

# BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2017 AT 7.30 PM

### **Present**

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

Also in attendance: - County Councillor Gordon Jones, District Councillor J Hinton, Tree Warden and Footpath Warden - 7 members of the public

Cllr Bamford welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologised for the 10 minute delay in starting the meeting due to an over run of the Playing Field Society Meeting. The Clerk received no notification of anyone planning to film or record.

1. **To record apologies for absence:** Cllr A Graffham – Work and Cllr J Wheals
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 5 January 2017 -**  
The minutes were approved as a true record and duly signed.

Proposed Cllr K Spicer      Seconded Cllr P Cross      All in favour      CU

5. **Matters Arising from the minutes:** - **Page 849 item 5** – still awaiting contact from Royal Mail re Post Box **Page 850 item 9** Tuesday Club, Outdoor Bowls and St Elizabeth Hospice were informed of their grants – Friends of Capel Library were contacted and will inform the PC once the plans for the improved reception area are finalised. **Page 851 item 12** The Precept Form has been sent to Babergh - Rest will be covered by agenda items. Cllr Cross was advised that the paperwork for the Post Box is going through Ronek they will be chased. The Clerk was asked to contact Royal Mail as the Parish Council is concerned to note that no progress has been made in regard to the missing post box.

Action: Clerk to chase Royal Mail

## Public Session

**District Councillor J Hinton** – Read to a written report – **Appendix 1** in the minute book and on the Council website He commented on January being a quiet month with the formal Council Meeting cancelled because of lack of business, planning, in particular the Judicial Review victory by East Bergholt and Bildeston Review being put back until June. - the move to Ipswich is still going ahead, a new white paper on planning is scheduled soon and investment in infrastructure. He informed the meeting of a meeting at Bentley Village Hall on 20 March – Assets of Community Values (ACV) “pub is the hub” – Meeting of the Strategy Committee next week re delegating parking issues – District Councillor Hinton concluded his report by informing the meeting that the SMT Babergh East meeting were told that Sgt Gary Milbourne is to be replaced by a female Sgt who will be working part time.

**County Councillor G Jones** – Informed the meeting he had not yet completed his written report which will be **Appendix 2** in the minute book and on the Council website. He commented on GCSE results – Progress in Suffolk is now 55 out of 151 which is a significant improvement since 2014 (119<sup>th</sup>). The consultation on the Travel Policy finished on 12 February. Community health in Suffolk was discussed by the Health & Wellbeing Board last week and sets out the plans for the next 5-10 years. County Councillor Jones has written to the Prime Minister specifically about mental health for children. Mental health is the poor

relation to physical health and only gets about 25% of the NHS budget – 7% for children. Ipswich has been chosen as one of the 12 opportunity areas and may get part of additional £6 million funding. The budget goes to full Council next Thursday proposal is for a nil increase in the basic Council Tax – with a 3% increase in adult care. County Cllr Jones spoke about the Sizewell B consultation – no answers yet on the ANPR.

**Police Report:** Cllr Moxey reported that a burglary had taken place in East Mill Green between 10 am and 11.55 a window was forced and jewellery taken, The thief was apprehended by the Police.

**Resident-** Spoke about the installation and timing of horns on the Island railway crossing – It was the Council’s understanding that they are closing that crossing.

**Resident** - Reported that a resident was walking her dog along the footpath – Holly Wood (Capel Road – opposite Wayside) on 28 January and was frightened by shooting across the footpath. No signs had been displayed warning of a shoot in the area. The Clerk was asked to write to the shoot organiser.

**Action:** Clerk to contact organiser of the shoot

**6. Planning Applications**

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

**B/16/016652/FHA**      Treyarmon, Link Lane      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/17/00003/FUL**      Oakleigh, Capel Road      Erection of 16 no dwellings comprising 5 no bungalows and 11 no houses, complete with garaging related infrastructure, landscaping and new access off Station Road

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL** – Councillors did have grave concerns about access onto Capel Road which already has traffic issues – in particular children using adjacent facilities and also its impact on the Bergholt Road junction which can only get worse.

Proposed Cllr K Spicer      Seconded Cllr K Hutchings      All in favour      CU

7. **Report by Exception – Tree Warden/Footpath Warden – Tree Warden** reported that he had spoken to residents about Oaks at Highfields (Church Road) – these are not Babergh’s responsibility and he is investigating further. . **Capel Library:** The AGM was held on 28 January which outlined the year’s activities – accounts had been audited and approved. Trustees were re-elected en bloc with two co-optees. Membership was 145 and 100 Club 65. They are fund raising for a new reception area. . **Bentley Barn** No news. **Footpath Warden -** Reported that footpaths are extremely muddy and overgrown - once the weather is more suitable they will be dealt with.

8. **To discuss Churchyard Maintenance-** Cllr Bamford reported that he had attended a site meeting on the 30th January with Cllr Feltwell and Cllr Wheals, and the new Church Warden, to review the Council's responsibilities in respect of maintenance of the Closed Churchyard. A number of issues were raised, in particular, tree growth, path maintenance, leaf clearance and the peripheral fencing. It was agreed that Cllrs. Feltwell and Wheals should discuss these issues with the current contractor, and that the Council should offer an additional grant of up to £500.00 to cover additional work. It was also decided to maintain dialogue with Church, and appropriate to consider asking for tenders for the contract at the next opportunity.

Proposed Cllr B Feltwell      Seconded Cllr C Goodwin      All in favour      CU

9. **To agree format of Annual Parish Meeting** – It was agreed to keep to the normal format of written report. Bentley CEVC Primary School Council to be invited.

Proposed Cllr N Moxey                      Seconded Cllr P Cross                      All in favour      CU

**Action:** Clerk to send out invitations to Clubs

10. **To agree to invite speaker in relation to a Neighbourhood Plan** - Cllr Moxey reported she had a contact who is qualified to discuss the benefits and advises Parish Councils on how to fund and create a Neighbourhood Plan. It was proposed that he be invited to speak at the March Meeting to see what options might be available for Bentley.

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

11. **Play Area – Annual Playground Inspection** - The Annual Inspection is due in March 2017 and it was proposed that the Clerk arrange this.

Proposed Cllr K Spicer                      Seconded Cllr P Cross                      All in favour      CU

12. **Traffic Calming – Update** – The Clerk had contacted Suffolk & Norfolk Constabulary re the recent speed survey following the comments from the Speedwatch Co-ordinator and another survey it to be undertaken in the near future. This will be kept on the agenda.

13. **To approve Accounts – April-December 2016** - Following receipt of the Bank Statements at the end of December £2K was transferred from the Community Account ( £6,844.84) to the Business Premium Account ( £9,650.45) Cllrs were given a copy of the accounts April to December which had been seen and signed off by the Financial Working Party. Total spend of £10,863.06 is still within budget. Statement was requested for the Fun Day Tracker Account which following deposits of £478.45 paid in by J Willis and 31p interest now has a total of £1230.01. Bank Reconciliation shows three unpaid cheques £200.46 Vertas - £46.88 expenses D Telling and £10 Speedwatch Co-ordinator. It was proposed that the accounts be accepted.

Proposed Cllr N Moxey                      Seconded Cllr K Hutchings                      All in favour      CU

14. **Babergh Alliance of Parish & Town Councils – Update** - No information has been received to date. Leave off the agenda until April.

15. **Affordable Housing – Report on progress** – - Hastoe to chase Anglian Water for their comments on the treatment plant. Babergh have still not heard from Planning but will chase once they have Anglian Water's comments.

16. **Playing Fields Society – To discuss quotes for Playing Field** – Vertas quote is awaited. Clerk to chase quote and also meeting that was to take place with the Tree Warden re grass cutting. Family Fun Day accounts were discussed - £478 45 had been banked – total in account £1,037.14. Football training on the pitch was discussed. External organisations should apply in writing to the Clerk expressing their intentions for a nominal donation of £5. Any car parking to be on the hard standing on the field. J Willis to be contacted. Next meeting before April Parish Council Meeting.

**Action:** Clerk to contact J Willis and chase Vertas quote

17. **To receive Correspondence** – The Clerk drew Councillors' attention to the following - 2 e-mails from resident regarding content of the Welcome Letter, e-mail from Suffolk Constabulary re speed survey, e-mail thanks from St Elizabeth Hospice and Outdoor Bowls - e-mail St Marys Church re Churchyard maintenance – e-mail from Suffolk & Norfolk Constabulary – re undertaking another speed survey in Bentley and Thank you card and programme of events from Tuesday Club. **Late Correspondence:** E-mail from EB Football Club – e-mail St Marys Church with quote and letter, e-mail from Speedwatch Co-ordinator request for 3 High viz jackets £21.62 each for new volunteers - e-mail SALC re Battles over Nations Tribute WW1 Beacons of light 11/11/18.

18. **Exchange of information by Councillors and matters for consideration at future Meetings** – WW1 Beacons of Light should be marked in some way – discuss nearer the time – approach Bentley Comrades to see if they would like to organise something – make an agenda item at the beginning of 2018.

- 19 **To Authorise Payments** - The following payments were authorised

101227	Mrs J Scott	Salary January	£474.24	£970.42
		Minus tax	<u>Nil</u>	
			£474.24	
		Plus Expenses	£ 46.18	
		Plus Annual Room Allowance	<u>£450.00</u>	
			£970.42	

It was proposed that this cheque be paid.

Proposed: Cllr N Moxey                      Seconded: Cllr M Bamford                      All in favour                      CU

20. **To confirm date of next scheduled meeting** – Thursday **9 March 2017** at 7.30 pm.  
**Committee Room, Bentley Village Hall**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: