

***Minutes of The Great Bentley Parish Council Meeting Thursday 2nd
November 2006 in Great Bentley Village Hall at 7.30pm***

Present

Cllr Jonathan Hills (Chairman), Cllr William Herbert (Vice-Chairman),
Cllr Edward Fox, Cllr George Wright, Cllr David Gibbon, Cllr Rodger Adams, Cllr
Robert Taylor, Cllr Peter De-Vaux Balbirnie Cllr Ian Morton,.

In Attendance

Miss Janet D Bloomfield (Clerk to the Council), Nine members of the public,
The press.

06.88 Apologies for absence

Cllr D Robinson Essex County Council

06.89 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th October 2006, were approved and signed as a
correct record. Proposed by Cllr R Taylor and seconded by Cllr W Herbert.

06.90 Declaration of Interest

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

Cllr R Adams declared and interest in Mr Mick Dorling

06.91 Correspondence

- Tendring District Council Forward Plan 60 1st November 2006 – 28th February 2007. This will be kept in the Parish Council Office.
- Letter from Mr P Allington regarding Simmons Yard and the traffic problems around Simmons Yard.
- Letter from Mr P Nunn regarding Wednesday Night Bikers and the Manorial Rights of the Great Bentley Village Green.
- Letter from Tendring District Council Regarding the Chairman's Charity Quiz on Thursday 30th November 2006.
- Letter from Jan Turner Great Bentley Conservation Group regarding replanting Heathers on the green that have died.
- Letter from David Gollifer regarding trees in the spinney. He asked the council if the conservation group could contact the Tree Officer at Tendring District Council.
- Letter from Jan Turner asking the Council if they could put a paper recycle bin near the bottle bank near the railway station.

06.92 Information and Reports

No reports

06.93 Essex County and Tendring District Report

Essex County Council Report

No Report

Tendring District Council Report

Cllr R Taylor read out his Report. Council noted report.

06.94 Update

a) Policing and Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)

Council have been inform that the PCSO has been seen working in Brightlingsea. Clerk to contact the police and ask for the last two months of the PCSO time sheets and the Council would like the time sheets every week from now on.

b) Highways

The Parish Council discussed speeding vehicles through Great Bentley. Last month they looked at options to help solve this problem. The council decided that they would like to apply for a VAS. Cllr Robert Taylor and Cllr David Gibbon had a meeting with Highways. Cllr R Taylor reported Highways will be doing a survey on the traffic along Plough Road to see if there is a need for a VAS.

Cllr W Herbert reported that the report to the Highways department has been filled in and sent back. It included all of the problems mentioned in the past three months.

c) Road Sign -Names.

Cllr W Herbert reported on the Road Sign Names. He said it was proposed some two years ago that the roads around the Green be given individual names to assist delivery drivers and others. We have now received a complaint from a local business, because we did not proceed with it.

He said that previously, as a test, The Parish Council sent 35 questionnaires to the residents of the south side of the green, from the Cricket Club to the pedestrian entrance of Birch Estate.

24 replies were received, 3 wanted no alteration and the majority wanted The Green South or The Green Southside. 4 reluctantly. Two others threatened legal action if their address were changed.

An article also appeared in the Parish Magazine asking for replies. Many of the replies were opposed to the idea because they would lose "The Green" from their address, so it was never followed up. It was later suggested that the area from the Post Office to the Hall be "The Green West" and the area from The Pharmacy to Heckford Road be "The Green North".

d) Wednesday Night Bikers

Last Month the Chairman Jonathan Hills read out a report regarding the Bikers Night on the Village Green. This report included Legislation, Bye Laws Parish Council involvement, Police involvement, Conclusions and the way forward. Council discussed this at the Parish Council Meeting and decided that a questionnaire to be placed in the Parish Magazine was the way forward. The Council are looking in to possible questions for the questionnaire.

e) Network Rail

No Report.

f) Double Kerb

Last month some resident were not happy with the decision that the Council made regarding the Double Kerb out side the Doctors Surgery. After discussions Councillors decided to put the project on hold for six month to see if people stop parking on the Village Green.

g) Village Map

No Report

h) Affordable Housing

Clerk reported that she had spoken with Anne Bishop. She hopes to be submitting the planning application this month. She said the plans have been changed slightly.

06.95 Finances

a) Items of Expenditure for Approval

The schedule of expenditure for November 2006 was submitted to Council, Schedule attached. Proposed to be approved by Cllr R Taylor and seconded by Cllr E Fox.

b) Audit

The Clerk reported that the Audit for the last two years has now been completed by the internal auditor this will now be sent to the External auditor. She Said she has put a notice up in the notice board; it states that the members of the public may request to see them with in Twenty Day.

06.96 Clerks Report

Clerk Janet Bloomfield reported that the TDC Forward Plan 61 1st November 2006 - February 2006 was now in the office. If Cllrs would like to look at the Forward Plan this would be kept in the Community Resource Centre.

06.97 Committee Reports

a) Allotments

Cllr W Herbert reported that he expects that all plots to be taken. He said that two plots need cleaning up.

b) Play Area

Cllr W Herbert reported that the Springy creatures need some attention. He asked the Council if they now could be replaced. Council agreed. Clerk to get a quote.

c) Village Green Management Committee General Maintenance.

Tractor and mower maintenance.

Cllr W Herbert reported the Ferguson needs some paintwork and mechanical attention. The quote had not been received at the time of the meeting.

Vandalism

Cllr W Herbert reported that the football pitch has been driven over by vandals three times in the past month, causing surface damage. Our PCSO and Clacton Police Station have been informed. He said part of a litter bin that was stolen has now turned up in Birch Avenue. We now have a complete bin to spare. Cllr W Herbert said a brick has been thrown through a new window at The Chapel.

Trees on Green

Cllr W Herbert reported Mrs. Simpson has requested a tree be planted in memory of her husband. A previous decision by the council was that we would only allow replacement trees in future.

It was suggested that this one could replace the large poplar tree which came down in the hurricane. This is in the area that she had in mind. Council agreed.

d) Planning

Four planning applications were examined- comments on each are shown

Application Number - 06/01634/FUL Residential ground floor extension and replacement detached garage. Crossways St Mary's Road Great Bentley Colchester.
Council had no objections.

Application Number – 06/01715/TAC 1 No. Purple prunus – prune and reshape. Large Tree (unknown species) in rear garden – reduce by one third and thin out. Hamilton House The Green Great Bentley Colchester.
Council had no objections.

Application Number 06/0171/TCA 1 No. Eucalyptus gunni – trim by 50%. 1 No. Oaks on the green – trim lower small branches. 1 No. Evergreen Oak – trim smaller branches. The moors The Green Great Bentley Colchester.
Council had no objections.

Application Number 06/01432/FUL Construction of reinforced concrete service reservoir and pumping station for public water supply and charge of use from agricultural land. Field Parcel 5862 (part) and 5725 North East of Flag Hill and North West Of South Heath Road Great Bentley.

Council supports this application; however they would like to see a condition put on that the landscape is maintained to a high standard in perpetuity

06.98 Other Reports

a) TDALC

No Report

b) Foot Paths

Nothing to report

c) Transport

Clerk advertised the vacancy for a transport representative. No replies to date.

d) Caretakers Report

The Caretaker's report was read out. Council noted report.

e) Tree Wardens Report

No Report

06.99 The Council approved the resolution that under section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies Act 1960 the public and the 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.....