

**Minutes of Great Bentley Parish Council Meeting**  
**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2008 in the Village Hall**

**Present**

Cllr Hills, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Fox, Cllr Cheung, Cllr Herbert, Cllr Wright, Cllr Gibbon.

**In Attendance**

Kate Mayhew (Clerk), Essex County Councillor Derek Robinson, District Councillor Lynda McWilliams, and approx 8 members of the public.

**Questions from the Public**

None

**1. Apologies for absence**

Cllr Balbirnie & Cllr Morton

**2. Minutes**

The meeting was asked to approve the minutes of the Parish Meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> September 2008. The minutes were approved and signed by Cllr Fox.

**3. Declaration of Interest**

None

**4. Matters Arising from the minutes of the last meeting**

None

**Affordable Housing – New Agenda Item** - Cllr Hills advised that following a recent meeting he attended he was advised that the Housing Corporation have rejected the application for funding for Affordable Housing in Great Bentley due to it being un-economical and not Best Value. The Rural Housing Trust have requested more details on why this decision was taken and hopefully will feed back to the Parish Council.

**5. PCSO**

PCSO Sally Boyden read out her report of incidents in the village for the month. It was asked of PCSO Boyden why she could not divulge details of incidents and she explained that until an investigation has been concluded the information was not open to the public.

**6. Clerks Report**

The Clerk advised that due to other work commitments she may not be present at next months meeting but has asked Chris Finn to attend in her absence to take the minutes. All of the correspondence has been done and sent from the last meeting, it has been exceptionally busy due to renewal of Allotment Agreements. One allotment tenant has offered to hand deliver all the agreements for next year. It was felt this kind gesture should be accepted once EALC confirm they are happy and that a record was kept of dates and times of delivery. **Clerk to write and advise.**

## **7 Correspondence**

- Request for a Marquee on the Green for Wedding Reception. This was agreed subject to the normal terms and conditions of use of the Green. **Clerk to write.**
- Parking, Plough Road – a complaint from a member of public was read out which relates to Item 11 and was deferred to then.
- Consultation on making and enforcing byelaws – this document is open to anyone wishing to read it.
- Millennium Clock – Clerk has ordered works for next Spring but company have advised that the clock hands may need repair/replacing. Costs have been given but more info needed from company on repairs. **Clerk to obtain more details and place on November agenda.**
- Childrens Play Area – play area equipment restricted due to ROSPA requirements, additional picnic benches on The Green was agreed. **Clerk to write and advise being dealt with and obtain a price for both a children's and adults bench. Clerk to place on November's Agenda.**

**8. Tree Planting Programme** – the grant was for £5k, Cllr Gibbon advised there was an area on his land where he planted 4 Norwegian Pines at a cost of £100 per tree. **Clerk to request if TDC will refund costs under the programme, not native species but no available space elsewhere in the village.**

## **9. Information and Reports**

Requests from members for additional matters off report, or information only to be brought to the attention of the council.

Speedwatch – Following last report two more people are working in office and volunteers paperwork has been cleared. Three more volunteers have come forward. A request for more training courses has been made, the scheme is working well at the moment, there are now 7 volunteers in total. The speed gun is owned by the PC. **Clerk to place on Agenda for a general update.**

VAS sign now working properly as Cllr Gibbon has cut back his trees.

## **10. County and District Councillors Report**

**County Councillor – Cllr Derek Robinson** – Thorrington Level Crossing, traffic to be controlled with boards on the crossing, traffic flow is going well. Cllr Robinson is now a champion for local 50-65yr olds. Anyone in that age bracket can speak to him about any problems they have.

**District Councillor – Cllr Lynda McWilliams.** – Thanked Cllr Gibbon for cutting back trees. The small projects budget has gone, it was very well responded to. White lines along Plough Road, money is available to re-paint them. Footpaths at Aingers Green in Plough Road, one lady had bad stumble, Jenny at Highways looking into it. Part of a Spruce tree has died since weed spraying took place. TDC report that bottle banks will be replaced, refurb to take place on textile and can banks. A new power has come in that vehicles without a valid tax disc or SORN statement can be removed from private residences.

## **11. Highways.**

- Kerbing of Green between Heckford Road & Weeley Road - a discussion took place and it was agreed that this would not be done but the situation would be monitored. Cllr Herbert advised that a school bus parks on the Green whilst waiting for the children. Cedric's is the bus company. **Clerk to write to Cedric's direct.** Any supporting photos or index numbers would be appreciated before letter is sent. **ALL.**

- Feedback from meeting with Highways regarding restricted parking - The Chairman read out a report feeding back from a recent meeting with Highways.

### **Car Parking in Great Bentley**

A meeting was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2008 between members of the Parish Council and Jennifer Gudka from Essex County Council with regard to car parking issues which have been raised generally within the village.

As most of you will be aware, there is a great concern about congestion and speeding cars through the village, particularly around the School and outside Tesco and the Chinese Takeaway. It has therefore been decided that double yellow lines will be placed along the stretch of road from the School to a little bit beyond the Chinese Takeaway. This will hopefully stop cars swinging out into the middle of the road in order to avoid cars parallel parked as well as those bumped up on to the pavement.

However, further discussion was also had concerning the amount of cars that are simply being left in close proximity of the shops for days on end, which causes further congestion and clogs up areas for short term shoppers parking. Therefore, the pros and cons of limiting car parking in this area were discussed with Essex County Council, including whether or not to adopt a very short period of time that people are allowed to park for say 20 minutes in order to allow more people to park in the same area over the period of a day. However, it was considered where people would then go who were visiting the Hairdressers and/or the Plough pub where the duration of stay would be more than 20 minutes; and also if people then come to the village who need to park and are unable to do so, would they simply just bump up on to the green, which if course is completely unacceptable.

Therefore there may be a possibility of only allowing parking of up to say 3 hours as this would allow sufficient time to visit establishments up to this mark but would not allow long term parking. This matter will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting and therefore if you would like to have your say, we invite you to come along

A discussion took place on the problem of restricted parking. It was felt by many that parking bays made the area urbanised but to do nothing was not an option either due to the severe nature of the problem in this area. The main problem seemed to be individuals parking large vehicles for long periods of time which had a knock-on effect further down the road and blocked vision for vehicles coming from Weeley Road.

**Clerk to place item on Agenda for next few months. All to monitor affect of yellow lines when they are done to see if this impacts on the problem. All ideas on how resolve the difficult parking gratefully received.**

### **12. Great Bentley Football Club**

Update on lease – An email from Alistair Keeble Solicitors was read out and it was agreed that they could encompass all previous parts of the lease, along with the new Variation into one lease which would simplify the FC's application for funding. **Clerk to write to solicitors advising of this stating the lease must be in place within 10 days and ready by next meeting.**

### **13. Finance**

- Expenditure for the month approved by Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Herbert and Seconded by Cllr Taylor.

**14. Lighting**

- BT and EDF – update on way leaves. The Clerk has located some way leaves, still trying to get a copy of all way leaves for Great Bentley. **Clerk to place on agenda for next month.**
- New light at The Triangle – Clerk has contacted EDF and light should be connected by end of October at latest. **Clerk to leave on agenda for November.**
- Tri-annual cleaning of lamps & change of bulbs. This has been budgeted for and order now needs to be placed. It was agreed, Proposed by Cllr Fox and Seconded by Cllr Cheung.

**15. Village Historical Signs** – Cllr Hills is waiting for additional information on this matter. To be deferred to next meeting. **Clerk to place on November's agenda.**

**16. Network Rail** – An email was read out from Alistair Keeble Solicitors requesting for two members of the Parish Council to sign a document of release for the land in the Village Hall that has been sold to Network Rail for the signalling box. The Clerk advised that Cllr Hills and Cllr Herbert could sign this Deed and the meeting was asked to agree to this. It was Proposed by Cllr Taylor and Seconded by Cllr Fox. **Cllr Hills & Cllr Herbert to sign once Clerk has received the document. Should be next week.**

**17. The Flag PH** – A letter from highways was read out relating to sale of land to the front of the The Flag. Cllr McWilliams advised what area it was relating to. No comments were made from the Council.

**18. Committee Reports**

a) Allotments – Play Area – Village Green Committee –

The Green report was read out by Cllr Herbert.

Green Committee Meeting

Those present Cllr. Bill Herbert and contractors H. Tweed and M. Dorling  
25<sup>th</sup> Sept 2008

**Work completed.**

10<sup>th</sup> Sept Weed Control sprayed the weeds around Aingers Green. After further enquiries I was informed this had not been on their contract for two years.

**PC Goalpost** On 14<sup>th</sup> Sept the crossbar of the goalpost had been unbolted, removed and was left lying on the Green.. It has been transported to G. Bennett Ltd for a repair, which has now made it much more secure. 15<sup>th</sup> Sept goalpost re-erected . The same company have also provided caps to fit over the unused post holes, on my instruction. Invoice to come.

**Parking Signs** have been erected at Chapel Terrace and most trees have been trimmed.

**The Village Sign** has become faded and may need to be re-painted . Although this would be quite expensive, it was pointed out by Mr. Dorling that we have received sums of money from Bikers Night and Running Club donations etc. and they remain unused.

**Green Village Tree** It was decided at the last PC Meeting to leave the leaning willow tree and plant the Green Village Tree on the other side of the pond. Upon further inspection the willow tree is beyond help and there is no room on the other side. Also Mary has asked for an oak to be planted. It would not be a good idea to plant what could become a huge tree in the future, blocking the sun from the pond. It could be that more Councillors should meet there and discuss.

**The Pond** will need to be cleared of weed this autumn. This could involve two people for a week and the hire of a waste skip. Do we have your consent?

**Daffodils and Christmas Trees** Mr. Dorling has requested two bags of bulbs from the PC. Maybe at a cost of £50 Also two Christmas trees. One to be put in the usual place and one at Aingers Green. On the corner of Weeley Road, Plough Road. Neighbour has agreed to supply power.

**Seat Request.** It was suggested that the seat in memory of Adrian Howland be placed at the end of Station Road. The existing seat to be used elsewhere.

**Dog signs.** Would the PC allow Mr. Dorling to order the appropriate dog fouling signs and place them where necessary

### Allotments

59 Agreements were sent out and most are back. The Clerk has filled in and sent the agreements and spent most of her usual time in the office accepting them and writing receipts. More hours worked. Can we find some extra money?

Water bill received from Village Hall. Our portion = £188.42. The standard letter has been sent

**Rat boxes**, supplied by Cllr. Gibbon, are in place.

End of Meeting

**Parking** 18<sup>th</sup> Sept I responded to a complaint to the office about a vehicle parked badly on corner of Station Road & The Cut for 13 days. Made contact with TDC, The Police, our PCSO and the complainant. Eventually it was removed by the owner on 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept

Bill Herbert

**Clerk to liaise with Mick ref: contractor to do work on village sign, get a price (and show it to JH.)**

b) Planning – JH advised the public of the new proposed planning scheme, **to be monitored closely and discussed at next meeting.**

08/01115/FUL Mr R Plummer	Erection of single storey rear extension (following demolition of existing rear extensions).	Martini Plough Road Great Bentley
08/01205/FUL Mr and Mrs Hume	Erection of single storey rear extension.	Tom Swallow Cottage Plough Road Great Bentley
08/01206/LBC Mr and Mrs Hume	Erection of single storey rear extension.	Tom Swallow Cottage Plough Road Great Bentley

08/01124/ADV Mr P Turner	Erection of 2 no. signs (signs 20 and 21).	The Book Service Colchester Road Frating
08/01231/DETAIL David Black	Erection of permanent agricultural dwelling for farm worker.	Hill House Farm Thorrington Road Great Bentley

08/01195/FUL Mr Lawrence Ellacott	Erection of single storey rear extension.	10 Finch Drive Great Bentley Colchester
08/01217/FUL Mr K Plummer	Internal and external alterations to convert Storage Area to Workshop including new roller shutter door to rear.	Plough Farm House Plough Road Great Bentley
08/01284/FUL Mr & Mrs Fox	Proposed replacement dwelling.	Jubilee Cottage St Marys Road Great Bentley
08/01365/TCA Mrs P Auger	1 No. Eucalyptus - reduce to 4 ft.	1 Chapel Terrace Heckfords Road Great Bentley
08/01346/LBC	Alterations to Existing Outhouse.	Cottage Farm, Holly Bush Hill, Great Bentley.

## 19. Other Reports

a) Tendring District Association of Local Councils – next meeting with TDC in November, if

anyone has any issues they should be raised asap. Feedback on training courses – does anyone have any specific courses they wish to attend?

b) Transport Report – the report was read out.

c) Footpaths – The report was read out.

d) Caretakers Report – The report was read out. **Clerk to advise caretaker that he is still responsible for bottle banks.**

**Clerk to advise TDC of a large amount of fly tipping in the ditch behind the layby in Heckford Road.**

**Questions from the Members of the Public**

Comment from Mick Dorling ref: parking, can the report and subsequent discussions at PCM go into Parish Magazine. **Cllr J Hills report to be sent to parish magazine. Clerk to also advise on meeting.**

Meeting closed at 21:11hrs

**Next meeting Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2008**