

Minutes of Great Bentley Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 7th June 2007 in the Village Hall

Present

Cllr Jonathan Hills, Cllr William Herbert, Cllr Peter De-Vaux Balbirnie, Cllr David Gibbon, Cllr Robert Taylor, Cllr George Wright.

In Attendance

K. Paradise (Clerk) and 7 members of public.

Questions from the Public

It was suggested that the Parish Annual Meeting be held on a different evening to the Annual Parish Council Meeting and that organisations within the community could be invited.

The sight line opposite Abbey Cottages has been obscured.

Clerk to inform the Highways Dept

Request opening times of the Resource Centre to be published more clearly.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence received from Cllr I Morton, County Cllr D Robinson and PCSO Sally Boyden

2. Minutes

The meeting was asked to approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of 10th May 2007. The minutes were approved and then signed by the Chairman.

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting were approved by the Parish Council but will need to be approved at the next Parish Meeting.

3. Declaration of Interest

None

4. New Code of Conduct and New Councillors Appointed

The Council adopted the new Code of Conduct. Prior to the meeting, a discussion was held and a vote taken to co-opt 2 new Councillors to the Council. The new Councillors are Mr Ted Fox and Miss Y Cheung. Miss Cheung signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was invited to join the Council Meeting.

Clerk to send new Councillors 'Councillor Packs'

5. Property & Asset Annual Report under Standing Order 16a

Clerk handed out list of property and Assets belonging to Great Bentley Parish Council

6. Matters Arising from the minutes of the last meeting

Nothing to report

7. Correspondence

- TDC – Local Development Framework. TDC is producing a Statement of Community Involvement, which will set out how it will engage with the community during the production of the Local Development Framework, but also in the consideration of planning applications. As the first stage TDC has prepared a questionnaire in order to better understand how people would wish to be consulted. Questionnaires to be returned to TDC before 4pm 22nd June.

Clerk to place Newsletter and a Questionnaire on Parish Notice Board. Questionnaires held at the Resource Centre. Clerk to write to TDC.

- Newsletter re Gypsy Sites

Clerk to place on Resource Centre notice board.

- Letter from the Great Bentley Show Chairman requesting toilets for the event on 1st September.

Clerk to write informing toilets already booked.

- Letters from TDC and Able Signs regarding no smoking from 1st July.

No action required.

- Letter from Great Bentley Conservation Group inviting members of Great Bentley Parish Council to attend its AGM on 11th July.

Clerk to write informing a Councillor will attend.

- E-mail from Mr Emerton regarding traffic congestion around Station Road/The Cut.

Clerk to reply to Mr Emerton. Clerk to report to Highways. Clerk to e-mail D Robinson and copy to L McWilliams to see if anything can be done.

- Letter from Mrs B Harvey regarding the road fronting the Doctors Surgery.

Clerk to reply to Mrs Harvey.

Clerk to retrieve drawing compiled by Chris Morris and write a letter to Essex County Highways. Clerk to write to Hugh Cronin, Practice Manager, informing him the Parish Councils intention to create extra parking and request height of wall lowered to 1 metre to increase sight line.

- Correspondence from previous clerk Janet Bloomfield

Chairman dealing with this.

8. Information & Reports

Village Library Service.

Clerk to write to ECC Library Service, copy to D Robinson. Request clarification of intended new route. Monitor and report at next meeting.

9. County and District Councillors Reports

- i) County Councillor – Cllr Derek Robinson

ii) District Councillor – Cllr Lynda McWilliams

Cllr Lynda McWilliams reported that although not in the Constitution, the Conservative Party have set up a shadow cabinet within TDC. She is a representative for the Environment and has already attended Planning, Code of Conduct and Induction courses. Cllr McWilliams is on HR and Regulatory Committees and is attending as many meetings as possible. She has attended the Local Development Framework.

Cllr McWilliams Cllr Herbert & Cllr Robinson are to meet at Tesco to discuss traffic concerns which will be forwarded to Highways.

10. Lighting

A member of the public has reported to Cllr Taylor that it is very dark at the far end of St Mary's Road in the area of Carpenters Farm.

Parish Council to allow money for a budget at this stage.

Clerk to write to Carpenters Farm to report this is being considered and to ask if they would like to make a contribution.

11. Highways

5 reports have been sent to Highways this month.

The erosion of the kerb at Lufkin's Farm Crossroad where concrete drains are protruding has still not been dealt with by Highways.

Clerk to contact Highways thanking them for jobs completed so far. Report Lufkin's Farm and Abbey Cottages still outstanding.

12. Policing and PCSO

PCSO Sally Boyden was called away on Police duties just before the meeting. The Clerk read out her report.

She wished to thank the community for making her feel so welcome. There are now two new powers:

Littering - £75 fine

Dog fouling - £50 fine

These must be witnessed by the PCSO.

Sally feels that there should be cigarette bins placed on The Green next to seats to give members of the public the opportunity not to litter, especially in light of the above.

Sally met the Judges of the Best Kept Village Competition.

Clerk to report the new powers in the Parish Magazine – littering includes cigarette butts.

The Parish Council have taken on board her comments re the bins but nothing will be done at present.

13. Wednesday Night Bikers

A group who were deliberating whether to manage the bikers have declined. Wait to see if a new group who have shown interest might. Cllr Gibbon reported that a Motorbike Instructor has shown interest in taking on this task.

Note to see if this progresses. To be discussed at next meeting.

14. War Memorial

Grant application sent to TCVS. Awaiting outcome.

15. Web Site

Clerk has spoken to Rob McWilliams – he will continue with updates and will put unapproved minutes on the site.

**Clerk to send updates to Rob McWilliams regarding new Councillors.
Clerk to write a letter of thanks to Rob McWilliams for his work.**

16. Affordable Housing

There may be a problem with Highways regarding this.

Cllr De-Vaux Balbirnie to investigate.

17. Neighbourhood Action Panel

Speed Watch Action Panel.

This should have been read out in correspondence rather than here. Letter from M Stevenson regarding proposed Community Speed Watch for Plough Road. Now have a group of individuals who wish to take part. Letter requesting them to be put forward to the local police as a group to be trained for the Community Speed Watch for Plough Road.

**Clerk to write to Mr Stevenson.
Clerk to put forward the group to the police.**

18. Finance

Expenditure for the month approved, as per schedule. Proposed by Cllr Gibbon, seconded by Cllr Taylor, the cheques were signed.

Clerk to write to RoSPA informing them that a report is no longer required for Aingers Green as site is closed.

19. Clerks Report

Chris Wright will carry out internal audit.

Thank you to Lynda McWilliams for sending the Village Hall Meeting Minutes to the Parish Council.

Thank you to Peter Harry for Transport report.

Letter sent to Great Bentley Youth Football Club confirming Football Festival on 14-15th July.

Hanningfield Awards 2007 applications sent to Explorer Scouts, 1st Great Bentley Scouts, Youth FC, and Youth Cricket Club. No application forms requested from the Resource Centre.

Letter to Great Bentley Running Club denying permission to park on The Green.

Clerk to draft standard letter for not parking on The Green and asking for a contribution for the upkeep of The Green.

20. Committee Reports

a) Allotments – play area – Village green Committee

Green Maintenance Committee report read out by Cllr Herbert. Report available at the Resource Centre. Fertilizer is to be spread on The Green at 6am one morning week commencing 11th June.

Note: Lime to be added to fertilizer next year.

Clerk to contact the dog warden to request regular attendance at The Green.

Clerk to write letter addressed to owners of vehicle who have been parking overnight on the Green at the end of Birch Estate and next to the Cricket Club. The PCSO will be asked to attach letter to the car.

Cllr Herbert to submit RoSPA report to Bruce Landscapes for action.

Cllr Gibbon to contact Tuckwells for hire of an aerator.

Weeds are growing on the road edges. Large puddle Plough Road between Village Hall and Station beside where parents walk with school children. Holes appearing outside Methodist Chapel and Railway station. Pavement surface outside Great Bentley Garage.

Clerk to contact Highways

Letter from Friends of The Green stating concerns regarding the Cricket Club's proposal for an all weather pitch to be laid on The Green.

The concerns stated had already been discussed at the meeting of 10th May 2007.

Clerk apologised for not realising she should have checked with the National Association if artificial turf is against the Commons Act.

Clerk to check above.

b) Planning Committee

W/e 11/5/07

07/00730/FUL Mr & Mrs Ramsey No Objection	Raised decking to caravan (8 Beech Way)	Bentley Country Park Flag Hill Great Bentley
07/00731/FUL Mr & Mrs Allen No Objection	Raised decking to caravan (10 Willows Close)	Bentley Country Park Flag Hill Great Bentley

W/e 18/5/07

07/00630/FUL Worldwide Commodities Do not object to development per say: 1. This is over development of the plot. 2. Cannot see any access. 3. There should not be access at all onto Heckfords Road and there is no permissible access to rear over agricultural land. 4. If this is minded to be approved we request it should go to the Full Planning Committee after a site visit. 5. Adjacent property – Corner Cottage – not shown correctly on plan. 6. Proposed garage is on agricultural land. 7. Heckfords Road entrance is dangerous on this bend.	New three bedroom detached house and detached garage.	The Corner Cottage The Green Great Bentley
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<p>07/00755/FUL Mr & Mrs W Leader No Objection</p>	<p>Timber balcony to caravan holiday home. (10 Whitebeam).</p>	<p>Bentley Country Park Flag Hill Great Bentley</p>
<p>W/e 25/5/07</p>		
<p>07/00786/FUL W & M Stobbs No Objection</p>	<p>Proposed demolition of existing shop and erection of replacement. See 07/00788/CON.</p>	<p>Bentley Green Stores Plough Road Great Bentley</p>
<p>07/00884/TCA Ian Allston Recommend that if possible, that tree is lopped rather than removed for preservation of the skyline.</p>	<p>1 No. Eucalyptus - fell</p>	<p>Pond House The Green Great Bentley</p>
<p>W/e 1/6/07</p>		
<p>07/00834/FUL Mr & Mrs P Hegarty No Objection</p>	<p>Demolition of existing outbuildings and conservatory and erection of side extension to form living room.</p>	<p>Crossways St Mary's Road Great Bentley</p>
<p>07/00855/LUEX R Gosling & Son No objection under condition that no other buildings be changed from agricultural use to commercial/industrial use.</p>	<p>Use of buildings D and E for B2 general industrial and building A and B for general storage and distribution.</p>	<p>South Heath Farm South Heath Road Great Bentley</p>
<p>07/00864/FUL Mr & Mrs P Hyams No Objections</p>	<p>Timber balcony to caravan (5 Hedgerows)</p>	<p>Bentley Country Park Flag Hill Great Bentley</p>
<p>07/00865/FUL Mr & Mrs R Byrne No Objections</p>	<p>Timber balcony to caravan (7 Birch Drive)</p>	<p>Bentley Country Park Flag Hill Great Bentley</p>
<p>To today's date, 7/6/07</p>		
<p>07/00710/FUL Ms A Cook No objection in principle, however, we are concerned that the building as drawn at the present time may encroach onto the common land of The Green. This in no way gives permission to encroach onto the common land which is owned by the Parish Council. We would suggest that a clearer land edged red drawing is provided in order that clarification can be gained that</p>	<p>Change of use from Forge to Office inc extensions and alterations.</p>	<p>The Forge, The Green, Great Bentley.</p>

<p>this does not encroach on registered common land. Also subject to being single storey.</p> <p>Clerk to look in records re land.</p>		
<p>07/00788/CON W & M Stobbs No Objection</p>	<p>Demolition of existing shop and erection of replacement. See 07/00786/FUL</p>	<p>Bentley Green Stores, Plough Road, Great Bentley</p>
<p>07/00883/FUL Wright Ruffell Ltd No objection</p>	<p>07/00883/FUL Change of use from B1-B8 to A1 (Preparation and sale of sandwiches).</p>	<p>Unit C9, Plough Road Centre, Plough Road, Great Bentley.</p>

Clerk to pass comments to Planning Dept.

21. Other Reports

- a) **TDALC** – Await minutes.
- b) **Footpaths** – Nothing to Report.
- c) **Transport - Peter** Harry reports that the Hospital Hopper bus service will stop at the junction of Weeley Road, Aingers Green to pick up and drop off by prior arrangement. If Hopper required telephone the service the day before to book. A notice will be compiled by Peter Harry to be included in the Aingers Green notice board.
- d) **d) Caretakers Report** – David Tylers report was read out.

22. Questions from the Public.

A member of the public agreed with comments made regarding litter bins.

A comment was made that the cricket outfield is the best it has looked for 25 years.

A discussion regarding litter on the Green left after the Wednesday Bikers Nights. It was noted that the litter did not originate from the bikers but from occupants of cars who park to watch the bikes and also from children playing football on The Green.

Clerk to contact PCSO to ask if she can monitor this.

Parish Council was asked if it would consider buying new mobile bins for the carnival day.

Does the Parish Council need to put signs regarding ‘own responsibility’ when on the Green.

Clerk to pass this issue to Cllr Morton to investigate.