

**Minutes of Great Bentley Parish Council Meeting**  
**Thursday 6th September 2007 in the Village Hall**

**Present**

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

**In Attendance**

K. Paradise (Clerk) and members of public.

**Questions from the Public**

Allotments – the point was raised that if an allotment tenant pays the annual rent they shouldn't then be allowed to let the allotment grow wild.

Burger van – The level of rubbish has escalated. Request the proprietor is asked to clear up the rubbish.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies received from PCSO Sally Boyden.

**2. Minutes**

The meeting was asked to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 2nd August 2007. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**3. Declaration of Interest**

Affordable Housing – Cllr Ted Fox.

Allotments – Cllr Robert Taylor.

Minerals – George Wright.

**4. Matters Arising from the minutes of the last meeting**

None

**5. PCSO**

**6. Clerks Report**

All correspondence complete from last meeting.

Brochure from personalised Christmas Card Co and Pen Co received. **Not required**

CAB training still outstanding for the Clerk.

Cllr Taylor informed the Council that TCVS wish to develop their work into rural areas. David Eniver has asked if a member of the Parish Council would be willing to have a discussion with him regarding a service for the village.

**Cllr Robert Taylor to arrange.**

**(Cllr Robert Taylor and the Clerk to meet David Eniver on 24th September at 4pm at the Resource Centre.)**

## **7. Correspondence**

- Conservation Group - Concerns raised re harm to public from spraying, pond clearing and overhead cables on the Green.

Discussed - Spraying was by Bentley Contracts; all precautions were taken and not harmful. Mr Dorling will clear pond in autumn. It is the stay wires that create a height obstruction not the actual cables at address of concern re overhead cables.

**Clerk to reply to Conservation Group. Write to Bentley Contracts to ask for an explanation and clarification. Make a request to EDF to remove overhead cables in vicinity of the Green.**

- Local Development Framework
- Athhil Dolls – Dolls were displayed at the Bentley Show. Cllr Gibbon would like these dolls put on display more often as a wonderful asset. Cannot put a value on them by insurers as unique. Covered by insurance by Village Hall.
- Great Bentley Football Club – Councillors concerned that the deeds should be sorted out at the appropriate time. Proposed Cllr David Gibbon seconded Cllr Bill Herbert. Council will correspond rather than meet with Football Club.

**Clerk to write saying happy with peppercorn rent but need to sort out the legal side re rent lease and registered title and deeds at appropriate time.**

- Polling District & Polling Place.

**Clerk to write to confirm all in order.**

- Licensing Act 2003 – review of statement of licensing policy – no comments.

**Cllr Robert Taylor to review**

- Tendring Sustainable Community Strategy – no comments.
- Post Office closures – Discussed - valuable resource to the village, this is hub of the village – increasing number of old people are moving to village and need the post office for banking and pensions.

**Each Parish Councillor to express a reason why the village needs the Post Office. Clerk to put points into letter form – Place letter in Parish Magazine and on notice board asking Villagers to write letters into the Parish Council. Result to be sent to Essex Rural Partnership and Bernard Jenkins MP.**

**(This is pre-empting situation – above to be put on hold until Post Office closures are announced.)**

- Great Bentley Running Club donation – thank you letter has been sent
- Royal British Legion – thank you letter re start of War Memorial renovation.
- Trees opposite 27 Birch Ave on old Nil Desperandum site are overgrown and shield street light.

**Cllr Bill Herbert to investigate. Respond by e-mail check Burbidge.**

**Cllr George Wright to ask John Glover to act if required.**

- Clarets – permission to keep stores on verge - ok

## **8. Information and Reports**

Post from box at Ainger Green reported being collected at 4 pm when should be 4.30 pm. Cllr Bill Herbert found this box has been changed and does say 4 pm.

## **9. County and District Councillors Report**

i) County Councillor – Cllr Derek Robinson.

Nothing to report re village apart from the number 78 bus service is running an early and late service for commuters.

Essex CC and Brentwood Council will share a Chief Executive after no consultation with Councillors. Cllr Robinson thinks that parishes should have more input in these matters.

ii) District Councillor – Cllr Lynda McWilliams

Conservation Group LDF - closing date is the 1<sup>st</sup> October.

Cllr McWilliams is going to organise a clear up day in the near future – was very popular last time it was organised.

## **10. Lighting**

Heckfords Road light near post box unlit.

**Cllr Robert Taylor to report.**

## **11. Highways**

- Proposed Planned Parish Visits for maintenance work.

It has been suggested to Cllr David Gibbon that station road becomes one way – discussed - county would not adopt the road. To bring up to standard would cost £000's. Section 106 at committee time – will be the time to try for this.

There is a hole in Forge Lane.

**Councillors to meet on Saturday 8th September to inspect roads for list.**

**Clerk to get list from Councillors and M Dorling and collate before 1st October.**

- The Surgery proposed road plan – placed in Parish Magazine – reply from The Surgery received and one other. Will raise at the next meeting after all letters received.

## **12. Wednesday Night Bikers**

Review of wording of Insurance re signage on the green – wording not necessary or practical.

**Clerk to write to Plough Inn and Burger Van to request all glasses and rubbish originating from their sales be collected from the Green.**

**Request village caretaker check and log every Thursday morning after bike meetings.**

## **13. War Memorial**

Work Schedule and revised price submitted by D Shipp.

**Clerk to write to confirm.**

## **14. Neighbourhood Action Panel**

No updates

## **15. Affordable Housing**

Planning Officer still not happy with plan.

**If a meeting arranged, Cllr Jonathan Hills and Cllr P De-Vaux Balbirnie will attend.**

## **16. Finance**

- Expenditure for the month approved, as per schedule. Proposed by Cllr Ted Fox, seconded by Cllr George Wright, the cheques were signed.
- Cheques not banked – On-going. Letter receiver from Janet Bloomfield.
- Audit. Request for information from Auditor.

**Clerk to respond after advice from Cllr Robert Taylor.**

## **17. Committee Reports**

### **a) Allotments – play area – Village green Committee**

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

- Spinney thinning – Thinning and reducing but increasing the canopy height required

**Clerk to ask Forestry Commission to come and view and ask for their recommendations. Note for next meeting**

- Lump of concrete sticks out from the cricket pitch.
- M Dorling requests 2 bags of daffodil bulbs for the verges.

**Cllr Jonathan Hills to donate.**

- The Forge – the piece of land that has been fenced off belongs to the Parish Council. It is not part of the common land. This means the fence and blocks are on private land. The owner needs to ask permission to use this

**Clerk to write to owner of the Forge – send draft to Chairman to approve.**

- All weather cricket pitch proposal – placed in Parish Magazine –discuss and final decision to be made at the next meeting.
- Tree Planting Grants Programme –discussed tree at Chapel Terrace and fir tree at Aingers Green – to be placed on other side of road – Cllr David Gibbon offered land where a fir tree could be planted - Mature trees required.

**Tree Warden Mick Dorling to complete grant form.**

**b) Planning Committee**

07/01338/HRN Network Rail - Mark Hills <b>Object – speak to Roger Adams. Would like him to explain why 6 m wide access – why has this not come before committee yet.</b>	Removal of 6 metres of hedgerow	Great Bentley Village Hall Plough Road Great Bentley
07/01090/FUL Mr D A Cook <b>No objection</b>	Timber balcony to caravan holiday home - 11 Maple Close.	Bentley Country Park Flag Hill Great Bentley
07/01155/FUL Mr A Mooney <b>No objection</b>	First floor extension and alterations.	Anaheim The Green Great Bentley
07/01302/FUL Mr & Mrs C Warder <b>No objection</b>	Two storey extension to form lounge, bedroom, dressing room and 2 en-suites.	Willow Tree House Thorrington Road Great Bentley
07/1303/LUEX Edens Farm <b>No objection as long as no further development is intended.</b>	Lawful use of units 1,2,3,4,7,8	Edens Farm, Weeley Road, Great Bentley
07/1305/LUEX Edens Farm <b>No objection as long as no further development is intended.</b>	Lawful use of units 5 & 6	Edens Farm, Weeley Road, Great Bentley
07/01313/FUL Bentley Self Drive Van Hire <b>Object on basis of excess traffic, fence obstructs sight line, dangerous junction and fence unsightly.</b>	Change of use from road side cafe and car park to van hire (sales) operation with office ancillary to van hire operation and sales.	Former Little Chef Colchester Road Great Bentley
07/01393/FUL Mr & Mrs P Hegarty <b>No objection</b>	Extension to existing bungalow to form living room.	Crossways St Marys Road Great Bentley

**Clerk to pass comments to Planning Dept.**

**18. Other Reports**

a) TDALC

b) Footpaths

c) **Transport** – Essex Rail Seminar 5th October – Transport Representative Peter Harry may attend.

d) **Caretakers Report** – Report from David Tyler read out. Report available at Resource Centre.

**19. Questions from the Public**

The Conservation Group will be pleased that the Spinney is proposed to be thinned. They have tried speaking to the Forestry Commission in the past but they probably won't be interested. Suggest trying the Tree Officer of ECC. D Gulliver will know – Dominic Postern.

There is a hole in the road outside Ivy Cottage.

Oak Cottage. There is a meeting next week – a member of the public suggested a councillor should attend. None available to do this. The member of the public will attend.

M Dorling requests new rubbish bins

**Clerk to obtain prices for next meeting.**