

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL THURSDAY 5 MAY 2022 AT 7.30 PM

Present

Cllr M Munday - Chairman Mrs J Scott – Clerk Cllr B Feltwell Cllr P Cross
Cllr J Wheals Cllr K Spicer

Also in attendance: County Councillor G Hall, District Councillor D Busby, Tree Warden, Footpath Warden, and 2 members of the public.

The outgoing Chairman Cllr Munday welcomed everyone to Bentley's Annual Parish Council Meeting.

1. **To Elect Chairman for Forthcoming Year** – It was proposed that Cllr Munday be elected Chairman for the forthcoming year. There were no other nominations. Cllr Munday was willing to stand and was duly elected – Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed.

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

2. **To appoint Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year** – It was proposed that Cllr Feltwell be elected Vice Chairman. There were no other nominations. Cllr Feltwell was willing to stand and was duly elected. Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed.

Proposed: Cllr M Munday Seconded Cllr K Spicer All in favour CU

3. **To record apologies for absence:** Cllr N Moxey, Cllr M Bamford, Cllr C Perry (Holiday), Cllr Schumacher & Speedwatch Co-ordinator

4. **To Receive Declarations of Interest relating to Agenda Items** – None received

5. **Dispensations – to consider written requests for dispensation of disclosable pecuniary interest in matters relating to Agenda items** – None received.

6. **To appoint Council Representatives** – The Tree Warden, Footpath Warden, Cllr Munday and Cllr Wheals were all willing to carry on and it was proposed they be elected en bloc.

Mr C Hawes – Tree Warden

Mr T Hamstead – Footpath Warden

M Munday – Website

Cllr J Wheals – Folly Farm Representative

Clerk – Village Correspondent

Proposed: Cllr C Perry Seconded Cllr J Wheals All in favour CU

7. **To approve payment of subscriptions for 2022/23** - It was proposed that the SALC membership fee be paid

SALC £365.76 Community Action Suffolk Membership free – This has been renewed

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

8. **To approve minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7 April 2022** – The minutes were approved as a true record and will be duly signed.

Proposed: Cllr J Wheals Seconded: Cllr P Cross All in favour CU

9. **Matters Arising from the minutes –: Page 1108 item 5** - Oak bench has been picked up from Nelson Potter – Draft minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and reports are on the Parish Council website – E-mails re grants were sent and thanks have been received from, MAGPAS, SARS, EACH and Bentley Bowls. **Page 1110 item 12** – Signed copy of the Neighbourhood

CIL Expenditure Report was sent to Babergh and is on the website. **item 14** Telegraph Poles restricting pavement – Church Road reported to SCC via the Reporting Tool -, *you would need to raise this issue with the electricity utility, UK Power Networks via their website* – An email has been sent to UK Power Networks – a reply is awaited.

Public Session

County Councillor Georgia Hall had sent her written report which has been circulated to Councillors – **APPENDIX 1** in the minute book and on the website. She highlighted from her report that Suffolk County Council are to freeze post-16 travel costs to schools and colleges – it was agreed fares should remain at 2021/22 levels for another 12 months to help families faced with soaring living costs - £930 per year for mainstream transport and £750 for SEND pupils.

District Councillor Dave Busby had sent his written report which has been circulated to Councillors **APPENDIX 2** in the minute book and on the website. He commented on the Women’s Tour - route revealed for Monday 6 June. – the Babergh East Police & Parish Forum meeting held on 23 March and read out Neighbourhood Crime statistics for the year which were all down. – There had been several robberies in Capel but the perpetrators had been caught. He had raised Bentley Barn with English Heritage who were due to have a meeting with owner – not heard anything back. – also spoken to Planning about gates at Holly Oak - He is back in Babergh’s new Cabinet – he finished his report by telling the meeting about Free Compost – 2 free bags of compost will be available from Morrisons Car Park in Hadleigh this Sunday from 9 am to noon.

Resident – Tarmac in front of 34-35 Silver Leys has lifted due to root ingress – dangerous trip hazard. Clerk will contact Suffolk County Council.

Tree Warden told the meeting of the passing of Jill Ganzoni. Aged 91

Resident - Asked where on the website were the Annual Parish Meeting Reports – under Latest News.

Resident – Just here to listen what was said about his planning application – he told the meeting there was one objection from his neighbour regarding loss of privacy, which in his opinion was incorrect. He was told by the Chairman that the PC do not make any decisions, only recommendations to the District Council who make the final decision. The Parish Council do have to consider any development outside the built up area of the village – Babergh did not have a five year land supply so some applications got through – this is now not the case - each application has to be considered on its merits.

Action: Contact SCC re pavement outside 34-35 Silver Leys
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10. Planning Applications

- a) To note decisions of Planning Authority on previous applications –None
- b) To give comments on any new applications in hand –

DC/22/01696	Windy Farm, Capel Road	Erection of 1No detached dwelling (following demolition of existing annex & outbuilding
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RECOMMEND REFUSAL - 1. The footprint of the proposed large 2 storey 4 bedroom dwelling is far in excess of the single storey annexe that is currently occupied by one person and the unoccupied stable that is proposed for demolition. This application would create an additional separate dwelling that is not associated with the demolished buildings or the main dwelling on the site that will remain. **2.** The site is outside the settlement boundary. There have been recent applications for dwellings outside the built-up area boundary of Bentley which have been refused and dismissed at appeal. Examples of these include: DC/21/00989 – Appeal reference: APP/D3505/W/21/3275413, DC/21/01315 – Appeal reference: App/D3505/W/21/3276691. These applications were for dwellings outside the built-up area boundary, similar to this application; and it is considered that the reasons for refusal, in terms

of location and sustainability are the same. 2. Para 7.5 of the Supporting Statement that accompanies this application states 'The site is located in a location where there is opportunity to access facilities and services in nearby villages on foot or by bicycle'. The Parish Council do not agree with this statement. The site's location does not promote sustainable transport choices. The roads leading away from the village and towards the village facilities are unlit and not served by a footway or cycleway. This road is also monitored by our Community Speedwatch and a SID where vehicle speeds in excess of 70 mph have been recorded. It is therefore, not considered safe or desirable for a pedestrian or cyclist to make use of this road to access these services. On this basis, the future occupants of the proposed dwelling would have a heavy reliance on the use of private motor vehicles to access basic services, therefore, the location is not sustainable. 3. The site is within approximately 300 metres of the Suffolk Coasts and Heaths AONB and so places it in its setting and is within a Special Landscape Area. The proposed site is in the middle of pasture land. It would be visible on the approach into the AONB (Holly Wood) by foot from the nearby Footpath 50 that runs parallel to the site, The proposed 17800 metre north facing elevation is in parts two storey and would present an urban intrusion on a rural setting in the open countryside as the site is surrounded on 3 sides by farmland and orchard. – See attached maps.

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

DC/22/01771 Land at Bergholt Road Construction of new vehicular access

RECOMMEND REFUSAL Councillors support Suffolk Highways Holding objection re vehicular visibility splays, they are also concerned re loss of habitat.

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

DC/22/02041 Bentley Hall, Bentley Hall Road Application for listed building consent – Installation of 2no new conservation rooflights (following removal of existing Velux roof window). Insertion of new gable end window. Internal alterations as per Schedule of Works

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

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

11. **Report by Exception – Tree Warden/Footpath Warden/Capel Library/Bentley Long Barn/Footpath Warden/Speedwatch & Community Fibre Broadband – Footpath Warden** – Nothing to report. However, a response had been received for a Brush Cutter Course in September. He was told of fingerposts down at Earlwood & back road to Bentley Park. - **Tree Warden** had sent a written report which has been circulated to Councillors – **APPENDIX 3** in the minute book and on the website – He spoke about the Woodland Trust trees and hedging delivered in November – they are being cared for and are thriving and will be delivered as soon as conditions allow – several have already been planted in Bentley, Capel and elsewhere. He had e-mailed Babergh re the flailing of TPO oaks along Bergholt Road, SBIS has recently moved from Ipswich Museum to “The Hold” (new Suffolk Records Office) and in doing so have found the Bentley Hedgerow Survey record sheets which we are now able to refer to. **Friends of Capel Library-** The temporary lead librarian completes her role on 7 May – this will be shared by Jackie Harman & Donna Grand until Katharine Liu returns in September. **Bentley Long Barn** – No further news apart from District Councillor Dave Busby contacting English Heritage. - **Speedwatch Co-Ordinator** - Again only 4 sessions were held. With none being held over the Easter weekend or the week the road was closed due to lower traffic volumes. Of the four: -2 at the Village Hall, 2 at the War Memorial. 5 vehicles were reported. 3 @ the VH2 @ the WM Highest recorded speed was 38 mph by two vehicles." **Community Fibre Broadband** – No report available.

12. **To Decide Grants to Village Organisations for Financial Year 2022/23** – It was proposed that the following grants (items 12 & 13) be paid en bloc.

Bentley Outdoor Bowls	S19	£400
Tuesday Club	S137	£250

13. **To Decide Grants to Other Organisations for Financial Year 2022/23** –

Ipswich Citizens Advice	S142	£100
MAGPAS	S137	£100
SARS	S137	£100
EACH	S137	£100

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

Action: Inform Clubs & Organisations – letter & cheques to be sent out in June

14. **To Adopt Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020** Councillors had been sent a copy of the Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020. It was proposed that it be accepted by Bentley Parish Council.

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

15. **Proposed Quarry, Brockley Wood – Belstead – Update** - Tree Warden's e-mail dated 25 April 2022 re dormice was sent to Andrew Rutter at Suffolk County Council. The Chairman read out an e-mail letter from Suffolk County Council dated 24 August 2021 – the Clerk had no recollection of receiving this and will check her e-mails – if that e-mail was not received - it was proposed that a letter be sent to Suffolk County Council (Andrew Rutter) with a copy to Babergh District Council telling them that we don't appear to have received the letter and would have serious objections as this will have a major impact on our Parish which is adjacent to the site and its impact on important ecological sites at Brockley Wood, Long Wood and Old Hall Wood – attach copy of Tree Warden's e-mail re Dormice.

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

Action: Letter to SCC with copy to Babergh

16. **Renewal of Play Area Lease – Update**- No report available.

17. **Torch Relay – Update** - Cllr Munday reported that she had been in communication with the organiser regarding the pickup and drop off points. Pick up at The Case is Altered – photo opportunity at either the Village Hall or Village Sign. Then go down Grove Road to drop off both torch bearers at the Quiet Lane sign for a photo opportunity.

18. **Damaged Oaks – Bergholt Road – Update** – A reply had been received from Babergh Arboricultural Officer - *If this was the result of clearance work, then it isn't great stewardship but thankfully unlikely to cause any significant harm.* - Councillors thought the PC should write and ask if the TPO has any purpose. After some discussion it was proposed that the Clerk write to Mrs Johnson to find out who was responsible for the flailing of the TPO trees in Bergholt Road and let the District Council know who is responsible for the damage.

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

Action: Letter to landowners

19. **Improvements to War Memorial – Update** – Awaiting a date from Blake Tree Care to do the job. The Clerk has asked them to liaise with the Tree Warden.

20. **Re-printing Six Country Walks from the Case is Altered – Update** – The meeting was told that three of the walks are already published on The Case website. There have been alterations to the original walks – Footpath Warden to investigate – Parish Online can be used to mark out the walks on the maps.

21. **Playing Field Society – i) Gym Equipment – Update – ii) Tudor Re-enactment** – Cllr Munday told the meeting we are still waiting to hear from Babergh re the CIL funding. Footpath Warden told the meeting that the quotes had been received re electricity on the field £32K or £22K – obviously out of the question he will now look at solar panels and generators. ii) No report available.

22. **Neighbourhood Plan** - This has been chased again and has been promised by 14 May – we will have some sort of communication from the Examiner.

23. **To receive Correspondence** – The Clerk drew Councillors’ attention to the following - Babergh x 5 (Ext for planning application, CIL application, Women’s Tour cycle race, Metal Gates,- Holly Oak, damage to Oaks on Bergholt Road,) 2 x East Anglia Green National Grid – Consult on East Anglia Green & Consultation Launch, 2 x Mark Brennan re Festival of Suffolk Torch Relay, 1 x Suffolk County Council -Scoping request for Sand & Gravel, 1 x ADCO re clothing bank – sent to Village Hall Trustees-) – 2 x Shotley Holdings Site meeting 10 May 10 am – poster put on notice boards & website. E-mail from resident re overgrown hedge 27 Silver Leys. – letter to be sent to householder.

Action: Agenda item – East Anglia Green Consultation – Letter to householder re hedge

24. **Exchange of information by Councillors and matters for consideration at future meetings** – **Cllr K Spicer – Showed** Councillors a draft copy of the proposed Jubilee Cook Book – it was noticed that there was no mention of Kate Spicer and Gill Pink who compiled the book – this will be rectified – thanks will also be added to Sandra Ford and Jane Day. **Cllr Feltwell** – We should find out the length of Case Lane and Potash Lane – Agenda item - SCC to be asked to Define the extent of Case Lane and Potash Lane.

Action: Agenda item – Define the extent of Case Lane & Potash Lane

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

101579	SALC	Subscription 2022/23	£365.76
101580	P Baldwin	Grass Cut/trim Closed Churchyard	£150.00
101581	Cllr M Munday	Software – Bentley Bugle	£59.91
101582	J Scott	Expenses Annual Parish Meeting	£5.39
101583	HMRC	Clerk’s Tax	£54.80
101584	Mrs J Scott	Salary - April	£529.10
		Backdated NALC Salary Award	£109.20
		Minus tax	<u>-£54.80</u>
			£583.50
		Plus Expenses	<u>£118.21</u>
			£701.71

It was proposed that these be paid en bloc.

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

26. **To confirm date of next scheduled meeting** – Thursday 9 June 2022. – 7.30 Preceded by Playing Field Society Meeting at 7pm.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 9.41 pm.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: