

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE REMOTE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON ZOOM - THURSDAY 4 FEBRUARY 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

Also, in attendance - County Councillor Gordon Jones, District Councillor D Busby, Tree Warden, Footpath Warden, Graham Rankin SCC Senior Design Engineer and 4 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:** Cllr C Perry.
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 7 January 2021** - The minutes were approved as a true record and will be duly signed.

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

5. **Matters arising from the Minutes:** Vertas have been e-mailed twice– waiting for a reply, Item 6 – Planning Officers e-mailed re Oakleigh **Page 1044 item 9** -Precept Charging form was sent to BDC and confirmation has been received (Precept £14,500 plus a grant payment of £258). **Item 10** SALC have been contacted re internal audit hopefully will get requested slot – end April early May. **Item 13** – Grit bins have been filled. DM Tree Services have completed the work on Walnut & Chestnut trees – their cheque to be passed for payment this evening- Rest covered by agenda items.

Graham Rankin SCC joined the meeting and County Councillor Gordon Jones requested that item 10 be moved to the top of the agenda

Public Session

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 Councillors attention to the last item of his report – proposed additional Electricity Pylon Route – ATNC – Bramford South to Essex – no one knows the extent of the route at the moment – keeping an eye on it. Budget goes to full Council next week. He was asked if there had been any progress re East Bergholt Road junction - some pot holes have been filled in. County Councillor Jones didn't have any information, other than it had been agreed but will chase.

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 spoke of the Local Plan – Council will be looking at this and preparing to publish at the end of March. There will be personal visits from the Inspector and things can be talked through. He spoke about staffing numbers at Babergh and the introduction of parking charges at Hadleigh and Sudbury – first hour free then £1 up to 3 hours.

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

B/17/00003	Oakleigh, Capel Road	Amendment details approved
DC/20/05939	Woodfield, Bergholt Road	Consent has been granted
B/17/00003	Oakleigh, Capel Road	Approved Condition
B/17/00003	Oakleigh, Capel Road	Approved Condition

Tree Warden had spoken with the developer who confirmed that the Oak tree was not going to be cut down.

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

The Clerk drew Councillors attention to the Discharge of Conditions and Application for DC/20/01122 – DC/21/0049 Land to rear of 4-6 Grove Road Condition 3 (Materials), Condition 4 (Landscaping Scheme), Condition 7 (Construction Management), Condition 10 (Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy), Condition 11 (Wildlife Sensitive Lighting Design Scheme) & Condition 12 Mitigation.

10. Advance Notice of Highways Scheme C425 closed at junction with C456 Bentley Hall Road

– Cllr Munday welcomed Graham Rankin Senior Design Engineer Major Projects for Suffolk Highways he gave a presentation which gave some background for the reason for the scheme, why this site was identified to be done, explained the Risk Assessment for the location, the score which ultimately decides whether a site gets treated and outlined the legal responsibilities on Network Rail and the Highway Authority. The plan is to install 50 metre long crash barriers either side of the railway bridge in Church Road to prevent drivers leaving the road and landing on the railway track. Councillors were opposed to this scheme because of potential danger to pedestrians/cyclists and horse riders who frequently use this road to access footpaths and bridleways in the area. The crash barrier will be one metre from the kerb and there were concerns that the shiny metal barrier could spook horses which could lead to further safety issues – ie shying away from the barrier into the path of oncoming traffic. A strong point was made that the barrier should be to protect the railway line either side of the bridge and not to keep cars on the road for 100 metres. Following a lively discussion it was agreed that a meeting be set up with SCC Highways. Cllr Munday thanked Graham Rankin for attending and Gordon Jones for setting it up. Both left the meeting.

7. Report by Exception – Tree Warden/Footpath Warden/Capel Library/ Bentley Long Barn

Tree Warden – Reported that he had visited residents at Woodfield, Bergholt Road on 2 February at their invitation to discuss the positioning of a replacement oak tree after the agreed felling of the damaged TPO oak. It was pointed out that there is no room for a new planting at the site of the tree to be felled, the available space being more suitable for a shrub. An oak to replace the felled specimen would be better grown in a larger space at the rear of the property. Clerk to e-mail Babergh. Beech trees are at risk from a newly discovered disease in Europe. Research by the Forestry Commission (FC) has found that a fungus (*Petrakia liobae*) causes brown patches on beech leaves which reduce the tree's health and appeal. Newly planted trees can be badly affected. Walkers have been urged to keep an eye out for signs of this disease & report them to the FC. The patches are 1-50 mm diameter but may merge in cases of heavy infection. The fungus over winters in leaf litter and re-infects nearby beech trees in spring. Watch out for the patches on imported beech hedging from Central Europe and report any seen to the FC & the Tree Warden. **Friends of Capel Library** – The library remains closed until further notice. FoCL 100 Club continues to operate & prizes are awarded every month. Membership Renewals are coming in slowly. Bentley residents that have not yet renewed their membership will receive a reminder at the weekend. **Bentley Barn** – Colin Hawes e-mailed John Norman (see January minutes) who has offered to write an article about Bentley Barn for the EADT, most likely under his regular banner 'Ipswich Icons'. Cllr Bamford had circulated an article he had written about Bentley Barn and had been in touch with the Heritage people and Suffolk Preservation Society to try and get something done – there is an urgency for an early inspection of the barn by Historic England - as it now looks catastrophic – this needs to be made public to get some action. **Footpath Warden** – One finger post has been replaced by Railway track. Way markers are coming along.

Action: Clerk to e-mail BDC re Oak at Woodfield - To discuss Bentley Barn – agenda item

8. **To agree cost of dog bin at Potash Lane – (£234)** Babergh confirmed the site of the bin and it is now in situ. It was proposed that the cost of the bin and plastic post be paid.

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

9. **To discuss Access to Bridle Paths – Bentley Manor –** Cllr Bamford had circulated Position Paper to Councillors **Appendix 3** in the minute book. He told the meeting that access to the footpaths & bridle paths of North Bentley are at the entrance to Old Hall Lane & Manor Farm Lane, 1.5 & 2 miles from the village centre and during lockdown the footfall & traffic has increased to these sites. Parking on the verge at these points has now been obstructed with posts and intimidating no parking signs. He hoped that an agreement could be sought between the PC and local land owners to allow parking in such an area that does not interfere with access by farm vehicles. After some discussion it was proposed that Cllr Bamford would set up a meeting with local landowners to discuss.

Proposed Cllr M Munday Seconded Cllr J Wheals All in favour CU

Action: Cllr Bamford to meet with landowners

11. **To discuss tree work in Closed Churchyard -** Following a request by St Mary's Church to trim 19 Yew trees the Tree Warden visited to inspect and agreed that the trees are in need of a trim. It was therefore proposed that the work be undertaken by J Tremaine at a cost of £150.

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

12. **To Approve 9 Month Accounts – April-December 2020 –** The Finance Working Party had been unable to meet so this item was deferred until the March Meeting.

13. **Joint Local Plan – Update** – Cllr Moxey had nothing more to add to the update given by District Councillor Busby earlier.

14. **Changes to Standing Order & Financial Regulations -** The Clerk informed the meeting that SALC had advised changes to item 17 (f) & (g) in Standing Orders (Page 20) and to Footnote on Page 15 of Financial Regulations. Councillors have been sent copies of the changed pages and it was proposed that the changes be adopted.

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

15. **Traffic Calming – SID Device – Discuss options for Purchase (To be presented by Cllr Schumacher)** - This item was deferred due to the absence of Cllr Schumacher and will be an agenda item at the March meeting. The SID poles are imminent.

16. **Road Markings, Capel Road/Bergholt Road Junction -Update** - County Councillor Jones is to chase.

17. **Speedwatch – Update** - Nothing to report due to lockdown. Speedwatch will be reported on under Report by Exception in the future.

18. **Quiet Lanes –Update -** Proposal of Designation notice will be issued by Suffolk County Council – it will be displayed in the village and in the EADT with 21 days to make representation to SCC who will make the final decision.

19. **Neighbourhood Plan –** Cllr Moxey reported that the SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment) is awaited - it is hoped nothing will be changed in the Neighbourhood Plan so will be on Schedule to roll out Section 16 submission to Babergh and carry out the referendum in May.

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

21. **Playing Field Society – i) Drainage** – Discussed in Playing Field Society Meeting – Maritime are confident they can get 75% of the funding needed (£10K) to undertake drainage of the field. Money in the CIL fund (£4,361.16) would cover the balance. It was agreed that a survey of the

field should be carried out and it was proposed that the CIL money be used as a contribution towards the drainage of the field.

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

It was also proposed that the Parish Council have a survey done of the Playing Field and also find out what impact any drainage solutions may have on surrounding agricultural land – the Clerk was given two people to contact in relation to a survey and will contact them asap to put this in motion as soon as possible.

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

- ii) Play Equipment for the field – Tim Hamstead wanted to know how much the Parish Council were willing to pledge towards equipment for 11-16 year olds as he wanted to apply for additional funding. He had started to fill in Viridor form was not happy to have to wait as Working Party had got quote. He was told that the Financial Working Party would need to meet to decide an amount for this project and bring their proposal to the March meeting, also that the drainage would have to be completed before any equipment could be installed on the Playing Field. After some discussion it was proposed that the Clerk be given the authority to sign off funding applications. The Clerk to contact Babergh re total S106 money.

Proposed Cllr B Feltwell Seconded Cllr N Moxey All in favour CU

Cllr Feltwell told the meeting that the Shop Management Committee are withdrawing their offer of paying for a table tennis table to go on the field.

Action: Contact Babergh re S106 money

22. **To receive Correspondence** – The Clerk drew Councillors’ attention to the following E-mails – E-mails Babergh re additional dog bin – can’t see any problems with location, Joint Local Plan update & Planning reply to Clerk’s e-mail – SCC Secretary of State for Transports decision issued Suffolk TWAO – Level Crossing Proposals & ANPR speed indicator cameras – 2 year trial - Mortimer Contracts – invoice for dog bin & post- e-mails received from residents re position of dog bin - 2 e-mails BAPTC – e-mail re layby A137 – Reported to SCC – e-mail resident re temporary electric fence signage – invoice MD Tree Services – e-mail resident re Advance notice of highways scheme C425 closed at junction with C456 Bentley Hall Road and from Playing Field Working Group.
23. **Exchange of information by Councillors and matters for consideration at future Meetings** - Cllr Munday – ANPR Speed Cameras -**Agenda item at March meeting.**
24. **To Authorise Payments** - The following payments were authorised

101506	ALCC	Clerk’s Membership	£40.00	
101507	Mortimer Contracts	Supply & install Dog bin	£120.00	
101508	MD Tree Services	Work to Walnut & Chestnut trees	£650.00	
101509	Cllr N Moxey	Zoom Subscription -January	£14.39	
101510	HMRC	Clerk’s Tax	£9.60	
101511	Mrs J Scott	Clerks Salary January	£520.00	
		Minus tax	£9.60	£1,007.90
			£510.40	
		Annual Room Allowance	£450.00	
		Plus Expenses	£47.50	
			£1,007.90	

It was proposed that these be paid en bloc.

Proposed Cllr P Cross Seconded: Cllr B Feltwell All in favour CU

25. **To confirm date of next scheduled meeting** – - Parish Council Meeting Thursday 4 March 2021 @ 7.30 pm. Preceded by Playing Field Society Meeting at 7.00 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.24 pm.

CHAIRMAN:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. H. ...' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

DATE: 5 March 2021