

**Minutes of The Great Bentley Parish Council Meeting**  
**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2007 in the Village Hall**

**Present**

Cllr Jonathan Hills (Chairman, Cllr William Herbert(Vice Chairman), Cllr David Gibbon, Cllr Roger Adams , Cllr Robert Taylor, Cllr Ian Morton  
Cllr Peter De-Vaux Balbirnie arrived part way through the meeting.

**In Attendance**

C. R. Finn (Stand in Clerk), ECC Councillor D Robinson, PC Andy Hughes, Approximately 14 members of public, reporter from Clacton Gazette.

**Questions from the Public**

A lady Mrs McWilliams reported that a large caravan on a transporter had been brought through the village before 9 am and had caused considerable traffic problems due to its width. PC Hughes volunteered to speak to caravan site owners and point out the problems this can cause.

**PC Hughes to speak to caravan site owners.**

A question was asked about the questionnaire regarding the Wednesday bikers which has been distributed in the Parish Magazine. The chairman said that the results of this survey would be analysed and a report given at the next meeting.

Mr Scot Young, representing the youth section of the football club outlined the popularity of the youth section and the consequential swelling of numbers. He said that they really needed more pitches on the green. The chairman proposed that the club write to the council detailing their exact requirements and how they proposed to accommodate the additional numbers, especially with regard to car parking.

Cllr. Taylor advised the football club that the council had budgeted for a £100 grant for them which had not yet been applied for.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies received from Cllr Fox, Cllr. Wright

**2. Minutes**

The meeting was asked to approve the minutes of the meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> January. Subject to clarifying that only one councillor at a time will attend the surgery (07.117a), and that there are also potholes in Heckford Road (07.117b), proposed by Cllr Herbert seconded by Cllr Adams, the minutes were approved and signed by the chairman.

**3. Declaration of Interest**

Cllr. R. Adams declared a possible interest in anything regarding M. Dorling.

#### **4. Correspondence**

- Letter from Great Bentley Running Club asking to use the green for car parking on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February for a fun run. Agreed that this would be allowed providing the club has the necessary public liability insurance.  
**Clerk to contact club and check on insurance.**
- Highways – details of various road closures
- Great Bentley Gardening Club – wish to hold a plant sale on the green on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May. Agreed that this would be alright providing that they have the necessary insurance cover.  
**Clerk to write to Gardening Club to check on insurance.**
- Great Bentley Football Club – Letter outlining their plans to refurbish the clubhouse and rebuild the changing rooms. After some discussion it was agreed that more information was required regarding the terms of the lease, any special permissions necessary plus detailed plans of the proposed development. It was agreed that Cllr. Herbert should represent the parish on the football club's working party and report back to the council and that the clerk should look out details of the lease(s).  
**Cllr. Herbert to contact football club re working party meetings**  
**Clerk to get details of Lease(s).**
- Great Bentley Village Hall – details of Annual General Meeting. Cllr. Adams will be attending.
- Email from a resident of New Cut, asking if the council could help to persuade the Tesco Store to clean up its act with regard to packaging materials left outside the store.  
**Clerk to write to Tesco Head Office and the Great Bentley Store after first having sight of the nuisance.**
- Email requesting that the memorial bench situated near the post office and recycling area be re-varnished/treated. Agreed that this will be done. Cllr Herbert agreed to organise.  
**Cllr. Herbert to arrange for bench to be treated with appropriate coating.**  
**Clerk to advise lady who reported problem.**
- St Mary's Church – Letter asking for permission to erect notices on the green advertising church events. Agreed this would be allowed.  
**Clerk to write to church.**
- Email asking how to obtain permission to hold a wedding reception in a marquee on the green. Agreed that it could be feasible but details of car parking arrangements plus insurance issues must be provided.  
**Clerk to write to applicant detailing the council's requirements.**

#### **5. County and District Councillors Reports**

Cllr. D. Robinson said that there a delay in the details of gravel extraction. He thought that this may now be available in April/May.

Councillors highlighted some of the delays experienced in getting highways faults rectified. Cllr Robinson said that he would always follow these items up if he was made aware. Agreed that a copy of Highway Defect Report forms should be sent to Cllr. Robinson.

**Clerk to arrange for copy of Defect Reports to go to Cllr Robinson.**

Cllr. R. Taylor reported that TDC appeared to be heading for a 4.9% increase in Council Tax.

## **6. Update**

### **a) Policing**

PC Andy Hughes reported that a new PCSO had been appointed to Great Bentley and would be starting as soon as her training was completed, probably March.

Recent crimes were a burglary at the school where an OHP and laptop had been stolen and a vehicle causing problems on the green where the driver has been arrested and will be charged with dangerous driving.

### **b) Highways**

Footway in Station Road has been completed and appears ok.

### **c) Lighting**

Cllr. Taylor had circulated a list of all outages during the last year.

### **d) War Memorial**

Cllr. Herbert reported that a grant application had been sent and was currently being processed.

### **e) Bikers**

Questionnaires had started to be returned and will be analysed and a report prepared for next months meeting. It is to be hoped that all responses will be returned in the next two weeks.

### **f) Affordable Housing**

Letter received from Rural Housing Trust detailing their actions over the preceding months with regard to submitting the planning application. Councillors were very concerned that the parish council had been included as a joint applicant on the application as they felt that they had not been provided with sufficient details of the property design to approve it. It was agreed that the Rural Housing Trust should be asked to withdraw the application pending approval of the design by the council .

**Clerk to inform Rural Housing Trust of council's views.**

### **g) Resource Centre**

Councillors agreed that there was still a need to monitor the use of the centre.

**Clerk to ensure monitoring of usage is continued.**

### **h) Web Site**

i) To be new item on Agenda. Council minutes to be put on as soon as available.

## **7. Finance**

### **a) Approval of Expenditure for the month as per schedule**

Proposed by Cllr. Adams seconded by Cllr. Gibbons, the cheques were signed

### **b) Budget**

Cllr. Taylor reported that version G of the budget was ready for approval and implementation.

Proposed by Cllr Herbert and seconded by Cllr Adams, the budget was approved.

## **8. Clerks Report**

British gas are sending someone to clean up their mess on the green.

Highways have said that the junction of the A133/Heckford road cannot be altered as there is insufficient room.

Dates and times of councillors surgeries are on notice boards.

Biffia playground grant money will go to bank on Friday.

## **9. Caretakers Report**

The Resource Centre Notice Boards showing whether it is open or closed need replacing as they have disappeared.

**Clerk to arrange for new boards.**

## **10. Committee Reports**

### **a) Village Green**

The possibility of changing some road to green and green to road in the vicinity of the doctor's surgery in order to alleviate congestion was discussed. It was generally agreed that it might be a feasible solution but more detailed plans and measurements would be required and common land regulations looked into. Cllr Hills agreed to get some plans drawn.

**Cllr Hills to get some plans drawn.**

Football Club have asked if the electricity pole near their clubhouse could be moved. It was generally felt that this would not be a practical proposition or would be very expensive

Cricket Club have asked if they could lay an Astro turf pitch on the green. Cllr Hills suggested that more details should be provided on the appearance of such a pitch in the way of photographs and/or samples of the material when the council could consider it further.

**Green Committee to pass comments to cricket club.**

Estimates had been obtained from Bruce Landscapes to replace the two spring mobiles in the play area. These were £1520 for polyethylene or £1830 for aluminium. Cllr Taylor said that the money could be found from this year's plus next years budget. Proposed by Cllr Gibbons, seconded by Cllr Herbert, and agreed that installation of the aluminium option should be carried out but that works on the basketball court estimated at £735 should be held in abeyance.

**Clerk to order work to be carried out.**

#### **11. Further Questions from the Public.**

It was reported that there are several lumps of concrete on the road at Lufkins crossroad, apparently covering drains.

**Clerk to investigate and report to Highways.**

A request was made that details of Financial Transactions were made available to the public. The chairman apologised that these had not been circulated.

Several people objected to the fact that a new PCSO had been appointed after just one year of work by the existing one as she was now familiar with the village and residents with her. Councillors agreed with this but pointed out that this was beyond their control as it was entirely a police matter.

It was suggested that the cost of replacement play equipment should be put in the Parish Magazine in the hope that some users of the equipment might wish to contribute towards the cost.

The Meeting Closed at 21.30 and the public left the room.

## Planning

The following applications were discussed, comments are shown bold.

06/01204/FUL – Timber balcony to caravan holiday home Bentley Country Park

**NO OBJECTIONS**

06/01914/FUL – Raised deck to caravan Bentley Country Park

**NO OBJECTIONS**

06/02089/FUL - Raised deck to caravan Bentley Country Park

**NO OBJECTIONS**

06/02097/TCA – Cut down Eucalyptus & Fir tree Timbers, Weeley Rd

**NO OBJECTIONS** and reduce sycamores

06/01711/FUL – Erection of general purpose agricultural building Crabtree Farm

**NO OBJECTIONS**

06/02053/Detail – Proposed detached house land adj. Bouverie St Mary's Rd

**NO OBJECTIONS**

Enforcement appeal concerning land Lynton, Weeley Rd Great Bentley

**It was agreed that the parish council should back up the views of TDC in this enforcement.**

**Clerk to pass comments to Planning**

## Other Business

Cllr Adams informed councillors that he had spoken to Bernard Jenkin MP who said that he would be prepared to chair a meeting with all interested parties regarding the bikers meeting. It was agreed that the police, ECC Highways, TDC Environmental Health and Parish Council should be represented at such a meeting. Agreed that the clerk should arrange the meeting at a time and date agreeable to all parties.

**Clerk to arrange meeting**