

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF AN EXTRA ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM ON FRIDAY 28 MAY 2021.

Present

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

Also in attendance –, District Councillor D Busby, Tree Warden and 15 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting which was the first face to face meeting since lockdown. - a risk assessment had been carried out for 9 Councillors and up to 24-28 members of the public with seating 1 metre apart. Residents were told they could remove their masks and at the end of the meeting were asked to leave first so the hall could be cleared.

1. **To record apologies for absence** – Cllr J Wheals
2. **To receive Declaration of Interest relating to Agenda items:** Cllr Spicer, Cllr Moxey and Cllr Munday all declared a non pecuniary interest re Neighbourhood Plan. They had all had some input into the plan and Cllr Munday also declared that she was a proactive member of the Quiet Lanes Suffolk Team.

Councillor Munday told the meeting that on 3 September 2020 the formal Pre-submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan was approved for publication by the Parish Council. The Statutory Consultation commenced on 1 October 2020 for six weeks to 16 November 2020. Our NP Consultant has prepared responses to comments received and they are included in the Bentley Neighbourhood Plan Statement of Community Involvement May 2021 document – e-mailed to Councillors on 8 May (Appendix 3 Pages 12-94). A schedule of modifications to the plan following on from the Consultation are listed in Appendix 6 on pages 95-104 of the same document – Councillors were provided with hard copies for the meeting. The process we are going through is fully in accordance with the Regulations in that we have consulted (Regulation 14) and are agreeing to amend the Plan ahead of it being submitted. All Parish Council Meetings are open to the press and public but there is no requirement to consult any further with the public on the proposed amendments as the consultation period has ended and the Plan will be consulted on by Babergh. Therefore, the purpose of this meeting is for the Parish Council to approve those modifications and agree to submit the revised version to Babergh District Council. In view of comments made by a resident recorded in the published Consultation Document Cllr Munday read out a statement on behalf of Bentley Parish Council.

Statement from Bentley Parish Council – The Draft Neighbourhood Plan was agreed unanimously by the full Parish Council on 3 September 2020. Whatever the outcome of the consultation stages, Bentley Parish Council has full confidence in the work of the NP Steering Group and that the draft Plan has been properly researched and developed, with Community involvement and appropriate expert support.

In particular the Council is satisfied that the sites allocated for potential development have been identified fairly, taking only relevant factors into account.

Cllr Munday opened the public session saying that any members of the public in attendance will be invited to speak for a maximum of 3 minutes. This will not be an opportunity for them to question anything in the NHP – they can do that at the next stage of the consultation when Babergh holds their consultation.

Public Session

The public session had points made by Don Baker and his daughter, Sally Oakes including a formal question the same as that emailed by Will Oakes concerning the Fruit Farm site and footpath access. In going through Appendix 3 Cllr Moxey drew attention to the amendments which demonstrated these items had been noted and an alternative footpath link, excluding cycles, along the path which was agreeable to SCC thereby removing the issue over Case Lane link.

3. **To approve the changes made to the Draft Neighbourhood Plan following the Regulation 14 Pre-submission Consultation and to agree that the amended version be submitted to Babergh District Council – <https://bentleyneighbourhoodplan.wordpress.com/documents/>**

Cllr Moxey told Councillors that the NHP is about three very simple criteria; i) Whether it respects the National Planning Policy. ii) Whether it meets the District's needs – almost at our target – it conforms with the Local Plan, which itself is following the process to becoming law and iii) We need to have involved the Local Community – she also appreciated the support from everybody involved.

Appendix 4 of the Consultation Document had 30 responses and almost all were constructive and helpful. Cllr Moxey proceeded to go through the document - attached to the minutes as **Appendix 1** - pointing out minor changes – especially those listed below which were the result of a resident's comments received after the Consultation period.

6.13 ~~the Playing Field~~ a PRoW

6.15 ~~and cycle~~

6.15 ~~onto Case Lane~~ to the village facilities

Above two minor amendments also to BEN 4 para ii

6.17 ~~providing~~ enabling

Policy BEN25 was mentioned The Infrastructure Investment Plan for the village will need to be reviewed on an annual basis by the Parish Council. - this is a very helpful change we are happy to recommend.

Councillor Bamford commented that this was a remarkable piece of work which has been sponsored by the Parish Council – it is not the work of the Parish Council - and commended Cllr Moxey and her team for the work they have done. It was therefore proposed that the changes to the Neighbourhood Plan be approved. Once the changes have been made it will be sent to Babergh.

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

The referendum goes to all residents in the Parish and a leaflet exercise will be undertaken again. The Parish Council will be paying for the referendum – the rest of the costs for the NHP have been covered by grants.

District Councillor Busby commented that Bentley NHP was the most professional one he has seen and is an excellent document. He wanted to know if any documentation will be sent out to the Parish and was told that it will happen like the Reg 14 Consultation, when a number of full sets were printed which went out on loan and were available in the shop and pub garden. There was a short discussion on Babergh Joint Local Plan

4. **To confirm date of next scheduled Meeting** – Thursday 3 June at 7.30pm. Preceded by Playing Field Society Meeting at 7pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.00pm.

CHAIRMAN:



DATE: 1st July 2021