

# BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2017 AT 7.38 PM

### Present

Cllr M Bamford - Chairman      Mrs J Scott – Clerk      Cllr K Spicer      Cllr J Wheals  
Cllr A Graffham      Cllr C Goodwin      Cllr P Cross      Cllr N Moxey

Also in attendance: County Councillor Gordon Jones, District Councillor J Hinton & Footpath Warden- 6 members of the public.

Cllr Bamford welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Clerk received no notification of anyone planning to film or record.

1. **To record apologies for absence:** —Cllr R Feltwell, (Holiday). Cllr K Hutchings and Tree Warden C Hawes.
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 5 October 2017** -The minutes were approved as a true record and duly signed.

Proposed Cllr K Spicer      Seconded Cllr J Wheals      All in favour      CU

5. **Matters Arising from the minutes: Page 881 Still** chasing SCC re the Ash Tree on the School Playing Field – got County Councillor Jones involved. The School has been contacted - Babergh have been informed of the fly tipping in Church Road via their reporting tool. – not heard anything. Rest is covered by agenda items

Footpath Warden had been to the school re the dangerous Ash tree and been told that someone is coming to inspect the problem. A pile of rubble has been added to the fly tipped rubbish in Church Road. A resident also reported dumped tyres by the Railway bridge. Clerk to inform Babergh. Cllr Bamford reported that UK Power Network will be dealing with the trees in Church Roads.

Action: Clerk to inform Babergh re fly tipping

## Public Session

**District Councillor John Hinton** read to a written report **Appendix 2** in the minute book and on the Council website he asked residents to stay safe during the firework season and remember pets and livestock and not to forget hedgehogs in the bonfires. He reported that Babergh had been in the news again – Governance at all levels appears to have lost its reason for existence – expenditure needs to be reduced ie spending less after making savings – the move to Endeavour House is still going on but Cllr Hinton is still awaiting answers to six questions on the finances of the action from the Chief Executive. Planning still seems to muddle along – since January they have lost 13 staff and are still looking to fill 6 vacancies – the author of the Local Plan has left and the new Joint Local Plan consultation document is out for consideration.

**County Councillor Gordon Jones** read to a written report **Appendix 2** in the minutes and on the Council website. He reported on Flu vaccination – GCSE & A Level results on the rise in Suffolk – he was pleased to report improvement in every single area - Suffolk Fostering Service launches first in a series of fostering recruitment campaigns – Reminder to check white goods as Suffolk Fire & Rescue Service marks UK Home Safety Week – Parents urged to have their say on school admissions consultation and Ofsted – Pilot Inspection Children’s Services

September 2017 – Cllr Jones concluded his report by mentioning the consultation on Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan because there is a site which is adjacent to the A12 – Public engagement at Belstead on 19 November and Tattingstone 17 November. He is liaising with Highways regarding the signs for the Play Area and will contact the Clerk with design and location and is going to purchase from his Locality Budget.

**Resident:** Reported that the sound system and hearing loop is not working like a proper Loop System should in the Village Hall.

**Resident:** Wanted to know if the Parish Council had formulated any views regarding the Joint Local Plan– he was concerned that residents were not being informed and was told that information had been put in the Bentley Bugle, the notice boards and website. - PC response will be discussed under item 13.

<b>Action:</b> Letter to Village Hall Committee
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## 6 Planning Applications

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

<b>DC/17/04350</b>	The Acorns, Link Lane	<b>Permission has been granted</b>
<b>DC/17/03175</b>	Trevlac, Capel Road	<b>Permission has been granted</b>
<b>B/16/01686/CEU</b>	Holly Oak, Hazel Shrub	<b>Certificate of Lawfulness</b>

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

<b>DC/17/04729</b>	Little Dodnash Farm, Bentley Road	Change of use from agricultural to residential barn to 2 no holiday lets with associated landscaping and parking
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### **RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

Proposed Cllr A Graffham    Seconded Cllr P Cross    All in favour    CU

7. **Report by Exception – Tree Warden/Footpath Warden – Tree Warden** – No report available. **Capel Library:** No report available. **Bentley Long Barn** – No further news. Cllr Bamford will write to Babergh. **Footpath Warden** - Reported that similar work had been done on another tree on the Earlwood Path - a lot of the trees along the strip are in the same condition and will need some attention before the winter storms. These will be monitored regularly. Clearance work had taken place on the footpath from The Case to Potash Lane and is much easier to walk now.

8. **Post Box – Update.** The post box has now been installed and is up and running.

9. **To approve six month Accounts April - September - Councillors** had been issued with a copy of the 6 month Receipts and Payments and the accounts had been reviewed by the Finance Working Party. The Clerk reported that Total Receipts for six months were £14,942.17 - (Precept £14,500 reclaimed VAT £412.57 and a Family Fun Day deposit from previous year £29.60) no interest received on the Parish Council Tracker Account. - Total payments over six months were £7801.14 - including general admin £4386.14 Clerk's salary/expenses, Hall hire and SALC subscription. Insurance, internal audit fee etc. - Grants under the power of S137 £450 and S19 £95.39. – grass cutting of the closed Churchyard £550 –and payment for fireworks £1039.20. -£539.20 will be transferred from the Tracker account back into the PC account once the finances are complete. The outstanding cheque for Vertas was paid and the original cheque cancelled. Payments are all well within budget. It was proposed that the accounts be accepted. The Finance Working Party were thanked.

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

10. **To Discuss printing of WI Leaflet - Resident** explained that WI had produced a leaflet of the circular walk of Bentley printed for a competition at the Suffolk Show. It was very well received and they would like to print copies to go in the Village Shop etc. Councillors agreed in principle but would like to see a copy and approximate costs. WI to liaise with Footpath Warden. This will be kept as an agenda item.

11. **To discuss the formulation and publishing of perceived priorities re CIL payment - Update** - It was explained that future development of any size will attract CIL money. A discussion followed on what this money could be used for to benefit the village and it was proposed that we get some sort of indication from residents, starting with something in Bentley Bugle. Keep as an agenda item.

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

12. **To discuss Play Area grass cutting** – A willing volunteer had been cutting the Play Area grass and drives his ride on mower round the area at regular intervals. After some discussion it was proposed that a cheque be sent for £100 to cover petrol and wear and tear costs on the mower. Clerk will write a letter of thanks.

Footpath Warden said he had never claimed costs as he did it for the village - it was agreed that this would be an agenda item at the next meeting.

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

**Action:** Cheque and letter – Footpath Warden costs – Agenda item

13. **To agree response re Joint Local Plan Consultation Document -** Councillors had been given a copy of the proposed response to the Joint Local Plan Consultation Document **Appendix 3** and it was proposed that this be sent to Babergh, circulated to every house in the village and sent to BAPTC.

Proposed Cllr N Moxey                      Seconded Cllr C Goodwin                      All in favour                      CU

**Action:** Response to be sent to Babergh – BAPTC and distributed round the village

14. **To discuss Hearing Loop in Village Hall** – Councillors had heard the comments regarding the Hearing Loop in the public session and it was proposed that a letter be sent to Village Hall Trustees regarding continuing concerns with the hearing loop which is not fit for purpose and that the Parish Council would be prepared to help pay for any upgrade.

Proposed Cllr M Bamford                      Seconded Cllr J Wheals                      All in favour                      CU

**Action:** Letter to Village Hall Trustees

15. **To discuss Neighbourhood Plan – Deferred – April meeting** - Councillors agreed that a Neighbourhood Plan would be very complicated and time consuming - we will be canvassing opinions about infrastructure etc in the new year – any further responses to the Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan could be included giving an informed database which could be used in any further discussions with Babergh. At this moment in time a formal Neighbourhood Plan was not envisaged but it was proposed that the position be evaluated in six months' time.

Proposed Cllr C Goodwin                      Seconded Cllr K Spicer                      All in favour                      CU

16. **Boundary Commission – Electoral Review of Babergh Warding Arrangements - Update** Nothing had been heard from Copdock & Washbrook, Capel St Mary, Stutton, Tattingstone and Brantham Parish Councils to find out their preferences. The proposal is to put Bentley with Belstead and Chelmondiston and after some discussion it was proposed that the Chairman would respond on behalf of the Parish Council saying that Copdock and Washbrook would be the preferred choice as it is much closer and we share schools This will remain an agenda item.

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

17. **Traffic Calming – Signage – Play Area – Update** – As already mentioned County Councillor Jones is liaising with Highways regarding the signs.

18. **Babergh Alliance of Town & Parish Councils** - A copy of Bentley Parish Council's response regarding Babergh and Mid Suffolk Council's Joint Strategic Plan is to be sent to BAPTC for information.

**Action:** Copy of letter to be sent to BAPTC

19. **Affordable Housing – Report on progress – Update** – No news to date.

20. **Playing Fields Society –Bentley Family Fun Day – Firework Display** - Accounts will be presented for the Family Fun Day at the December meeting. The Firework Display was a huge success and it was proposed that the Clerk write a letter of thanks to the organisers and all who helped.

Proposed Cllr M Bamford      Seconded Cllr C Goodwin      All in favour      CU

**Action:** Letter to organisers of the Firework display

**Resident:** Thanked the Parish Council on behalf of parishioners for their support of the event – it was an excellent display and the friendliness of the people there came across very strongly. Looking forward to next year.

21. **To receive Correspondence** – The Clerk drew Councillors' attention to the following - e-mails from Royal Mail – e-mail Babergh & Mid Suffolk – Joint Local Plan – Presentation from Town & Parish Briefings 3 e-mails from BAPTC – re agenda, draft minutes and Joint Strategic Plan. – e-mails SCC re tree roots growing through pavement in Highfields – re-reported. E-mail Friends of St Mary's – grant application - e-mail Resident re signage Station Road/Capel Road documentation – e-mail County Cllr Jones re Play area signs –Clerk Grant letters have been sent out. **Late Correspondence:** E-mail Chairman's response to resident re Joint Strategic Plan – e-mail – Firework finances - e-mail Babergh & Mid Suffolk Parish Liaison Meeting next week – e-mail SALC Important SALC AGM and request for information

22. **Exchange of information by Councillors and matters for consideration at future Meetings**  
**Cllr Bamford:** Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan - Agenda item

**Action:** Gravel extraction– Agenda item

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

101268	Vertas	Grounds Maintenance		£185.76
101269	SALC	Data Protection briefing		£26.40
101270	CAS	One Suffolk website hosting		£60.00
101271	P Baldwin	7th cut grass		£110.00
101272	Speedwatch Co-ordinator	Donation - Electricity		£10.00
101273	Mrs J Scott	Salary October	£479.00	£531.45
		Minus tax	Nil	
			£479.00	
		Plus Expenses	£ 52.45	
			£531.45	

It was proposed that these be paid en bloc.

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

23. **To confirm date of next scheduled meeting** – Parish Council Meeting Thursday 7 December 2017 at 7.30 pm. Preceded by a Playing Field Society Meeting at 7pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE:

DRAFT