

Minutes of The Great Bentley Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 1st March 2007 in the Village Hall

Pre Meeting

Presentation by Mineral Services Ltd, on proposed aggregate extraction and reservoir construction at Lufkins Farm.

Councillors and members of the public were given a handout detailing the proposed site of the reservoir and implications on traffic movements. Mr. Orrock explained the route that the lorries would be using and how the reservoir would eventually be landscaped and utilised. Questions were invited. No further action is required until the planning application is received.

Main Meeting

Present

Cllr Jonathan Hills (Chairman), Cllr William Herbert (Vice Chairman), Cllr David Gibbon, Cllr. George Wright, Cllr Roger Adams, Cllr Ian Morton, Cllr Peter De-Vaux Balbirnie

In Attendance

C. R. Finn (Stand in Clerk), ECC Councillor D Robinson, Approximately 18 members of public.

Questions from the Public

It was proposed that details of the Parish Council's budget should be published in the Parish Magazine. This was agreed.

Clerk to send copy of budget to editor

Concerns were expressed regarding mess and inconsiderate parking in New Cut. Agreed that TDC Parking Enforcement should be tasked to check periodically.

Clerk to task Parking Enforcement.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr Robert Taylor and Cllr Fox. The chairman proposed that a Get Well card should be sent to Cllr Fox. This was agreed.

Clerk to send card from council to Councillor Fox's home.

2. Minutes

The meeting was asked to approve the minutes of the meeting of 1st February Proposed by Cllr Adams, seconded by Cllr Morton, 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.

3a. Appointment of New Clerk

The chairman announced that a letter of resignation had been received from Janet Bloomfield, as of 1st February. Councillors had interviewed and selected a new clerk to take over with immediate effect. Mrs. Karen Paradise was introduced to the meeting.

4. Matters Arising from the minutes of the last meeting

Football Club expansion plans – Clerk read out letter received from the Great Bentley Youth Football Club explaining how the club had expanded and now required another mini pitch.

Cllr. Herbert had prepared a report on the expansion plans, which he read to the meeting.

He also reported that there was room for a mini pitch between the main pitch and Heckford Road. The main point of contention was the times during which matches could be played on Sundays. It was generally agreed that Sunday afternoons should be kept football free.

It was proposed by Cllr Wright, seconded by Cllr Morton that football should only be allowed on Sundays between the hours of 10am and 1pm. This was agreed by a majority of five votes for and one against.

Clerk to write to Football Club detailing councils decision.

Lufkins Farm crossroads – Clerk reported that he had inspected this area and could find no lumps of concrete in the road. Cllr Adams suggested that these were in fact kerbs covering culverts which, because of erosion to verges, now appear to be in the carriageway.

Clerk to report kerb erosion to Highways.

5. Correspondence

- Great Bentley Carnival and Fete – letter requesting use of the Green for Carnival and Fete on Saturday 30th June 2007. Agreed that permission be granted under the usual terms and condition and that the clerk should book the mobile toilets as in previous years.

Clerk to advise organisers and to book mobile toilets

- Bentley in Bloom acknowledging receipt of grant of £450 and asking that a budget provision for them is included in 2007/8.
- Great Bentley Conservation Group – Letter asking permission for a children's Pond Dipping event at the pond during school holidays. Agreed that this was acceptable providing all children taking part would be adequately supervised.

Clerk to write to Conservation Group.

- TDC – Notification of precept credit dates.
- TDC – Forward Plan.
- TDC – Council Summons & Agenda.
- TDC Seminar on Special Expenses – Agreed new clerk should attend if possible.

Clerk to reserve place at seminar.

6. Information and Reports

Nothing to report.

7. County and District Councillors Reports

Cllr. D. Robinson said he had a letter from a lady concerned about parking at the Doctors specifically for wheelchair users.

Library will possibly be fortnightly rather than weekly

Details of gravel extraction still not available.

Cllr. Balbirnie circulated a summary of Service Achievements for TDC and reported that the current administration had recovered the £8m debt that they inherited.

8. Update

a) Lighting

Nothing to report

b) Highways

Cllr. Gibbon reported that a lady had asked him to raise the matter of speeding traffic in the approach road to the pharmacy. Cllr Herbert said that this matter had been investigated previously and no real solution found. Agreed concerns should be passed on to Highways and the pharmacy.

Clerk to write to Highways and Pharmacy.

c) Policing and PCSO

No reports received from the police. Councillors were generally concerned about the lack of control over work performed by the PCSO. No timesheet was available to the council in spite of the fact that half of the PCSO's salary is paid by the council. It was agreed that this matter could be raised at the meeting with Bernard Jenkin and Inspector Gardener later in the month.

Councillors attending meeting on 23rd March to raise matter of PCSO .

d) Wednesday Night Bikers.

Clerk circulated an analysis of the 54 questionnaires returned (out of 1000 issued).

Generally the feelings of the public were quite balanced as to those in favour of the motorcyclists and those who would like to see them stopped. There was in fact just a slight leaning towards those in favour and taking account of the large percentage who did not complete the questionnaire, statistically it must be assumed that most people are not specifically against bikers.

Councillors are still concerned that the meeting should be organised into some form of club so that the whole group could be covered by some form of insurance. The chairman suggested that those people who indicated on the questionnaire that they would be prepared to join the parish council, should be asked to help in trying to organise the motorcyclists into a club.

Clerk to write to selected persons from questionnaires.

e) War Memorial

Letter received from Awards for All rejecting grant request for War Memorial work. Cllr. Herbert said that he had application forms for two other possible sources of grants. These were passed to the clerk for action and further investigation.

Clerk to investigate sources of funding and apply for grant where possible.

Cllr Herbert to provide clerk with detail of work to be carried out at war memorial.

f) Web Site

Clerk was asked to ensure that minutes were always put on web site.

Clerk to send minutes to Rob McWilliams for inclusion on web site at same time as distribution to councillors.

g) Affordable Housing

Clerk reported that he had spoken to Anne Bishop of Rural Housing Trust who confirmed that she had asked for the parish council's name to be removed from the planning application and that their architect was currently preparing details of the design for presentation to the council.

9. Finance

Approval of Expenditure for the month as per schedule. Proposed by Cllr. Balbirnie, seconded by Cllr Wright, the cheques were signed.

10. Clerks Report

£100 Tree Grant has been received.

Fly tipping rubbish in Aingers Green has been removed by TDC

Similar in Heckford Road has been reported to TDC.

The parish council meeting room has been booked for Thursday 10th May rather than 3rd May because of elections.

The Community Centre notice board open/closed signs have been made.

Meeting with Bernard Jenkin to discuss the situation with Wednesday Bikers, has been arranged for Friday 23rd March at 3pm at the Village Hall. Police Inspector Gardener and Sergeant Hastings have been invited. It was noted that nobody from Highways or Environmental Health appear to have been invited.

Clerk to invite representative from Highways and Environmental Health to meeting.

11. Committee Reports

a) Village Green Committee

Cllr. Herbert presented the report of the committee.

Mr Alan Gosling of South Heath Farm, has been supplying the council's tractors with diesel at no cost since January 2006. It was agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent.

Clerk to send letter of thanks to Mr. Gosling.

The proposal to change the layout of the green at the doctor's surgery will have to be referred to DEFRA. Agreed that councillors meet at the site on Monday 5th March at 9am to discuss proposals.

Councillors meet at Doctors Surgery on Monday 5th March at 9am

The committee proposed that large organisations using the green should be asked for a contribution towards upkeep. Cllr. Adams proposed and Cllr. Wright seconded the proposal that organisations be asked for a donation of £50 towards upkeep of the green. Where and when such donation is requested shall be the sole prerogative of the full council.

Allotment plot 30 has become vacant and new person is to take it over. Clerk is asked to send agreement to new applicant.

Clerk to send out agreement and invoice.

b) Planning Committee – this item was moved to end of meeting.

12 Other Reports

a) **TDALC** – Nothing to report

b) **Footpaths** – Nothing to report.

c) **Transport** – Nothing to report

d) **Caretakers Report** – David Tylers report was read out.

e) **Doctor Retiring** – The chairman reported that Dr. Steiner is retiring and suggested that the council may wish to contribute towards his leaving gift . Proposed by Cllr Adams, seconded by Cllr Gibbon that a donation of £50 should be made. This was agreed.

f) **Public Information** – It was proposed by Cllr Hills and seconded by Cllr Morton that a list of Public events which are booked for the green should be detailed on the notice boards This was agreed.

Clerk to publish list of booked public events on notice boards.

Clerk was asked to produce a rota for councillor's surgeries to be held at the Resource Centre on the second Saturday after the council meeting, every month.

Clerk to produce rota

13. Land owned by council at corner of Birch Avenue.

The chairman announced that although this item was normally discussed without members of the public being present, he felt that the issue had now proceeded far enough to allow the public to be informed.

He reported that discussions had been taking place regarding the sale of this land to Bovis Homes as part of the development they were proposing on Mr Simmons land. Agreement has been reached regarding the sale of this land but currently no further progress can be made due to the condition of the proposed building site.

14. Further Questions from the Public.

Mrs Turner of Conservation Group raised concerns about the number of toads being killed on the road apparently because they were unable to get up the high verge to get to the pond. Councillors explained that they could not give permission for a ramp to be installed on the highway.

A question was raised as to whether any sheltered/low cost housing would be included in the Bovis development. Cllr Balbirnie explained that current regulations stipulated that at least 25% should come into this category..

Mrs. McWilliams asked if the village was entering the village of the year competition. Clerk agreed to check on whereabouts of application form.

Clerk to complete Village of Year Competition Form.

11 b) Planning Committee

Cllr. Hills declared an interest in application 07/00124/LBC and left the meeting whilst this was discussed.

Cllr Gibbon declared an interest in 07/00251/HRN

The following applications were discussed, comments are shown bold.

07/00124/LBC Mr Jonathan Hills NO OBJECTIONS – extension felt to be in keeping with rest of dwelling.	Two Storey rear extension	Grange Farm Barn Heckfords Road Great Bentley Colchester
07/00251/HRN Tending Hundred Water Services NO OBJECTIONS	Removal of 6 metre length of hedgerow On Dead Lane	Land at Junction of Dead Lane And Flag Hill Great Bentley Colchester
07/00191/ADV P. Morton & Son NO OBJECTIONS	Shop sign and direction board (hedgerow adjacent Collesbrook Road)	Carpenters Farm St Marys Road Great Bentley Colchester
07/00192/ADV P. Morton & Son NO OBJECTIONS	Shop sign and direction sign (hedgerow between Lodge Farm Lane and St Marys Road)	Childrens Play Area Plough Road Great Bentley Colchester

06/01931/FUL Mrs Thompson NO OBJECTIONS	Raised decking to caravan (4 Ash Drive)	Bentley Country Park Flag Hill Great Bentley Colchester
07/00234/FUL Mr & Mrs K Brown NO OBJECTIONS – all in keeping	Two storey extension to form kitchen, 2 bedrooms and bath/wc.	Tye Barn The Tye Road Great Bentley Colchester
07/00255/FUL Mr J Maugnton NO OBJECTIONS	First floor bedroom above existing garage	Killearnan St Marys Road Great Bentley Colchester

Clerk to pass comments to Planning Dept.