

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER 2017 AT 7.30 PM

Present

Cllr M Bamford - Chairman Mrs J Scott – Clerk Cllr R Feltwell Cllr J Wheals
Cllr K Spicer Cllr K Hutchings Cllr P Cross

Also in attendance: County Councillor Gordon Jones, District Councillor J Hinton Tree Warden & Footpath Warden- 2 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 A Graffham (work) Cllr C Goodwin & Cllr N Moxey (unwell). – District Councillor Hinton will be delayed.
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 November 2017 -**
The minutes were approved as a true record and duly signed.

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

5. **Matters Arising from the minutes: Page 885** – Ash Tree in School Playing field has now been dealt with – Babergh have been informed of the fly tipping in Church Road and dumped tyres by Railway bridge – they have an online reporting system like SCC – but don't acknowledge or let you know if it has been dealt with. Resident informed the meeting that the fly tipped items and rubble had been cleared from Church Road – however the tyres had not been cleared **Page 887 item 12** - cheque to be passed for payment tonight and will be sent with a letter of thanks - The Clerk was asked to contact WI re their leaflet – The Parish Council is happy to support it as long as it is accurate. Rest will be covered by agenda items

Action: Clerk to contact WI & Babergh re tyres

Public Session

District Councillor John Hinton – Councillors had been forwarded a copy of District Councillor Hinton's report **Appendix 1** in the minute book and on the Parish Council website.

County Councillor Gordon Jones stated his written report **Appendix 2** in the minutes and on the Council website will be e-mailed to the Clerk shortly. He reported on Budget Scrutiny a precursor to the budget going to full Council – a 1.99% increase in the Council Tax. (first time in seven years - SCC need to make a £55 million saving in the next three years) – the fragility of the adult care market and demand in that area – Home to school transport consultation starting on Tuesday 12 December to end of February – 3 options to be considered – the number plate recognition exercise in Halesworth area is being processed and it is hoped will be progressed. County Councillor Jones was asked how the infrastructure was going to cope with the amount of housing in the Local Plan. –a meeting is scheduled with an MP tomorrow afternoon to discuss transport and infrastructure. There were no other questions so County Councillor Jones wished everyone a Happy Christmas – gave his apologies for the January meeting and left the meeting.

Tree Warden – asked if more bird boxes could be erected on the Playing Field – This will be an agenda item at the January Meeting.

Action: Bird Boxes – Agenda item

6 **Planning Applications**

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

DC/17/04756	Alcove, Capel Road	Permission has been granted
DC/17/04596	Teapot House, Grove Road	Permission has been granted
DC/17/04596	Teapot House, Grove Road	Amendment details approved

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

DC/17/15578	The Arbour, Woodview Nurseries, Hazel Shrub	Application for Lawful Development Certificate for Existing Use: Former residential annexe now used as a separate residential dwelling-
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RECOMMEND APPROVAL

Proposed Cllr K Spicer	Seconded Cllr P Cross	All in favour	CU
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DC/17/05497	Land East of Grove Road, Grove Road	Erection of dwelling with associated access parking and ancillary works
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RECOMMEND APPROVAL - However, Councillors felt there should be no parking on the road to block off parking to the pre-existing houses and also because of emergency vehicle access on the corner.

Proposed Cllr K Spicer	Seconded Cllr J Wheals	All in favour	CU
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District Councillor Hinton apologised for his late arrival. He reported that a cabinet of five were working towards a majority to abolish “Babergh” but there will be no movement or real decision until probably 2020 as Brexit is causing problems. At a Council meeting on 19 December the whole cabinet will go. Members are not being told until 13 January the outcome of the old Council Offices. Cllr Hinton was told that Bentley had responded to the Boundary Commission – Clerk to send him a copy of the response.

Action: Send District Councillor Hinton copy of Bentley’s response

7. **Report by Exception – Tree Warden/Footpath Warden – Tree Warden** – read to a written report **Appendix 2** in the minute book. He reported that the Ash tree on the school playing field which had been dealt with. Apparently although the land is owned by SCC maintenance of the playing field has been farmed out to a private company – which means the school has to pay the company for any maintenance carried out – the school budget will not stretch to dealing with tree work and as a result a group of residents have offered to clear the scrub that is spreading onto the playing field and are hoping that other volunteers will be will to join in with this task. There was more bad news on invasive species - Sweet Chestnut is under attack from an oriental gall wasp, the larvae of which feed on the trees’ buds **Capel Library:** There are now approximately 200 Friends who pay a nominal subscription of £1 pa. Fund raising is ongoing and included receipts from a sponsored half marathon as well as second hand book sales at Bentley and Capel ~Fun Days. The 100 Club has approx. 90 members and the Community Cinema continues to hold monthly showings. Minecraft sessions continue to be held as are Capel Creator constructions sessions using Lego style bricks. Work on enhancing the reception desk area is due to start early in the New Year and the replacement of equipment is ongoing. The Library Manager has identified items that are needed. The AGM is on 27 January at 4pm in Capel Library – There are three trustee/committee member vacancies. **Bentley Long Barn** – No further news. Cllr Bamford will write again to Babergh. **Footpath Warden** - Reported that he had no indication that there were any problem trees and footpaths are still in the same condition – there are no issues of which he is aware.

8. **To discuss costs incurred by the Footpath Warden** - Footpath Warden stated that costs incurred were for fuel, maintenance of the chain saw (cost of chains) and the strimmer and he would be happy to provide the Clerk with details of his expenses annually. It was therefore proposed that the expenses be reimbursed annually, The Chairman thanked him and said we look forward to reimbursing his expenses.

Proposed Cllr B Feltwell Seconded Cllr J Wheals All in favour CU

9. **To discuss Suffolk Minerals & Waste Local Plan – Tattingsstone** - is an extension of the works at Folly Farm and does not cause any direct loss of amenity but the main issue is traffic at Tattingsstone Crossroads. It was proposed that the Chairman go online and comment re Tattingsstone Crossroads.

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

Belstead – To the left at the far end of the village – this is not going to happen at once - the time scale given is 2020 for the next 16 years and is taking place outside the woodland area – a discussion followed regarding the wildlife within the seven ancient woodlands in Bentley and it was proposed that the Chairman go online and comment on the grounds of the wildlife.

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

10. **To discuss Budget/Precept 2018/19** - 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- a small percentage had been added to all the amounts- and it was felt that the precept should remain the same. The Clerk explained that £3,750 was in the budget for Speedwatch – Calibration & Batteries for the speed gun and the purchase of a SID device, administration costs amount to £8,689.00 – IK for allotments £2K for Church Patch £1K contingency and £500 for Data Protection Legislation Bank Statement Balances as at 29 November – Community Account £9,963.71 - PC Tracker Account £9,650.45 and the Family Fun Day Tracker £1,066.74. There is a 0/9% in increase in the Tax Base. It was therefore proposed that the budget be accepted.

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

Following recommendation from the Finance Committee it was proposed that the precept remain at £14,500.

Proposed Cllr M Bamford Seconded Cllr K Hutchings All in favour CU

11. **To consider grant applications for insertion into the budget** - An application accompanied by a statement of the current financial position had been received from the following Clubs -

Friends of Capel Library - It was proposed that £286 be granted for the purchase of mats and poufs.

Proposed Cllr K Spicer Seconded Cllr M Bamford All in favour CU

Bentley Outdoor Bowls - A grant of £240 was proposed to pay for top soil and hard core paid out for the pathway to the green.

Proposed Cllr M Bamford Seconded Cllr P Cross All in favour CU

Tuesday Club - A grant of £250 was proposed to help with the cost of the summer outing to either Aldeburgh or Southwold.

WI – A grant of £200 was proposed to help with the cost of hiring guest speakers to help boost their membership. Clerk to request a copy of their accounts -

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

These grants are paid under the power of S137 – except for Bowls that come under the Power S19 – the budget figure therefore needs to be amended to reflect this.

Proposed Cllr B Feltwell

Seconded Cllr P Cross

All in favour CU

Action WI accounts – Inform the Clubs

12. **Response to Joint Local Plan Consultation Document** - The response had been sent by the Chairman and a copy delivered to every household. This will be kept as an agenda item.
13. **Hearing Loop in Village Hall – Update** – A letter had been sent to the Village Hall Committee and a response received which had been shown to the resident. The Chairman will attend the AGM.
14. **To discuss the formulation and publishing of perceived priorities re CIL payment - Update** - It was agreed that we have some idea of what is needed ie - road safety, signage, adult equipment on the playing field, parking access to the school and parking in the village. It was proposed that these be the priorities as we understand it.

Proposed Cllr M Bamford

Seconded Cllr B Feltwell

All in favour CU

15. **Boundary Commission – Electoral Review of Babergh Warding Arrangements - Update**
Bentley Parish Council response has been submitted proposing a potential ward consisting of Bentley, Belstead, Copdock & Washbrook (excluding Chattisham and Hintlesham) and Tattingsstone with a projected electorate of around 2,200. We await developments.
16. **Traffic Calming – Signage – Play Area – Update** – No news on the signage for the Play Area the Clerk had e-mailed several times but received no reply. She had also sent details of an accident sent in by a resident who wants the speed limit changed from 60mph to 30mph along Capel Road. Unfortunately it takes an act of Parliament to get a change in the speed limit. The Clerk told the meeting that she had received a call from the Speedwatch Co-ordinator informing her that the speed gun is going in for re-calibration in January.
17. **Babergh Alliance of Town & Parish Councils -** Bentley PC have not been represented at the last few meetings but a copy of the response regarding Babergh and Mid Suffolk Council's Joint Strategic Plan was sent to BAPTC for information.
18. **Affordable Housing – Report on progress – Update -** No news to date.
19. **Playing Fields Society –Bentley Family Fun Day – Firework Display -** Accounts were presented for the Family Fun Day (£382.92) and Firework Display (£1633.90) which was huge success and will be repeated in 2018 (October 27).. The Clerk had written a letter of thanks to the organisers.
20. **To receive Correspondence** – The Clerk drew Councillors' attention to the following - 2 e-mails from residents re Joint local Plan consultation –Letter from St Elizabeth Hospice our donation was used for a hoist instead of towards an overbed table. 4 e-mails from BAPTC – e-mail from Historic England re Listing the War Memorial - 3 e-mails re Hearing Loop – e-mail SALC New Data Protection Legislation updates – e-mail from Babergh 2018/19 Precepts and Tax bases - - E-mails from Resident re concerns about the speed limit – Capel Road and pictures of a recent accident with a bicycle. **Late Correspondence:** Letter from Babergh & Mid Suffolk re Collection Calendars 2018 will be put on the notice boards – e-mail District Councillor J Hinton – Planning Lists and e-mail from BAPTC.
21. **Exchange of information by Councillors and matters for consideration at future Meetings**
Cllr Bamford: Data Protection - Agenda item

Action: Data Protection

22. To Authorise Payments - The following payments were authorised

101274	SLCC	Clerk's Membership		£100.00
101275	ALCC	Clerk's Membership		£30.00
101276	I Chapman	Donation – Petrol etc.		£100.00
101277	Mrs J Scott	Salary October	£479.00	£534.45
		Minus tax	<u>Nil</u>	
			£479.00	
		Plus Expenses	<u>£ 55.00</u>	
			£534.45	

It was proposed that these be paid en bloc.

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

23 To confirm date of next scheduled meeting – Parish Council Meeting Thursday 4 January 2018 at 7.30 pm.

The Clerk asked about meeting dates May and July– May meeting 10 May and July meeting 12 July – Clerk will contact Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: