

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2018 AT 7.30 PM

Present

Cllr M Bamford - Chairman Mrs J Scott – Clerk Cllr B Feltwell Cllr J Wheals
Cllr K Spicer Cllr C Goodwin Cllr N Moxey Cllr K Hutchings
Cllr P Cross

Also in attendance County Councillor G Jones, District Councillor Hinton & Footpath Warden- 1 member 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 A Graffham (work).
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 4 January 2018** -The minutes were approved as a true record and duly signed.

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

5. **Matters Arising from the minutes: Page 894 item 5** - Costings awaited from WI regarding their leaflet. **Page 895 item 8** – Precept form was sent to Babergh and has been acknowledged. - Rest covered by agenda items.
Cllr Wheal informed the meeting that the cost of printing the leaflets was £125 for 500 – this will be an agenda item at the March meeting.

Action: To agree cost of printing WI leaflet – Agenda item

Public Session

County Councillor Gordon Jones – Not yet done a report but stated that one item on the agenda for discussion next week is agreement of the budget for next year. Previously indicated recommendation is an increase in the precept of 4.99% but is going up 2.99%. An additional 1% on the 2.99% is ring fenced for adult care. £26 million savings have to be found - one area not being cut is Children’s Services but it exceeded its budget this year. He reminded the meeting that there is another four weeks to go on the home to school transportation consultation which closes on 28 February. County Cllr Jones was asked why the Children’s Services budget had been exceeded – more children are coming into care - teenagers stay in care until they are 18. 78 boys are in Ipswich from Calais. Finally the results of the ANPR test at Halesworth should now have been analysed and any problems overcome.

District Councillor John Hinton – Read to a written report **Appendix 1** in the minute book and on the Parish Council website. District Councillor Hinton reported on the New Council Leader John Ward, who is now a fervent supporter of a referendum for One Council. The telephone poll has still gone ahead at a cost of £10K and seems to be provoking a strong anti-feeling in the public domain. A change of boundaries is being implemented in 2019 that will reduce the number of Councillors considerably – the move to Ipswich has created chaos that has to be sorted out – Sudbury is not a rational alternative contact point. Planning – developers are trying to gain permissions on the 5 year land supply excuse before the new figures come out. District Councillor Hinton was asked about the Planning website – why the application number cannot be linked to the website.

Resident: Asked for the Webmaster's e-mail address. The meeting was told that the website has been down due to a One Suffolk upgrade.

6. Planning Applications

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

DC/17/06071 Linkfield, Hazel Shrub **Permission has been granted**

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

DC/18/00043 11 West Mill Green, Bentley Erection of single storey rear extension & single storey twin-gable side extension

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

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

DC/18/00164 The Cottage, Grove Road Erection of single attached garage (following demolition of existing garage)

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

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

DC/18/00368 Redwoods, Bergholt Road Application under Section 73 of the Town & County Planning Act – Erection of two storey detached dwelling & detached double garage to be occupied by a horticultural worker, as amended by drawing number 105, 10A received by Local Planning Authority on 29 January 2009 without compliance with/for removal of Condition 2 (Agricultural Tie) of B/08/01230/FUL

In response to this application Bentley Parish Council are concerned to establish the legitimacy of this application given that the property is adjacent to an ongoing business in the countryside which is in the ownership of the family who occupy the property.

Further, we would not expect permission to be granted for any future application for another horticultural related cottage on this site and would recommend that – as the reasons for granting the original agricultural tie still exist – that the cottage retains the tie.

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

7. Report by Exception – Tree Warden/Footpath Warden – Tree Warden – Reported a large branch from a Cedar tree in Silver Leys had been cut up and disposed of by Ray Bloomfield and asked that a thank you note be sent to him. The next Tree Warden meeting is on 14 April and an e-mail had been received from the Drinkstone Parish Tree Warden & Acting Secretary of STWN re update and early notification of the STWN Spring Forum and first AGM. . **Capel Library:** The AGM went well with a good turnout. There was a meeting on 30 January to discuss the year's programme (January-December) – copy given to Clerk. The next Community Cinema is on 20 February and on 5 February the new desk is being installed. . **Bentley Long Barn** – No further news. Cllr Bamford had received no response to his e-mail so will try again. **Footpath Warden** - Cllr Wheals reported that the Footpath Society Bank account has been kept live. It was reported that the footpath sign has been broken at Grove Farm. Tree Warden will check with Footpath Warden whether this has been reported to SCC.

Action: Letter of thanks to Mr Bloomfield

8. **To Approve Accounts – April-December 2017** - Councillors had been issued with a copy of the 9 month Receipts and Payments and the accounts had been reviewed by the Finance Working Party. The Clerk reported total receipts for 9 months were £14,943.86 this figure included precept, VAT and Family Fun Day deposit reported in November with the addition of £1.69 interest received on the Parish Council Tracker Account. Total payments over the 9 months included general admin £6285.07 which includes Clerks salary/expenses, hall hire, insurance and audit fees etc grants under the power of S137 £525 and S19 £95.39 – grass cutting –closed churchyard £770 and grounds maintenance £798.51. There were three uncleared cheques in December totalling £230. Payments are all within budget. It was proposed that the accounts be accepted.

Proposed Cllr B Feltwell Seconded Cllr M Bamford All in favour CU

9. **To instruct SALC to audit End of Year Accounts 2017/18–** It was proposed that the Clerk contact SALC to arrange for the internal audit of end of year accounts in May 2018.

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

Action: Contact SALC to book date
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10. **To discuss Churchyard Maintenance 2018/19 -** A quote for the 10 visits to cut grass & strim - 2 visits to clear churchyard of leaves £110 per grass cut and £150 per leaf clear using own fuel and weed killer (total £1,400) had been received. It was proposed that the quote be accepted.

Proposed Cllr B Feltwell Seconded Cllr J Wheals All in favour CU

It was also proposed that the Clerk contact P Baldwin and ask if he would be interested in making it a three year contact and quoting for a second and third year.

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

Action: Contact P Baldwin

11. **To agree format of Annual Parish Meeting** –Following a short discussion it was proposed that we keep to the same format. Invitations will be sent to Clubs and School at the end of February.

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

12. **To discuss Data Protection Legislation – May 2018** - We await more information from SALC. Keep as an agenda item.

13. **Bird boxes on Playing Field –Update** Councillors had been given a list of prices for a variety of bird boxes – (House sparrow terrace £15, Sparrow individual £8, Starling £8 Kestrel £70 , open fronted £7, Great tit or blue tit £7, Barn owls £100, Bat £12, & swift £12). The Tree Warden will investigate. There is a balance of £90 and Councillors will be happy to consider putting up more money if necessary.

14. **Response to Joint Local Plan Consultation Document - Update** Nothing to report – but the Clerk was instructed to reinstate Boundary Commission – Electoral Review of Babergh Warding arrangements which had been taken off the agenda for this meeting back on the agenda for the next meeting. It was agreed to keep both these items on the agenda.

Action: Boundary Commission Electoral Review of Babergh Warding Arrangements – Agenda item

15. **Traffic Calming – Signage – Play Area – Update** – As previously mentioned we are awaiting further information about Number Plate Recognition. An e-mail has been received from SCC re siting of the play area signage and upgrade of 30mph sign outside the Village Hall – copy sent to Village Hall Committee – Clerk informed SCC that no comments had been

received so hopefully the signs which County Councillor Jones is funding from his Locality Budget – will soon be in place.

16. **Babergh Alliance of Town & Parish Councils -** E-mail has been received listing future meetings.
17. **Affordable Housing – Report on progress – Update - Hastoe** has acknowledged that there is some progress - negotiations are in the early stages – could be possibility of allotments which we would be interested in taking forward.
18. **Playing Fields Society – To consider purchase of picnic table for Playing Field -** As discussed at the Playing Field Society Meeting it was proposed that two eight seater picnic tables be purchased at £271.20 each = £542.40 – 5% total £515.28. 16 paving slabs to be donated for the tables to stand on. Other items discussed were quotes for grass cutting – (3 year programme), marking of the football pitch – date of 2018 Bentley Family Fun Day – 9 September 2018.

Proposed Cllr J Wheals Seconded Cllr N Moxey All in favour CU

19. **To receive Correspondence** – The Clerk drew Councillors’ attention to the following - E-mail from BAPTC - proposed meeting dates –E-mail Natural England Invitation to consultation event 12 Feb – places booked for Cllrs Bamford and Feltwell – E-mail SCC – re Play Area warning signs – E-mail SALC – Data Protection Bill – latest update from NALC – E-mail SCC re problem report – Trees – Highfields – no action to be taken at this time – E-mail Babergh re Spring Clean Suffolk – Agenda item – E-mail Babergh Precept confirmation – E-mail Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch asking for single one off donation of £50 – Agenda item – E-mail from Community Action Suffolk – re One Suffolk Upgrade update – Email Babergh & Mid Suffolk – sent on behalf of Leaders – have your say on one Council.
20. **Exchange of information by Councillors and matters for consideration at future Meetings**
Cllr Bamford – consider sponsorship of Bentley commemoration of end of WW1 on November 11th. including ‘Beacons of Light’, and seek opinions of British Legion, Veterans, Village Hall and Churches’ - Agenda item

Action: WW1 Beacons of Light – Spring Clean Suffolk – Suffolk Neighbourhood watch – donation Agenda items
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21. **To Authorise Payments** - The following payments were authorised

101282	Vertas	Grounds Maintenance Jan/Mar		£185.76
101283	Mrs J Scott	Salary January	£479.00	
		Minus tax	<u>Nil</u>	£991.12
			£479.00	
		Plus Expenses	£ 62.12	
		Plus Annual Room Allowance	<u>£450.00</u>	
			£991.12	

It was proposed that these be paid en bloc.

Proposed: Cllr N Moxey Seconded: Cllr K Hutchings All in favour CU

22. **To confirm date of next scheduled meeting –** Parish Council Meeting Thursday 1 March 2018 at 7.30 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: