

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

Present

Cllr. Jonathan Hills (Chairman), Cllr William Herbert, Cllr Peter De-Vaux Balbirnie, Cllr Ted Fox, Cllr Robert Taylor, Cllr George Wright, Cllr. Ian Morton.

In Attendance

C. Finn (Acting Clerk) ECC Derek Robinson, District Councillor Lynda McWilliams and 7 members of public.

Questions from the Public

There were none.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr David Gibbon

2. Minutes

The meeting was asked to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 4th October 2007.

Proposed by Cllr. Herbert, seconded by Cllr. Wright , 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

There were none

5. PCSO

PCSO Sally Boyden read out report of incidents in the village from 1st October to date. There were three traffic accidents, three shoplifting and two theft incidents plus eggs being thrown on Halloween. On 19th/20th October there were youths drinking spirits in the play area which resulted in broken bottles being left all around the play equipment. This is being treated as a serious incident. PCSO Boydon is currently setting up a monthly surgery to be held on Tuesdays to coincide with the Luncheon Club at the Methodist Hall. Details of when this is to start will be publicised when known.

PCSO to finalise arrangement for surgery.

6. Clerks Report

All correspondence arising out of last meeting has been completed.

The police were asked to provide details of the youths who set fire to the bin in the spinney so that the clerk could write to the parents. The police refused to supply this information. Agreed that the clerk follow this up through Police HQ and should at least write to the one known culprit to ask for compensation for cost of a replacement bin.

Clerk to write to known culprit and order new bin.

7. Correspondence

Letter from Mr. F Strutt suggesting that some of the Dog Fouling Signs need replacing. Cllr. Balbirnie said that these signs were available from TDC and that he would obtain some and pass to Cllr. Herbert.

**Cllr Balbirnie to obtain Signs
Clerk to inform Mr Strutt of action being taken.**

Letter from Standards Board for England asking for confirmation that the council have adopted the new code of conduct.

Clerk to notify Standards Board of adoption

St Mary's Church – invitation to donate/sponsor a tree for their Christmas Tree Festival. Proposed by chairman, seconded by Cllr Balbirnie it was agreed that the council should donate £50 to the event perhaps to be used to provide a prize for the winning entrant.

Clerk to write to St Mary's Church offering donation of £50 – December Payments

Library NB

Copy of letter from Alistair Keeble Solicitors to Passmore's Solicitors regarding parking at Bluebell Cottage.

Letter from Conservation Group informing council action being taken to encourage growth of heather.

Libraries Services – details of proposed changes due to come into effect at end of November. Agreed new timings should be put on notice board.

Clerk to display new timings on notice boards when published

8. Information and Reports

None

9. County and District Councillors Report

i) County Councillor – Cllr Derek Robinson.

Proposals for railings outside Tescos have been prepared. A copy of proposal should be on its way to the Parish Council.

ii) District Councillor – Cllr Lynda McWilliams

Cllr McWilliams is in the process of organising a 'Clear up Day' currently scheduled for 8th December. One refuse vehicle and one recycling vehicle would be available from 8am to 11am to accept all types of items including old kitchen appliances etc.

It was agreed that the vehicles could be parked on the green.

One vehicle will also be available at Aingers Green.

Full details will be publicised when finalised.

10. Lighting

Cllr. Taylor reported that two lamp heads had been broken in Birch Avenue where Anglian Water contractors had been working. It was agreed that a claim should be made against Anglian Water for the repair of these lamps at the same time asking for the grassed area to be re-turfed to reinstate it to its previous standard.

Clerk to write to Anglian Water

11. Highways

Clerk reported that Highways have confirmed that a Vehicle Activated Speed sign is due to be installed in the current financial year.

Cllr Hills reported that a 45 gallon drum and some asbestos waste has been dumped alongside the lay-by in Heckfords Road.

Clerk to report rubbish in lay-by to TDC

12. Wednesday Night Bikers

Waiting to hear from RBL.

13. War Memorial

Poppy wreath was passed to Chairman and all councillors were advised of the Remembrance service on 11th November.

Chairman to lay wreath on 11th November.

14. Neighbourhood Action Panel

Cllr. Taylor reported that he had attended a meeting at Brightlingsea school which was well supported by members of the public airing their concerns which will be followed up.

15. Affordable Housing

The current application was discussed under Planning. The chairman explained that there was currently a difference of opinion between the Planning Officers, the developers and Highways regarding the layout of the road.

16. Tendring Voluntary Community Service

Manning of the office had commenced on 10th October although no feedback was available on number of visitors to the centre specifically for this purpose. Agreed that visitor numbers should be monitored.

Clerk to ask TVCS for details of number of visitors for next meeting.

17. Finance

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

Finance Committee meeting arranged for Wednesday 21st November at 7.30pm to discuss the budget for 2008/9. Cllr. Hills offered his apologies as he will be unable to attend.

Finance Committee members to attend meeting on 21st November.

Clerk reported that the current Guaranteed Investment Deposit Account was due to mature this month. Councillors were asked to agree into which type of account the money should be reinvested. It was agreed that a 3 month account should be used. The form was signed ready for submission to the bank.

Clerk to check on interest rate for agreed option and submit form.

18. Committee Reports

a) Allotments – play area – Village green Committee

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

Cllr Herbert said that no provision had so far been made for cleaning/replacement of the chains around the war memorial as part of the refurbishment. It was agreed that this was necessary and that the cost of such work should be obtained.

Cllr. Herbert to obtain estimate for cost of refurbishment or replacement of chains.

Car parking and driving on the green by cars from Chapel Terrace is still a problem in spite of letters being sent from the parish council. Discussions ensued about the best solution to the main problem which was cars driving across the green as a shortcut. It was suggested that trees could be planted or bollards erected to block the route or possibly a letter from a solicitor outlining the legalities. It was agreed that in the first instance a further letter should be sent from the council to the prime offenders. Cllr Taylor said that he could identify which houses should receive a letter and would pass this detail to the clerk.

**Cllr Taylor to identify addresses which need a letter
Clerk to write to identified addresses**

Cllr Herbert reported that there had been several reports of dogs pulling sledges and/or heavy weights on chains across the green. Although there was currently no apparent damage to the green concerns were expressed about the treatment of the dogs. Cllr. McWilliams stated that she had been monitoring these activities with the dogs and was aware that the RSPCA were currently investigating. It was agreed that this Dog Pulling should continue to be monitored by the council and should be put on future agendas.

Clerk to put Dog Pulling on agenda

Although there was no reason to doubt the competence or pricing of the current Tractor Maintenance person, the Green Committee felt that estimates should be obtained from other companies to ensure that the council was still getting best value for money. It was agreed that last years invoices should be looked out and other quotations obtained.

Clerk to look out tractor maintenance invoices.

The Forge – Cllr Balbirnie reported that the site is now clear.

Tree Planting Grant – Letter received from TDC offering a grant of £200. As this is more than was expected, it was agreed that a new Scots Pine should be purchased for Fir Tree Corner.

b) Planning Committee

07/01595/FUL Mr R Hale NO OBJECTIONS	Two storey side extension.	27 Woodgreen Estate Plough Road Great Bentley
07/01596/FUL Mr Burford NO OBJECTIONS	Raised decking to caravan.	Bentley Country Park Flag Hill Great Bentley

<p>06/02034/FUL RHT Developments NO OBJECTIONS – This application has now been examined by full council who are unanimous in approving this development. As already stated in previous correspondence, if officers recommend refusal of this application then it must go to committee for the final decision. This is a significant development not only for Great Bentley but for the whole of the Tendring District.</p>	<p>Construction of 12 no. new dwellings for social accommodation. SIGNIFICANTLY AMENDED SCHEME</p>	<p>St Marys Road Great Bentley Colchester</p>
<p>07/01630/FUL Mr & Mrs Smith NO OBJECTIONS</p>	<p>Proposed porch.</p>	<p>Burnside The Green Great Bentley</p>
<p>07/01745/FUL Mr P Stephens NO OBJECTIONS</p>	<p>First Floor Extension Resubmission of 07/00487/FUL</p>	<p>Timbers, Weeley Rd, Great Bentley</p>

19. Other Reports

- a) **TDALC** – Nothing to report
- b) **Footpaths-** Nothing to report
- c) **Transport** –Transport representative will be attending meeting on 13th November.
- d) **Caretakers Report** – Report from David Tyler read out. Report available at Resource Centre

20. Questions from the Public

It was mentioned that no further report had been made on The Spinney. Mr Dorling said that it had been inspected by the expert from ECC. Agreed that this should be put on next months agenda

Clerk to put The Spinney on as an Agenda Item for December Meeting

Cllr Taylor answered a question about why there was no progress on police speed guns. This was because the police had no more funding available for training of the operators.

Mr. Dorling suggested some items for consideration at the budget meeting –

- The swings at Aingers Green would be better utilised if they were moved to the main play area on the green. There was some discussion as to whether the swings are still at Aingers Green. If they are then the move will be considered.
- There was/is also a seat at Aingers Green which should be moved to a better location
- The Village sign needs painting.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm