

Minutes of Great Bentley Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 6th March 2008 in the Village Hall

Present

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

None

1. Apologies for absence

PCSO Sally Boyden

2. Minutes

The meeting was asked to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 7th February 2008. The minutes were approved and signed by the Vice-Chairman.

3. Declaration of Interest

Ted Fox – oak trees, Tye Road. George Wright – minerals. Yee Cheung – I Hall View Road.

4. Matters Arising from the minutes of the last meeting

None.

5. PCSO

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

6. Clerks Report

Clerk spoke to the Auditor regarding the Standing Orders. The Standing Orders were not found to be out of date. He recommends that the Standing Orders be reviewed by Councillors once every 2 years and that this should be recorded in the minutes.

Clerk to place on April agenda

7. Correspondence

- Great Bentley Youth FC – Football Festival Sunday 15th June 2008.

Clerk to write

- ECC - Parish Path Partnership Scheme (P3).

Left the scheme last year - Clerk to write

- TDC – Overview and scrutiny work programme 2008/09

- NATS - proposed changes to airspace.

After reviewing the web site the Chairman reported that the changes will benefit the area and urged persons to look at the site or to take a leaflet to read.

- Friends of the Green – request Parish Council to arrange meeting with the Police regarding the Biker Nights.

Clerk to write. Friends of the Green to arrange and a Councillor will attend.

8. Information and Reports

None.

9. County and District Councillors Report

i) **County Councillor – Cllr Derek Robinson.** Requested to speak again at item 15. £2 million has been added to the CIF Fund targeting young people's projects. It is specifically looking at rural areas. At County level he is lobbying very hard for improvements to the A12 but people do need to think about the way in which they drive.

ii) **District Councillor – Cllr Lynda McWilliam.** Request to speak at item 15. She is getting £2000 from the TDC budget to spend in the parish. This still has to be arranged.

10. Village Design Statements

11. 2008 Calor Essex Village of the Year & Best Kept Village Competition.

Clerk to complete forms and forward to all for consideration

12. Railway Station: CCTV, disabled access & car parking

- One/Network Rail referred to Bernard Jenkins MP.

His office apologise for delay in responding. Peter Harry, Transport Representative reported that the ticket office is now manned Monday to Friday.

13. Upgrading of Railway Gates

- Letter from Trustees of Great Bentley New Village Hall. Trustees ask the Parish Council to place a waiver on the covenant so that the Village Hall may benefit from possible sale of small piece of land to Network Rail.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would give waiver providing the Parish Council solicitors' costs are paid from the proceeds of the sale.

Cllr Taylor proposed and Cllr Herbert seconded – all agreed on the condition that the monies from the sale are to be used to upgrade the Village Hall and not be used for maintenance costs. Secondly that upgrade of the toilets to take place within 2 years.

14. Lighting

- Request for street lighting between Doctors Surgery & the Pharmacy.

Cllr Taylor reported that the light would have to be back from verge edge with long lighting arm placed on the small grass triangle so light would shine along the road. This would be similar to one outside the Village Hall. Lamp standard would have to be high enough for vehicles to pass. A white light would be

used as this is situated on the green.

As this will be an expensive exercise costs to be sought from 2 companies. The Parish would have to pay for a new lamp. It was suggested that the Doctors Surgery could be asked to help fund this project at a later date.

Cllr Taylor to contact the clerk

15. Highways

- 4 letters re concerns about the 40mph limit on B1027 Hollybush Hill

ECC Councillor Robinson reported that he has been trying for some time to have a 40mph speed limit on the B1027 between Alresford and Thorrington and now trying to have a 30mph speed limit from the top of Flag Hill to Hollybush Hill. However the central government transport department has issued guide lines to local authorities that no speed limits should be imposed until after surveys have been carried out and then put in place by the end of 2011. In the mean time no ad hoc changes should be made. He has asked that both these stretches should be placed in the top priorities when consideration takes place.

He has asked for 'Pedestrian on Highway' signs to be erected at Hollybush Hill and Flag Hill as a priority. These can be put in the next Financial Year which starts 1st April. Cllr Robinson attends Highway Meetings every quarter intends to keep the pressure on regarding this stretch of road.

Clerk to write to Cllr Robinson requesting these signs be erected.

Cllr Taylor suggested that the Parish Council support Cllr Robinson regarding the signs and that the Parish Council should put a marker down that this road should have a 30mph speed limit. Cllr Gibbon pointed out that most accidents occur with traffic travelling in the direction of Colchester to Clacton and suggested VAS light in this direction.

District Cllr McWilliams agreed, she has written to the Police Traffic Management and mentioned the VAS but was told that unfortunately this wouldn't work in this area. Local Police also support a 30mph restriction.

Clerk to write to Police Traffic Management & Highways to request 30mph speed limit. Copy to Cllrs Robinson & McWilliams. (Stress people in cottages go back and forth all day across this road and précis letters received by PC in this letter)

Clerk to précis discussion to the 4 residents

Cllr McWilliams and Cllr Taylor confirmed that a speed check was carried out when the speed limit was reduced to 40mph but that this was some time ago and the volume of traffic has increased immensely since then.

There were 6 accidents in one month including a fatality, 3 accidents were in one week. Highways and police are looking into the fatality. Cllr Robinson and Cllr McWilliams are monitoring.

Clerk to place on next agenda

16. Bin Fire in Spinney

Following a request by the culprit, Cllr Hills proposed and Cllr Gibbon seconded that the culprit be allowed to pay in instalments of £10 per week of half the cost of the replacement bin plus half court costs already incurred.

Clerk to write

17. War Memorial

Repairs to commence on 31st March for a period of 3 weeks.

18. Neighbourhood Action Panel

Cllr Taylor reported that at the last meeting there were concerns that the police are not giving the NAP the secretarial support that it did. The Police Sergeants are supportive. The Police need to know about occurrences right away not passed on through Councillors the next day. This gives the Police an opportunity to attend. Schools in the area should be in a 20 mph zones.

19. Finance

- Expenditure for the month approved. Proposed by Cllr Fox, seconded by Cllr Herbert. The cheques were signed.

20. Committee Reports

a) Allotments – play area – Village Green Committee.

Cllr Herbert reported that there was no Green meeting this month. He escorted Christine Plant from Commons and Greens Registration and Management Association around the Green. She was very impressed with everything apart from the Spinney and plastic maintenance done to houses surrounding the Green. The supply of a reconditioned mower from Tuckwell's is going ahead. The willow trees on the green which were trimmed had both split at the top, which is why they were cut severely. Request a letter of thanks to the gentlemen who cut the hedge alongside the allotments.

Clerk to write

2 Parish notice boards are in need of attention. Mick Dorling is repairing the notice board at Flag Hill. The notice board at Thorrington Road need replacing.

**Clerk to obtain price from brochures. Cllr Herbert to obtain price from Geoff Wright.
Clerk to place on next agenda**

- Chapel Terrace.

Letters were read out. Cllr Taylor reported that most of the time the situation in Chapel Terrace is ok but there is still occasional double parking. It was suggested and then dismissed than the occupant leaves the sign in place during wet weather and remove it and store in his garage during dry weather. Cllr Gibbon proposed and Cllr Fox seconded, all agreed that the signage should stay the same as originally proposed – No cars beyond this point. Keep Clear Emergency Access Required. The Parish Council cannot write a letter as requested by the occupant as the Parish Council has no legal right to do so. The Parish Council has done all they can or are prepared to do.

Clerk to write

- Oak Trees opposite Tye Cottage.

Cllr Fox left the room. Cllr Morton has read all reports. If a TPO were put on the trees TDC would be liable for any damage caused on Tye Cottage. The insurance company wants the trees felled. There ensued a discussion as to whether the Parish Council should be come involved in this dispute. Cllr Gibbons proposed and Cllr Morton seconded that the Parish Council do not get involved in this dispute.

• **b) Planning.**

08/00146/FUL Mr & Mrs D King No objection	First floor extensions.	Owneest Station Road Great Bentley
07/01650/FUL Amber Leisure No objection	Raised decking to caravan (18 Willows Avenue).	Bentley Country Park Flag Hill Great Bentley
08/00184/DETAIL David J Black No objection but recommend agreed landscape scheme is put in place	Agricultural dwelling following outline approval 06/00430/OUT.	Hill House Farm Thorrington Road Great Bentley
08/00198/FUL Mrs F Y Cheung No objection to development but object that this design offers no off road parking which the PC would like to see.	Single storey and two storey side extensions.	1 Hall View Road Great Bentley
ESS/05/08/TEN A O Poole & Sons, George Wright farms No objection subject to a) No left turn of vehicles from the site into Great Bentley Village b) No incoming vehicles to transit through Great Bentley Village c) A quality landscaping scheme to be put in place	Construction of agricultural reservoir involving the extraction of minerals and the removal of surplus soils	Lufkins Farm, Near Great Bentley, Essex
08/00136/FUL Mr & Mrs R Richman No objection	Timber balcony to caravan holiday home (5 Birch Drive).	Bentley Country Park Flag Hill Great Bentley
08/00179/ADV Mr Peter Turner Object most strongly. Out of keeping with rural landscape. Proposed signage faces the public highway causing a distraction to drivers concentration	2 x high level, externally illuminated signs (signs 20 and 21).	The Book Service Colchester Road Frating
08/00252/FUL Tendingr Hundred Water Services Ltd No objection	Erection of 8.0 metre high camera column for 24 hour CCTV surveillance.	West Clacton Reservoir and Pumping Station Dead Lane Great Bentley

08/00339/FUL A Walker No objection	Erection of single storey rear extension	Midway, Sturricks Lane, Great Bentley
---	---	---------------------------------------

- The Forge planning approval. Response letter from TDC Planning Dept read out. Chairman said if this turns out to be a problem during construction the Parish Council will deal with it at that time

21. Other Reports

a) Tendring District Association of Local Councils
No meeting.

Cllr Robert Taylor reported a quiet meeting with nothing to report.

b) Footpaths

Cllr Herbert reported that ECC are not going ahead with putting footpaths back to their correct route. (Rights of Way Act)

c) Transport

Change to concessionary bus passes from 1st April 2008. Railway station now manned Monday to Friday

Clerk to précis for Parish Magazine

d) Caretakers report

Report from David Tyler read out.

Oil drum in ditch at Heckfords Road.

Clerk to report

22. Questions from the Members of the Public

A gentleman asked that the next time the willow trees are pruned, could one be pruned one year and the other the following year.

Peter Harry, transport representative, said that discussions are on going regarding SATNAV re lorry friendly routes. Silverton and EWD lorries have been seen transporting full loads of aggregate through the village.

Clerk to write to Silverton and EWD

Mick Dorling raised the question of the letter from Friends of the Green and suggested that the Parish Council should organise the meeting with the Police. No change.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm

23. Closed discussion – clerk & caretaker salary, contractor's hourly rate

Next meeting Thursday 3rd April 08.