

***Minutes of The Great Bentley Parish Council Meeting Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>  
August 2006 in the Methodist Church at 7.30pm***

**Present**

Cllr J Hills (Chairman), Cllr W Herbert, Cllr P De-Vaux Balbirnie, Cllr D Gibbon,  
Cllr G Wright, Cllr R Adams

**In Attendance**

Miss Janet D Bloomfield (Clerk to the Council), Members of the public.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Cllr R Taylor, Cllr E Fox, Cllr Morton, Cllr D Robinson ECC

**2. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2006 were approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr W Herbert and seconded by Cllr G Wright.

**3. Declaration of Interest**

Cllr J Hills asked if Cllrs would now declare if they have an interest.

Cllr W Herbert declared an interest in Planning.

Cllr R Adams declared an interest in Mr M Dorling

**4. Correspondence**

- Letter from Cllr R Taylor regarding his daughter getting married and was requesting permission to use the village green to put up a marquee. Council agreed.
- Letter from Environment Agency regarding new contact need for Flood line warnings Cllr Gibbon is the new contact. Council agreed.
- Letter from The Royal British legion regarding a letter that was written to the parish council last month and was not read out at the last parish councils meeting. The letter was given to Mr M Dorling to pass on to the clerk but this was not passed on. Cllr W Herbert explained to the council that this letter was passed on to him by Mr M Dorling. Cllr W Herbert said this was being dealt with.
- Email from Rob McWilliams regarding the office Web site. Rob explained that he was moving away and would the parish council like him to continue with up dating the parish council web site. Council agreed.

## **6. Information and Reports**

No Report

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

### **a) Essex County Council Report**

No Report

### **b) Tendring District Council Report**

No Report.

## **8. Update**

### **a) Policing and PCSO**

PCSO Miss S Filer reported on the crime rate in Great Bentley. She said that if there is any crime needed dealing with, her mobile phone number is 07798602268 and can be contacted when she is on duty

### **b) Highways**

Miss J Bloomfield (Clerk) reported that she had reported the two electricity post that were leaning over to make the electricity cables hang close to high vehicles this was being dealt with by Electricity Company (EDF).

The Clerk reported that she had spoken to Highways about clearing the junction of Heckford Road and the A133. This has now been done.

Council discussed the junction at Heckford Road and the A133. Council discussed the traffic problems and asked Miss J Bloomfield (Clerk) if she could speak with Geoff Travis about this. Clerk to contact Geoff Travis to discuss the matter further. Council agreed.

Cllr W Herbert reported there is a loose kerb on the corner of De-vere and Thorrington Road. The grass and weeds are becoming quite prolific on the roadsides, especially near The Red Lion and down toward The Forge.

### **c) War Memorial (Repair and renovation)**

Cllr W Herbert reported that he is just waiting for the Grant to be sorted out for the repairs to the war Memorial. He said Ship Builders will be doing the work

### **d) Spinney**

Nothing to report

### **e) Resource Centre**

Nothing to report

**f) Village Map**

Clerk reported that she had a meeting with Mick Dorling. She said that the village map was well under way and the Parish Council should have the bill for the map by the next Parish Council meeting.

**g) Article in the Parish Magazine**

Chairman J Hill explained to councillors and the public that an article placed in the July 2006 parish magazine on page 33 was not placed by the Parish Council Clerk. Cllr R Taylor apologized to the clerk as he was given the wrong information by a village resident.

**h) Network Rail**

Network rail will be attending a meeting with the village residents after the Parish Council meeting this evening, to discuss the work that is going to be carried out by them selves on the level crossing and the signalling.

**9. Finance**

**a) Bank Account**

Clerk Janet Bloomfield reported that the Parish Council Bank Account. The signatory mandate is still not sorted out. Clerk to chase.

**b) Audit**

Clerk reported that she has tried several occasions to contact Mr Catchpole regarding the Audit. Council agreed the Chairman would write to Mr Catchpole asking about the audit. Mr Catchpole told the council that it would be completed by the 1st August 2006

**c) Items of Expenditure for Approval**

The schedule of expenditure for August was submitted to Council, Schedule attached. Proposed to be approved by Cllr W Herbert and seconded by Cllr P De-Vaux Balbirnie Council agreed.

**10. Clerks Report**

Clerk Janet Bloomfield reported that the TDC Forward Plan 54 was now in the office. If Cllrs would like to look at the Forward Plan this would be kept in the Community Resource Centre.

**11. Committee Reports**

**a) Allotments**

Andy Saltmarsh has replaced the internal workings of the cistern in the Allotment toilets. There is now a waiting list for plots and it was felt that those tenants not using there plots should be put under some pressure not to renew their tenancy.

### **b) Play Area**

Cllr Gibbon has checked the play equipment. The Cone Climber is now working. The Caretaker has reported that the springy animals are in a poor condition. We are awaiting an estimate from Bruce Landscapes for their replacement.

### **c) Village Green Management Committee**

#### **Weed Control**

It was suggested that a sum of £250 be allowed this year for spraying and that Mick Dorling picks the worst areas and reports back to the council before an order is placed.

#### **Football Club**

Peppercorn rent has been paid to the Committee Chairman

#### **Motor-bikes**

A burger van is now parked on the green on Wednesdays along with several other traders. The police sergeant on duty was asked what he intended to do about this. His reply was that he needed more proof that what they were doing actually broke any law. We need to give him a copy of the by-laws and the laws of common land. It was suggested that the Committee consult the Parish Councils solicitor. The sergeant was also asked why the bikers were allowed to drink alcohol on the green when local people were stopped from doing so outside the Football Club on Carnival Day. He was not aware they had been stopped.

#### **Vandalism**

The seat at the end of Station Road has been taken to S. Saltmarsh for repair. There have been numerous complaints of youngsters making a noise at the play area throughout the night of Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July. The PCSO is aware.

### **d) Planning**

Four planning applications were examined- comments on each are shown and will be passed on to TDC Planning Department.

06/01246/FUL Proposed conservatory - Michaelmas House South Heath Road Great Bentley Colchester Essex

*Councillors had no objection to the proposed conservatory. It is in keeping with the surrounding area and it is on a large enough plot.*

06/01268LUEX Lawful use relating to sale of home grown and brought in produce – Carpenters Farm St Mary's Road Great Bentley Colchester Essex

*Councillors had no objections to the application as it has been established for many years.*

06/01266/TCA Fell 1 No. Tree (species unknown) to front of site – 5 New Cut Great Bentley Colchester Essex

*The tree warden reported back to the council. He stated that this was the only tree in the cut. It is situated right on the boundary and he did not think that it would effect the extension he would like to see the tree pruned in stead of taking it completely down*

06/01196/FUL Retrospective application for the change of use of redundant farm buildings to B8 storage, and B1 office use of portacabin for use by Bentley European Transport. – South Heath Farm South Heath Road Great Bentley Colchester Essex

*Councillors had no objections but would like a condition if approved that no more changes unless notified by TDC.*

## **12. Other Reports**

### **a) TDALC**

Clerk reported that Essex County Council are asking parish councils to apply for a grant regarding the Community Initiative fund. There is £150,000 available in each local government district area for the financial year 2006/2007. Council discussed this and decided that they would like to apply. Clerk to attend to this.

### **b) Footpaths**

No Report

### **c) Transport**

No Report

### **d) Caretakers Report.**

The caretakers report was read out.

## **13. The Council approved the resolution that under section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies Act 1960 the public and press be excluded from the meeting during:-**

- a) A discussion regarding the value of land owned by the Parish Council corner of Birch Avenue. No decision has been made.

**Chairman.....**

**Date.....**