

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON AT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL ON -THURSDAY 6 JANUARY 2022 AT 7.30 PM

Present

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

Also, in attendance - County Councillor Georgia Hall, District Councillor D Busby and 1 member of the public

Cllr Munday welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished them a Happy New Year. 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 C Perry, Tree Warden & 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 2 December 2021 -**
The minutes were approved as a true record and were duly signed.

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

5. **Matters arising from the Minutes - Page 1091 item 5** – Thanks sent to SCC & Network Assurance re Remembrance Service – not heard what action SCC is taking re Water leaking from fishing lake. **Page 1092** Pavement at Silver Leys was reported to SCC via their Reporting Tool. – Letter sent re hedges – one has already been dealt with – **Page 1093 item 11** – Bentley Outdoor Bowls & Ipswich Citizens Advice have been advised that their grants have been considered and granted – **Page 1094 item 14** – Letter done – cheque to be passed for payment tonight. **Item 17** – Road name suggestions were sent to Babergh – **item 22** – Babergh were advised where to site the litter bins and these are now in situ. Maritime have very kindly offered to empty the bin on the Playing Field. 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 reported on the potential rise of 3% in Council Tax – more money was to be allocated to address pavements, drainage and flooding problems. She had received a response re white lines and is waiting for a response re the amount the Gordon Jones paid. The hedge along Bergholt Road was discussed.

District Councillor D Busby – No written report received. The Joint Local Plan has been to the Inspector and the whole thing is now going to be re-thought – so there could be some significant changes which may take another 12 months. Babergh are considering work on solar parks in Sudbury.

Cllr Bamford – As a Council we are very sorry to hear of Robin Owen's retirement as Editor of the Bentley Bugle and wished to thank him for the sterling work he has done. We are also extremely grateful for all the help in distributing various surveys/leaflets for the Council and wished him all the best for the future. It is hoped that a successor can be found to take on the running of the Bugle.

6. **Planning Applications –**

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

DC//20/01122 Land rear of 4-6 Grove Road **Approved conditions**

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

DC/21/06493 Holly Oak, Hazel Shrub Erection of single storey rear extension, alterations & detached garage/workshop

Whilst Councillors were happy to recommend approval for the extension to the rear they were concerned about the mass and form of the garage and workshop and lack of information of its intended use. They were concerned about the look of an industrial scale building placed close to the boundary of AONB on a designated Quiet Lane so **RECOMMENDED REFUSAL** of the garage.

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

7. **Report by Exception – Tree Warden/Footpath Warden/Capel Library/ Bentley Long Barn /Footpath Warden & Speedwatch - Tree Warden– Cllrs** had been sent copies of the

Tree Warden report – The majority of the Woodland Trust saplings delivered on 25 November (being kept outside but protected from frosts) are already spoken for/ordered by Bentley residents. A further 55 saplings have been booked by two schools (25 for one, 30 for the other). All 100 metres of hedging saplings has been booked. The Tree Warden will be delivering the saplings plus stakes, guards and mats throughout January as and when time permits. Delivery to schools will involve Ipswich Rotary Club volunteers. **Friends of Capel Library – Jenny Patch** is the Interim Manager at Capel Library until Katharine Liu returns from her sabbatical in mid-year. Jenny has spent almost five years as Librarian in charge of Hadleigh Library, and works part-time for the Suffolk Libraries Creative Arts Team. Films: for now and until further instructions the monthly film will not be shown. Since the last Trustees Meeting, two Trustees have elected to stand down, a reduction that leaves us with just five Trustees, thus we will be considering reducing the number of events that we arrange during 2022 until we have new Trustees on board. Please remember that Suffolk Libraries is now a charity and that FoCL (membership £2/year) helps raise money for equipment and events. All FoCL Trustees are volunteers and we hope that two more volunteers will come forward to assist in this worthwhile cause. **Bentley Barn** – No further news. - **Footpath Warden** - Two way markers re-instated in Dodnash Woods. Also will be looking into the mechanical equipment course in April 2022. **Speedwatch** - No report available.

8. **To set Precept & Sign Precept Charging Authority Form -** The Clerk, Cllrs Cross and Schumacher were of the opinion the Precept should remain the same as last year giving a Council Tax increase for 2022/23 of -5.23%. It was therefore, proposed that the Precept be set at £14,500 and that the Precept Charging Authority Form be signed shortly after the meeting with the minutes.

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

Action: Precept form to be sent to Babergh

9. **To Approve Nine Month Accounts – April – December 2021 -** Deferred. Bank statements not yet received.

- 10 **To discuss provision of bench at Silver Leys -** The green at Silver Leys is hopefully to be designated as a Local Green Space as part of the Neighbourhood Plan. After some discussion it was proposed that an Oak bench be purchased – this will be tied in with the Play Area bench and two plinths will be done in-house

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Proposed Cllr D Schumacher Seconded Cllr J Wheals All in favour CU

Action: Clerk to contact Nelson Potter re Oak bench

11. **To instruct SALC to Audit End of Year Accounts 2021/22** - It was proposed that the Clerk contact SALC to arrange an Internal Audit of the 2021/22 Accounts in April/May.

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

Action: Clerk to book Internal Audit with SALC

12. **To Appoint Responsible Financial Officer** – Councillors proposed that the Clerk be appointed the Responsible Financial Officer.

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

13. **To discuss Improvements to War Memorial** – Councillors were asked to consider some sort of enhancement to the War Memorial area. After some discussion it was proposed that a tree surgeon be engaged to address the ivy on the tree as a first step – in consultation with the Tree Warden - Once this has been addressed there will be a future agenda item to discuss enhancement of the area.

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

Action Clerk to contact Tree Warden and Tree Surgeons to obtain quotes

14. **To discuss Community Fibre - County Broadband/Openreach** - No report available but Peter Chapman is getting names – he is to be asked to report back to Council – keep on agenda.

15. **Purchase of Projector - Update** - Deferred - No costs obtained.

16. **Traffic Calming – SID/ANPR/Road Markings – Update - ANPR** – County Councillor Hall told the meeting that SCC were awaiting two further staff members. **SID** – Cllr Schumacher reported that SID is functioning well and is probably in the best position. It will need to be moved (probably to Bergholt Road) and that will be a two person job. He also confirmed that he is happy to continue doing it. The purchase of a second SID was discussed Cllr Schumacher will prepare a proposal for the next meeting. Downloading of data was also discussed – it will be useful to let the Village know some of the stats.

17. **Playing Field Society – To discuss Surface for Gym Equipment** – The Chairman reported that the application has been completed for the S106 money (£1,159.59 for Sport and Recreation) which will go towards surface costs. A quote has been received from one contact - £5,500. An e-mail has been received from Babergh looking to finalise CIL funding for the gym equipment by the end of this month – we should be able to get both items covering 75% of the cost of the gym equipment.

18. **Neighbourhood Plan –Update** A Briefing Note was received from our Consultants Places4People on 5 January 2022 – following the announcement that the way forward for the Joint Local Plan would be to delete policies SP04, LP09, LP30 and the LS01 LA Housing allocation policies and retain the settlement boundaries in the current policies map. Places4People’s proposal is that we make two changes to the Neighbourhood Plan -i) withdraw the proposal for the Fruit Farm and ii) drop mention of housing requirement numbers. These two changes do not require consultation – he has asked us to agree tonight to make these two changes and ask the Inspector to look at the Plan without these two elements. He has also sent us a draft response to the last round of consultation comments for approval. After some discussion it was proposed that that the suggested two changes be made to the plan and to give our consultant

permission to ask Babergh to forward the request to the Inspector along with the Consultation response.

Proposed Cllr B Feltwell Seconded Cllr K Spicer All in favour CU

19. **To receive Correspondence** – The Clerk drew Councillors’ attention to the following e-mails – E-mails from residents x 3 – 1 re Neighbourhood Plan, 2 re Electric fence Public & dog shock hazard – 3 from Tree Warden re Dog mess and litter on Playing Field – 1 from Broxap Sunshine Gym Quotation – 4 from Babergh & Mid Suffolk Councils – Dog & Litter charges 2022/23, Joint Local Plan, update for Neighbourhood Plan Groups & Precept 2022/23 Final Tax Base. 1 from Hedgehogs R Us - Please consider taking part in this exciting local project – E-mail from Places4People – re Neighbourhood Plan Briefing Note. – Late e-mail - Tim Passmore Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner -Precept Survey- Police: PCC proposes precept investment to improve 101 call answering.

20. **Exchange of information by Councillors and matters for consideration at future Meetings**
Cllr Spicer – As Cllrs had agreed publication of the Cook Book for the Platinum Jubilee it might be nice to re-print Michael Anderton’s booklet – Six Country walks from the Case is Altered. Agenda item

Action: Agenda item Re-print booklet – six walks from Case if Altered
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21. **To Authorise Payments** - The following payments were authorised

101565	D I Chapman	Donation – Petrol Expenses.		£100.00
101566	Mrs J Scott	Clerks Salary December	£520.00	
		Minus tax	<u>00.00</u>	£571.50
			£520.00	
		Plus, Expenses	<u>£51.50</u>	
			<u>£571.50</u>	

It was proposed that these be paid en bloc.

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

- 22.. **To confirm date of next scheduled meeting** – Parish Council Meeting Thursday 3 February 2022 at 7.30 pm. Preceded by Playing Field Society Meeting at 7.00 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

CHAIRMAN:



DATE: 3rd March 2022