

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 5 DECEMBER 2019 AT 7.30 PM

Present

Cllr M Bamford - Chairman Mrs J Scott – Clerk Cllr N Moxey Cllr M Munday
Cllr P Cross Cllr C Perry Cllr K Spicer Cllr J Wheals
Cllr D Schumacher

Also in attendance District Councillor Dave Busby, Tree Warden, Footpath Warden and - 1 member of the public

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

1. **To record apologies for absence:** Cllr B Feltwell and County Councillor Gordon Jones
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 7 November 2019.**
Page 991 item 18 “trach” changed to track and “meting” changed to meeting. With these adjustments the minutes were approved as a true record and duly signed.

Proposed Cllr J Wheals Seconded Cllr M Munday All in favour CU
5. **Matters Arising from the minutes: Page 989** – notice sent to Bentley Bugle re Speedwatch Co-ordinator position. Remembrance Service went well and the road closure was just as we wanted - Clerk e-mailed thanks to Network Assurance. Clerk was asked to send a letter of thanks to Speedwatch Co-ordinator. Rest covered by agenda items

Public Session

County Councillor G Jones – Unable to attend tonight’s meeting but has sent his report which has been circulated to Councillors – **APPENDIX 1** in the minute book and on the website. Cllr Jones also sent an e-mail which was read out by the Clerk adding comments on the bus situation with regard to Bentley. A discussion followed on the points raised – Cllr Munday said that Ipswich Buses are not going to change their minds so we need to look to Babergh. Buzabout is no longer running and was not allowed to run on a commercial route. One solution could be for Bentley residents to catch the 94 at 8.45am and then a Connecting Communities bus back from Capel at 1.50 which runs three times a week to Bentley and Tattingstone – the only snag is that this bus has to be booked one week in advance.

District Councillor Dave Busby – Wished everyone a Happy Christmas and reported that the planning application for 8 houses in Grove Road had been approved. Boundaries – it has been suggested that Bentley be joined with Copdock, Washbrook, Pinewood etc and he suggested that the Council write a letter saying that Bentley would rather be linked with Capel St Mary and East Bergholt where our care services are. Cllr Busby left the meeting.

Tree Warden: Concerned that nothing had been done about the Oak tree at the build in Link Lane – it needs someone from Babergh Planning Enforcement to inspect – the conditions of the planning application have not been adhered to – there is a big pile of rubble all over the roots. Cllr Bamford will investigate and follow up.

6. **Planning Applications**

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

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| DC/19/03071 | Bentley Hall, Bentley Road | Refusal of Planning Permission |
| DC/19/03072 | Bentley Hall, Bentley Road | Refusal of Listed Building Consent |

- b) To give comments on any new applications in hand – None received

7. **Report by Exception – Tree Warden/Footpath Warden/Capel Library/ Bentley Long Barn**—**Tree Warden** – Two trees, a sycamore and a lime (TPO DC/19/04477) – consent to carry out works were dealt with earlier this week. 50 hedgerow saplings were delivered earlier this week ready to be planted in Bentley at Dodnash Fruit Farm. These were provided free from The Woodland Trust via the Suffolk Tree Warden Network Scheme, which in turn is supported by SCC and the Tree Council. More saplings will be provided next November to place in hedgerows that need gapping up or putting back hedgerows that were removed. **Capel Library:** A FoCL committee meeting was held on 3 December to plan events for 2020. Membership renewals are due by the end of this month (26 renewals received to date). Next Community Cinema film “Yesterday” will be shown on 17 December. 56 tickets have been sold – maximum seating (80). AGM is on 25 January 2020 in the library 4pm. The PC Chairman was invited. **Bentley Long Barn** –Nothing to report. - **Footpath Warden:** Reported on way marker position – some have been damaged or are missing – Footpath Warden will record their positions – PC might have to fund replacements. Way Marking will be an agenda item at the January meeting. **Footpath Society:** Cllr Wheals reported on a walk on New Year’s Day at 11 am which starts and finishes at the pub.

Action: Agenda item – Way Marking

8. **To discuss Council Ward Boundaries for Suffolk -** Following Cllr Busby’s comments that Bentley be joined with Copdock, Councillors were concerned that this had slipped by without having any information. It was therefore proposed that Cllr Bamford would go onto the Boundary Commission website and inform them that Bentley would not wish the Parish to be disconnected electorally from the locus of its key local services in Capel St Mary and would not wish to be amalgamated with Ipswich fringe communities.

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| Proposed Cllr K Spicer | Seconded Cllr N Moxey | All in favour | CU |
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Action: Cllr Bamford to contact Boundary Commission

9. **To approve purchase of New Batteries for the Speed Gun -** The speed gun is shared with Stutton PC - it was proposed that we continue to support and the purchase of new batteries be approved.

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| Proposed Cllr M Bamford | Seconded Cllr P Cross | All in favour | CU |
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It was also proposed that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Mawkes regarding speed control in Bentley.

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| Proposed Cllr J Wheals | Seconded Cllr M Bamford | All in favour | CU |
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Action: Letter of thanks to Mr Mawkes

10. **To consider grant applications for insertion into the Budget – Friends of Capel Library, Tuesday Club, Citizens Advice & Headway –** The following grants were proposed

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| Friends of Capel Library | Lockable case for computer | £250.00 |
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| Proposed Cllr P Cross | Seconded Cllr D Schumacher | All in favour | CU |
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| Tuesday Club | Towards coach fares | £250.00 |
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| Proposed Cllr K Spicer | Seconded Cllr C Perry | All in favour | CU |
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| Citizens Advice – Ipswich | | | £250.00 |
| Proposed Cllr K Spicer | Seconded Cllr C Perry | All in favour | CU |
| Headway | | | £100.00 |
| Proposed Cllr K Spicer | Seconded Cllr D Schumacher | All in favour | CU |

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| Action: Clerk to inform Clubs |
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11. **To Approve six month accounts April-September 2019 -** Councillors had been issued with a copy of the 6 month Receipts and Payments 2019/20 and the accounts had been reviewed by the Finance Working Party – Cllr Cross and Cllr Schumacher. The Clerk reported total receipts for 6 months of the year £22,923.43 this figure includes precept £14,500, VAT repayment £606.64, interest £14.19, £7,175.00 from Groundworks re Neighbourhood Plan and Family Fun Day deposit £627.60. Total payments over the 6 months included general admin £4,491.14 which includes Clerks salary/expenses, hall hire, grants under the power of S137 £600, S142 (citizens Advice) £200 and S19 £200 – grass cutting/leaf clearance –closed churchyard £600 and grounds maintenance £298.38 - unplanned expenditure for Trees in closed churchyard £1,100 - otherwise payments are within the budget. There was one uncleared cheque £660 for Alison Farmer Associates- the original cheque did not clear but she still had the second cheque and is going to present that to the bank. Current Account total £19,279.69 – Family Fun Day Tracker Account £5,181.08 which includes firework accounts and Parish Council Tracker account £9685.88. Neighbourhood Plan Account: £8,675.00 Received from Groundwork UK – cheques paid to Parker Planning Services & Alison Farmer Associates totalled £6,270 – Total remaining £2,405 It was proposed that the accounts be accepted.

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

12. **To discuss Budget/Precept -** Councillors had been issued with a copy of the proposed budget by e-mail. Cllr Cross reported that the Finance Working Party had met with the Clerk to go through the budget and were happy with the projected figures – there is a lot of money in reserve – but we might have to consider purchase of the play area and the Parish Council might have to cover the cost of the referendum for the Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk explained that amounts reserved for purchase of SID device £3,175, and 5 green grit bins £1,325 = £4,500. Contingency had been increased to £5K to cover potential allotments & path which had not yet been drawn down – so were still in reserve. Administration costs amounted to £9,531.85. Bank Statement balances at 29 November - Current Account: - £20,585.81 (which includes £2,405 NHP). Parish Council Tracker Account: £9,685.88 Family Fun Day Tracker Account: £5,196.08 - (only £150 is PC money – the rest is Fun Day and Firework money). Because our income will be over £25K we will have to have a full audit by Littlejohn. After some discussion it was proposed that the budget be accepted as outlined and to finalise the precept in January.

Proposed Cllr C Perry Seconded Cllr J Wheals All in favour CU

13. **Playing Field Sign:** As one of the keys to the gate is now held by Bentley Stores so the sign needs to be updated. It was proposed that the sign be updated with details of Bentley Stores and the cost be ratified at the next meeting.

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

14. **Withdrawal of subsidy for 94A bus – Update** -Already discussed in the Public Session. Cllr Bamford thanked Councillor Munday and Councillor Spicer for the amount of work done on this. The petition was mentioned – SCC have not looked at the petition – It needs acknowledging that it has been looked at and discussed at council level. There is no point in going back to Connecting Communities until residents have been consulted. Cllrs Munday and Spicer will work on this.

15. **To discuss Potential Purchase of the Children's Play Area - Update** - It was agreed to take this off the agenda – it will be in the Neighbourhood Plan – this could be a potential CIL project.
16. **GDPR – To consider Subject Access Policy-** Deferred - The documents re Subject Access Policy and Privacy Policy will be re-circulated.
17. **Grit Bins –Update** - The Clerk reported that since SCC had contacted her re the refusal of a grit bin on Station Road she had heard nothing but had contacted Christopher Mortimer and had received a quote - to supply 5 x 175 litre green grit bins - to supply & install slabs and bolt bins down - £1,325 plus VAT. The Clerk was asked to chase SCC and it was proposed that the quote be accepted once permission is granted by SCC.
- Proposed Cllr N Moxey Seconded Cllr M Bamford All in favour CU
18. **Traffic Calming – SID pole locations – Update** Two residents had requested more information regarding siting of poles near their residences. Cllr Munday gave out revised proposed position of SID poles **Appendix 2** in the minute book - (5) agreement from both land owners. Get rid of (2). Cllrs Munday and Spicer will go with B Mawkes to check Trevelac verge and look at the horse warning sign – ongoing.
19. **Suffolk Minerals & Waste Local Plan Modifications Consultation – Update** - The original plan still had the map showing extraction in terms of the fishing lake as being part of it. Cllr Bamford had written and asked for this to be removed and also informed them that the plan had not taken on board the extension of the AONB. Take off the agenda
20. **Neighbourhood Plan -Update** – Cllr Moxey reported that the consultation on the Joint Local Plan had received eight or so responses asking for an update. Reports have been commented on – Design Code and Landscape Assessment – waiting for final housing number figure for the Housing Needs Assessment. The Consultant was happy with our progress – two or three pages have required significant work and once we are comfortable with the complete draft and housing needs there will be an informal consultation exercise with the Village - copies of the document will be in the pub, shop and village hall and a consultation evening with subsequent feedback to take back to Babergh – this will give a final tick in the box - Don't know whether we need an environmental assessment – it then goes back to Babergh and Judiciary. Then to a village referendum – There is a six month delay at Babergh
21. **Slide for the Play Area – To discuss Platform Slide at Demolition Site** - David Bracey's report has been sent to Paul Willis for a quote. The Clerk has chased but not yet heard anything. There was a discussion on moving the equipment from the site – Cllr Spicer will liaise with Paul Willis.
22. **Affordable Housing – Update** – Nothing has been heard from Hastoe since the meeting with the Parish Council in November.
23. **Playing Field Society –Update** – The container will be painted in the New Year. The Clerk was asked to put Development of the Playing Field as an agenda item at the next meeting on 3 February 2020.
24. **To receive Correspondence** – The Clerk drew Councillors' attention to the following: E-mails from - Babergh - Notice of Election & election notices which were put on the notice boards and the website, Precept Forms 2020/2021 & Christmas Waste messages – BAPTC – response to Joint Local Plan – County Councillor Jones re proposed boundary changes SCC divisions, apologies and December Report – SALC – Fees 2020/2021 & S137 allowance – Citizens Advice – Press Release Babergh Parishes & Newsletter and an update from Headway
25. **Exchange of information by Councillors and matters for consideration at future Meetings Cllr Bamford** – Village Playing Field – drainage is a problem – Talk about a forward plan for the playing field – agenda item.

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| Action: Agenda Item – Forward plan for Playing field |
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26. To Authorise Payments - The following payments were authorised

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| 101420 | P Baldwin | Grass cut, strim, etc | | £275.00 |
| 101421 | HMRC | Clerk's Tax | | £3.00 |
| 101422 | ALCC | ALCC membership (Clerk) | | £40.00 |
| 101423 | SLCC | Full membership (Clerk) | | £126.00 |
| 101424 | Mrs J Scott | Salary November | £505.70 | |
| | | Minus tax | <u>£3.00</u> | £560.60 |
| | | | £502.70 | |
| | | Plus Expenses | £55.33 | |
| | | Plus under payment | <u>£2.57</u> | |
| | | | £560.60 | |

It was proposed that these be paid en bloc.

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

27. To confirm date of next scheduled meeting - Parish Council Meeting Thursday 9 January 2020

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

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: