

Minutes of Great Bentley Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 3rd January 2008 in the Village Hall

Present

Cllr William Herbert, Cllr Ted Fox, Cllr Robert Taylor, Cllr George Wright, Cllr David Gibbon, Cllr Peter De-Vaux Balbirnie.

In Attendance

K Paradise (Clerk), Essex County Councillor Derek Robinson, District Councillor Lynda McWilliams and 11 members of public.

Questions from the Public

A gentleman asked if overhead power cables were to be put underground by EDF.

Clerk has written, will chase.

It was noted that oak trees have been pulled out and oak branches pruned during the hedge cutting in the vicinity of Tye Bridge.

It was requested that the village caretaker sweep round the bottle banks when emptied.

Clerk to contact contractor to request this is done by them when emptying the bottle banks.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Jonathon Hills, Ian Morton and Yee Cheung.

2. Minutes

The meeting was asked to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 6th December 2007. The minutes were approved and signed by the Vice-Chairman.

3. Declaration of Interest

Affordable Housing – Cllr Ted Fox.
O2 Mast – 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 and introduced the new village PC, Paul Chamley.

6. Clerks Report

Cllr Robert Taylor has volunteered to attend the Stakeholder Workshop for Community Representatives re the Strategic Housing Market Assessment on 24th January, details passed to TDC.

A letter was received by one of the culprits of the bin fire in the Spinney admitting and apologising for the act. A further letter was sent by the Clerk giving until 1st January to respond. No response received.

Clerk to send letter by Recording Delivery requesting response within 14 days. To point out this matter will be placed in the hands of legal advisors for the Parish Council which will incur more expense for the culprit.

A grant of £250 towards the cost of Clerk and Councillor training has been received from the Essex Association of Local Councils.

All correspondence from last meeting completed.

7. Correspondence

- A letter was received from the Secretary of St Mary's Church PCC thanking the Parish Council for a donation of £50 for the Christmas Tree Festival. It was used to purchase a small tree and prizes for the competition and raffle.
- The Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) is running Best 'Green' Village competition in 2008.
- ECC have found a drafting error for footpath 12 in Great Bentley.

Cllr Herbert to investigate.

8. Information and Reports

None

9. County and District Councillors Report

i) **County Councillor – Cllr Derek Robinson.** A meeting in the Plough Road was held with Lynda McWilliams and Bill Herbert regarding traffic and parking in the village. The District Council needs to police the parking outside Tesco. Suggest the Parish Council backs this up with a letter to the District Council to enforce this.

Clerk to write to District Council

The railings outside Tesco and 'no parking' opposite will be funded in next financial year.

ECC has a 3 year budget settlement increasing by 2.0, 2.9 and then 3.4% in the final year. A 4% rise was required for each year. There is a meeting planned for February where discussions will take place regarding services and cuts that will be required to meet the budget.

ii) **District Councillor – Cllr Lynda McWilliams.** The meeting in Plough Road with Derek Robinson and Bill Herbert highlighted once again the dangers at this site with irresponsible driving and parking in the area. It is down to people to use their common sense, enforcement will 'hit them in the pocket'. A discussion then ensued regarding yellow and white lines and the benefit/disadvantage of each.

Cllr De-Vaux Balbirnie to instruct traffic wardens to attend.

Clerk to write to District Council.

It was noted that cars are being parked in New Cut by commuters using the railway station.

Clerk to publish the address of 'One' in the Parish Magazine. This is to encourage members of the public to write to 'One' regarding the parking problems caused in Great Bentley by commuters cars and ask that the railway station provide its own parking facility.

10. Lighting

Cllr Taylor reported that Elm Close is back on. There are 3 out vicinity Larkfield/Finch Close and one outside 19-21 Larkfield.

Cllr Taylor to investigate

11. Railway Station: CCTV, disabled access and car parking

Clerk wrote separate letters regarding the above in December. No response to date.

12. Highways

Cllr Herbert reported a loose kerb outside Tesco, a large hole at junction of Tye Road and Weeley Road and a hole in South Heath Road opposite Dial Road junction.

Clerk to report to Highways

The road is sinking at the end of Birch Avenue near recent works.

Clerk to report to Clarets

A discussion took place regarding the flailing of hedges. Cllr Gibbon pointed out that the County Council had delegating flailing to farmers. There is no budget to sweep/blow cuttings.

13. Grants available from Community Initiatives Fund and the Princes Trust

Clerk to publish details in the Parish Magazine

14. O2 Mast

Cllr Wright left the room. Cllr Gibbon proposed and Cllr Herbert seconded that a presentation be held on a Saturday morning before the next Parish Council meeting for the public to see plans and discuss. To be advertised in Tesco, Parish Magazine, pubs and shops, pharmacy, doctors surgery and post office.

The meeting was closed.

Volunteers suggested that they would print and deliver leaflets to every house in the village regarding this.

O2 should be invited to attend the presentation.

The only site options now are Brook Farm and Admirals Farm. The plan in the January magazine should be referred to. Leaflets should have a section to be filled in by persons unable to attend the presentation so that their preferred option can be put forward.

The venue will be the Methodist Church Hall.

Cllr Taylor to check availability

Clerk to prepare leaflet and poster and liaise with Cllr Herbert and Mrs Maskell

Clerk to invite O2 to the presentation

The meeting was re-opened and Cllr Wright returned to the room.

15. War Memorial

Cllr Herbert reported that no start date for work to the memorial was available.

16. Neighbourhood Action Panel

Next meeting w/c 7th January

17. Affordable Housing and suggestion of new play area in Aingers Green

Cllr Fox left the room.

No reply from TDC Planning Department regarding section 106 package in association with affordable housing.

Clerk to place on Agenda for February

Planning permission still has not been granted for the project and concerns were raised that it was hoped RHT will not pull out of the project.

Clerk to write to TDC Planning department asking for an update

Cllr Fox returned to the room.

18. Tending Voluntary Community Service

Letter received withdrawing from the Resource Centre as the activity had not proved successful. The service does remain committed to helping residents of Great Bentley and will try to give talks to community groups.

Clerk to retrieve keys from TVCS.

Cllr Herbert suggested it was time to change the alarm code at the Resource Centre as this should be done regularly. Key holders are Cllr Herbert, Cllr Taylor, Mr Dorling, PCSO Sally Boyden and the Clerk.

19. Finance

- To approve expenditure for the month

Proposed by Cllr Taylor and seconded by Cllr De-Vaux Balbirnie, they then signed the cheques.

- To approve Budget for 2008/9

Cllr Taylor explained that there had been a minor change on the Budget since the last Parish Council meeting whereby the rent of the meeting room and the Resource Centre had increased slightly. Proposed by Cllr Fox and seconded by Cllr Wright the Budget was approved.

20. Committee Reports

- a) **Allotments – play area – Village Green Committee.**

Cllr Herbert read out his report. There are 4 persons on the waiting list for allotments.

Cllr Herbert will meet with the representative from Commons and Greens Registration & Management Association to show her the Green.

Clerk to write

The path between Heckford Road and Sturrick Lane has not been cleared by Highways.

Clerk to write

b) Planning.

<p>07/01834/FUL Mr A Cook Although plans show public parking there is none. Land both sides of the Forge are Common Land. The Forge land is only the width of the current building therefore the land showing the soakaway does not belong to the forge. The Parish council, as owners of adjacent land either side of the property have not received notification fro TDC.</p>	<p>Demolition of former forge and erection of new building for use as Office (B1).</p>	<p>The Forge Forge Lane Great Bentley</p>
<p>07/01986/FUL Mr R Hale Plans not available, no decision made</p>	<p>Two storey side extension.</p>	<p>27 Woodgreen Estate Plough Road Great Bentley</p>
<p>07/01999/FUL W & M Stobbs No Objection</p>	<p>Re-build of former shop - variation to design approved under 07/00786/FUL.</p>	<p>Bentley Green Stores Plough Road Great Bentley</p>
<p>07/02005/FUL Mr P Warner No objection</p>	<p>Timber balcony to caravan holiday home. (15 Beech Way)</p>	<p>Bentley Country Park Flag Hill Great Bentley</p>

Clerk to notify TDC Planning Department.

21. Other Reports

- a) Tendring District Association of Local Councils
- b) Footpaths

It was noted that ramblers walk the definitive line. A discussion was held regarding the path beside the railway line.

- c) Transport
- d) Caretakers report

The Caretakers report was read out.

Clerk to contact contractors for the textile bank.

22. Questions from the Members of the Public

It was suggested that a waiting time limitation be placed on parking.

It was suggested that the employee from Onyx be sent a letter of thanks for all the good work he does.

Clerk to write

It was also said that Kevin Plummer, the street light contractor does a very good job and a thank you letter should be sent

Clerk to write

A request was made that either Mr Gibbon or Mr Morton provide a Christmas tree for Aingers Green next Christmas.

It was suggested that parking in New Cut be residential parking only.

Cllr De-Vaux Balbirnie to investigate

Regarding the Princes Trust Community Project, would it be possible to clear footpaths?

The Village of the Year sign has been removed by Highways after it was knocked down. They have it in storage. The County Council paid for the sign so it was suggested that they re-instate it.

Clerk to investigate

It was asked if there had been any progress with the VAS. Nothing further heard.

Cllr Gibbon asked it to be noted that he thanked the clerk for her good work which she has done during the year.

Meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Next meeting Thursday 7th February 2008