

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, BENTLEY ON THURSDAY 1 MAY 2008 AT 7.30 PM

Present

Cllr R Goodwin - Chairman Mrs J Scott – Clerk Cllr J Blackmore Cllr C Cripps
Cllr K Wheals Cllr R Poulding Cllr R Perkin Cllr C Hawes
Cllr R Feltwell Cllr P Rayment

Also in attendance: District Councillors M Miller and J Hinton - 17 Members of the public were present.

At the start of the meeting the Cllr Goodwin explained that before the meeting could commence the Chairman had to be elected for the forthcoming year.

1. **To Elect Chairman for Forthcoming Year** – It was proposed that Cllr Goodwin be elected Chairman for the forthcoming year. Cllr Goodwin was prepared to stand and was duly elected.

Proposed: Cllr R Perkin Seconded Cllr C Hawes All in favour CU

2. **To Record Apologies for Absence** County Councillor D Yorke-Edwards

3. **To complete Declaration of Office of Chairman** - Cllr Goodwin signed the Declaration of Office form.

4. **To Appoint Vice Chairman for the Forthcoming Year** – Cllr Goodwin proposed Cllr Cripps who accepted the position and duly signed the Declaration of Office form.

Proposed: Cllr R Goodwin Seconded Cllr P Rayment All in favour CU

5. **To Receive Declarations of Interest relating to Agenda Items** - Cllr Goodwin declared an interest in Item 13 Planning application - Station Garage – Cllr Blackmore (7.3 & 7.4) and Cllr Cripps (7.1).

6. **To appoint Council Representatives** - The following representatives were all willing to stand again and it was proposed that they be elected en bloc.

<i>Mrs J Mills</i>	Community Governor	<i>Mr C Hawes</i>	Tree Warden
<i>Mr R Goodwin</i>	Folly Farm Representative	<i>Mr J Smith</i>	Footpaths
	Village Correspondent	<i>Mr B Poulding</i>	Transport

Cllr Cripps explained that previously the Community Governor for the School had been appointed by the Parish Council but this is now a school appointment – the school will continue to give a report but in future will not need to be on this list. Michael Anderton had stepped down as Village Correspondent so this position is now vacant. It was proposed that these be accepted en bloc.

Proposed: Cllr J Blackmore Seconded : Cllr P Rayment All in favour CU

7. **To decide Bi-Annual Grants for Financial Year 2008/09** – There were five requests under Section 137 this year. *(The maximum amount allowed under Section 137 is now £5.86 per elector on the electoral role for the current year.*

Councillor Cripps declared an interest and left the room

- 7.1 **Outdoor Bowls Club** *(Accounts attached with application)*

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After some discussion it was proposed that the Bowls Club be given the same as last year - £250.00. The Chairman urged the Bowls Club to seek grants from the Sports Council and then if necessary come to the Parish Council for a top-up.

Proposed: Cllr J Blackmore Seconded: Cllr C Hawes 7 in favour 2 Abstentions

7.2 Womens Institute – (Accounts attached with application)

The Chairman read out the balance sheet and it was proposed that the WI be given £200.00.

Proposed: Cllr R Perkin Seconded: Cllr P Rayment All in favour CU

Cllr Blackmore declared an interest and left the room

7.3 Computer Club – (This is a newly formed Club so no accounts were attached)

The Chairman read out the letter from the Computer Club requesting funds to set up a telephone line into the hall and connect to the Internet – it was also envisaged that this could provide the catalyst to develop a regular online village shopping group

Cllr Wheals declared an interest and left the room

After much discussion it was proposed this should be held in abeyance until other avenues had been pursued ie BT Community Connections.

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

Cllr Wheals returned – Cllr Blackmore remained outside

7.4 Tuesday Club (Accounts attached with application)

It was proposed that the Tuesday Club be given - £200.00.

Proposed: Cllr R Perkin Seconded: Cllr C Hawes All in favour CU

Cllr Blackmore returned to the meeting

Cllr Feltwell declared an interest and left the room

7.5 St Mary's Church - (Accounts attached with application)

This is a long term project and it was proposed that an amount be set aside for the next five years which could be adjusted but would never fall below £750.00. Cllr Blackmore proposed a figure of £3,000 per year – The Clerk stated that she thought this amount was too much under Section 137 but will check with SALC. A figure of £1,000.00 per year was proposed which will be kept in a separate account until needed.

Proposed: Cllr R Goodwin Seconded: Cllr C Hawes 8 in favour 1 Against – Cllr Blackmore

Cllr Perkin requested that next year the Clerk provide each Councillor with copies of grant requests (with accounts) before the meeting so things can be dealt with more efficiently.

Action: Clerk to contact SALC regarding payments under Section 137.

8. To approve Payment of Subscriptions

8.1 Suffolk Acre - The subscription for the year 2008/2009 is £25.00 and it was proposed that this be paid.

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8.2 SALC -. The subscription for 2008/2009 is £251.00 and it was proposed that this be paid.

Proposed: Cllr J Blackmore Seconded: Cllr K Wheals All in favour CU

9. **To Approve Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 April 2008** – Cllr Hawes pointed out two errors on page 411 item 16 – Capel St Mary was changed to read Capel Road, Bentley and the word Eleagnus was changed to Eleagnus - with these alterations it was proposed that the minutes were a true record and they were duly signed.

Proposed: Cllr B Poulding Seconded: Cllr J Blackmore All in favour CU

10. **Matters Arising from Minutes**

Page 410 item 7 - Babergh Planning had been told about accesses in Church Road and their reply is Late Correspondence Item 6. **Page 411 – Item 9** – Clerk had written to One Suffolk regarding parish web site - their reply was most helpful and Bentley Parish Council web site is going live in the next few weeks - Correspondence Item 35 . **Page 410 Item 7** – Clerk had e-mailed Planning Inspectorate (Copy Michael Miller) regarding Appeal 4 East Mill Green. **Update on Notice board** – The Chairman reported that this is now ready to be erected within the next week.

11. **Police Report** In the absence of the Community Officer the Chairman reported that the Police Report for March 2008 stated there were no reported crimes in Bentley.

12. **Boundary Committee** - Cllr Cripps stated that if the Ipswich proposal to become a Unitary body was accepted villages like Bentley would cease being rural and become urban. Babergh agreed in principle to the unitary make up for Suffolk and had looked at 4 proposals – the two that ended up with the most points were - Single Unitary for Suffolk and an East/West Split. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Boundary Committee sooner rather than later and that parishioners should be informed – possibly by holding a public meeting. After a great deal of discussion it was proposed that a letter be drafted to the Boundary Committee and circulated to Councillors before sending.

Proposed: Cllr R Perkin Seconded: Cllr J Blackmore All in favour CU

Action – Cllrs Cripps & Perkin to draft letter for Clerk type.

Public Session – Meeting adjourned & Reconvened

13 **Planning Applications**

13.1 To note decisions of Planning Authority on Previous Applications –

B/08/01419/FHA/MB Hazel Shrub House, Hazel Shrub Road, Bentley **Permission Granted**

13.2 To give comments on any new applications in hand - Cllr Goodwin declared an interest and left the meeting. Cllr Cripps took the chair and signed the necessary Declaration.

B/08/00466/FUL Capel Station Garage, Bentley Hall Continued use of use of land
Road, Bentley for siting of portacabins for
office purposes

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After much discussion it was proposed that the Clerk write to Babergh stating that Councillors felt they could not reach a decision on this application as there was not enough information concerning three areas. (1) Regarding the access - as it is open to two different interpretations (the access that was not supposed to be used is being used although this second access has been concealed on the plan supplied). (2) The two units have already been established before planning permission has been granted and the applicant wishes to add more. (3) The designation of the land - whether it is agricultural or industrial and is it the same plot as the Station Garage?

Proposed: Cllr C Hawes Seconded: Cllr R Perkin All in favour CU

Cllr Goodwin returned to the meeting and Cllr Cripps vacated the Chair.

B/08/00665/FUL White Horse Farm, Bentley Erection of grain store and lean-to
Road, Capel St Mary machinery shed

Recommend Approval

Proposed: Cllr J Blackmore Seconded: Cllr R Perkin All in favour CU

14. **Local Homes for Local People** - Councillors had all received copies of Cllr Wheals' report on this seminar held on 9 April. 20 Parish Councils attended and were coached to 9 areas around the western part of the district to see small pockets of developments. There are 28 Parish Councils who currently work with Babergh on local homes for local people. There were six presentations. Councillor Wheals suggested that Bentley Parish Council might consider using Suffolk Acre to see if Bentley has a local housing need before proceeding further with the Parish Plan suggestion. It was proposed that this be an agenda item for the next meeting to come to a decision and the Clerk was asked to get information on what is involved before the next meeting.

Proposed: Cllr C Cripps Seconded: Cllr R Perkin All in favour CU

Action: Agenda Item - Clerk to obtain information from Suffolk Acre

15. **Action Plan Implementation Group** – Nothing new to report
16. **Fly Tipping – Latest Information** – Nothing new to report – the gas canister has been removed.
17. **Highway Issues** – There had been a major flood in Bergholt Road and the Link due to a burst water main. Cllr Goodwin had spoken to Suffolk Highways who were investigating drainage systems –

The meeting adjourned on a noddled agreement

It was felt that if the drains had been cleared it would have enabled a lot of the water to drain away. There was also a problem with the emergency number that was used to try and obtain sandbags – also the cellphone system re Fire Brigade – put through to Essex .

The meeting reconvened

The Chairman asked the District Councillors to investigate. He is to have a site meeting with SCC to assess the drains.

An e-mail had been received from a parishioner regarding the junction at Bergholt Road and asking if a zebra crossing could be considered.

Items 18 Village Review Plan (already discussed – item 15) and 19 (The Village Hall) –The Clerk apologised - these should not have appeared on the agenda

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20. **To Receive Report from the Footpath Warden** - Mr Smith reported that Footpath 1 was walked on Sunday 27 April without too much trouble. There is an all day walk on Sunday in Rendlesham Forest.
21. **To Receive Report from Bentley CEVCP School** - Mrs Rayment reported on a Garden Day on 12 April where a lot of clearing and planting was done which was well supported. There was an Art Day – using various things from different artists and with the children putting their own interpretation on these – the school looked good for the OFSTED inspection last Wednesday and is now awaiting the written report on the outcome.
22. **Tree Warden's Report** – Cllr Hawes stated that he had contacted Babergh District Council regarding the Oak tree in Church Road (reference the School Travel Plan) and after inspecting confirmed that the tree merits a TPO should the threat of cutting it down become real. SCC have since confirmed that there are no plans to fell the tree and this is no longer a viable option. It has been ascertained that the tree belongs to Don Baker – Falstaff Manor. The Tree Warden training meeting of 9 April was postponed due to the unexpected death of Martin Douglas a well known BDC Parish Tree Warden and hedgerow surveyor who was to have led the session and given a presentation. Finally Councillor Hawes urged parishioners to look out for Oak disease which is causing the death of Oak trees and has spread to more than 100 areas around the country and could prove as damaging as Dutch Elm disease in the 1970's. Please notify the Tree Warden if Oaks show signs of yellowing foliage, leaves starting to thin out and trees dying from the top downwards eventually taking on a 'stag headed appearance'. Cankers which form in the trunks can bleed a black pus-like fluid.

Cllr Feltwell asked if anything had been heard from SCC regarding the School Travel Plan. The Clerk was asked to contact SCC for an update and also to write to Mr D Baker asking if the dead wood on the Oak tree along the footpath to the school could be dealt with.

Action: Clerk to contact SCC re School Travel Plan and write to Mr Baker re Oak Tree

23. **Playing Fields Committee Update** – The mole problem is being sorted.
24. **Neighbourhood Watch** – No report available
25. **To Receive Correspondence**
- 25.1 *Items on list with Agenda* – A list of 39 items were published with the Agenda with 12 items from the Clerk (as attached).
- 25.2 *Items tabled at Meeting (details given to Councillors)* There were two* items tabled at the meeting but a further list of 15 items of late Correspondence with 5 items from the Clerk were included in the circulation folder

*Funding opportunity - applicants aged 11-16! – Suffolk Acre

*E-mail from parishioner

The Chairman said that Councillors had all received the lists and said that if anything needed to be discussed it could be put on the next agenda.

Parishioners are welcome to view any item of correspondence if they make an appointment with the Clerk.

25. **Exchange of Information By Councillors & Matters for Consideration at Future Meetings**

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Cllr Cripps remarked on the road works in Church Road - Anglian Water had repaired a burst pipe (not nearly as bad as the Bergholt Road one) and replaced the footpath only for it to be dug up again to put in a dropped kerb – traffic lights were put in after a lot of confusion.

26. To Authorise Payments - The following payments were authorised:

100736	SALC - Subscription 2008/2009	£251.00
100737	Suffolk Acre – Subscription 2008/2009	£25.00
100738	Mr Munday Invoice No 62 – 2nd grass cut to graveyard	£125.00
100739	Mrs Rayment – Refreshments Annual Parish Meeting	£6.00
100740	Mrs K Wheals – Litter pickers	£19.96
100741	Village Hall – Hire of hall February, March and April 2008	£46.00
100742	Clerk's wages + expenses - April	£218.90

It was proposed that these be paid en-bloc.

Proposed: Cllr R Perkin Seconded: Cllr B Poulding All in favour CU

27. To Confirm Date of Next Meeting - Thursday 5 June 2008. The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: