

# BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE REMOTE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON ZOOM - THURSDAY 4 MARCH 2021 AT 7.30 PM

### Present

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

Also, in attendance - County Councillor Gordon Jones, District Councillor D Busby, Tree Warden, Footpath Warden and 5 members of the public.

Cllr Munday welcomed everyone to the meeting – the agenda states that the meeting is open to the press and public via Zoom by prior request to the Clerk - the Clerk received five notifications.

1. To record apologies for absence: D Schumacher
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 Remote Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 4 February 2021 - The minutes were approved as a true record and will be duly signed.  
Proposed Cllr K Spicer    Seconded Cllr N Moxey    All in favour    CU
5. Matters arising from the Minutes: Page 1048 item 8 – Dog bin has been emptied – **Item 11** – e-mail sent to St Mary's Church re 19 Yew trees informing them that work could go ahead by J Tremaine at a cost £150 – invoice not yet received. Rest covered by Agenda item.

### Public Session - omitted from Agenda

**County Councillor G Jones** – had sent his written report for February which had been circulated to Councillors – **APPENDIX 1** in the minute book and on the website and was happy to answer any questions. He drew Councillor's attention to the last item of his report – Update on National Grid's Network Options Assessment which may affect Bentley – no further progress on this but National Grid will take the least cost option route. He spoke of the proposed barriers on Church Road – several meetings had been held – there will be a site visit with a representative from British Horse Society with the Highways people and they have asked for a representative from Bentley equine community to also attend the meeting. He told the meeting that we have been as forceful as we can be in the comments – SCC have been working on this particular project since 2013 (8 years) – it is a major route to the best bridleways and we have to consider our riding community. The Chairman thanked County Councillor Jones for helping out Maritime Football Club with a funding issue for reinforcing a parking area for up to 30 vehicles on the school playing field – the school were in agreement and County Councillor Jones had contributed from his Locality Budget.

**District Councillor D Busby** – had sent Councillors Briefing notes for Town & Parish Council February 2021 which had been circulated to Councillors – **APPENDIX 2** in the minute book and on the website. He told the meeting a meeting had taken place with Enforcement and Planning re Bentley Barn – things are on the move there has been a lot of activity bonfires etc he had asked for a meeting to include Cllr Bamford – there is a possibility of a planning application going in for that particular area. English Heritage Officer is going to make a visit. He was told there is a lot of anxiety over the rapid deterioration of the barn and it must be repaired and retained – it looks as though something is happening – hopefully in the right direction - Tree Warden informed the meeting that he was a Trustee of the Bentley Barn Trust and would like to be involved also that nobody had mentioned the Bats.

The owner of Bentley Barn told the meeting he had owned the building for 12 years and looked at many methods of financing which had been blocked by the Trustees and had resulted in them getting no help from Natural England or availability of funds from normal channels. The Tree Warden told the meeting the trustees had not blocked anything they were concerned about the building and the seven species of bat. The owner said he was happy to answer any questions and have a meeting with the PC at some stage – he was working closely with Heritage England and Babergh District Council – it is private property it is not about to be used as a car park – it is magnificent and he wished to preserve it. He was told that the Parish Council would welcome a meeting to engage in a useful discussion – the Clerk to arrange. District Councillor Busby was told about drainage of the Playing Field and was asked about CIL money from Babergh – PC are hoping to get the work done during the summer so it is back in use in September.

<b>Action:</b> Clerk to arrange meeting with owner of Bentley Barn
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**6. Planning Applications –**

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

<b>DC/20/04409</b>	Little Dodnash Farm, Bergholt Road	<b>Planning permission has been granted</b>
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b) To give comments on any new applications in hand –

<b>DC/21/00808</b>	1 Nursery Cottages, Capel Road	Erection of single storey rear conservatory extension
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**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

Proposed Cllr M Bamford	Seconded Cllr B Feltwell	All in favour	CU
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<b>DC/21/00582</b>	Hulvers, Link Lane	Erection of office/garage building
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**RECOMMEND REFUSAL** – on grounds of Form, Mass, Site, Position on the Site, Size and Height on the boundary of the adjacent property. It is also across a right of way.

Proposed Cllr K Spicer	Seconded Cllr P Cross	All in favour	CU
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<b>DC/21/00989</b>	Ruseley, Hazel Shrub	Outline: (some matters reserved, access to be considered) – Severance of garden & erection of a detached dwelling
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**RECOMMEND REFUSAL** – Cllrs quoted CS11 - outside built up area in a non sustainable area with no access to public facilities unless by car. Bentley’s Landscape Appraisal (Supporting document to the Parish Neighbourhood Plan which has completed Reg 14 Consultation) states “Avoid proliferation of individual dwellings along rural lanes in the wider Parish where this leads to ribbon development”. Also the Support Statement is incorrect in terms of public transport and the development is not sustainable.

Proposed Cllr N Moxey	Seconded Cllr C Perry	All in favour	CU
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<b>DC/21/01223</b>	Land Adj 4 & 5 South View Green
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**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

Proposed Cllr N Moxey	Seconded Cllr C Perry	7 in favour	1 Against
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The Clerk drew Councillors’ attention to the Discharge of Conditions Application for B/17/00003 – Condition 7 (Provision of Roads & Footpaths), Condition 11 (SUDS Water Drainage Details) & Condition 16 (Implementation, Maintenance & Management).

7. **Report by Exception – Tree Warden/Footpath Warden/Capel Library/ Bentley Long Barn**  
**Tree Warden** –Reported that of the 150 trees supplied by the Woodland Trust for planting out in Bentley Parish, 70 have been planted. The very wet weather, followed by snow, ice and frosts prevented further planning during this time. The remainder will be planted between 6 and 13<sup>th</sup> March, conditions permitting. **Friends of Capel Library** – The library is now open to collect books that have been ordered by phone or e-mail. When the books are ready to be collected the librarian will telephone or e-mail to let you know. We have been asked to wear a mask when we arrive to collect the books at the library. Books and puzzles are on sale outside the library. **Bentley Barn** – John Norman has collected my folder which contains the details of Bentley Long Barn Trust meetings held with Heritage England, Natural England, Babergh District Council, The Bat Conservation Trust, Suffolk Wildlife Trust etc as well as the correspondence relating to this matter. Information about the barn and its history is also included. He was pleased to see some movement and wished to be involved in the meeting with the owner of the Barn. **Footpath Warden** – Nothing to report on Footpaths – The Container had now been painted and contains the litter pickers, high viz vests, chairs from the Church, 5 tables, BBQ and marquees. He was thanked for painting the container with the help of Cllr Bamford – it looks very smart. The anti-climb paint on the latches and signs will be done in the coming week. **Speedwatch Co-Ordinator** - Speedwatch have been told they can restart on 29 March as long as it all goes okay. He was told of the Policeman in the Village who is doing a project on speeding in the village and is very interested in terms of speed control – he may be in contact.

8. **To discuss Bentley Barn -** Already discussed - See Page 1051 Public Session & 7 above.
9. **To discuss ANPR Speed Cameras –** After some discussion the Clerk was asked to contact County Councillor Jones to find out the size and spec of the ANPR device – will the normal SID pole be adequate to accommodate the device – or will there have to be a stronger pole as with a solar powered SID?

**Action:** Clerk to contact County Councillor Jones re Spec of ANPR device

10. **To Approve 9 Month Accounts – April-December 2020** - Councillors had been issued with a copy of the 9 month Receipts and Payments 2020/21 and the accounts had been reviewed by the Finance Working Party – Cllr Cross and Cllr Schumacher. The Clerk reported total receipts for 9 months of the year of £24,436.91 this figure includes precept £14,500, VAT repayment £2363.31, interest (£6.03) and £5,387.00 from Groundworks re Neighbourhood Plan and £2,180.57 CIL monies. Total payments over the 9 months included general admin £6498.24 which includes Clerks salary/expenses, hall hire, grants under the power of S137 £800, S142 (citizens Advice) £250, S138B £100 (British Legion) – grass cutting/leaf clearance –closed churchyard £1,200 and grounds maintenance £298.38 - unplanned expenditure for Trees in closed churchyards £400.00 & Zoom payments £57.56 otherwise payments are within budget. There were two uncleared cheques £34 and SLCC £130. Current Account total £15,462.99 – Family Fun Day Tracker Account £4,277.79 which includes firework accounts and Parish Council Tracker account £9698.29. Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2021/22 is £8.41 – (685 Residents = £5,786.85). We have also been informed by SALC that End of Year Audit will be electronic again this year as their offices remain closed due to Covid - Fees for Audit are £199 up to £25K & £244 £25K-£50K. It was proposed that the accounts be accepted.

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

11. **Access to Bridle Paths – Bentley Manor – Update** – Cllr Bamford told the meeting he had got in touch with the various people involved re parking at Manor Farm Lane and Old Hall Lane with a view to holding a meeting. The Landowner who was present at the meeting was asked if he wanted to comment – there was no comment. Unfortunately, we have a situation where parking on the verge is denied and it has not been possible to come up with a solution so will have to be left in abeyance.

12. **Joint Local Plan – Update** – Cllr Moxey told the meeting they are still waiting for the examiner to read through the comments. Then our NH Plan Representative will be invited to speak on our behalf.

13. **Advance Notice of Highways Scheme C425 closed at junction with C456 Bentley Hall Road** – This had been talked about at length, see County Councillor Jones’ report above – we have been trying to get SCC to look at it again and they have agreed to postpone the works until there has been a report from the British Horse Society. Landowner’s wife told the meeting they had been involved to an extent, there would be issues and moving the footpath would cause more issues for them, walkers and road users.

14. **Traffic Calming – SID Device – Discuss options for Purchase (To be presented by Cllr Schumacher)** - Cllr Munday told the Meeting that Cllr Schumacher was hoping to join the meeting but it had not been possible. She went on to say that the problem we have is that Highways are at the point of installing the SID poles however, we have found out that these poles will not take a solar powered device – so a decision needs to be made whether we want to go ahead and purchase a battery SID or a solar powered one – because we are a pilot group for the ANPR we have to get it right. It was therefore proposed that we find out the specification of the ANPR and then make the final decision. – Clerk to e-mail Suffolk Highways.

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

Action: Contact Suffolk Highways
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15. **Road Markings, Capel Road/Bergholt Road Junction -Update** - County Councillor Jones had left the meeting – he will be contacted for an update by the Chairman.

16. **Playing Field Society** – i) **Drainage** – Discussed in Playing Field Society Meeting – Meeting had taken place with Miles Drainage who have quoted £30K-£40K depending on how wide apart the drainage pipes are. Sources of funding to be investigated by Parish Council and Maritime FC. Two more quotes to be obtained. The work will go ahead in the Summer so the field will be out of action for one to two months. ii) **Play Equipment for the field** – The Finance Working Party had met and agreed the Parish Council could contribute £3k with a further £1,159.59 S106 monies (£4,159.59). It was agreed to site the equipment at the top end of the field (the driest part so will not be affected by drainage works) – the second stage of the Viridor application for funding will be completed and submitted.

17. **To Review Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan** - Following a discussion it was proposed to update the following PIIP priorities: i) Drainage of the Village Playing Field. ii) Gym equipment purchase and installation on the Village Playing Field. iii) Provision of radar controlled illuminated Speed Indicator Device x 2 or ANPR devices. iv) ‘Village Treatment’ of village entrances – Items 5, 6 & 7 to remain as stat.

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

18. **Quiet Lanes –Update** - The formal Proposal of Designation notice is going out and in the lanes themselves with 21 days to make representations – SCC will make the final decision.

19. **Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr Moxey reported that there were no actions arising from consultation on the final version of the SEA - Responses to comments on the Regulation 14 Consultation exercise on the Neighbourhood Plan are complete - The PIIP (Appendix E is amended to reflect the updated priorities) Agreed on 4 March 2021 - Minor updates to the Plan (such as reflection of the new status of the Joint Local Plan at November 2020) are incorporated. The Parish Council is in agreement and it was proposed that the Neighbourhood Plan be submitted to Babergh District Council as soon these conditions are met.

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

20. **Affordable Housing** - Nothing to report.

21. **To receive Correspondence** – The Clerk drew Councillors’ attention to the following - 2 x E-mails from BAPC, O Blew Suffolk Police – Bentley Speeding Project , 4 x Babergh – happy with planting shrub on removal of Oak at Woodfield, S106 Monies £1,159.59, Oak at The Link, Leisure Sport & Physical Activity Strategy, 4 x SCC problem report Oak at The Link, Sustainable Development Fund is open for applications, 2 x residents – objection to Planning



application & Quiet Lane – Support this initiative, Vertas DocuSign , Contract re grass cutting, Community Action Suffolk Certificate of Membership (membership renewed) & e-mails from Arthritis Action and Headway.

22. **Exchange of information by Councillors and matters for consideration at future Meetings**

- Cllr Spicer – Commented on the crocuses on the bank near Oakleigh and wondered if it would be possible to transfer the bulbs to the other side of the road before work started at the property. Clerk will seek permission from the owner.

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

101512	Cllr N Moxey	Zoom Subscription -February		£14.39
101513	HMRC	Clerk's Tax		£9.60
101514	Mrs J Scott	Clerks Salary February	£520.00	
		Minus tax	<u>£9.60</u>	£565.82
			£510.40	
		Plus Expenses	<u>£55.42</u>	
			<u>£565.82</u>	

It was proposed that these be paid en bloc.

Proposed Cllr P Cross                      Seconded: Cllr M Munday                      All in favour                      CU

24. **To confirm date of next scheduled meeting** – - Parish Council Meeting Thursday 1 April 2021 @ 7.30 pm. Preceded by Playing Field Society Meeting at 7.00 pm.

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

CHAIRMAN:



DATE: 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021

