

Minutes of Great Bentley Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 6th December 2007 in the Village Hall

Present

Cllr. Jonathan Hills (Chairman), Cllr William Herbert, Cllr Ted Fox, Cllr Robert Taylor, Cllr George Wright, Cllr Yee Cheung, Cllr David Gibbon, Cllr Ian Morton (arrived 7.55pm)

In Attendance

K Paradise (Clerk), Essex County Councillor Derek Robinson, District Councillor Lynda McWilliams and 9 members of public.

Questions from the Public

A lady complained that she had received a cold call from the Gazette Newspaper regarding the dog training she carries out on The Green. She asked if it was normal practice for the local newspaper to contact a named person rather than the Parish Council.

The matter of dog pulling is on the agenda item 13. In response, the person was not named at the last meeting and the Parish Council most definitely did not contact the newspaper regarding this matter. A member of the press was present at the November meeting.

A gentleman asked if the redundant swings from the Aingers Green play area could be relocated at the Great Bentley play area.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Peter De-Vaux Balbirnie, Ian Morton will be late.

2. Minutes

The meeting was asked to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 1st November 2007. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. Declaration of Interest

Affordable Housing – Cllr Ted Fox.
Play area – Cllr David Gibbon
O2 – Cllr George Wright

4. Matters Arising from the minutes of the last meeting

None.

5. PCSO

PCSO Sally Boyden read out report of incidents in the village for the month to date.

6. Clerks Report

All correspondence from last meeting completed. Letter was sent to the culprit of the bin fire in the Spinney requesting cost of new bin £211.97. He was given 30 days to respond.

If no response by 20th December, clerk to write again offering 7 more days before further action. Place on January Agenda.

Mobile Library opening times commencing January have arrived and will be posted on notice boards and in Parish Magazine.

Thorrington Pre-School have placed a notice on The Green without permission. It is chained in place.

Clerk to write to playschool.

7. Correspondence

- Grants are available from the Community Initiatives Fund for Community Projects

Clerk to place on January Agenda and remind Councillors by e-mail

- St Mary the Virgin Parish Church – thank you for grant of £350.
- Great Bentley Good Neighbours – thank you for grant of £230.
- Carnival Association – request permission for Carnival and Music Night on 28th June 2008.

Permission granted – Clerk to write

- The Friends of the Green – request permission to station caravan and stall(s) on The Green on 15th June 2008 as part of the Open Gardens Day.

Permission granted – Clerk to write

- Conservation Group – request permission to organise Christmas tree shredding on The Green on 5th January 2008.

Permission granted – Clerk to write

- Royal British Legion – enclosed £150 donation for upkeep of The Green as a result of 7 attendances by the Burger Van at the Wednesday Night Biker Meetings. Request that Awareness Evening on The Green continue during 2008.

Permission granted – Clerk to write and to thank for donation

- O2UK – Cllr George Wright left the room. Letter from O2 UK explaining it is in the process of seeking a suitable site in the Great Bentley area for a new mobile radio base station. O2 is committed to improving consultation with local communities, and the purpose of their letter was to provide information as to the proposal and the opportunity for the community to seek further detailed information about the proposed sites.
They have investigated a number of options with the best site from a coverage aspect being locating a new pole close to the existing TMobile pole at Brook Farm, with a back up location to co-locate a new 20m pole at Admiral's Farm approximately 30m away from Orange's proposed site. O2 have considered sharing the TMobile pole but this would need to be redeveloped to a bulkier lattice structure which in their opinion would be more visually intrusive than a separate 15m pole. The same also applies for the non existent Orange pole but in this location they felt it important to keep the overall height to a minimum in order not to impact the view from the village green.

They also looked at the Plough Road Industrial Estate which lacks any form of tall screening, St Mary's Farm which is currently being sold, Sturrick Farm is unlikely to achieve planning when there are better less intrusive locations. A map showing the location of these options was also attached.

Cllr Robert Taylor commented that the policy of the Parish Council is to resist any tower that is intrusive to The Green. Mobile telephone companies have a policy to combine towers. They also have to be located near to a power supply. Cllr Taylor proposed and seconded by Cllr Jonathan Hills and to tell the village via the Parish Magazine and discuss at the next Parish Council meeting. Cllr Ian Morton joined the meeting at 7.55pm.

Clerk to write to O2 to ask specific proposed location of masts at Brook Farm and Admirals Farm and inform them that this matter will go public via the Parish Magazine and will be discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 3rd January 2008.

Cllr Wright returned to the meeting.

8. Information and Reports

None

9. County and District Councillors Report

i) County Councillor – Cllr Derek Robinson - New times for the Mobile Library – he has ensured that there is still the same amount of stops in Aingers Green and Great Bentley. Moves are being made with Sat Nav companies to stop vehicles using unsuitable roads. ECC is to pay for and plant the new Fir Tree in Aingers Green.

ii) District Councillor – Cllr Lynda McWilliams – The Oasis site has been rejected from the Local Development Plan. The ‘Village Clear Up Day’ is scheduled for Saturday 8th December with many volunteer helpers involved. Tesco raiting is still on-going.

10. Lighting

Cllr Robert Taylor reported that two covers were broken in Station Road, one at Stoneybroke. Two lights have been reported as out by members of the public but the contractor says they are working.

Cllr Robert Taylor to investigate

11. CCTV at the Railway Station

After the Gates are replaced by barriers the CCTV will be aimed at the barriers and will not encompass the platforms.

Clerk to write to both ‘One’ and ‘Network Rail’ asking for CCTV on the platforms for public safety. If a Health and Safety Risk Assessment of these platforms has already been done, ask that the Parish Council have sight of it.

12. Highways

- Plough Road VAS sign. Letter received from ECC with photos of proposed site.
- Car parking in the village. Since a sign has been placed on the Doctors Surgery rollboard parking seams to have improved
- Letter from Mr Parratt regarding Plough Road and entrance to Morella Close parking.

Parish Council will continue to monitor. Clerk to write and place on Agenda for next month.

- Letter from Mr Harry regarding increase in traffic passing through the village especially HGV’s thought probably due to increased use of Sat Nav equipment and the establishment of a Tesco

Express shop with cash machine.

Cllr Robert Taylor explained that this is partly in hand as the B1029 road from Frating should be improved when the work at the railway crossing is done.

Clerk to write to Mr Harry (he attended the meeting and said this was not necessary)

- Railings outside Tesco store. Letter received from ECC with diagram of proposed railings. Cllr Jonathan Hills expressed his disappointment that the railings are limited by the extent of length along the road in both directions including around the corner into New Cut. It would be beneficial if the railings could go into new cut even though it is understood this may cause problems.

Clerk to write to ECC

- Speed Gun training. Cllr Robert Taylor asked if there has been any recent correspondence regarding the Speed Gun training and it was suggested that things may be speeded up if the Parish Council paid for the training.

Clerk to write

13. Dog Pulling

Meeting closed by Chairman. There was a discussion between the lady concerned and the Parish Councillors. It was explained to the lady that her name was not mentioned at the Parish Council meeting of 1st November. The press had spoken to District Councillors not Parish Councillors. It was stated that the Parish Council has a duty to make sure The Green is not damaged and noted that the sleds are designed not to cause damage. Members of the public had reported damage to Cllr Bill Herbert but upon inspection he found no damage. The matter was resolved.

Meeting opened again by Chairman.

14. The Spinney

A letter was received from Simon Smith, ECC Tree Officer, stating that he considers the current management of the Spinney to be appropriate and in accordance with the reasons it was originally planted. Cllr George Wright expressed that a good pruning job had been done by Mick Dorling. Cllr Bill Herbert suggested that trees should not be replanted in place of those which die naturally. Cllr George Wright proposed and Cllr Ted Fox seconded to accept proposals made by Mr Smith

15. Mobile Skate Park TDC Leisure Services are investigating the idea of a mobile Skate Park for the use of young people in villages across Tendring. This was thought by Councillors to be an excellent idea for the children of Great Bentley. Locations were briefly discussed and it was felt that any problems could be overcome to action this idea.

Clerk to write encouragingly to TDC Leisure Services.

16. Neighbourhood Action Panel

Next meeting on 13th December.

17. Affordable Housing

- Update from TDC – the planning urban designer has looked at the scheme and been able to suggest amendments which may give a way forward for approval.

Cllr David Gibbon proposed and Cllr Ian Morton seconded to see if the project has space for a play area. Cllr Jonathan Hills, Cllr Bill Herbert and Cllr Robert Taylor felt that the suggestion had come much

too late in the project to be considered. It was then suggested by Cllr Gibbon that after the project is complete, the possibility of a play area at Aingers Green be investigated, to be utilized and monitored properly in a safe and secure place.

Place on Agenda for next meeting. Clerk to write to TDC Planning Dept to ask if there is a play area contribution in section 106 package in association with affordable housing.

- TDC Housing Survey. Survey forms have been sent out at random to households.

18. Tendring Voluntary Community Service

The use of the Resource Centre has not attracted any visitors to date.

19. Finance

- To approve Budget for 2008/9

Councillor Robert Taylor explained that there have been two changes on the budget since the Finance Meeting of 21st November. The lighting maintenance is now a realistic cost which includes cleaning and changing bulbs which is done once every 3 years. The replacement of fibreglass columns has been included.

There is no budget for new play equipment. The budget is aimed at keeping the precept the same as current year. The budget can be amended in January if necessary. Cllr Jonathan Hills queried whether the Athill Dolls cabinet was required (a request for a grant was made to the Parish Council). There are three grants for youth organisations included in the budget – Majorettes, Youth Football and Youth Club. It was noted that if the £1500 fund reserved for the Biker meetings was not used this could be reassigned to the purchase of a replacement tractor or mower. All Councillors were happy that the precept will not be increasing.

- To approve expenditure for the month

Proposed by Cllr Ted Fox and seconded by Cllr David Gibbon, the cheques were signed by Cllr Ted Fox and Cllr George Wright.

20. Committee Reports

a) Allotments – play area – Village Green Committee.

- A letter from Mr Jordan regarding parking at the rear of Chapel Terrace was read out. Mr Jordan also asked that road signs for Chapel Terrace be made.

It was pointed out that Chapel Terrace is not a road name but a property name. The road is Heckfords Road.

There is to be site meeting at the rear of Chapel Terrace on Sunday 9th December at 9am. Clerk to write to Mr Jordan.

- The Green Report was read out by Cllr Bill Herbert.

The willow trees at the rear of Mill Flats need the bottom branches cutting. Quotations have been sought.

Proposed by Cllr Ted Fox and seconded by Cllr Bill Herbert to contract the lowest priced contractor to carry out the work.

The harrowing and re-seeding of the youth football pitch is to be done by Cllr Gibbon and the repair of unmade roads around the Green to be carried out by George Wright and Morton Contracts.

A bush is overhanging the pavement at 2 Birch Avenue.

Clerk to write to Highways

The uneven state of the pavement after BT work has been reported to BT by the Clerk. Clarets will make good the grassed area in Station Road when conditions are right to do this. The footpath between Heckfords Road and Sturrick Lane is impassable at one point and has been reported to Highways by the Clerk.

The hedge along the south side of the allotments needs attention. Agreed this should be done.

Cllr Bill Herbert to arrange.

The Football Club A Team have left the Parish Council goal post lying on the ground 3 times this year.

Clerk to write to Mr Richard Morton, Chairman of Football Club and copy to Cllr Ian Morton. Ask that this matter be raised at the Clubs next meeting and that goal posts are not taken down.

After obtaining quotations from other sources it was decided that it is not necessary to change the contractor for tractor maintenance.

- Letter from The Friends of the Green regarding the play equipment from the Aingers Green play area.

David Gibbon responded as the land owner and not as a Parish Councillor. Mr Gibbon stated that he tried to remove the equipment but it had been heavily concreted into the ground and wasn't able to remove it without damage. There is one seat which still has the concrete attached which is stored. The play area and equipment was abused and misused by larger children. There was no insurance for the play area. Cllr David Gibbon left the room.

A letter was drafted from the Parish Council to the Friends of the Green.

Clerk to write to The Friends of the Green.

Cllr Gibbon returned to the meeting.

b) Planning.

07/01745/FUL Mr P Stephens No Objection	First floor extension. Re-submission of 07/00487/FUL.	Timbers Weeley Road Great Bentley
07/01783/TCA Mr and Mrs Smith No Objection	1 No. large Leylandii cupressus in front garden - reduce by 30%. Conifers in rear garden - reduce height	Wayside The Green Great Bentley
07/01784/TPO Mr C French No Objection	1 No. Willow - front garden - reduce. 1 No. Silver birch - rear garden - reduce.	Ivy House The Green Great Bentley

<p>07/01838/FUL Oakway Contractors Ltd No Objection</p>	<p>Single storey rear and two storey side extension.</p>	<p>21 Woodgreen Estate Plough Road Great Bentley</p>
<p>07/01864/FUL Mr & Mrs Hudson Objection Drawings do not show where replacement parking will be after demolition of garage. Cannot confirm until further information is received showing how car parking is allocated.</p>	<p>Proposed single storey extension to form kitchen/diner.</p>	<p>14 The Paddocks Great Bentley</p>

Clerk to notify TDC Planning Department.

Cllr Bill Herbert reported that there have been queries from the properties opposite the partially constructed West Clacton Reservoir and Pumping Station regarding its height.

Clerk to write to Andrew Hutley, TDC Planning Officer to confirm construction height is in accordance with approved plan.

21. Other Reports

- a) Tendring District Association of Local Councils - next meeting 23rd January 2008
- b) Footpaths
- c) Transport

Transport representative Peter Harry's report read out .

Clerk to write to 'One' and 'Network Rail' to ask that if a risk assessment has been done suggesting Great Bentley does not require its railway station platform to be raised, how does this conform with the Disabilities Discrimination Act? Send copy to DDA and Mark Tye.

Clerk to write to 'One' regarding the suggestion that its own land is used to create a car park for station users.

- d) Caretakers report

The Caretakers report was read out.

22. Questions from the Members of the Public.

The Village Hall Management Committee are meeting with 'One' to discuss parking spaces lost whilst the new barriers are being constructed. The Skate Park venture would not be possible at the village hall whilst this work is in progress.

A gentleman asked when work is due to commence on the War Memorial. Cllr Bill Herbert could not give a date but said it will be soon.

Clerk to put on January Agenda

It was suggested that the Parish Council apply for a Community Initiatives Fund Grant for the construction of the Athill Dolls cabinet.

Clerk to make note. Clerk to e-mail previous letter from the Village Hall to all Councillors.

It was suggested that the Parish Council apply for a Community Initiatives Fund Grant for 'middle' swings for the play area.

Clerk to make note

Request made for electors to have copies of Parish Council financial information.

With regard to the Aingers Green play equipment, Mr Dorling noted that it had been inspected by ROSPA the previous year. The Parish Council did not think that ROSPA had attended the site.

Next meeting Thursday 3rd January 2008