

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 9 JANUARY 2020 AT 7.30 PM

Present

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

Also in attendance County Councillor Gordon Jones, 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, Cllr K Spicer and District Councillor Dave Busby
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 December 2019.**
The minutes were approved as a true record and duly signed.

Proposed Cllr N Moxey Seconded Cllr M Munday All in favour CU
5. **Matters Arising from the minutes: Page 993** Cllr Bamford was going to investigate Oak Tree in Link Lane and follow up. Not yet done – Tree Officer at Babergh has been contacted by the Tree Warden. **Page 994 item 9** Letter of thanks sent to Bob Mawkes - Stutton PC are ordering the new batteries for the speed gun – we will be sent an invoice in due course– **item 10** Clubs informed of grants Rest covered by agenda items

Public Session

County Councillor G Jones – had sent his written report which has been circulated to Councillors – **APPENDIX 1** in the minute book and on the website. Cllr Jones also reported on Budget which is due to go to Cabinet later this month and to full Council on the 13th. At this stage the proposal is for a 2% increase in Adult Social Care and 1.98% increase in the Council Tax base. The settlement this year is not bad but it is only a one year settlement - extra £3½ million – 2 investment funds have been proposed £½million for Highways which needs to be spent on signs (not potholes) and £3million Suffolk Fund set up for capital projects to be spent 2020/21 on cycle lanes, electric charging points, ANPR etc – ANPR was then discussed – Bentley would like to be involved in the Working Group re Speeding through villages. Civil Parking was discussed order is due to be signed today with an implementation date of 6 April. – Consultation and review of Children’s Centres will go live tomorrow and finally Boundary Commission – proposal has been submitted – Bentley have responded – don’t want to be linked with Pinewood and become a fringe village of Ipswich.

Resident: Asked about traffic strips at the railway crossing. – The reason for these is unknown.

6. **Planning Applications**

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

DC/19/03787

1 Grove Road

Permission has been granted

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

DC/19/05429 Holly Oak, Hazel Shrub Outline Planning application (all matters reserved) Erection of 2 No dwellings

RECOMMEND REFUSAL – Councillors felt it was an inappropriate development outside the built up area – the application is incorrect in terms of the five year land supply. They objected on the grounds of CS11 - not close to or have a relationship with the settlement area and no proven case that there is a need for them. There are also significant transport difficulties due to the cancellation of bus services.

Proposed Cllr N Moxey Seconded Cllr D Schumacher All in favour CU

DC/19/00291 Land West of Church Road Outline Planning application – Erection of up to 45 dwellings & shared foot/cycle path & access

RECOMMEND REFUSAL: Councillors objected to this application on the grounds that were originally submitted in February 2019 following a Village meeting. They noted and endorsed specific reports from the Housing Enabling Officer dated 8 January 2020 and the BMSDC Strategic Planning Policy and Infrastructure consultation response dated 20 December 2019 which did not support the application plus the concerns raised in the Public Realm response dated 2 January 2020. In addition, Councillors would draw your attention to the Landscape Assessment Report dated July 2019 by Alison Farmer Associates on our behalf which highlights the sensitivity of the area “The *proposed development will give rise to adverse effects on the character of the site, settlement form, wider landscape and Church Road.*”

Proposed Cllr D Schumacher Seconded Cllr P Cross All in favour CU

7. **Report by Exception – Tree Warden/Footpath Warden/Capel Library/ Bentley Long Barn** —**Tree Warden** – A Veteran, Notable and TPO tree survey is being planned for activating in Summer 2020 during which these parish trees will be mapped using GPS. Dodnash Fruit Farm have given permission for the Tree Warden to use part of their land to start a Community Orchard. The aim is to create a volunteer group that will become involved in planting a small orchard using Suffolk varieties of fruit tree and looking after the trees as they grow. For the past three years the Tree Warden helped collect Rowan and Wild Service tree seed from Dodnash and Great Martins Woods for the Kew Millennium Seed Bank. **Capel Library**: First event of the year is the Community Film ‘Blinded by the Light’ on Tuesday 21 January all are welcome. Doors open at 7pm start 7.30pm. The AGM will be held on Saturday 25 January at 4pm all are welcome. Next Committee Meeting Tuesday 4 February at 7pm. **Bentley Long Barn** –No further news. - **Footpath Warden**: Reported that one of the signs near Nelson Potter has been put back up. **Footpath Society**: Cllr Wheals reported that the New Year’s Day walk was well attended (over 25 including children and dogs). As this was so successful another walk is planned for Easter.
8. **To discuss Council Ward Boundaries for Suffolk -** Discussed in the Public Session – Cllr Bamford has responded on the Boundary Commission website.
9. **To discuss Way Marking -** The Footpath Warden reported that he had not yet managed to speak with SCC Highways on this subject so this will be left on the agenda.
10. **To set Precept & sign Precept Charging Authority Form –** An increase in the Precept to £15K was proposed and discussed. Following the discussion, it was further proposed and agreed that the Precept be set at £14,500 and the Precept Charging Authority Form was duly signed by the Chairman, two Councillors and the Clerk.

Proposed Cllr D Schumacher Seconded Cllr P Cross All in favour CU

Action: Clerk to send signed form to Babergh

11. **To discuss felling two Sycamore Trees in Bentley Closed Churchyard - £400-** Following advice from the Tree Warden Councillors agreed the trees should be felled. It was therefore proposed that the quote from J Tremaine for £400 be accepted.

Proposed Cllr N Moxey Seconded Cllr M Munday All in favour CU

Action: Clerk to advise St Mary's Church
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12. **To Approve Accounts – April – December 2019 -** This item was deferred as the Accounts Working Party had not been able to meet before the meeting to finalise the accounts. Agenda item February Meeting.

13. **To agree cost of Playing Field Sign:** The quote from Realise Futures was £78 and following a short discussion it was decided to accept as the sign needs to be updated as soon as possible.

Proposed Cllr M Bamford Seconded Cllr D Schumacher All in favour CU

14. **Withdrawal of subsidy for 94A bus – Update** - Cllr Munday had met with County Councillor Gordon Jones to discuss. Cllrs Munday and Spicer would look at a Village wide questionnaire to find out the needs of the village. County Councillor Jones agreed to help with cost. The Connecting Communities bus is not being used. The possibility of purchasing an electric bus from the Suffolk 20 Fund as a one off capital expenditure was mentioned – there was also pressure on the Constable Medical Practice to provide drivers. Cllr Bamford thanked Councillors Munday and Spicer for their continued efforts.

15. **To discuss whether to complete SALC Survey re Planning -** It was proposed that Cllr Munday complete the survey.

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

16. **GDPR – To consider Subject Access Policy-** Clerk has completed draft GDPR General Privacy Notice which is being circulated to Councillors for comments/amendments to hopefully be adopted at the February meeting.

17. **Grit Bins –Update -** Clerk has received confirmation for the proposed grit bins - two have been refused - Station Road (256449) Ipswich Insulations side and Church Road (Opposite Marmley House) - the refusal for this application says it's been rejected because STATION ROAD (C426) is on a P2 gritting route - this request is for Church Road? we always had a grit heap here because the pavement slopes badly and when icy is very dangerous for children and adults going to school - there have been a lot of accidents there in the past. Approval has been received for Grove Road (256443) - Church Road (256448) and Church Road (256446) - there were four applications for Church Road Clerk has requested SCC to clarify locations.

18. **Traffic Calming – SID pole locations – Update** The Berry Farm site is still to be measured – it has been discussed with resident who want it further away from their front gateway.

19. **Neighbourhood Plan -Update –** Cllr Moxey reported that completion of the NHP is close - waiting for the final housing needs survey – had to withdraw to recalculate the housing information – tied to 51 in the Joint Local Plan down to 38 an added paragraph needed by Babergh. Planning Team have agreed 18 sheltered houses. There are 22 stages to the NHP and are at stage 17 at the moment – a number of the policies are completely done. Cllr Moxey asked the Parish Council to fund photocopying cost of around £30 – Cllr Moxey will be reimbursed costs for photocopying and costs ratified at a later date.

20. **Slide for the Play Area – Update -** Clerk reported that Armour Engineering have looked at the report – most of the work would be other trades not them – the ground work would also need to be completed by someone else as they do not have the necessary equipment. Will volunteers be doing the rubbing down? There seems to be only a bit or two that they can help with which they will do but do not have the time to project manage it. Councillors discussed forming a Working Party to take the climbing frame up there is no pressure from the landowner at the moment to move it. Keep on the agenda

21. **Affordable Housing – Update** – No additional information at the moment.
22. **Playing Field Society –Update** – Next meeting Thursday 6 February 2020.
23. **To receive Correspondence** – The Clerk drew Councillors’ attention to the following: 3 e-mails from St Mary’s Church re felling of 2 Sycamores – 1 from Tree Warden agreeing – e-mail from District Cllr Busby re Planning consultation request DC/19/05429 – Holly Oak.- Armour Engineering re climbing frame – 2 x SCC re drain in Grove Road – does not warrant immediate action e-mail thanks from Headway, Citizens Advice (Ipswich) Tuesday Club and Friends of Capel Library – BDC re Great British Spring Clean 2020 (Agenda item?) and finally SALC re Internal audit – the booking form has been completed – date agreed for audit – to be ratified at the next meeting

Action: Great British Spring Clean – Agenda item

24. **Exchange of information by Councillors and matters for consideration at future Meetings Cllr Bamford** – Long Term Plan for the Village Playing Field - do a feasibility study – Agenda item at February meeting. Letter needs to be sent to I Chapman acknowledging he work he does in maintaining the children’s play area -

Action: Agenda Items – Long Term - plan for Playing field – Letter of thanks to Mr Chapman

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

101425	Bentley Village Hall	Hire of Hall & Committee Room	£55.00
101426	Alison Farmer Associates	Landscape Appraisal NHP	£660.00
101427	P Baldwin	Second leaf clear	£155.00
101428	HMRC	Clerk’s Tax	£3.00
101429	Mrs J Scott	Salary December	£505.70
		Minus tax	£3.00
			£502.70
		Plus Expenses	£43.24
			<u>£545.94</u>

It was proposed that these be paid en bloc.

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

26. **To confirm date of next scheduled meeting** - Parish Council Meeting Thursday 6 February 2020 preceded by a Playing Field Society Meeting at 7pm.

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

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: