

Minutes of Great Bentley Parish Council Annual General Meeting
Thursday 1st May 2008 in the Village Hall

Present

Cllr Jonathan Hills, Cllr William Herbert, Cllr George Wright, Cllr David Gibbon, Cllr Yee Cheung, Cllr Ted Fox, Cllr Peter De-Vaux Balbirnie, Cllr Ian Morton & Cllr Robert Taylor.

In Attendance

K Paradise (Clerk), Essex County Councillor Derek Robinson and 6 members of the public.

Questions from the Public

1. Apologies for absence

District Councillor Lynda McWilliams and PCSO Sally Boyden.

2. Election of Chairman for 2008/2009

Cllr Jonathan Hills proposed by Cllr Robert Taylor, seconded by Cllr Peter De-Vaux Balbirnie.

3. Acceptance of Office by Chairman

This has been signed by Cllr Jonathan Hills and witnessed by the clerk

4. Election of Vice Chairman for 2008/2009

Cllr William Herbert proposed by Cllr David Gibbon, seconded by Cllr George Wright.

5. Minutes

The meeting was asked to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 3rd April 2008. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

6. Declaration of Interest

Affordable housing – Cllr Ted fox

7. Matters Arising from the minutes of the last meeting

8. PCSO

The report from PCSO Sally Boyden regarding incidents in the village for the month was read out by Cllr Jonathan Hills.

The new General Police Enquiry telephone number is 0300 333 4444.

Councillors have received letters and several phone calls regarding the letter in the Parish Magazine about the PCSO. To counter this letter a report will be sent to the magazine for the next issue. A discussion took place regarding the benefits of a PCSO.

Clerk to send report to magazine.

9. Clerks Report

The village will be entering the Best 'Green' Village Competition.
The problem of Seawick Market posters is being dealt with by TDC.

The ladies section of Great Bentley Running Club wish to contribute towards or donate a piece of children's play equipment on the Green.

Cllrs David Gibbon and Bill Herbert to investigate.

The office of Bernard Jenkin is investigating the Network Rail/National Express issues and apologise for the time this has taken.

Clerk requested permission to have the office computer repaired. Agreed.

Clerk to check whether it is viable for a repair or a new screen.

Enquiries were made to TDC Careline regarding the cost of CCTV to be installed in Great Bentley. A discussion ensued.

Cllr Peter De Vaux Balbirnie to investigate.

10. Correspondence

- Open Space Society donation request. Agreed.

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Clerk to write cheque for next meeting

- Great Bentley FC donation request. Cllr Jonathan Hills will be having a meeting with Clive French next week. Cllr Taylor said £100 has been budgeted for as a donation to the Youth Football Club in 2007/08 which has never been applied for. (The Majorettes need to ask for their budgeted donation for 2008/09). Cllr Hills suggested that clerk look at money remaining in the budget from last year.

Clerk to check on monies outstanding.

- Friends of Historic Essex membership request. Agreed

Clerk to write cheque for next meeting

- BBC Essex web site request items. Mary Maskell has sent the Village Magazine and the Thorrington Hall bluebell open day notification to them.

- The Tendring Villager.

Clerk to pass to Mary Maskell.

- Tendring Local History Recorders donation request. Denied.

Clerk to pass to History Society to see if they wish to donate.

- Town Council of Frinton & Walton request for views on bounty scheme for Special Constables. Following a discussion agreed clerk to write to say no objection as Great Bentley are not affected.

Clerk to write

- Frank & Janet Strutt request update on request for dog fouling signs. Cllr Peter De-Vaux Balbirnie has ordered them from TDC.

Cllr Peter De-Vaux Balbirnie to chase. Cllr George Wright to forward a copy of the minutes to Mr & Mrs Strutt.

11. Information and Reports

None

12. County and District Councillors Report

- i) **County Councillor – Cllr Derek Robinson.** The finance for railings outside Tesco has been agreed and is accounted for in the ECC budget. The length will not be extended for safety reasons. The process is going through the legalities stage at the moment.
The Police and highways are looking at the whole length of the B1027 and on-site meetings will take place in a couple of weeks regarding signage which will be done in the first financial quarter of this year.
Cllr Robinson attended the East Area Forum where the police did a presentation of the cost effect of PCSO's.
There is a full ECC meeting next week. Tendring Sustainability Committee to meet shortly.
As part of the Community Initiatives Fund there is extra finance for youth projects.

Clerk to liaise with Cllr Robinson before applying.

Cllr David Gibbon expressed thanks to Cllr Robinson for all the work he does on behalf of the Parish.

- ii) **District Councillor – Cllr Lynda McWilliams.** Report read out by Cllr Hills. Cllr McWilliams has written to Tesco regarding traffic safety issues. She has asked for delivery times to be avoided whilst children are being taken to school in the mornings.
A letter from Mr Halliday to Cllr McWilliams regarding the position of footpath representative was read out. The Councillors discussed this. The contract for footpaths reverted to ECC a couple of years ago. Cllr Wright suggested Mr Gollifer may be interested in a reporting role to ECC or the landowner and they would still carry out the remedial work. A full footpath rep is not required.

Cllr George Wright to speak to Mr Gollifer

Cllr Peter De-Vaux Balbirnie's time as Chairman of Tendring District Council is coming to an end. He took the opportunity to précis his year. He was involved in 230 issues including a climate change meeting in Germany and raising funds for charities.

13. Highways

- Holly Bush Hill. Covered by Cllr Robinson earlier in the meeting.
- Speed gun. Alresford volunteers have already been trained. The gun is supposed to be shared by both parishes but Great Bentley has heard nothing.

Clerk to chase.

Cllr Taylor reported that Great Bentley Good Neighbours have volunteered money for a new speed gun which would cost £930.60 inc VAT plus annual charge for maintenance and recalibration.

- Parking enforcement. CCTV discussed during clerk report.
- EWD. Letter read out.

14. Lighting

Cllr Robert Taylor reported that Finch Drive and Larkfield Road have had new cables laid. This work is complete. There is nothing outstanding. There were 12 incidents during the year.

15. Bin Fire in Spinney

Clerk reported 3 weekly payments of £10 now outstanding.

Clerk to send recorded delivery letter

16. Affordable Housing

Update from Anne Bishop, Rural Housing Trust. Once Section 106 agreement is signed and planning permission formally granted, the RHT are optimistic funding will follow.

17. War Memorial

A discussion took place and it was decided that the base of the war memorial should be rendered rather than clad in granite.

Cllr Herbert to liaise with Shipp Builders.

18. Finance

- Expenditure for the month approved. Proposed by Cllr Wright, seconded by Cllr Fox. The cheques were signed.
- Pre audit year end accounts are near completion

19. Committee Reports

a) Allotments – play area – Village Green Committee.

Cllr Herbert read out the Green report.

Mowers

The replacement mower is due to be delivered.

Seats

There are 4 seats where the grass is wearing away in front of them. Cllr Herbert requested the purchase of rubber mats, the same type as used in the play area to enable the grass to grow back. Agreed.

Chapel Terrace

Cllrs Herbert, Wright and Taylor and Mr Dorling to meet at Chapel Terrace on Sunday 4th May to discuss signage and the turning circle.

b) Planning.

i)

08/00569/TCA Miss S Morton No objection	3 No. deciduous trees - reduce crowns by 33% to previous reduction	Bell Cottage The Path Great Bentley
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Clerk to inform Planning Dept.

- ii) Cllr Yee Cheung explained the new 1APP planning application form.
- iii) Lufkin Farm construction of agricultural reservoir withdrawn
- iv) E-planning questionnaire completed by Cllr Cheung and the clerk.
- v) TDC notification that The Book Service is appealing to the Secretary of State regarding the application for illuminated signage.

20. Other Reports

- a) Tendring District Association of Local Councils

Cllr Robert Taylor reported that Mike Brown will not continue as Chairman after 25th May 2008 and David Hines is not continuing after the end of the year. Town and Parish conservation was looked at and they have adopted a procedure for handling complaints.

- b) Transport - Village Questionnaire.

Peter Harry, the Transport Representative, has compiled a questionnaire for the village which will go out as a flyer in the June Parish Magazine at a cost of £80. The flyers will have to be returned by the middle of June to the Post Office, Carpenters Farm and the Resource Centre. The ECC Transport Representative is happy to help with results.

**Peter Harry to arrange flyer to be sent with June Magazine
Clerk to place on June Agenda**

- c) Caretakers report

Report from David Tyler read out.

21. Questions from the Members of the Public

A gentleman requested an update on right of access for vehicles at the rear of Chapel Terrace. He asked if there were rights to cross the Green or for access to the garages:
There are no rights as this is Common Land. National Law says that the Green cannot be driven on.

The gentleman then asked the relevance of the sign beyond number 4 and why it was placed in this position:

The sign is there to stop vehicles. The area becomes very muddy in the winter months. It is placed where the hard surface runs out.

It was noted that Peter Harry, the Transport Representative is doing an excellent job.

The Royal British Legion has received their list of flag flying days. This now excludes VE and VJ days but includes Europe Day.

The new police non emergency number will be on the front of the Village Magazine.

**Meeting closed at 9.30pm
Next meeting Thursday 5th June 08.**