

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 4 APRIL 2019 AT 7.30 PM

Present

Cllr M Bamford - Chairman Cllr B Feltwell Mrs J Scott – Clerk Cllr K Spicer
Cllr P Cross Cllr J Wheals

Also in attendance District Councillor John Hinton, Tree Warden - 4 members of the public

Cllr Bamford welcomed everyone to the meeting – the last one for this Parish Council. The Clerk received no notification of anyone planning to film or record this meeting.

1. **To record apologies for absence:** Cllr K Hutchings, Cllr N Moxey, Cllr A Graffham and County Councillor Gordon Jones
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 7 March 2019 –** The minutes were approved as a true record and duly signed.

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

Cllr Bamford thanked all who had put their names down to join the Parish Council. Councillors Hutchings and Graffham are not standing this time – decision will need to be made about running the website. Notices received today - the 9 candidates who put their names forward have been elected uncontested.

5. **Matters Arising from the minutes: Page 955 items 12 & 17** Notices were sent to Bentley Bugle to advertise the positions of Footpath Warden and Speedwatch Co-ordinator – one application received for position of Footpath Warden **item 15** Following receipt of the three quotes an order for felling trees in the Closed churchyard has been sent to Jo Tremaine – invoice received by Chairman - to be passed for payment at tonight's meeting . Rest covered by agenda items.

Public Session

County Councillor Gordon Jones – had sent his written report **Appendix 1** in the minute book and on the Parish Council website, before the meeting which had been forwarded to Councillors. Comments were made about Suffolk Record Office achieving National accreditation.

District Councillor John Hinton – read to a written report **Appendix 2** in the minute book and on the Parish Council website. This will be District Cllr Hinton's last report as Dodnash Ward member as on May 2 the ward is split into two as part of the Electoral Commission's proposal to reduce the number of Councillors from 43 to 32 to even up electoral representation. He commented on Planning, finances, housing, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), electric car charging points on all new Social Housing. He closed his report telling the meeting for Bentley residents it has been a privilege to represent you for the last 16 years and wished them all the best for the future. He also commented on waiting restrictions which were on a plan based system and are now on a map based system – signs need to be replaced before it can be enforced.

Tree Warden: Commented on the appeal re Garages South West of Silver Leys – the ground in front of the garages is not owned by anybody – although the resident bought the garages, they do not own the land in front of them.

Resident: Told the meeting that her grandchildren had been playing in the play area recently when an elderly lady told them off for making too much noise. She told them that only Village children were allowed to use the equipment. Apparently, it is not the first time this has happened and she asked Councillors what could be done as children make noise when they play. After some discussion it was agreed that Cllr Wheals would have a word with the person concerned.

6. Planning Applications

- a) To note decisions of Planning Authority on previous applications – None received
- b) To give comments on any new applications in hand –

DC/19/01097	Holly Oak, Hazel Shrub	Outline Planning application (all matters Reserved) – Erection of 3 no dwellings.
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RECOMMEND REFUSAL Councillors commented on the density and style of the housing ie suburban development outside the village envelope, access arrangements are not appropriate. They have concerns about the Ecological Assessment Report which doesn't reflect a properly undertaken assessment – see Tree Warden's comments below. Councillors were given to understand by District Councillor Hinton that the 5 year land supply is valid and this application disputes that fact.

Tree Warden comments – *First & foremost, this is largely a desktop environmental assessment, which only looks at records that have been sent to the Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service ie it is not a valid assessment and should not be trusted. Second, the only on-site survey was undertaken in January, which is the worst possible time to search for invertebrates & other wildlife. Third, although there might not be much dead decaying wood to be seen, much of this is subterranean and harbours not only stage beetle larvae but many other beetle species that rely on this food resource.*

Proposed Cllr M Bamford	Seconded Cllr K Spicer	All in favour	CU
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Cllr Feltwell abstained from this discussion as he had used the same architect.

Appeal Reference APP/ D3505/W/19/312121057	Garages South West of Silver Leys	Erection of a two storey dwelling
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Councillors reiterated their concerns about the size and form of the development., the dispute over access and parking arrangements.
Councillors were concerned that there may be a covenant on the initial development of Silver Leys

Proposed Cllr K Spicer	Seconded Cllr J Wheals	4 in favour	1 abstention
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- 7. **Report by Exception – Tree Warden/Footpath Warden/Capel Library/ Bentley Long Barn – Tree Warden** – Reported that the Suffolk Tree Warden Network (STWN) Spring Forum is being held at Ufford Community Hall on 28 April 9.30-5pm and he will be giving a presentation on the importance of conserving dead wood for the conservation of stag beetles.

Fee for the Forum is £10. The trees in St Mary's Churchyard one oak (Quercus robur) and three Holm Oaks (Quercus Ilex) have been felled as agreed, although he was not informed of the felling date and time. Large lengths & shorter pieces of Q robur trunk have been saved to build seats in the churchyard. **Capel Library:** Meeting was held on 2 April – there are 244 members (£1 per year per person). The Community Cinema will be showing Bohemian Rhapsody. Unwanted books are being collected to sell at Bentley and Capel Fun Days – please give them to C Hawes. **Bentley Long Barn** –No further news. **Footpath Society** – Walk – Bentley Park – 13 April providing refreshments in aid of Riding for the Disabled.

8. **To ratify Babergh Invoice for litter & dog bin emptying** - It was proposed that the invoice £296.87 be ratified.

Proposed Cllr P Cross Seconded Cllr B Feltwell All in favour CU

9. **Play Area – Annual Playground Inspection - Update** The annual inspection took place on 8 March 2019 and Councillors had been sent a copy. There were two recommendations which were noted:

10. **To agree petrol expenses for the Play Area -** It was proposed that a cheque for £100 be raised for the willing volunteer who cuts the play area grass - expenses towards petrol costs and wear and tear of his equipment.

Proposed Cllr B Feltwell Seconded Cllr P Cross All in favour CU

Action: Cheque to be raised

11. **Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan (PIIP)- Update -** Councillors had been re-sent a copy of the e-mail from Babergh. We have got a list and now need to identify and sign the new form – Priority for the new Council.

Action: Priority for new Council

12. **Grit Bins –Update** Councillors had been sent a list of the location of grit heaps. A discussion followed and it was proposed that this be deferred until the next meeting so it can be discussed and actioned. Leave on the agenda.

Proposed Cllr M Bamford Seconded Cllr P Cross All in favour CU

13. **Spring Litter Pick 2019** – The meeting was told that The WI are not organising a litter pick this year but some WI members are happy to support a parish/community litter pick. It was suggested that this be put on the agenda of the Annual Parish Meeting to see if a litter pick is required and ask for volunteers and a date.

Action: Put on Annual Parish Meeting agenda

14. **Traffic Calming –SID locations/purchase - Update** After some discussion regarding location of fixed poles – it was thought that poles should be situated opposite Trevlac coming into the Village from Capel and at the other end of the Village - Station Road just before Springfield. There was some confusion regarding fixed SID and the Clerk was asked to write to Safety & Speed Management at SCC suggesting the above locations for fixed SID (as they have in Brantham & Stutton) and that the form will be completed in due course. The landowner wants to know the height of the poles.

Proposed Cllr M Bamford Seconded Cllr P Cross All in favour CU

Action: Clerk to write to Safety & Speed Management.

15. **Neighbourhood Plan -To agree payment of Consultancy Invoice (£1,500 plus VAT) –** Cllr Moxey's had sent a written report **Appendix 3** in the minute book. She remarked on progress which remains strong – the high-level policy statements which will form the core of the Neighbourhood Plan are being written. Locality grant/consultancy support – waiting for Locality to open their 2019/20 grant window so a Landscape Assessment grant of about £4K can be applied for. Housing Need Assessment & Design Code support – the initial two assessment hurdles have now been passed and confirmation from Locality is expected. The Housing Needs assessment will take our 2014 Survey into account but is not limited to social need – it tries to estimate what the true need for housing will be across our whole demographic. End of Grant report on the grant we have for our relationship with Parker Planning and their consultants can't be closed until we have paid them – waiting for them to invoice us. Unable to apply for a new monetary grant until this report is closed off. Still on course to make the first formal submission to Babergh in September. It was proposed that the cheque for Parker Planning £1,800 be approved for payment so it can be paid as soon as the invoice is received.

Proposed Cllr K Spicer

Seconded Cllr P Cross

All in favour

CU

Action: Cheque for Parker Planning to be sent as soon as their invoice is received

16. **Signage– Grove Road, - Update** -There are signs at the top of Grove Road so there is nothing we can really do – Clerk to chase SCC re a site visit.

Action: Clerk to chase Suffolk Highways

17. **Frame for slide for the Play Area- To consider quotes -** This was discussed at the Playing Field Society Meeting. Cllr Feltwell and Spicer have looked at the quotes and are waiting for a revised quote from the company who did the play area - it is looking like £6-6½plus VAT. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the British Standard needs to be complied with – but there was concern regarding value for money – so Paul Willis will be contacted re the possibility of making steps for the old slide.

18. **Babergh Alliance of Town & Parish Councils -** Two e-mails received in March - Petition to revoke Article 50 and the CEO of SALC wants a meeting with the Group.

19. **Affordable Housing – Report on progress – Update – Nothing** to report

20. **Playing Fields Society – Update -** Statement details had been issued to Councillors for Fun Day and Fireworks – the slide was discussed (see above). New Councillors will need to be informed that they will become Trustees. The rough cut round the perimeter of the Playing Field has been done by Ray Bloomfield and the grass was cut on Tuesday – bird boxes are being used – the bonfire site has been cleared. Date of next meeting 6 June before Parish Council Meeting.

21. **To receive Correspondence** – The Clerk drew Councillors' attention to the following : E-mails from Community Action Suffolk – confirmation of membership renewal, 2 e-mails from WI re litter pick, Babergh District Council 2nd advance notice of new CIL bid round 3 opening 1 May closing 31 May, 2 e-mails from BAPTC Petition to revoke Article 50 & CEO of SALC wants a meeting with Group, County Cllr Jones – Monthly Report and grass cutting schedule target dates – Bentley 3 June – grant application from Tiffers re The Bus Shelter. Resident drain top replaced at the top of Church Road, Babergh Joint Area Parking Plan, Resident interested in Footpath Warden vacancy – Agenda item – SALC subscription invoice 2019/20, Babergh Parish Statement of Persons nominated, Notice of uncontested Election & Notice of Poll – e-mail from St Mary's Church Warden re hard standing at Church + quotes – Agenda item.

Action: Agenda items – Footpath Warden vacancy and Hard Standing at Church

22. **Exchange of information by Councillors and matters for consideration at future Meetings** – Cllr Bamford thanked Councillors for the last four years and wished the Council good luck for the next four years. Cllr Bamford was thanked for chairing the meetings.

23. To Authorise Payments - The following payments were authorised

101359	Babergh District Council	Litter & dog bin emptying - Ratified	£296.87
101360	Play Safety Inspections	Play Area Inspection	£120.00
101361	Bentley Village Hall	Hall hire	£60.00
101362	Parish On-line	Subscription	£90.00
101363	Joseph Tremaine	Felling trees closed Churchyard	£1,100.00
101364	HMRC	Clerk's Tax	£ 0.40p
101365	Mrs J Scott	Salary February	£488.5
		Minus tax	8 £540.62
		Plus Expenses	£0.40
			£488.1
			8
			£
			52.44
			£540.6
			2
101366	Parker Planning Services	Neighbourhood Plan	£ £1,800.00
101367	C Hawes	Tree Warden Spring Forum	£10.00

It was proposed that these be paid en bloc.

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

27. To confirm date of next scheduled meeting - Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 18 April -
Annual Parish Council Meeting 7.30 Thursday 9 May 2019.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.14 pm.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: