bags Scheme for improving Playing Field facilities. The Chairman thanked the Tree Warden for his efforts regarding the barn and asked about compulsory purchase. After some discussion it was proposed that the Chairman would write on behalf of the Council to Babergh with a copy to relevant people expressing extreme concern about the state of the barn to try and get things moving.

Proposed Cllr C Goodwin	Seconded Cllr K Spicer	All in favour	CU
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**Action:** Letter to Babergh

**Footpath Warden -** Reported that paths across the railway lines have been improved even though they are planning to close them. The Footpath Society this year will be holding their walks on a Saturday. The walks last year were not very well attended – the list of walks will be in the Bentley Bugle this month. The Society is hoping to attract a few more members – the first walk is on 8 April going to parts of the local woods not normally open. They have also been invited by Copdock to join them for their last winter walk 12 March at 1.30 from Church Room in the street across the meadow by Spring Brook.

**9. Retirement – Mr Munday – Grass Cutting–** Councillors had been sent copy letter from Mr Munday informing them of his retirement as from 1 April. It was proposed that a letter be sent thanking him for 15 years spent on looking after the Closed Churchyard and lately the new play area.

Proposed Cllr B Feltwell	Seconded Cllr P Cross	All in favour	CU
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A discussion followed on the quote received from Tattingstone and P Baldwin who trained at Otley College who is interested in quoting for the work and lives in the village. The Clerk was asked to get another quote for the April meeting – the quotes should be for the Closed Churchyard and the play area. Because time was tight it was proposed that if Mr Baldwin's quote was acceptable that he be asked to undertake the work for a year and then evaluate.

Proposed Cllr B Feltwell      Seconded Cllr P Cross      All in favour      CU

**Footpath Warden** - offered to cut the grass in the play area free of charge. He was thanked for his kind offer.

Mr Tremaine to be contacted regarding the tree work in the Closed Churchyard – Cllr Feltwell will liaise with Mr Tremaine and Mr Day regarding the work to be undertaken. Also up to £500 has been agreed for this work. A discussion followed on how many times a year a Closed Churchyard should be cut.

**Action:** Clerk to send Letter to Mr Munday & obtain another quote

10. **To agree expenditure for 2 High Viz Jackets (£21.62 each) for Speedwatch Volunteers -**  
It was proposed that these jackets be purchased at a cost of £43.24.

Proposed Cllr A Graffham      Seconded Cllr P Cross      All in favour      CU

11. **The Great British Spring Clean – Suffolk 2017 -** The annual litter pick is usually organised by the WI. WI to be contacted – Clerk will organise litter pickers, bags, high viz vests and collection.

**Action:** Contact WI

12. **Signage – Play Area -** An e-mail received from a resident suggested that there should be specific signage for the children's play area. After some discussion it was proposed that a letter be sent to the School saying that concern has been expressed about speeding cars by the School playing field and play area and would they wish for some signage to emphasise children playing on that part of the field. Highways should also be contacted to ask about signs. Keep as an agenda item and also put on agenda of Annual Parish Meeting.

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

**Action:** Letter to School and Suffolk Highways.

13. **Traffic Calming – Update** – See above – agenda items 12 and 13 to be combined on the April Agenda

14. **Affordable Housing – Report on progress - Update:** Hastoe chased Anglian Water up last week and they are still looking at it. As soon as a response is received we will be informed.

15. **Playing Fields Society – To discuss quotes for grass cutting, request by Capel FC & skate boarding volunteering training -** Grass cutting quotes – Vertas £619.21 plus VAT £123.84 = £743.05 - Mortimer Contracts – 100 per cut x 14 cuts = £1,400 plus VAT £280 – 1680 - DNM Garden & Landscapes not replied but last year they quoted £225 per cut x 14 = £3150. It was proposed that the Vertas quote be accepted – Clerk to investigate an extended contract. Cllr Bamford duly signed the new contract. Footpath Warden to ask Ray Bloomfield to do a flail cut of the Playing Field. Councillors thanked Mr Cribb.

Proposed Cllr C Goodwin      Seconded Cllr P Cross      All in favour      CU

E-mail received from Capel FC – Councillor Bamford will get in touch regarding their requirements and outline our thoughts.

It was agreed that a portable skate park was preferable to a permanent BMX track. Cllr Bamford felt that a decision to send Jo Willis on the course should be taken at a Playing Field

Society Meeting – Cllr Feltwell proposed that the Parish Council meeting be adjourned and a Playing Field Society meeting opened –

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

A discussion followed on whether to send J Willis on the £225 course. It was proposed that although the Trustees were prepared to support this more details were required as to its feasibility for the village – more details to be obtained by the next Playing Field Society Meeting.

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

It was proposed that the Playing Field Society Meeting be closed and the Parish Council Meeting go back into session

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

**Action:** Clerk to contact J Willis

16. **To receive Correspondence** – The Clerk drew Councillors’ attention to the following - E-mail Suffolk Constabulary Press release re incident in Bentley, E-mail Babegh The Great British Spring Clean, E-mail One Suffolk re Bentley PC Site, Letter Mr Munday re retirement, BAPTC Schedule of Meeting, e-mail Capel FC re Football on Playing Field – e-mail Tesco Groundwork Funding for community projects sent to Colin Hawse and e-mail from SALC with Section 137 expenditure limits for 2017/18. **Late Correspondence** – email SALC War Memorial Grant Scheme, e-mail David Bracey confirmation Play area inspection, e-mail Capel FC Football on Playing Field, e-mail Babergh & Mid Suffolk Councils open spaces survey, e-mail Cathy Pollard – Patient Participation Group Men’s Health talk.

17. **Exchange of information by Councillors and matters for consideration at future Meetings** – **Cllr Moxey** – Spoken to Essex Pyrotechnics re possible dates for firework display - the pub events committee are looking at possible grants - people are signing petition in the pub to establish a need for grant purposes. **Cllr Graffham** – reported on an e-mail from a resident regarding an attack on a horse. Reporting this in not in the Parish Council remit and if any further evidence comes to light it should be given to the Local Police and Local Authority to deal with.

18. **To Authorise Payments** - The following payments were authorised

101228	Babergh District Council	Litter & dog bin emptying 2016		£96.87
101229	Mrs J Scott	Salary February	£474.24	£542.07
		Minus tax	<u>Nil</u>	
			£474.24	
		Plus Expense	<u>£ 67.83</u>	
			£542.07	

It was proposed that these be paid en bloc.

Proposed: Cllr J Wheals      Seconded: Cllr P Cross      All in favour      CU

19. **To confirm date of next scheduled meeting** – Thursday 6 April 2017 at 7.30 pm. Playing Field Society Meeting 7pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: