

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON AT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL ON -THURSDAY 2 DECEMBER 2021 AT 7.30 PM

Present

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

Also, in attendance - County Councillor Georgia Hall, District Councillor D Busby, Tree Warden, Speedwatch Co-ordinator and 5 members of the public

Cllr Munday welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologised for the slight delay in starting the meeting. The Clerk received no notification of anyone planning to film or record this meeting. A risk assessment had been carried out for 9 Councillors and up to 24-28 members of the public with seating 1 metre plus apart.

1. **To record apologies for absence:** Cllr B Feltwell , Cllr J Wheals & Footpath Warden
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 4 November 2021 -**
The minutes were approved as a true record and were duly signed.

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

5. **Matters arising from the Minutes - Page 1087** – Remembrance Day Service – went well – Clerk will thank SCC & Network Assurance. – **Page 1087 item 15** Measurements were taken by Councillor Feltwell & sent to Highways **item 16** – some training has taken place on defibrillators – Cllr Moxey told the meeting that about 20 people attended. Thanks will be sent to Steve? **Page 1090 item 19** – SCC were contacted via their reporting tool regarding the Tree on Silver Leys and Birch Trees at Highfields – they don't deem any action necessary for either of these items at this moment in time. **Page 1090 item 24** - Water leaking from Fishing Lakes – SCC contacted – they have investigated and are considering what action to take. Rest covered by agenda items

Public Session

County Councillor G Hall - had sent her November written report which had been circulated to Councillors – **APPENDIX 1** in the minute book and on the website. She was happy to take any questions. She had seen the e-mails regarding the Horse Riders and that the road markings will have to be funded by the Parish Council and reminded them of available funds in her Locality Budget. Cllr Munday asked if she could check re the two Slow and 30 mph signs that had been renewed – these had been paid for out of Gordon Jones Locality Budget- how much did they cost to get them done? There are other SLOW signs approaching Bergholt Road junction that haven't been renewed. County Councillor Hall was also told that the road was closed again for road studs to be put in – which didn't happen and then no road markings signs appeared. Cllr Munday said that it seems that diversions are not being done via Quiet Lanes.

District Councillor D Busby – had sent his written report which had been circulated to Councillors **APPENDIX 2** in the minute book and on the website – He spoke about Covid grants (£42.7 million) – Public Realm - in house to give a better service and the Babergh East Police and Parish Forum meeting – looks like PCSO's might be going back to the Hadleigh area – next meeting is at Hadleigh Town Hall March 23 at 7.30. There is a fair in Hadleigh from 10-4pm this Saturday 4 December. He was asked about the JLP and explained the JLP to residents present – 25 year plan which was started in 2016 – they are still writing it!

Resident: Told the meeting the pavement was lifting outside 35 Silver Leys – a 90 year old resident had tripped. Clerk will inform SCC via the Reporting Tool.

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| Action: Report pavement on SCC Reporting Tool |
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6. Planning Applications –

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

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| DC/21/04847 | Capel Station Garage, Bentley Hall Road | Permission has been granted |
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| DC//20/04739 | Holly Oak, Hazel Shrub | Approved conditions |
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b) To give comments on any new applications in hand –

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| DC/21/06256 | Land East of 1-6 Grove Road | Application under S73a for Removal or Variation of a Condition following grant of planning permission DC/20/01122. Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (Erection of 1 No dwelling with access via (1 Grove Road, Bentley approved under DC/19/03787) – To vary Condition 3 (Agreement of Materials) to amend previous discharged condition |
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WITHDRAWN

7. **A4 Junction 55 Copdock Interchange Public Consultation -** Two options were being considered Option 4 - to put an additional road in. – to increase the capacity of the existing junction was considered the best option for Bentley and after some discussion it was proposed that the Parish Council recommend Option 4 – with the additional slip road.

Proposed Cllr M Bamford Seconded Cllr D Schumacher 6 in favour 1 abstention

8. **Report by Exception – Tree Warden/Footpath Warden/Capel Library/ Bentley Long Barn Footpath Warden & Speedwatch - Tree Warden**– A £500,000 Farming Hedge Fund has been made available to farmers & landowners in England for creating & planting hedgerow trees under the heading “Close the Gap”. Strong winds have brought down many tree branches especially those of Ash (Ash Dieback effect). Highways have examined the large Birch trees on the verge along Highfields & have reported ‘no action to be taken’ as they do not undertake tree reduction unless there is a definite danger to the public. The Woodland Trust tree saplings, guards, stakes & mats were delivered to the Playing field on 25 November. All except the saplings have been stored in the container. Saplings are outside until they are required for planting. The Tree Warden participated in a SWT webinar on 17 November – titled ‘Time for Trees’ a presentation given by Gillian Allard based on the FAO & UNEP Programme ‘Forests Biodiversity & People’. Two hedgerows in the village are very overgrown & urgently require cutting back, 35 Highfields & 44 Silver Leys. The Tree Warden was unable to attend the East Anglian Tree Forum in November due to a clash of commitments (£15 payment will be reimbursed). **Friends of Capel Library** –Reminder that Suffolk Libraries is now a charity & funds need to be raised for its upkeep. FCL Committee Meeting was held on 23 November. Christmas ‘Photoshoot’ raffle raised £70. Capel Library Manager will be taking a 6 month sabbatical from January onwards. Cover will be provided. Future events discussed – the first fund raising event of 2022 being Suffolk Book Journey. The chosen book will be taken from library to library across Suffolk by volunteers. The book will arrive at Capel Library on 10 March and then onwards to Chantry Library. The second fund raising even is Suffolk Library Day on 12 March – Capel Library is holding a Cakes and Craft sale. The children’s Summer Reading Challenge will take place during July & August. Two Quiz Nights are planned (April & November). FoCL plan to have a stall at Capel Fun Day & the Bentley Tudor weekend. AGM is 29 January 2022. Film nights are on the third Tuesday of each month. Film starts at 7.30 pm (reduced price for FoCL members). Next Committee Meeting 21 February. - **Bentley Barn** – No further news received. - **Footpath Warden.** Has been informed of knocked over way marker in Dodnash Wood fallen over and

will be attending to it this weekend. **Speedwatch** – There have been six sessions held since the last meeting. 18 vehicles were reported. 3 at the Village Hall, 1 at the War Memorial and 14 on Capel Road. The highest was recorded at 46 mph. Speedwatch are getting short of volunteers- 3 off sick at the moment. Co-ordinator is happy to speak to anyone interested.

Cllr Georgia Hall told the meeting - ANPR – Recruiting new member of Staff – this scheme has been held up because of training. Bentley have completed the forms and are on the list

Cllr Bamford mentioned that Tree Warden Network had got a Green Award.

Action; Hedges Silver Leys & Highfields – send letter

9. **To Approve Six Month Accounts – April – September 2021 -** Clerk/RFO reported Councillors had been issued with a copy of the half yearly Receipts and Payments 2021/221 - Receipts for 6 months for year 2021/22 amount to £21,740.24 this figure includes precept £14,500, VAT repayment £1,816.71, interest (0.66p), £3,500 Locality Budget- Maritime FC - £258.00 Babergh parish grant and £1,664.87 CIL monies. Total payments over the 6 months included general admin £4,764.21 which includes Clerks salary/expenses, Zoom payments etc, grants under the power of S137 £800, S19 £200 – (S142 (Citizens Advice) £100, – grass cutting/leaf clearance –closed churchyard £700.00 - unplanned expenditure £120 to repaint Bentley Parish Council sign on notice board otherwise payments are within budget. There were four uncleared cheques amounting to £575.50. Current Account Balance at 29 September - total £18,953.38 Family Fun Day Tracker Account £3,748.07 – which includes firework accounts and Parish Council Tracker account £9,699.01. It was proposed that the accounts be approved.

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

10. **To Review & Agree draft Budget -** The Clerk told the meeting that Cllrs had been issued with a copy of the proposed Budget – & 8 month accounts - the Finance Working Party had gone through the budget with the Clerk via a Zoom meeting and were happy with the projected figures – The Clerk explained that amounts reserved for purchase of additional SID device £3K, SID poles £390, Pole and two signs (Entry & exit) re Quiet Lanes amount to £680 and gym equipment £3K - also included is a £5K contingency for Church path, allotments, additional training etc and £1,500 to pay for NHP Referendum. - Fees for internal and external audits have also been included. Administration costs amount to £10,032.53 - Bank Statement Balances for 7 months (November Statements not yet received) –Current Account £17,9121.84- Parish Council Tracker Account £9,699.01 and Family Fun Day Tracker Account £3748.07 – November expenditure was £10,376.82 which included payment to Terrain Aeration of £9,600 for the Playing Field drainage works there were also some Uncleared cheques amounting to £727.43. Cllr Schumacher told the meeting he was happy with the uplifts and extra increases – in terms of the financial position which is healthy

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

11. **To consider Grant Applications for insertion into the Budget – Citizens Advice – Outdoor Bowls -** The following grants were proposed

Bentley Outdoor Bowls £200.00

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

Citizens Advice - Ipswich £100.00

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

12. **To discuss Headway App & Help for Heroes –** Requested by Cllr Moxey at the November meeting – as these were non specific PC matters there was no discussion.

13. **To discuss 2022 quote for Grass Cutting Services – Closed Churchyard –** The Clerk told the meeting that the Church membership are delighted with the work done by Peter Baldwin and the Churchyard always looks well cared for. It was therefore proposed to accept the 2022 quote which included extra cuts.

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

14. **To agree Petrol Expenses re Play Area - -** It was proposed that a cheque for £100 be raised for the willing volunteer who cuts the play area grass - expenses towards petrol costs and wear and tear of his equipment was last paid in May 2019. A letter of thanks to be sent.

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

15. **Village Hall Projector - Update -** It has been established by Councillor Cross that the Village Hall do not have a projector for use by the public. After a short discussion it was agreed that Cllr Munday would investigate costs for a projector. Leave on the Agenda.

16. **To discuss Lorry Route Map Review in Suffolk** - Questionnaire regarding the impact of lorries through Bentley - areas needed to be identified with grid references and details – two areas were mentioned – road towards the level crossing and Station Farm – narrow road widths. Cllr Schumacher will measure and get co-ordinates – Cllr Munday will complete the survey.

17. **To Choose Three New Road Names – Grove Road** - Ganzoni was suggested but after some discussion Prior Gardens – Rosemary Way (Rosemary was Mr Prior’s wife) and Grove Gardens were proposed – these suggestions will be sent to Babergh for consideration.

Proposed Cllr C Perry Seconded Cllr K Spicer All in favour CU

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| Action: Send suggestions to Babergh |
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18. **To Discuss Bentley Cook Book** - Cllr Spicer told the meeting there had been a lot of interest and G Pink was going to help with compiling the ideas and photographs – maybe give copies away as part of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. However, money would be needed for printing and Councillors proposed that the Parish Council would cover publication costs of up to £300.

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

19. **To discuss Community Fibre - County Broadband/Openreach –** Peter Chapman told the meeting that the leaflet had gone out this week and reached all households - he thanked everyone who had helped. Initial response – 22 registered but he would like to get 100. One volunteer but will need more. Discussions taken place and questioning County Broadband – not quite the whole story is being told. Facebook pages need to answer questions in simple terms. Pleased with how things are going so far – grateful for any support the Parish Council can give by putting stuff on website etc. The Gigabit Grant was also discussed.

20. **To discuss quote for Play Area Bench Plinth** – The Clerk told the meeting she was still struggling to get two quotes for the plinth. After some discussion the Clerk was told to take the item off the agenda it will be done in-house.

21. **Traffic Calming – SID/ANPR/Road Markings – Update -** County Councillor Hall will update re white lining -ANPR discussed previously - Cllr Schumacher told the meeting that he will spin SID round – he is going to investigate prices for a solar SID which would stay in the same place but be turned off one week in four – the other one will be moved round the village. No data from SID has been analysed yet. Some residents had commented on Facebook re SID and a discussion followed about keeping residents informed of how SID works etc – maybe put it in Bentley Bugle.

22. **Playing Field Society – Good news** - i) Litter Bins –2 bins are to be provided by Babergh free of charge. One to be sited on the Play Area – near the gate and one to be sited near the sign – which is reasonably close to the tables. Maritime have agreed to empty this bin. – Map to be sent to Babergh showing the locations. ii) Gym Equipment – Babergh have awarded us £5,706 (75% of costs ex VAT) for gym equipment – plus £3K from Parish Council – Funding of Surface needs to be discussed – Agenda item January meeting. iii) Bonfire – Cllr Munday was concerned that the bonfire was starting to be built already on the Playing Field – a discussion followed and it was agreed to give it another two months and see how it progresses – then if there is a problem we will deal with it,

Action: Advise Babergh re siting of litter bins – Surface for Gym Equipment -Agenda item

23. **Neighbourhood Plan –Update** Cllr Moxey told the meeting there was a short pause whilst we wait to see what the JLP does.
24. **To receive Correspondence** – The Clerk drew Councillors’ attention to the following e-mails – BAPTC – Meeting 22 November - Babergh x 4 Road name suggestions, Precept papers, Christmas Waste Collection dates, & Community Christmas Cards – Suffolk CC x7 ANPR, Volunteer Work Parties AONB, Deteriorated road markings – Trees at Highfields & Silver Leys, Fishing Lakes & Significant funding for Farmers in Suffolk & Essex – Residents x 3 – Fibre Broadband, Tree at Silver Leys and East Bergholt School Bus
25. **Exchange of information by Councillors and matters for consideration at future Meetings**
Cllr Munday – At the Remembrance Service she was asked if we could make any improvements to the War Memorial – Agenda item at the January meeting.

Action: Agenda item Improvements to War Memorial

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

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| 101561 | Canon UK Ltd | Fibre Broadband Leaflets | £50.00 |
| 101562 | SLCC | Membership Fees | £134.00 |
| 101563 | Peter Baldwin | Grass /leaf clear C/yard | £305.00 |
| 101564 | Mrs J Scott | Clerks Salary November | £520.00 |
| | | Minus tax | <u>00.00</u> |
| | | | £520.00 |
| | | Plus Expenses | <u>£56.27</u> |
| | | | <u>£576.27</u> |

It was proposed that these be paid en bloc.

Proposed Cllr D Schumacher Seconded: Cllr C Perry All in favour CU

27. **To confirm date of next scheduled meeting** –. Parish Council Meeting Thursday 6 January 2022 at 7.30 pm.

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

CHAIRMAN:



DATE: 6th January 2022