

Minutes of Great Bentley Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 7th August 2008 in the Village Hall

Present

Cllr William Herbert, Cllr George Wright, Cllr David Gibbon, Cllr Peter De-Vaux Balbirnie, Cllr Ted Fox.

In Attendance

Kate Mayhew (Clerk), Essex County Councillor Derek Robinson, District Councillor Lynda McWilliams, and approx 10 members of the public.

Questions from the Public

The issue of parking outside the Chinese Takeaway was raised. Cllr Herbert advised that this was being dealt with regarding parking lines outside.

It was raised that the forthcoming road closures in and around the village were going to cause a lot of congestion. Cllr Robinson advised this would be mentioned in his report.

It was reported that there was a large pothole in the road outside 3 Birch Avenue.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Jonathon Hills, Cllr Yee Cheung, Cllr Robert Taylor, Cllr Ian Morton – Cllr George Wright to leave at 9pm

2. Minutes

The meeting was asked to approve the minutes of the Parish Meeting of 3rd July 2008.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Vice-Chairman.

3. Declaration of Interest

None

4. Matters Arising from the minutes of the last meeting

None

5. PCSO

PCSO Sally Boyden was not in attendance. The Clerk read out her report of incidents in the village for the month.

6. Clerks Report

All correspondence from last meeting completed. Advised that the prize from the Best Green Village Competition needed to be used. £100 tree vouchers and a plaque. The CIF had been in contact regarding the War Memorial costs. Clerk to advise of final amount. Cllr Balbirnie to chase them for cheque. £1200 has been donated to the Atthill Dolls Cabinet.

7 Correspondence

- Request from British Legion to place a refreshment tent on the Green after Memorial Sunday was agreed. **Clerk to write.**
- GBCG – Request for Telephone Lines over the Green to be buried was moved to Agenda Item 12.
- Request from member of public to place a Memorial Bench on the Green was moved to the Agenda for September's meeting.

- Request to hold a Car boot Sale on the Green was refused. **Clerk to write.**
- Request for the Cricket Club to be reminded to keep practice nets behind wicket as per agreement and following Cllr Wrights personal request. **Clerk to write to Club formally.**
- Tree Planting Programme to be placed on agenda for September's meeting.

8. Information and Reports

Requests from members for additional matters off report or information only to be brought to the attention of the council.

9. County and District Councillors Report

County Councillor – Cllr Derek Robinson. The signs for the pedestrian crossing on B1027 at Hollybush Hill will be made prominent tomorrow. Following Clerks request for additional funding on grass cutting budget, Cllr Robinson advised that the County Council had agreed to consider it for 2009/10 but there would be nothing extra for 08/09. HGV use and waiting restrictions in the village had been discussed with Jenny at ECC. Level crossing at Thorrington, gates will close on 11th August; there will be controlled traffic on crossing close to the B1029 as far as Lufkins Lane. Church Road, Thorrington will close, traffic to be diverted to Station Road and after phase 1 these restrictions will be reversed. HGV's will be diverted to Elmstead Market. This will lengthen the works to 13 weeks, hope to complete in 10 but stops complete closure of the road. Mary Maskell thanked Cllr Robinson for the Pedestrian Crossing signs and advised there were many potholes on the road nearby, Cllr Gibbon requested an extension of the footpath along Hollybush Hill. **Clerk to write to ECC.** The Footpaths in Aingers Green are overgrown with weeds, previous complaints made, Cllr Robinson agreed to contact ECC.

District Councillor – Cllr Lynda McWilliams. -

It was advised that parking lines outside the Chinese were due, waiting for highways, letter due asap. Tractors Crossing signs have been erected at Flag hill. Bus passes can now be used from 9am not 9.30am. Small schemes, 4 schemes had applied, all had their funding approved and there is more money available. At a recent regeneration meeting it was discussed and agreed that statistics for crime and disorder that affect businesses will now be recorded for Tendring area. There are funds available for community spaces, between £50,000 - £450,000 to improve green and open spaces. Details available from Cllr McWilliams. A discussion had taken place with Ian Taylor regarding congestion at level crossing; he was very supportive of parking issues. Parish plans – it was felt this was a good idea and that it was important TDC know what villagers want for their village. Cllr Herbert thanks Cllr McWilliams for her assistance.

10. Highways.

- Parking outside GP practice – there is a need to prevent all day parking, a letter from ECC was read out, the main issue is enforcement of any restrictions. A discussion took place on the number of nuisance vehicles outside Tesco. It was suggested the Parish Council write to the car owners requesting they move their vehicles. The PCSO does not have the appropriate authority. To be placed on September's Agenda.

Clerk to write to ECC confirming wish to proceed with time limited parking.

Cllr McWilliams agreed to speak to TDC ref: enforcement.

- HGV's over 7.5 tons in village – letter from ECC read out. There needs to be incidents of injury to persons before a blanket ban can be considered. It was requested that all HGV's details are recorded and passed to the Council. Cllr Gibbon has spoken to Amber Leisure who have agreed that no vehicles carrying caravans/mobile homes will be transported through the village with immediate affect. Heckfords Road – no large vehicles coming through that route.

11. Lighting

The Clerk updated the meeting on the progress with the light between the Surgery and Pharmacy. It has been ordered, cheques to be sent confirming works to start at earliest opportunity.

Cllr Derek Robinson left the meeting at 8.15pm

12. Great Bentley Football Club

The Lease extension is in the hands of the solicitors. An email from EDF energy was read out requesting permission to bury some overhead cables on the Green in conjunction with the works at the Club. This was welcomed and agreed, requests from the Conservation Group and a member of public for these works was read out. **Clerk to write.**

13. The Flag PH

Cllr Balbirnie advised that he had checked with planning regarding the hardstandings and planning is not required. Item can now be removed from Agenda.

14. Youth Bus

Cllr Taylor has secured the bus to visit on 26th August from 6pm – 9pm. The meeting was asked if they would like to put on any other events at this time which was not agreed.

14. Finance

- Expenditure for the month approved. Proposed by Cllr Gibbon, seconded by Cllr Wright. Cllr Wright & Cllr Fox signed the cheques.
- The Accounts were approved and signed by Cllr Herbert. Cllr McWilliams was thanked for her help in carrying out the Audit.

15 Committee Reports

a) Allotments – Play Area – Village Green Committee

Allotments

An extra water tank has been put in place. A ball valve has now been purchased and will be fitted.

Rats - Cllr Gibbon has offered to provide rat boxes.

Play Area

Bruce Landscapes have been informed about the work required following the ROSPA report

b) Planning – The Sycamores to be discussed at a later date.

08/00959/FUL Manheim Auctions - Mr R Runnacles No objection	Erection of canopy over existing car storage area.	Manheim Auctions Colchester Road Frating
08/01061/FUL Mrs Speck No objection	Erection of first-floor extension (following demolition of existing first floor conservatory).	Appletrees Plough Road Great Bentley

20. Other Reports

- a) Tendring District Association of Local Councils - There is a training session on 1st September for budgets and precepts. Cllr Taylor will be attending.
- b) Footpaths. - The rep is continuing to do an excellent job. Cllr Gibbon advised the footpath from Hollybush Hill to Dead Line is obstructed, very badly overgrown.
- c) Caretakers Report – The report was read out.
- d) Transport Report – nothing further

21. Questions from the Members of the Public

Mary Maskell expressed thanks to Mr Gollifer as footpath rep, passed on details of a tree grant available through RCCE, expressed her support for the Parish Plan, requested the Council apply for a grant to bury the overhead cables and thanked the Council for their support with the Atthill dolls cabinet.

Mick Dorling – parking – a discussion ensued, suggested we ask for a representative from ECC to see the problems.

Cllr Wright left the meeting at 8.41pm

Cllr McWilliam requested the overhead cables in Aingers Green be buried underground. Asked if the portable toilets had been booked for the village show on 30th August. **Clerk to check and confirm with Cllr McWilliams.** Asked if lights in village are on a light timer or dusk to dawn – no plans to change to timer.

VAS sign – tree needs trimming in front of it – not working as well as it should – **Clerk to contact Jennifer Gudka at ECC to check if working.**

Meeting closed at 8.47pm

Next meeting Thursday 4th September 2008