

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, BENTLEY ON THURSDAY 27 SEPTEMBER AT 11.00 AM

Present

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

Also in attendance: 6 Members of the public

There was no public session listed on the agenda so as there were members of the public present the Chairman asked for any comments before the meeting convened. Michael Anderton read his report - copy will be attached to the minute book.

1. **To Record Apologies for Absence:** Cllr K Wheals, District Councillor J Hinton and J Wheals.
2. **To Receive Declaration of Interest Relating to Agenda Items:** - None declared.
3. **To Approve Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 6 September 2007 -** Before the minutes were approved as a true record several amendments were noted - pages 381 item 26 soak-away “area”- page 383 Amos should be “Bloomfield” – page 382 & 383 – numbering. Under Exchange of information Cllr Hawes asked for area to be changed to “site” and also added the following - “and suggested that the Parish Council give consideration to a local BAP. He reported that he had already met with the County BAP officer to discuss the setting of local BAPs.” Also after site in the second paragraph “is being considered for preservation by English Heritage and the Bat Conservation Trust.” It was proposed that with these amendments the minutes were a true record.

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

4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes - Page 378 – Bentley Road Sign** – Following a letter received from Michael Anderton (Correspondence item 13) the Clerk had not contacted Babergh. **Page 380** – The Clerk had contacted Cllr Wheals regarding litter pickers – we are seeking an alternative source as these appear to be seasonal. **Page 380 – Transfer of funds** – The letter would be signed by the signatories after this meeting and sent to Barclays. **Page 380 – Additional notice board** – This will be reported on at the next scheduled meeting.

5. **Planning Applications**

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

B/07/01168/FHA/BEL 7 Falstaff Cottages, Potash Lane, Bentley **Permission granted**

B/07/01302/FHA/CJT 7 Highfields, Bentley **Permission granted**

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

B/07/01315/DPA/MB 44-45 Highfields Bentley Application under Regulation 3 of the Town & Country Planning General Regulations 1992 – Erection of Vehicular Crossings and hard standing

Recommend Approval

Proposed: Cllr C Cripps Seconded Cllr J Blackmore All in favour CU

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

6. **The Village Plan – To discuss fully** - It was proposed that the Action Plan be accepted and then discussed.

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

- A(i) **Access to Healthcare** – After some discussion it was agreed that the Practice Manager should be invited to attend a Parish Council meeting and have a question and answer session on appointment system, long term medication, flu jabs etc and the Clerk was asked to try and arrange this.

Action: Clerk to contact Surgery

- A(2) **Public Transport** – There is no longer a bus to Capel – SCC have agreed to meet with Councillors to discuss the bus service via County Councillor D Yorke-Edwards. The Clerk to arrange meeting for Cllrs. Goodwin, Feltwell, and Perkin to meet SCC to discuss.

Action: Clerk to contact SCC and David Yorke-Edwards re meeting

- A(3) **Traffic Management** - The Council had been trying to reduce the speed and amount of traffic through Bentley by asking for vehicle activated signs etc and had been told that police radar traps seemed to be the answer.

The meeting was adjourned on a nodded agreement

Mr Ingham stated that at the recent East Babergh Safer Neighbourhood meeting it had been reported that all S.N.T. officers in the East Babergh team were now trained in the use of the speeding equipment.

The meeting went back into session.

Cllr Feltwell was concerned about the number of articulated lorries now coming through the village as a result of Sat Nav systems. Councillors asked the Clerk to write to SCC and also to involve our County Councillor regarding transport, buses and traffic.

Action: Clerk to contact SCC and David Yorke-Edwards re meeting

- A(4) **Road & Footway Maintenance** – Councillors agreed the Capel/Bergholt Road junction was extremely high priority. A discussion followed on various solutions to the problem and the meeting adjourned on a nodded agreement and then went back into session.

It was agreed that we should involve our County Councillor and SCC over this problem.

- A(5) **Access to Information** – The notice board is in hand.

- B(1) **Affordable Housing** – It was agreed to contact Suffolk ACRE for advice and guidance on this. (There is no charge).

- B(2) **Built Environment** - Councillors agreed B (1) and B (2) should be looked at together to ascertain whether Bentley is considered a sustainable community.

Action: Clerk to contact Suffolk Acre

The meeting adjourned on a nodded agreement and then reconvened

- B(3) **Facilities for Older People** – Councillors agreed this was an ongoing thing and is already happening to some extent. New user groups are being formed.

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

- B(4) Community Transport - This was already happening but it was felt a Co-ordinator was needed and it should be kept as informal as possible – Mr Adrian Mills may take this on.
- B(5) Shopping and Services - Cllr Blackmore reported that a community shop was being considered at the Village Hall but with a very limited number of items. If it were decided to go for a telephone line into the Village Hall there will be an IT Club forming which will allow any resident to use the facility to order online.
- B(6) Provision of Local Schools – It was reported that 65% of the children at the school were from the village – Key Stage 2 has 23 children 21 of whom are from the village. Councillors felt that Access to training and skills development should be part of this. It was also felt that Facilities for young children (C) - extend the playgroup hours – should come under this heading.
- B(7) Community Assets – It was agreed that the hall management committee needed to be expanded – the AGM is at the end of the year. Cllr Blackmore stated that it was a very viable operation – 54 sessions were already booked for October.
- B(8) Recycling and Waste Management – Bentley residents have three different coloured bins, a bottle bank and a paper bank but concern was expressed about what could be put in the bins and it was agreed that the District Councillors should be informed of these concerns.
- B(9) Emergency Planning - Neighbourhood Watch has started to re-form and we do have a Community Officer.

The meeting adjourned on a nodded agreement

Mr Ingham informed the meeting of a new scheme for direct police contact by phone to obtain information on every crime in their district and also information about traffic problems.

The meeting reconvened

The meeting was informed that the e-mail service is now working again and is available to anyone who registers.

- C(1) Facilities for Young Children – Councillors agreed that there was a need for a long term plan. It was suggested that may be the Council could try to purchase the field at the back of the Village Hall Play equipment was a matter of urgency that should be looked at very seriously. It was agreed the playing field should be looked at and in conjunction with the PTA come up with some recommendations for local spots. This is an ongoing Agenda item.

The meeting adjourned on a nodded agreement and concerns were expressed about the residents in the bungalows if the field behind the hall were to be purchased.

The meeting reconvened

- C(2) Public Rights of Way - Councillors agreed this was ongoing – Jim Smith organised work parties.
- C(3) Jobs & Local Economy – There is no real industry in Bentley – some on the outskirts – Councillors would be sympathetic to anything – More and more people are working from home these days.
- C(4) Shopping & Services - To support the provision of local Post Office and the return of a Post Office in Bentley – Councillors agreed it was unlikely that Bentley would have a Post Office

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

again but would support it if it became a possibility. Cllr Blackmore expressed the view that the Capel Post Office would be closed within the next five years.

- C(5) Natural Environment – Support local landowners to maintain the rural environment and wildlife habitats - This is already underway.
- C(6) Environmental Health & Pollution - Organise regular litter picking events – This is already underway.
- C(7) Local Democracy- Encourage greater interest in the work of the Parish Council. Maintain Bentley as a desirable location to live - This is underway anyone can meet a Parish Councillor before the meeting or at any time – Councillors could be available before the start of the meeting (7.15). The Chairman also reiterated that any parishioner can view correspondence by making an appointment with the Clerk.

The meeting adjourned on a nodded agreement

Michael Anderton asked if the Council had adopted the plan and was told this was done earlier so subject to two corrections the plan could be published, be put on the website and Suffolk ACRE given a copy.

Mr Osbon wanted to know if the population figure in the report had been changed - John Wheals was to have informed the Council of the corrected figure. After a heated discussion the meeting reconvened and it was proposed that the latest figure be obtained from Babergh and this will be put into the report.

Proposed: Cllr B Feltwell Seconded Cllr B Poulding All in favour CU

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

- 7.1 It was proposed that a letter be sent to John Wheals and his team thanking them for bringing forward so much information into the Parish Plan.

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

Action: Clerk to write to John Wheals

- 7.2 Cllr Poulding commented on the kerb stones that had been placed outside the school – when Highways had been asked to kerb the verge by the Church we had been told there was no money. It was agreed to write to Suffolk Highways.

Action: Clerk to write to Highways re verges near Church

- 7.3 Cllr Goodwin asked for an agenda item at the next meeting regarding a letter from a parishioner to the Clerk.

Action: Agenda item

8. To Confirm Date of Next Scheduled Meeting – Thursday 4 October 2007 The meeting closed at 12.45 pm

CHAIRMAN:

DATE