

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON AT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL ON -THURSDAY 7 MARCH 2024 AT 7.30 PM

Present

Cllr B Feltwell - Chairman Mrs J Scott – Clerk Cllr M Bamford Cllr K Spicer
Cllr D Schumacher Cllr J Wheals Cllr D Jones Cllr A Thomas

Also, in attendance -, District Councillor Helen Davies District Councillor Dave Busby, Tree Warden, - 5 members of the public

Cllr Feltwell signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Clerk received no notification of anyone planning to film or record this meeting.

1. To record apologies for absence - Cllr M Munday, County Councillor Georgia Hall, Speedwatch Co-ordinator & 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 Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 1 February 2024 - The minutes were approved as a true record and were duly signed.

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

5. Matters arising from the Minutes – Page 1214 Clerk contacted Village Hall Trustees re EV charging -they applied before but heard nothing the will apply again. **Page 1215 item 8** – Letter of thanks has been sent to N Moxey. Rest covered by agenda items

Public Session

County Councillor G Hall - Had sent her written report which has been circulated to Councillors – **APPENDIX 1** in the minute book and on the website.

District Councillor H Davies – told the meeting that the Babergh Budget 24-25 has gone through - they are using reserves but it will not be an option next year – Car Parking charges nearly 10,000 people signed the petition against the introduction of charges – it would have been useful if the petition had covered alternate solutions – there is a discussion on this next week. Planning – she spoke about e-mails from Bron and from Daniel Potter – Cabinet Member for Environment - Wherstead, Belstead & Chelmondiston – he was asking Tatingstone what was going on – it might be worth talking to Tatingstone PC. Tax premiums are to increase on empty homes – SCC Local Transport Plan consultation, Funding available for community action on climate change (visit the Green Suffolk website and finally the Orchard Project – free fruit trees - 1,000 trees available.

District Councillor D Busby – Briefing Notes for Town & Parish Councils for March had been received and circulated to Councillors - **APPENDIX 2** in the minute book and on the website. District Councillor Busby told the meeting that Babergh District Council has won District Council of the year for their work over the last three or four years – solar panels on Council Houses, alternative fuel for bin lorries etc. The award ceremony was held at Westminster.

Tree Warden – If he could get more land he would like some fruit trees – the meeting was told about Bentley Community Orchard.

Resident – Brockley Wood application- There has been no official confirmation to the objection sent in by Tom Hill KC and no indication of the site visit. The resident hoped that Tom Hill KC would speak at the meeting if he is available. We have heard unofficially that SCC Regulation Committee will consider the application on 19 March but have not had an e-mail from SCC, Clerk has contacted them and was told that the invitations are set out when the agenda for the meeting is published which should be on Tuesday – an invitation will be sent to Bentley Parish Council. Clerk told the resident she would forward on any information she received to him.

6. Planning Applications –

a) To note decisions of Planning Authority on previous applications

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| DC/23/04242 | 11 Highfields | Permission has been Granted |
| DC/24/00189 | Ruseley, Hazel Shrub | Reserved matters are approved |

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

c)

| | | |
|---------------------|---|---|
| SCC/0105/22B | Brockley Wood Land off A12 Belstead Suffolk IP8 3JS | Proposal: Extraction, processing and sale of sand and gravel, processing of inert waste materials with associated plant and related sales, access works, phased restoration |
|---------------------|---|---|

See Public Session above.

DC/23/05656 Land at Grove Farm & Land East of the Railway Line There is to be a re-consultation on this application due to submission of additional/amended information so at the moment nothing to report on this.

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

/Footpath Warden & Speedwatch - Tree Warden - Visited Bentley Church on 7 March to examine tree removal and hedge cut in the Church grounds. The tree stumps have been left to benefit invertebrate and fungal colonisers. The stumps may produce shoots. He visited Old Hall, East Bergholt all day event 7 February to present a talk for Stour Valley landowners and farmers (the former in the morning, the latter in the afternoon). The presentation included slides on trees and tree planting, hedges and stag beetles. The event was organised by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. (SWT). SWT also organised similar presentations for primary schools. TW has already given two presentations at primary schools, (Nayland and East Bergholt). Next visit Dedham Primary School. The same subject matter will be presented at the Methodist Church in Museum Street Ipswich on the 24 April again organised by SWT. **Friends of Capel Library** – The Friends events are now published in Bentley Bugle. The next film is the Miracle Club Thursday 19 March at the library. Doors open at 7 pm - about three close friends who have never left the outskirts of Dublin get the journey of a lifetime – a visit to Lourdes the picturesque French town and place of miracles. **Footpath Warden** – No report available. **Speedwatch** – Only one session has been held which was at the War Memorial when two vehicles were reported. The highest speed was 38mph. Due to the continuing bad weather, various road closures and my own unavailability no other sessions have been held or will be until April. - **Bentley Long Barn** – Nothing to report.

8. Overgrown Yew Trees in Closed Churchyard- To ratify decision/cost (£1,150) to have them trimmed, - To ratify payment to Tendring Tree Surgery (£192) - Elm on School Playing Field

The Tree Warden had visited the Closed Churchyard and approved the work to the Yew trees it was therefore proposed that the decision and costs for both the Yew trees and Elm on School playing field be ratified.

Proposed Cllr M Bamford Seconded Cllr A Thomas All in favour CU

9. To discuss Road Works /Flooding re Cadent - The Clerk had e-mailed Cadent CEO - the letter had been acknowledged and Simon Braddick from Cadent had telephoned – they are

obviously very sorry for all the trouble Bentley has been experiencing – and are trying to sort out - he said they are trying to work with utilities –and suggested a village meeting with Cadent and Anglian Water – potentially they could replace the gas mains!!! After some discussion it was proposed that a date be arranged for a Village meeting. Clerk will arrange. Another discussion took place regarding County Broadband – it was also proposed that a letter be sent to SCC regarding Broadband suppliers who turn up without any warning.

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

Action: E-mail SCC

10. **WiFi at the Village Hall -** The Parish Council had previously offered to pay half for WiFi at the Village Hall. The Chairman had attended the Village Hall AGM and the Trustees have agreed to have WiFi installed if the Parish Council pay half the monthly cost – as the PC feel that it should be provided it was proposed that the Parish Council would pay half the monthly charge.

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

Action: Clerk will inform Village Hall Trustees

11. **Community Litter Pick – 2024 -** It was originally thought that this was being organised by a resident – this is not the case. – Areas in the Village mentioned were - Old Hall Road and Capel Road. Keep on agenda and arrange date at April meeting.
12. **Casual Vacancy – Bentley Parish Council -** We have been informed by Babergh that an election has not been requested so therefore the vacancy can be done by Co-option. Clerk has informed Babergh that the notices will be going on the notice boards , website and social media shortly after this meeting. The notice be left up until the vacancy has been filled.
13. **To approve Nine month accounts April -December 2023 -** The Clerk stated Bentley PC Financial Working party – Cllr Jones & Cllr Schumacher had a remote meeting to go through the accounts - Councillors had been issued with a copy of the Nine Month Receipts and Payments 2023/24 - Receipts for the 9 months for year 2023/24 amount to £24,795.52 this figure includes precept £14,500, VAT repayment £3,315.24 , interest (£128.96), Tudor Fair (£757.56) Locality Payment to Case (£500) = £1257.86 and £5,593.46 CIL monies. . Total payments over the 9 months was (£21,937.64) which includes general admin £7,132.49 - Clerks salary/expenses etc, grants under the power of S137 (£850.00) – S19 (£400) – S142 citizens Advice (£100), S138B Royal British Legion (£100) – grass cutting/leaf clearance – closed churchyard £900. – Lest we Forget Bench (£1,520) - Play Area/Gym equipment Inspection/grass cutting & equipment – (£1,897.41) Dog & Litter bin Emptying (£465.26) , Training - (£620) – VAT (£1814.25) **Unplanned expenditure** – Mortimer Contracts – Installation of Litter bin & benches – War Memorial & Silver Leys (£1,215.00) – Hedge Cut – (£100)- Six Walks Booklet (£465) , Clerk’s Laptop & Accessories (£331.78) & Gotelee £2,122.01 re School Playing Field- otherwise payments are within budget. There were three uncleared cheques amounting to £280.00. (Applewood Acres £100 HiloPrint & Graphics (£36) – SLCC £144 Current Account Balance at 29 December 2023- total £18,410.83 – Family Fun Day Tracker Account (£5,923.34) which includes firework accounts and Parish Council Tracker account £9,801.05. It was proposed that the accounts be accept.

Proposed Cllr D Schumacher Seconded Cllr D Jones All in favour CU

14. **To discuss dangerous trees in the copse –** – Councillor Feltwell told the meeting that Otley College are unable to help with this project due to staff shortages but the Tree Warden is trying to get help re removing trees in the next few months. Tree Warden will report back at the next meeting to discuss.
15. **To discuss affordable Housing –** Walkabout re suitable site arranged for 27 March 2024 with Hastoe, CAS, Babergh (Sunila & Rose Wolton) Housing Enabler & Planner. Needs to be publicised so residents are aware.

Action Notice in Bentley Bugle to make residents aware

16. **To Receive Internal Control Report** – The Clerk told the meeting that the report had been discussed at the Zoom meeting with the Finance Working Party - Cllr Schumacher was happy to sign the document again this year and it was proposed that it be accepted.

Proposed Cllr D Schumacher Seconded Cllr D Jones All in favour CU

17. **Call for Land for Nature Recovery – Update** – Babergh was contacted – Richard Parmee replied on 31 January 2024 - wanted to know if the Parish Council own land on which they are considering supporting nature recovery & would be happy to meet and discuss opportunities. If this is of interest, let him know when and where would be best to meet. Clerk will contact and copy to Cllr Feltwell and Tree Warden.

Action_ Contact Babergh

18. **To discuss 20s Plenty Campaign** – Clerk had made contact will Janet Davies and told her that Bentley Councillors had voted to join the 20's Plenty Campaign – we need to send the Motion to SCC – Cllr Jones will check.

Action: Motion to be sent to SCC?

19. **Traffic Calming – Weight Restriction– Update -** Nothing has been heard about the weight restriction but Councillors were concerned about the amount of HGV lorries and skip lorries going through the village usually at around 8.30 am. It was proposed that the Clerk write to County Councillor Georgia Hall, Highways and Collins Skiphire.

Proposed Cllr K Spicer Seconded Cllr A Thomas All in favour CU

The meeting was informed of a power line that is down in Tattingstone. Clerk will report to Open Reach and UK Power Networks. Cllr Thomas will contact Chairman of Tattingstone PC.

Action: Clerk to contact UK Power Networks and Open Reach

20. **Playing Field Society** – A Playing Field Society Meeting had been held before the Parish Council Meeting - the main thing discussed was the drawing up of Rules and Regulations for the School Field to bring some clarity. Cllrs Feltwell and Spicer will draw up draft Rules for consideration.

21. **To receive Correspondence**–The Clerk drew Councillors' attention to the following E-mails: Curry's back up going up to £60 from £50 – 1 x Bentley Riding School – re road closures – 5 – residents – Static caravan at Elenor Gate -, Ongoing problems in Bentley – road works and resident who would like an allotment. 1 x David Bracey re Playground/gym equipment inspection £140 plus VAT he will visit at the end of April – 3 x 1 x PTA want Babergh 2024 Litter Campaign , Parking charges we want your view Reminder &, Councillor resignation 1 x PTA Permission for School Fete 22 June – 1 x Cadent – reply to Clerks letter – 1 x Suffolk County Council – Brockley Wood – agenda for Committee has not been finalised – they will ensure we get sent an invitation.

22. **Exchange of information by Councillors and matters for consideration at future Meetings**–Re Affordable Homes – Village Survey on Housing Needs - can we include an interest in Allotments as this is an opportune time to request allotment need as well. **Cllr J Wheals** – Footpath Society Walk this month – 10.30 Saturday morning. In future they will be arranging another day.

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

101732 A W Goddard Fencing Bentley School Field – agreed Jan £900.00

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|--------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------|---------|
| 101733 | Canon | Solar Farm Leaflets | | £45.00 |
| 101734 | G & K Tree Services | Overgrown Yews in Closed | | £192.00 |
| 101735 | HMRC | Clerks Tax | | £30.00 |
| 101736 | Mrs J Scott | Clerks Salary – February | £572.43 | |
| | | Minus tax | <u>-£30.00</u> | |
| | | | £542.43 | £621.35 |
| | | Plus Expenses | £76.37 | |
| | | U/Payment December | <u>£2.58</u> | |
| | | | <u>£621.35</u> | |

It was proposed that these be paid en bloc.

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

24. To confirm date of next scheduled meeting - Thursday 4 April 2024.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: