

Minutes of Great Bentley Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 4th October 2007 in the Village Hall

Present

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

In Attendance

K. Paradise (Clerk) and 15 members of public.

Questions from the Public

A query was raised regarding flying a large kite with skate board attached on the Green, including the football pitch.

Permission should be asked and person must have third party insurance. The Football Club did not object but asked that it not be done if the ground is muddy.

A member of the public noted that it was agreed at the September meeting that weed spraying would be advertised in the Parish Magazine before commencement and that this had not been noted in the minutes.

Cllr Herbert amended the minutes.

The Great Bentley Village Hall Committee wish to place a cabinet in the Mitchell Room to display the Athill dolls.

It was noted that the rubbish left on the Green after the Biker Meetings was not rubbish emitting from the Burger Van sales but those from the Plough.

It was reiterated that work on the War Memorial will not start before Remembrance Sunday if it cannot be completed by that date.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr Jonathan Hills and Cllr Ian Morton.

2. Minutes

The meeting was asked to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 6th September 2007. The minutes were approved and signed by the Vice Chairman.

3. Declaration of Interest

Affordable Housing – Cllr Ted Fox.

Allotments – Cllr Robert Taylor.

4. Matters Arising from the minutes of the last meeting

Post Office. Action decided upon at last meeting put on hold.

Request from Conservation Group - EDF contracts now received

Clerk to contact EDF.

5. PCSO

PCSO Sally Boyden read out report of incidents in the village from 1st September to 1st October.

Cllr Gibbon suggested that the Parish Council insist that CCTV be installed at the Railway Station when the automatic gates are installed.

Place on December Agenda. Note would need to contact 'One'.

6. Clerks Report

E-mail accounts have been set up on the Great Bentley site for all Councillors who didn't already have one.

Road Closures announced, will be placed on the Parish notice board.

Confirmed hire of hall dates for 2008.

Clerk to write to arrange.

Developers Guide in the Resource Centre.

Clerk requested maintenance on the laptop and the integral fax/scanner on the photocopier.

Clerk to contact Kevin Beck. Confirm with Chairman if work will be expensive.

7. Correspondence

Mrs Neale is starting a Majorette Group. She asked if the Parish Council would consider giving a grant for the girls' exhibition attire.

Grants are decided upon and allowed for in the budget. If the group were to fundraise themselves the Parish Council would be more mindful to budget for a grant next year. Clerk to contact Mrs Neale.

Letter received from Great Bentley Running Club asking if the route of the half marathon to be held on 3rd February 2008 can end on the Green.

No objection. Clerk to write.

Letter received from Alistair Keeble Solicitors to request information on land to the North of Bluebell Cottage.

Clerk to draft letter explaining that the land shaded on the map is not owned by the Parish Council. This land is believed to be owned by Oak Cottage. There is confusion in the letter regarding land 'where cars park on' which is opposite Bluebell Cottage and does belong to the Parish Council. Permission is not given for access or cars to park on this land. Draft and confirm with Cllr Herbert before posting.

Contact was made by Anglia TV asking to record a clipping showing the Atthil Dolls in their new cabinet and a chat about them with a Councillor.

It was felt that the person who retrieved the dolls or the restorer would be best placed to do this. Clerk to contact Barbara Tricker or Mary Maskell.

8. Information and Reports

None

9. County and District Councillors Report

i) County Councillor – Cllr Derek Robinson.
Nothing to report

ii) District Councillor – Cllr Lynda McWilliams
The planning of the Tesco Railings has been delayed until ECC recruits a new designer.
Cllr McWilliams is to arrange the ‘village clear up’.

10. Lighting

Heckfords Road light near post box repaired but is now out again.

Cllr Robert Taylor to report.

11. Highways

All letters received regarding the Surgery road were read out by Cllr Herbert. There was not a favourable response. Cllr Taylor pointed out that Highways are not prepared to stop traffic from Thorrington Road. Cllr Gibbon proposed to not go any further with the plan. Seconded by Cllr Herbert. Cllr De-Vaux Balbirnie suggested the idea be frozen for the time being. Cllr Wright suggested that the idea has merit but should be implemented elsewhere in the village to gain extra car parking.

Clerk to place on December agenda.

There has been nothing more heard about the flashing speed signs.

Clerk to chase.

Signs at Aingers Green point to play area which is no longer there.

Clerk to check if these signs are still there.

12. Wednesday Night Bikers

It was noted that the burger van clears up rubbish left from her customers. The litter in her patch is blown there overnight from the pub trade. Any letters should be sent to the British Legion and not the van. The caretaker checks the Green every Thursday morning and reports litter on the Green emanates from the pub.

13. War Memorial

Cllr Herbert has spoken with Shipp Builders. Work will not start if cannot be completed by 11th November.

Poppy wreath required for 11th November.

Clerk to arrange with Dennis Curry.

14. Neighbourhood Action Panel

No updates – there is a meeting next week.

15. Affordable Housing

A member of the public who wishes to go on the list has been referred to the Rural Housing Trust.

16. Tending Voluntary Community Service

Cllr Taylor read out report of meeting with the Clacton and District Volunteer Bureau. They are to use the Resource Centre each Wednesday from 10am to 12pm. It was decided that there must be two named persons from the bureau who will use the centre. This will be a volunteer and David Eniffer. It was proposed by Cllr Taylor and Seconded by Cllr Fox that there be a rent free period until 31st December to see how it evolves. Cllr De-Vaux Balbirnie suggested this be monitored.

Clerk to put on Agenda for 3rd January meeting.

17. Finance

Bruce Landscapes request cheque for £3049.12 be written to be paid when their posted invoice arrives.

Agreed. Cheque written and signed.

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

Budget for 2008/9 and Special Expenses – date for meeting was discussed.

**Finance Committee meeting arranged for Wednesday 21st November at 7.30pm.
Clerk to book the room.**

3 new bins are required.

Clerk to order from Wybone

Discussed recovery of cost of replacement bin that was burned in the Spinney be claimed from the teenagers who started the fire. Cllr De-Vaux Balbirnie suggested that the Parish Council write to the parents. Cllr Taylor proposed and Cllr Gibbon seconded that the replacement cost of the steel bin be divided by the amount of teenagers responsible and then a request be sent to the parents for payment.

Clerk to obtain the unknown names from the police and then write to the parents.

S137 – grants will be discussed at the Finance Committee meeting.

Wayleaves. The connection has been extended at the edge of the Green connecting to Surgery.

Clerk to investigate.

Problems with password for Tiscali broadband billing.

Clerk to seek advice from Kevin Beck.

Precept received for £21706.00

The Inland Revenue penalty by appeal has been reduced to nil.

No update on missing unbanked cheques.

17. Committee Reports

a) Allotments – play area – Village green Committee

Green Maintenance Committee report and report regarding the Spinney by Mr M Dorling read out by Cllr Herbert. Reports available at the Resource Centre.

A discussion was held regarding the Spinney. Cllr Gibbon suggested selective thinning. Cllr Wright agreed saying that security and safety were paramount and that there was a possibility of use of drugs, or rape in the Spinney if it could not be seen through. Cllr Gibbon agreed. Cllr Taylor suggested that in hindsight replacement trees planted when others died should not have been planted. Cllr Wright pointed out that there is still time to change the Spinney for the benefit of the community and to make a nice feature of it. The bottom branches could be chopped leaving the top canopy. Cllr Gibbon also pointed out that if anything untoward were to happen the Parish Council could be held responsible. Cllr De-Vaux Balbirnie suggested that the Spinney be thinned out to a certain point but to not over do. Therefore a tree specialist would be required to give advice. Cllr Herbert requested that the village Tree Warden, Mr M Dorling be involved especially regarding any trees planted in memory of a deceased person. Mr Dorling pointed out that the above abandons the idea of a Spinney – flora and fauna – what about the Conservation Club?

Cllr Gibbon to contact Swain Nurseries for advice.

Clerk to write to Mr Gulliver, Essex County Tree Officer.

Bruce Landscapes reports that tile gaps have opened up at play area. Agreed Bruce Landscapes to repair together with a broken swing seat reported by the Village Caretaker.

Clerk to contact Bruce Landscapes.

The white railing over the brook on Weeley Road has come out of its socket.

Clerk to report to Highways.

The Forge – There was a discussion regarding common land and village greens. The Green is common land with the addition of local by laws by it being registered as a Village Green.

A letter was read out from a member of the public demanding that the building blocks and fencing on land next to the Forge be removed. It was agreed that at the time of building reasonable access would be given for building materials.

Cllr Taylor proposed and Cllr De-Vaux Balbirnie seconded that the owner of the Forge be given 28 days from the date of the meeting to remove the building materials and fencing. Cllr Herbert suggested the following to be included in the letter; “we are under pressure from the public to do this”.

All Weather Cricket Pitch – One letter was received from a member of the public who was against the idea. It was pointed out by Cllr Taylor that the base is not a concrete base unlike the previous application, EALC have been consulted and this can be done under the Commons Act. The surface can be taken up if required. A vote took place – 6 for and one against the plan.

Clerk to inform the Cricket Club of the decision.

b) Planning Committee

07/01459/FUL Mr & Mrs Fremel No Objection	Extension and alteration.	Oakdene Weeley Road Aingers Green
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07/01563/TCA Mrs C Strelitz No Objection	1 No. Sycamore - fell	16 Cherrywoods Great Bentley
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Clerk to pass comments to Planning Dept.

07/00851/PREMGR Carpenters Farm Shop Referred to Planning meeting 11th October see below	Premises Licence	Carpenters Farm, St Marys Road, Great Bentley
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In principle the Councillors did not object to the off licence but want further clarification regarding the on licence. Details are required regarding the on sales. It was thought that there would be wine/local beer tasting no more than 4-5 times per year after 5.30pm and finish before 10pm but this would have to be confirmed. The licence application stated hours every day of the week.

Cllr Herbert objects.

Cllr Herbert declared an interest as he frequents the Royal Fusilier.

All Councillors in favour of off sales.

Object to the on licence by the hours which are set out in the application.

Cllr Taylor proposed that the Parish Council object to the full hours licence all year round. Cllr Herbert seconded and Cllr Wright abstained.

Further clarification to be obtained by the Clerk and Cllr De-Vaux Balbirnie from Westleigh House on Friday morning.

Planning Committee to meet on Thursday 11th October at 6pm in the Resource Centre for decision.

19. Other Reports

a) TDALC – Posters re littering given to be put up on notice boards. Booklet regarding new powers to fine persons seen littering in office.

b) Footpaths

c) Transport – Bus passenger news magazine in the office

d) Caretakers Report – Report from David Tyler read out. Report available at Resource Centre. It was noted that the overhead bar at the entrance to the Village Hall carpark restricts access for ambulances and fire engines.

Village Hall Committee to review.

20. Questions from the Public

A question was raised re the licence application for Carpenters Farm. Does one require a licence if liquor is to be given away?

It was said that if Carpenters Farm were restricted to 5 occasions per year they would have to pay 5x£40 – for each separate application. This is why a more general licence is sought.

A member of the public asked if the Parish Council could buy the Forge and knock it down to provide more parking spaces. It was pointed out that this would cost £60,000.

One member of the public said the Spinney shouldn't be there and it was a shame it didn't burn down.

Vehicles are parking on the Green at the side of the Methodist Church. The grass will need reseeding soon.

Clerk to send letter to 3 properties in Chapel Terrace, Heckfords Road requesting that they do not park on the Green.

A request was made to see all Councillors at the War Memorial on 11th November. Cllr De-Vaux Balbirnie will be at the Cenotaph.

A member of the public said it was a pleasure to see items discussed so thoroughly.

Meeting closed at 10.20pm