

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON AT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL ON -THURSDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7.30 PM

Present

Cllr M Munday - Chairman Mrs J Scott – Clerk Cllr N Moxey Cllr K Spicer
Cllr J Wheals Cllr A Thomas Cllr D Schumacher Cllr D Jones

Also, in attendance -County Councillor Georgia Hall, Tree Warden, &, - 23 members of the public

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the agenda was the business to be discussed this evening and those present will be able to comment on items on the agenda but will be limited to three minutes per person. She asked that all comments be directed to the Parish Council. Once the public session has ended Councillors will make decisions on the applications without comment from the public. The Clerk received no notification of anyone planning to film or record this meeting.

1. **To record apologies for absence** - Cllr B Feltwell, Cllr M Bamford, Footpath Warden Speedwatch Co-ordinator & District Councillor D Busby
2. **To receive Declaration of Interest relating to Agenda items:** - Cllr Thomas and Cllr Jones declared a non pecuniary interest in Planning Application DC/23/03652 Land East of Capel Road.
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 Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 6 July 2023 -**
The minutes were approved as a true record and were duly signed.

Proposed Cllr N Moxey Seconded Cllr A Thomas All in favour CU

5. **Matters arising from the Minutes** – **Page 1185** – Clerk Wrote to Anglian Water re clarification on who they visited – not heard back **item 9** Clerk e-mailed landowner re fly tipping – **item 13** E-mail sent to Bentley Bowls Club Trust - **Page 1186** – **item 16** - Dog bin has been installed at Dodnash Wood & metal posts have now been installed at the play Area and Bergholt Road – cheque to be passed for payment tonight Cllr Jones attended the Initial training webinars for New Councillors. The forms for road closure for Remembrance Sunday have been sent to SCC. Rest covered by agenda items.

Public Session

The Chairman informed the meeting that District Councillor Busby is having to step down for health reasons. We wish him well and thank him for all the help he has given Bentley and look forward to his return in full health. This is sad news for both him and our Footpath Warden who has significant health issues so the Fireworks Display will have to be cancelled this year. We sent our warmest wishes to Tim for a speedy recovery. She also told the meeting that all comments from residents on the Portal regarding the Fruit Farm Application had been read.

County Councillor G Hall - Had sent her written report for August which has been circulated to Councillors – **APPENDIX 1** in the minute book and on the website. She highlighted Suffolk Trading Standards unveiling of its 200th No Cold Calling Zone. This is a scheme run by Suffolk Trading Standards that works to make people feel safer in their homes. The zones are designed to Reduce doorstep crime and distraction burglaries, Deter Cold Callers, educate residents and empower them not to engage with cold callers. A road in Bentley can be named to be known as a Cold Call Zone. Cllr Hall was asked if she could help with the footpath along Church Road which is very overgrown – Cllr Munday will send photographs.

Landowner: Asked if the Planning Application re Land East of Capel Road had been withdrawn by the Parish Council. He was told that the Parish Council has no power to withdraw an application - they could only make comments – the final decision will be made by Babergh District Council. He told the meeting that his family owned Case Lane and they will not be giving access for pedestrians – so it has to be withdrawn.

Resident: Three reasons to refuse – Density of the housing- public space is cramped, there is no public transport (1 bus at 9.27 am – returns 3pm but only during the school term) and road safety.

Resident: Representing the Horse Riding Community in the Village – it is already very dangerous riding in the village another entrance with up to 48 cars will be very dangerous.

Resident: Add another 50 cars – the hedges are insignificant so their house on Case Lane will be overlooked.

Resident : Remarked this land had originally been in the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Moxey explained in the draft version of the Bentley NHP we were required to include a housing allocation site to meet Babergh’s housing allocation of 52 houses. Babergh’s own housing allocations in their Draft Local Plan were later found to be flawed at Examination (they used Bentley as an example). We therefore pulled out any housing allocation from our NHP. This will be reviewed when Babergh have produced a revised Local Plan.

Resident: This application fails at every stage – it is not needed.

Resident: Echoed everyone else and pointed out that there is a big water problem at the end of Case Lane which has been ongoing for years.

The Chairman told the meeting that 91% of residents voted were in favour of the NHP 2022 and Babergh are using it in their decision making for Bentley. The development is outside the Village Envelope and 24 houses is a very dense development although some aspects are welcome – like the affordable housing. For a long time now the Parish Council have been talking about a probable small housing scheme run by a Housing Association so young couples can afford to live in Bentley. Babergh Strategic Planning have also made it clear that we don’t need any more housing in Bentley. Councillor Wheals said that if the application was re-presented with lower density and affordable housing – several houses have been built outside the boundary and Government policies change – if this was the case he would be inclined to vote for it. He was told Councillors have to vote for the application as it stands.

Resident: Brockley Wood – Told the meeting that the independent noise assessment re impact at Bentley Old Hall by 24 Acoustics dated 30 August 2023 and Malcom Starr’s Statement of Heritage Significance and Assessment of Heritage Impact – Bentley Old Hall dated 7 September 2023 have been sent to SCC. Also the Suffolk Preservation Society response has not gone onto the Portal. If Tom Hill is available he will represent us at the meeting.

6. Planning Applications –

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

DC/23/02125	Land adjacent to Redwoods, Bergholt Road	Permission has been refused
DC/18/04198	Former Woodview Nurseries, Hazel Shrub	Approved Conditions
DC/23/01764	37 Silver Leys	Permission has been granted
DC/20/04409	Little Dodnash Farm, Bergholt Road	Refusal of non material amendment

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

DC/23/03251	1 Oakleigh Green	Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an Existing Use or Operation or Activity including those in breach of a Planning Condition. Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
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– Part construction of approved road in connection with & as part of the lawful implementation of the planning permission granted under application ref B/17/00003

SCC/0024/23B **Re-Consultation** Land at Folly Farm, Tattingstone An eastern extension to Folly Farm Quarry for the extraction, processing, sale & distribution of sand & gravel & subsequent restoration using inert materials

RECOMMEND APPROVAL – Bentley Parish Council have no intrinsic objection to the bund placement. However, Councillors had continuing concerns with quarrying/landfill and other works lorries going through the village of Bentley rather than using the agreed route via the A137.

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

DC/23/03652 Land East of Capel Road Application for Outline Planning Permission (Access points to be considered, Landscaping, Appearance, Layout & Scale Reserved) Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) – Erection of 24 No dwellings (including 8 no affordable units & public open space) following removal of existing structures).

RECOMMEND REFUSAL - Councillors took on board comments made by residents in the public session of the meeting and agreed the principle of development is contrary to adopted policies of the Babergh Local Plan (2006), Core Strategy (2014 and Bentley Neighbourhood Plan (2022) as it is outside of the settlement boundaries. They also noted that the Housing Land Supply position of 7.13 years as set out in the Executive Summary to the Babergh Five Year Housing Land Supply Statement 2022. It is also noted that the Council's 2021 Housing Delivery Test measurement was 141% as per the UK Government Website. There is therefore no proven housing need for this scale of development in Bentley.

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

SCC/0105/22B Brockley Wood application Extraction, processing of sand & gravel processing of inert waste materials & concrete batching with associated plant & related sales, associated access works, phased restoration using inert recovered materials & aftercare plan

RECOMMEND REFUSAL – The attached is Bentley Parish Council's response to further information requested under Regulation 25. Councillors would also draw attention to the independent Suffolk Preservation Society response, dated 4 September 2023 and the independent noise assessment re impact at Bentley Old Hall by 24 Acoustics dated 30 August 2023 and Malcom Starr's Statement of Heritage Significance and Assessment of Heritage Impact – Bentley Old Hall dated 7 September 2023.

Proposed Cllr D Schumacher Seconded Cllr K Spicer All in favour CU

7. **Report by Exception – Tree Warden/Footpath Warden/Capel Library/ Bentley Long Barn /Footpath Warden & Speedwatch - Tree Warden**–. Reported that shortly after the last Parish Council meeting Don Baker kindly replaced the empty water tank at the Community Orchard with a full tank. The Tree Warden has made several visits to the orchard to check on the trees and water them if necessary. The Suffolk Tree Warden Network e-mailed to inform him that the free trees and hedging from the Woodland Trust can now be ordered ready for being delivered in November. **Friends of Capel Library** – Library Manager (Katherine Lui who has completed 10 years of service) left at the end of August to take up a new challenge. Jackie Harman, (the previous Manager) is managing the library temporarily. A memorial plaque has been put outside the main doors for Sally a sadly missed member of the library team who died in May 2023. Next

Film 'Plane' stay or die alone' 19 September. Quiz - 28 October. Childrens' Summer Reading Challenge has been a great success. Reminder there is a home library service for those who cannot get to the library or library van. **Footpath Warden** – No report available. **Bentley Long Barn** - Nothing to report. **Speedwatch** - There have been nine sessions held since the last report. Three at the Village Hall where five vehicles were reported with one NIL return. Three at the War Memorial where eight vehicles were reported. Three on Capel Road where forty nine vehicles were reported. The highest reported speed was 51 mph.

The Chairman reported that the SID data has been circulated and last month's figures are on the PC's website. SID's are slowing traffic entering the village with 85% of vehicles at or below the speed limit. There is more of a speeding problem with vehicles leaving Bentley going towards Capel

Resident; Wanted to know when the SID will be moving to Bergholt Road – Cllr Schumacher will move asap.

8. **To ratify cheques – – SALC (£72), ICO (£40), Gotelee Solicitors LLP (£800), P Baldwin (£150), HMRC (£29.80), Clerk (£608.56)** – It was proposed that the cheques be ratified en bloc.

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

9. **To approve Quarterly Accounts 2023/24 - The** Clerk stated **Bentley** PC Financial Working party – Cllr Jones & Cllr Schumacher had a remote meeting to go through the accounts - Councillors had been issued with a copy of the Quarterly Receipts and Payments 2023/24 - Receipts for the 3 months for year 2023/24 amount to £16,191.22 this figure includes precept £7,250, VAT repayment £3,315.24, interest (£35.52) & £5,593.46 CIL monies. Total payments over the 3 months was (£9,242.98) which includes general admin £2,564.17 which includes Clerks salary/expenses etc, grants under the power of S137 (£850.00) – S19 (£400) – S142 citizens Advice (£100), – grass cutting/leaf clearance –closed churchyard £300 – Lest we Forget Bench (£1,520) - Play Area/Gym equipment Inspection –(£140) Grass cutting Play Area (£100) – Dog & Litter bin Emptying (£438.10) & Training (Footpath Warden - (£485) – VAT £696.57) **Unplanned expenditure** – Mortimer Contracts – Installation of Litter bin & benches – War Memorial & Silver Leys (£615) – Hedge Cut – (£100)- Six Walks Booklet (£465) & Clerk's Laptop & Accessories (£389.94) - otherwise payments are within budget. There were six uncleared cheques amounting to £1,483.00. (Applewood Acres £100 HiloPrint & Graphics (£36) Red Stag Training (£582), Outdoor Bowls (£200) Headway (£100) Canon Printing (£485). Current Account Balance at 29 June 2023- total £23,798.05 – Family Fun Day Tracker Account (£5,887.01) which includes firework accounts and Parish Council Tracker account £9,740.94. It was proposed that the accounts be accepted.

Proposed Cllr D Schumacher Seconded Cllr M Munday All in favour CU

10. **Insurance Policy – to discuss increasing cover on assets and renewal** - Cllrs had been sent all the Insurance documents - Renewal £549.40. ~Spoke to CAS told them we would not be having a firework display this year –a revised quote will take a few days. Deferred until we have a definite figure.

11. **To discuss Purchase of Chaplet for Remembrance Sunday** – It was proposed that a cheque for £100 be sent to Royal British Legion for a round wreath.

Proposed Cllr M Munday Seconded Cllr D Schumacher All in favour CU

12. **To discuss request from Bentley Bowls Club Trust for an increase in their grant** – The Clerk was requested to get the Governing Document from the Bowls Club. The meeting was told that they didn't have a Governing Document – there were 17 members – they have been in touch with Land Registry to claim the land as theirs. Councillors had been issued with the up to date accounts. Apparently some of the members had helped to pay for the new mower. After some discussion Councillors agreed a one off payment of £500.

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

13. **Request for help with cost of repairs to School Fence- Capel Road** - There are some places along the fence at the front of the school field and adjacent play area where some panels need replacing and the School has asked if the Parish Council would be able to support them, in getting the repairs done. They are happy to have a discussion regarding this and getting an estimate for the repairs to be completed. The meeting was told that the gate post at West Mill Green is rotten. After some discussion Councillors were happy to discuss an estimate obtained by the School.

Action: Clerk will contact the School re estimates

14. **To discuss Hedges** - The path is much narrower on the right hand side of South View Green junction with Capel Road - due to width of hedge. A resident is concerned she cannot pass safely on the footpath as her mobility unit is 24" wide and the passing area is only 25" wide because of the width of the hedge. This has been reported to SCC ref 00417066 - their reply is awaited. After some discussion it was agreed to put the usual a notice in the Bugle but asking residents to cut back hedges in line with the footpath. Cllr Wheals will have a word with the gardener at South View Green and ask him to take the hedge back in line with the footpath.

Action: Hedge notice to be put in Bugle – with additional text

15. **To receive Correspondence** –. **July/August/Sept:** E-mails from x 2 resident re bus timetable Tree Warden x re dog fouling on Playing Field – SCC x 5 -Re-consultation of land at Folly Farm, Brockley Wood application/ School Playing Field/Highway grit bins being filled by end of August/problem report – hedge South View Green. National Grid x 4 Consultation on Norwich to Tilbury is now closed. 1x County Councillor Georgia Hall re Road Markings in Bentley 2 x Babergh District Council – Free trees, Hedgerow & wildflowers scheme & election charges (£153.94) 1 x CAS Insurance quote – 1 x Suffolk Preservation Soc – Response re Brockley Wood 2x resident 24 Acoustics response to Brockley Wood & Statement of Heritage significance – Bentley Old Hall – Brockley Wood. 2 x e-mails Ginny Horton – re Bridleway Link Lane 1 x The Case re overspill car parking.

16. **Exchange of information by Councillors and matters for consideration at future Meetings**– **Cllr Jones** – E-mail re bridleway Link Lane – he will go and have a word – he was told that if he did so he must make it clear that it is as a resident and not a Councillor. Horse Riders in Bentley will be an agenda item to be discussed at the October meeting. Cllr Jones told the meeting that he will be presenting at the 20 mph Webinar on 27 September.

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

Cheques 101692 – 101697 August 2023 – ratified at tonight's meeting			
101698	Mortimer Contracts Ltd	Supply dog bin & metal posts	£480.00
101699	Babergh District Council	Election Charges	£153.94
101700	Bentley Community Pub Ltd	Locality Budget Payment	£500.00
101701	Capel Plant	Rental Charge – Bentley Fair	£378.00
101702	HMRC	Clerks Tax	£29.80
011703	Mrs J Scott	Clerks Salary – August	£572.43
		Minus tax	<u>-£29.80</u>
			£542.63
		Plus, Expenses	<u>£55.47</u>
			£598.10

It was proposed that these be paid en bloc.

Proposed Cllr N Moxey Seconded: Cllr D Schumacher All in favour CU

18. **To confirm date of next scheduled meeting** - 5 October 2023

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.21 pm.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: