

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE REMOTE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON ZOOM - THURSDAY 4 MARCH 2021 AT 7.30 PM

Present

Cllr M Munday - Chairman Mrs J Scott – Clerk Cllr B Feltwell Cllr M Bamford
Cllr N Moxey Cllr K Spicer Cllr J Wheals Cllr P Cross
Cllr C Perry D Schumacher

Also, in attendance - District Councillor D Busby, Tree Warden, Footpath Warden and 7 members of the public.

Cllr Munday welcomed everyone to the meeting – the agenda states that the meeting is open to the press and public via Zoom by prior request to the Clerk - the Clerk received eight notifications.

1. **To record apologies for absence:** 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 Remote Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 4 March 2021**
- The minutes were approved as a true record and will be duly signed.

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

5. **Matters arising from the Minutes: Page 1052 item 9** County Councillor Jones was contacted re size and spec of ANPR device. **Page 1054 item 22** – Landowner is happy for the crocuses on the bank nr Oakleigh to be removed and replanted. E-mail to be sent to owner of Bentley Barn re meeting once we have heard from Heritage England and Babergh. Rest covered by agenda items

Public Session

County Councillor G Jones – had sent his written report for February which had been circulated to Councillors – **APPENDIX 1** in the minute book and on the website.

District Councillor D Busby – Spoke about Bentley Barn which he had visited with Cllr Bamford following the last PC meeting – there is talk about a development on the site – Heritage England visited the site and is waiting to share a meeting between the two groups before meeting up with the owner. National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) revision is out to consultation – (everything has got to be beautiful) – there are three proposals for Solar Farms in the Burstall/Somersham area totalling 216 Hectares. Babergh are looking for ideas for particular roads that could be improved or to create new ones for walkers/cyclists etc – North Bentley which has issues with access to footpaths was mentioned & a pavement from Bentley to Capel was suggested – The JLP has been submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination.

6. **Planning Applications –**

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

DC/17/00003	Oakleigh, Capel Road	Approved Conditions Permission has been granted
DC/21/00582	Hulvers, Link Lane	
DC/17/00003	Oakleigh, Capel Road	Approved Conditions Permission has been granted
DC/21/00808	1 Nursery Cottages, Capel Road	

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

DC/21/01323	Bentley Plants Ltd, Bergholt Road	Application for prior approval of a proposed: Change of use of Agricultural Building to 1 no Dwelling house (ClassC3). The Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development England) Order 2015 (as amended) – Schedule 2, Pat 3, Class Q(a)
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Councillors acknowledge this application - it falls within Permitted Development

Proposed Cllr M Bamford	Seconded Cllr N Moxey	All in favour	CU
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DC/21/01315	Land off Hazel Shrub, Hazel Shrub	Erection of 1 no Dwelling & garage with associated landscaping
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RECOMMEND REFUSAL –This is an unsustainable development outside of the built up area of the village. Not in accordance with the Housing Needs Assessment in terms of appropriate size, and impact on the landscape – see attached documents. NPPF paragraph 115 requires that in any decision “great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty” in AONBs. *This applies not only to developments proposed within an AONB but if proposed in its setting such that the AONB would be affected.*

Proposed Cllr N Moxey	Seconded Cllr K Spicer	All in favour	CU
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DC/21/01656	Land adjacent to Earwood House Capel Road	Construction of a new access onto Capel Road & erection of field gates
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RECOMMEND APPROVAL – Dependent on agreement by Highways Authority – if they are confident that this is safe and appropriate.

Proposed Cllr M Bamford	Seconded Cllr K Spicer	All in favour	CU
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7. **Report by Exception – Tree Warden/Footpath Warden/Capel Library/ Bentley Long Barn Tree Warden** –All 150 trees supplied by the Woodland Trust have been allocated and planted out at six different sites in Bentley. On the Village Playing field, small dead elm trees and those impeding access to neighbour’s fencing and to mowing the field are gradually being felled. This work is being carried out by Bentley residents. Logs resulting from this work will be donated to The Case. The Tree Warden met with landowner - Oakleigh – to observe tree stump removal and conserve any stag beetle larvae that were exposed. No larvae were found. **Friends of Capel Library** – IT access is available as are library books but these must be booked in advance by telephone/e-mail. When ordered books are ready, collection will be arranged by the librarian. From & including the 12 April the library will be open for restricted browsing. An outdoor book sale will take place in April on Tuesday 13th, Wednesday 14th 12 (10-12noon), Thursday 15th (11-1pm), Friday 16th (all day) Saturday 17th (10-12 noon) *. From & including the 17th May the library will be open for a trial of group meetings and activities * From & including 21 June all restrictions will be lifted and film night can start* July 19th Children’s Summer Reading Challenge begins. *Subject to Government Rule changes. **Bentley Barn** – “Bentley’s Neglected Long Barn”, an article written by John Norman was published in the East Anglian Daily Times on Saturday March 13 2021. I have e-mailed John to thank him for his excellent publicity. And respectfully suggest that the Parish Council sends a letter of thanks to John at his address. We are awaiting a report from Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Council and Heritage England.

Action: Letter to John Norman

Footpath Warden – Reported two trees down in Holly Wood have been cleared – 4 way markers have been reinstated in Holly Wood. **Speedwatch Co-Ordinator** – Reported that Speedwatch had started on Monday – the roads were very quiet but busy today- reported 7 vehicles.

8. **Play Area – Annual Playground Inspection** - The Clerk informed Councillors that she had contacted D Bracey and he could inspect during April. It was proposed that this should go ahead.

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

9. **To ratify cheques – Vertas (£179.03) & Places4People (£1,436.40)** – It was proposed that these cheques be ratified.

Proposed Cllr P Cross Seconded Cllr D Schumacher All in favour CU

10. **Advance Notice of Highways Scheme C425 closed at junction with C456 Bentley Hall Road – Update** This has been postponed – SCC Highways got a report done by the British Horse Society regarding our concerns about the barrier. The British Horse Society did a comprehensive report recommending the barrier be pushed back by 2-3 metres so SCC are going to look at their designs. Network Rail will not have a barrier running alongside the railway line which is causing the delay – Quiet Lanes proposals might help as well.

11. **Traffic Calming – i) SID Device – Discuss options for Purchase ii) Traffic Calming Signs – Bergholt Road** – Councillor Schumacher told the meeting that he had obtained three quotes – Elancity, Pandora? & CASM – We are limited in our power supply options because of the SID poles which can support only battery or mains powered versions. Elancity and UK Pandora Technologies are similar but Pandora is more expensive. Councillor Schumacher proposed that we pursue the Elancity device. He also recommended that initially we get one device (2 batteries- 2 spare batteries & a trickle charger) that can be moved around the four poles to give us a flavour of its impact and our own operational capabilities to move the device. It is possible to purchase slightly more expensive batteries with longer life. Costs would be just over £2K for a battery operated device to get us operational – all orders are ratified by SCC. There were at least 5 volunteers who were willing to help move the approx. 9 kgs device around and charge the batteries. It was therefore proposed that we follow Cllr Shumacher’s recommendation and purchase the Elancity device at just over £2K. Cllr Shumacher was thanked for his efforts and input.

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

- ii) **Traffic Calming Sign – Bergholt Road** – Cllr Munday said there had been some concerns about walking along this road and as there is now a SID pole in situ a sign could be added – after some discussion it was agreed to investigate what signage would be possible.

Action: Order to be placed with ElanCity – signage to be investigated

12. **Road Markings, Capel Road/Bergholt Road Junction -Update** - The road markings still haven’t been renewed – this needs to be chased and keep chasing as it is a very dangerous junction.

13. **Playing Field Society** – i) **Maritime FC Proposals** It was agreed to extend the main pitch that Maritime use by 10 yards in length to accommodate use of the pitch by an Under 13 team – no change in width. It was also proposed that the Parish Council goals be moved to the practice pitch for use by Bentley residents –Maritime goals will be taken down between matches. This should eradicate any issues about goal availability. Parents present were asked for feedback. – Maritime is putting a smaller pitch on the school Playing Field with permission and welcomed by the School. ii) **Drainage:** Quote had been received from Miles Drainage £19,567.02 with an optional budget charge of £4,130 plus VAT to remove materials from site and haul to approved landfill site. This was the only quote we were able to get and the Viridor application required 3 quotes – so was not pursued - it was also not viable as access would have been through the landowner’s field. Terralift treatment (deep aeration treatment, injecting dried seaweed and backfilling the probe holes with aggregate) is to investigated. iii) **Vertas – Grass Cutting Contract** – As Maritime will be managing/cutting the pitches there will no need to renew this contract.

Clerk to advise Vertas. iv) Gym Equipment on Field Stage 2 of the Viridor application has been completed – should hear by beginning of May if the application has been successful – if it's not successful then there will have to be a re-visit on equipment.

Action: Advise Vertas – contract no being renewed

14. **Quiet Lanes –Update** - Cllr Munday told the meeting that the SCC consultation period has now finished and we wait to hear from them whether we get designated or not. There were two objections from Bentley residents and we wait to hear how they dealt with those objections – we hope to hear by the end of the month.
15. **Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr Moxey reported that there were no further updates from last month - the Neighbourhood Plan will go to Babergh on the 19th April for its final check by them before it goes to the Inspector then becomes law.
16. **To receive Correspondence** – The Clerk drew Councillors' attention to the following E-mails x 3 from BAPTC –our membership has been deleted – Mail to members, BAPTC newsletter & details of the meeting 30th March – Clerk sent apologies. E-mails from Arthritis Action, Vertas (Contract), SCC re Locality Budget, Footpath 55 – Unofficial gate Grove Farm & Problem Report Church Road – Doesn't warrant remedial action 4 x Quiet Lanes (2 for 1 against), East Bergholt's PC's Response, 5 x support re drainage of the Village Playing Field, Bentley Village Hall (dates for face to face meetings), Applewood Acres Application for Community grant – re Community Orchard – 20 trees at £30 each -Agenda item at May meeting, Babergh DC x 2 Sport & Physical Activity Survey – extension to 18 April, Election Notices which were put on the website & Notice Boards. PKF Littlejohn 2020/21 AGAR external auditor instructions.
17. **Exchange of information by Councillors and matters for consideration at future Meetings**
Cllr Moxey – Annual Parish Council Meeting – will be held remotely on 6 May 2021. Could we find a long term home for the Rainbow Garage Door – Agenda item **Cllr Spicer** – Wondered whether the Millennium Bus Shelter could be a seed store.

Action: Agenda item – Applewood Acres grant – Long term home Rainbow Garage Door

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

101515	Vertas Group	Cheques ratified	
101516	Places4People		
101517	J Haines	For Maritime – Locality Budget	£3,500.00
101518	Cllr N Moxey	Zoom Subscription -March	£14.39
101519	GeoXphere Ltd	Parish Online Subscription	£90.00
101520	HMRC	Clerk's Tax	£9.60
101521	Mrs J Scott	Clerks Salary March	£520.00
		Minus tax	<u>26.00</u>
			£494.00
		Plus Expenses	<u>£97.24</u>
			<u>£591.24</u>


It was proposed that these be paid en bloc.

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

19. **To confirm date of next scheduled meeting** –. Remote Annual Parish Council Meeting Thursday 6 May 2021 at 7.30 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

CHAIRMAN



DATE: