

Minutes of Great Bentley Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 2nd August 2007 in the Village Hall

Present

Cllr Jonathan Hills, Cllr William Herbert, Cllr Peter De-Vaux Balbirnie, Cllr Yee Cheung, Cllr Ted Fox, Cllr David Gibbon, Cllr Robert Taylor

In Attendance

K. Paradise (Clerk) and 8 members of public.

Questions from the Public

A query was raised regarding overgrown hedging at the Junction of Tye Road and Weeley Road.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence received from Cllr I Morton, Cllr G Wright and Transport Representative Peter Harry.

2. Minutes

The meeting was asked to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 5th July 2007. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. Declaration of Interest

Affordable Housing – Cllr Ted Fox.

4. Matters Arising from the minutes of the last meeting

- Parish Council funding of railings outside Tesco may be possible.
- Donations of £100 from Great Bentley Cricket Club and £150 from Great Bentley Football Club have been received. Thank you letter sent to GBCC.

Clerk to write letter of thanks to GBFC.

- Essex Police have placed Plough Road Speedwatch on the waiting list for training.

5. PCSO

Sally Boyden reported that there had been a few alcohol related problems on Carnival Day. She suggested that more toilets were required during the days the Fair was on The Green.

Clerk to write to Carnival Committee to request the Fair pay for or bring two toilets in future years.

There was a burglary in the village during July and some abandoned vehicles. Sally is still awaiting training to use a speed gun but has been out with another officer using it on Thorrington Road and The Green.

A discussion was held regarding journey time for the PCSO from Thorpe Police Station to Great Bentley and time called away from the village for duty elsewhere.

Cllr Robert Taylor to talk to Essex Police

6. Correspondence

- Letter from Steven Cartwright asking permission to register an Orienteering Map.

Clerk to write letter giving permission.

- Mr Gibbs complained about the postal service in Great Bentley. The Sorting Office cannot open until 0830 each day which delays the delivery of post. The Clerk has spoken to the Royal Mail. Opening hours cannot be changed. No other complaints have been received.

Clerk to inform Mr Gibbs that no further action will be taken.

- The High Sheriff of Essex Award scheme leaflet is available.

Clerk to scan and e-mail to Councillors.

7. Information & Reports

None

8. County and District Councillors Reports

- i) County Councillor – Cllr Derek Robinson.

Cllr Robinson discussed waste recycling and the bus service, the no 78 has been cancelled. 200 people attended a meeting in Brightlingsea regarding this.

- ii) District Councillor – Cllr Lynda McWilliams

Cllr McWilliams discussed the TDC paint and repair program, re-useable waste, The Forge and the RCC AGM. Affordable Housing is on track and no update available yet regarding Tesco. The Clacton Carnival week is 11th – 19th August.

9. Lighting

Nothing to report.

10. Highways

- Proposed Planned Parish Visits for maintenance work.

All to gather information to be reviewed next meeting.

- The Surgery proposed road plan.

Clerk to send road plan to Parish Magazine with a request for public consultation.

Clerk to write to the Surgery to ask if the Surgery would make a contribution.

11. Wednesday Night Bikers

Cllr Ian Morton has insurance wording documentation.

Cllr Ian Morton to review documents

Agenda next time re welfare of the village people themselves.

12. War Memorial

Grant of £6000 awarded from ECC Community Initiatives Fund for repair works to the memorial.

Clerk to instruct Shipp to carry out work – proposed by Cllr R Taylor, seconded by Cllr T Fox. Work to be completed by 11th November, request program of works, may be done in 2 stages to ensure no works over the 11th November.

13. Web Site

Councillors page and Good Neighbours have been updated to reflect changes.

14. Neighbourhood Action Panel

No updates

15. Affordable Housing

No updates

16. Finance

01. Expenditure for the month approved, as per schedule. Proposed by Cllr Taylor, seconded by Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie, the cheques were signed.
02. Five cheques listed on 30th March 2007 did not reach the bank account. One for £455.00 was drawn from a Cheltenham & Gloucester account. A letter was sent to the previous clerk asking if she recalled who this was issued by. Nothing heard.

Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie to speak to Janet Bloomfield.

03. Documents returned to Allianz for inclusion of Fidelity Insurance. Await reply.
04. Letter from BT – Direct Debit is £4.50 cheaper per quarter. Agreed. Proposed by Cllr Taylor, seconded by Cllr Fox.

Clerk to contact BT

05. Annual Accounts. Chris Wright has completed Internal Audit. The accounts and annual governance statement were approved and signed by the Chairman.

17. Clerks Report

All correspondence derived from the last meeting has been completed.
The East of England Associations of Parish and Town Councils Regional Report is in the office.
The East Essex Area Forum on 13th September has moved venue to the Venture Centre at Lawford.
There is a Councillor Training Day 1 to be held on 18th October at Great Dunmow.
Tendring Local Strategic Partnership Executive board minutes of meeting held on 10th July are available at the office.
EALC AGM is on Wednesday 19th September at 6.15 pm.

18. Committee Reports

a) Allotments – play area – Village green Committee

Green Maintenance Committee report read out by Cllr Herbert. Report available at the Resource Centre.

- Clerk to e-mail Morton Contracts invoice to councillors**
- Clerk to inform Highways of 6 defects and to list these on the Planned Parish Visit list**
- Clerk to ask Bruce Landscape to replace rungs on child play apparatus.**

Letter received from EALC regarding all weather turf on cricket pitch.

Clerk to re write points in a check list in form of a risk assessment. Put the proposal in the Parish Magazine and ask for objectors to write to the Parish Council.

Cllr Gibbon raised the point that Ragwort is becoming a serious problem. It affects properties and will kill animals. It needs to be sprayed in spring time before stem extension or be pulled out.

Clerk to inform Highways

Weeley Road Water Course – Environment Agency have no plans for ditch clearance due to shortage of funds.

Bentley contracts have sprayed The Green.

b) Planning Committee

03/01522/FUL David Lloyd Worn Amended Description No Objection	Continuation of change of use of redundant piggery and yard area for storage of new and secondhand vehicle spares, recovery lorry, mobile workshop and vans owned by applicant. Manufacturing of concrete products (Weeley Concrete) and storage of caravans	Risbys Farm Shair Lane Great Bentley
07/00472/FUL Mr T Simmons & Mrs M Johnstone No Objection	Erection of detached house	Land adj. 2 Purple Cottages New Cut Great Bentley
07/01169/FUL Amber Leisure No Objection	Raised deck to caravan (4 White Beam)	Bentley Country Park Flag Hill Great Bentley
07/01179/CON Great Bentley Football Club No Objection	Demolition of existing changing block and erection of new replacement changing block	Great Bentley Football Club The Green Great Bentley
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<p>07/01220/FUL Mr & Mrs Hunt</p> <p>Object Inappropriate, bad design, lack of detail in drawing with regard to extension. GBPC don't mind in principle but would prefer to see a better vernacular.</p>	<p>Extension and alterations</p>	<p>4 Thorrington Road Great Bentley</p>
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Clerk to pass comments to Planning Dept.

19. Other Reports

- a) **TDALC** – Concern that Standing Orders may conflict

Clerk to look out for advice from TDALC

Arlesford has become a Quality Council. This could potentially happen in the future. It enables Parish Councils to be delegated more responsibilities from the District Council.

- b) **Footpaths** – Heckford Road to Sturrick Lane has been cleared by Highways.
- c) **Transport** – Report from Peter Harry read out.
- d) **Caretakers Report** – Report from David Tyler read out.

Clerk to write in Parish Magazine regarding recycling that has been left outside the recycling banks.

20. Best Kept Village

Great Bentley received a merit in the RCCE Best Kept Village Competition. The 2008 competition is launched in January.

Clerk to put this on January agenda.

21. Questions from the Public

There are lights out in Finch Drive, left hand side and the lay by. Light out in Larkfield.

Cllr Taylor will report.

The allotment 2nd in by the gate is waist high with weeds and seeding onto other allotments.

Cllr Herbert will task H Tweed to trim. The allotment will not be let out to current tenant again.

The Carnival toilets were tipped over on Saturday night/Sunday morning. 2 Carnival Committee members cleaned The Green the next day. Request toilet block on wheels next year.

Clerk to note

Encroachment on to The Green by the occupant of Nimrod. There is no record of warnings. Suggest a letter be written to the occupant. Agreed.

Clerk to draft letter to confirm occupant to place path edging to definitively mark boundary between their property and The Green. The occupants may at any time be asked to reinstate The Green back to its original boundary. Send by Recorded Delivery.

Cllr Wright to reply to unsigned letter in Parish Magazine regarding the Parish Council.