

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

Present

Cllr William Herbert, Cllr Robert Taylor, Cllr George Wright, Cllr David Gibbon, Cllr Yee Cheung & Cllr Ian Morton.

In Attendance

K Paradise (Clerk), Essex County Councillor Derek Robinson, District Councillor Lynda McWilliams and 9 members of public.

Questions from the Public

The Great Bentley running Club was commended for the thoughtful and wonderful job carried out regarding the Half Marathon Run on Sunday 3rd February. Notices had been put through residents doors regarding the event and there was no mess or litter from 1000 runners.

The gentlemen who tackled the hedge alongside the allotments were commended for saving the Parish Council a vast amount of money.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Jonathon Hills, Peter De-Vaux Balbirnie, Ted Fox & PCSO Sally Boyden.

2. Review Standing Orders

Councillors had been sent the Standing Orders for review before the meeting. It was thought they were up to date.

Clerk to await reply from Lubbock Fine Auditors to see why they suggested they were out of date in the Audit Report.

3. Minutes

The meeting was asked to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 3rd January 2008. The minutes were approved and signed by the Vice-Chairman.

4. Declaration of Interest

O2 Mast – Cllr George Wright

5. Matters Arising from the minutes of the last meeting

None.

6. PCSO

PCSO Sally Boyden's report of incidents in the village for the month to date was read out.

7. Clerks Report

A discussion and vote took place regarding the next steps to retrieve the value of the bin that was burnt by fire. Cllr David Gibbon proposed and Cllr Robert Taylor seconded that the culprit be dealt with by the small claims court.

Clerk to action.

All correspondence from last meeting completed.

8. Correspondence

- Village Design Statement
- Consultation on Orders & Regulations in office
- Cllr Jonathan Hills has volunteered to attend the Service for Local Government at Chelmsford Cathedral.
- A letter from Bentley in Bloom outlining their activities was read out.
- Copy of letter from Friends of the Green to Essex Police re Bikers was read out.
- Request for bus shelter opposite Hall Farm.

Clerk to apply for a grant for a shelter opposite Hall Farm or the Village Hall from the Community Initiatives Fund.

- Railway Ticket Office Closed.

Clerk to write to 'One'.

9. Information and Reports

None.

10. County and District Councillors Report

i) **County Councillor – Cllr Derek Robinson.** Although there was nothing to report for the Parish, there was to be a full meeting of the Council on 12th February including a 4.2% increase in Council Tax. Many Councillors are changing roles within the Council. Cllr Robinson will chase the availability of the VAS sign for Aingers Green.

ii) **District Councillor – Cllr Lynda McWilliam.** Concerned about the 40mph limit at Holly Bush Hill. Would like it reduced to 30 mph. She wondered if Highways could look at the speed limit. Cllr David Gibbon supported this as there had been 2 accidents recently at Holly Bush Hill due to speeding vehicles.

Cllr Bill Herbert and Cllr Lynda McWilliams to liaise. Copy any correspondence to Cllr Derek Robinson.

Clerk to place on March Agenda.

The Southside track will have road planings laid soon. The Hospital Hopper Bus has been saved for the next 3 years by funding from the PCT although fares will increase. The TDC Council Tax is likely to increase by 4%

TDC are backing the Village Design Statements.

Clerk to place on March Agenda.

11. Lighting

A letter was received requesting street lighting between the Pharmacy and the Surgery. It was noted that if this were to happen a lamp would need to be located on the Green side of the road. The power cable runs in the properties. An alternative would be to fix a lamp to a property. It was noted by Cllr Robert Taylor that it would cost over £1000 to dig up the road to feed the street light. When this has been discussed previously it was found that villagers did not want another light on the Green.

All Councillors to view the area in readiness for the next meeting.

One lamp is out on corner of Larkfield Road. Awaiting EDF.

12. Railway Station: CCTV, disabled access and car parking

Letters received from Network Rail and 'One' were discussed.

Clerk to send copy of Network Rail letter to 'One' and copy of both letters to MP Bernard Jenkin and to ask for his assistance in resolving these matters.

13. Highways

- Letter and list of parking tickets issued received from TDC.

Clerk to write in Parish News

- Railings outside Tesco. Cllr Robinson reported that the funding for this would be in next year's budget.
- Community Speed Watch. It appears that Great Bentley will have to share the speed gun with 3 other villages.
- Large holes in Heckfords Road.

Clerk to report to Highways.

- Cllr George Wright voiced concern over 3 landmark Oak trees opposite Tye Cottage, The Tye Road. The insurers of the property wish the trees to be removed. Cllr Wright and Cllr Ted Fox want them protected with a tree preservation order. Cllr David Gibbon suggested that the solution would be to reduce the canopy and Cllr Robert Taylor stated that removing trees can often escalate the problem.

**Clerk to write to the owners showing understanding of the problem and possible other solutions.
Clerk to write to TDC for further information and request TPO.
Clerk to inform Cllr De-Vaux Balbirnie.**

14. O2 Mast

Cllr Wright left the room.

1,000 leaflets were distributed to residents regarding the proposal from O2. 72 replies/letters have been received by the Parish Council.

45 prefer the site at Admirals Farm
23 prefer the site at Brook Farm
2 no mast at all
1 in favour of a mast anywhere

1 letter from Friends of the Green who prefer Brook Farm

The above included many comments for and against a mast.

The mast presentation was discussed. It was noted that if a mast were to be sited at Brook Farm it would be much taller and more visible than the one which is already on site. The proposal had been made public and had given the community the opportunity to have their say.

Clerk to send results to O2 and publish in Parish Magazine

Cllr Wright returned to the room.

15. War Memorial

Cllr Bill Herbert reported that no start date for work to the memorial was available.

Cllr Herbert to Chase

16. Neighbourhood Action Panel

Next meeting 3rd March. The last meeting discussed potential speed guns.

17. Affordable Housing and suggestion of new play area in aingers Green

No reply from TDC Planning Department regarding section 106 package in association with affordable housing.

18. Finance

- Audit Report and appointment of new auditor received
- 3 month Guaranteed Investment Account was reviewed and will be extended by another 3 months. Proposed by Cllr Ian Morton, seconded by Cllr David Gibbon.
- 3 quotations were obtained for a replacement mower. The Tuckwell quotation was acceptable. Cllr David Gibbon proposed and Cllr Robert Taylor seconded subject to 12 month warranty and to be available within 4 weeks. Try to trade in old mowers.

Cllr George Wright to contact Tuckwells.

- Parish Precept comparison

Clerk to place in Parish Magazine

- Expenditure for the month approved. Proposed by Cllr Robert Taylor, seconded by Cllr Bill Herbert.

19. Committee Reports

a) Allotments – play area – Village Green Committee.

Cllr Bill Herbert read out his report. The hedge by the allotments has been cut by a group of allotment holders. Cllr Herbert had offered a shredder which was declined. This will be provided from John Glover if required. All agreed.

The Village of the Year sign which had been knocked down is now at Cllr Herbert's house.

Cllr Herbert to re-instate.

The Southside track is underway for repair.

Letter received from resident of Chapel Terrace requesting clarification that he may drive along the edge of the Green.

Clerk to write to advise this cannot be given as the Parish Council does not have the power.

The sign at Chapel Terrace is to be altered.

Action by Cllr George Wright.

Cllr George Wright reported moles on the Green. No action to be taken at present.

- b) Planning**

<p>06/02034/FUL RHT Developments AMENDED AND ADDITIONAL PLANS RECEIVED</p>	<p>Construction of 12 no. new dwellings for social accommodation.</p>	<p>St Marys Road Great Bentley NO OBJECTION SENT TO TDC 14/1/08</p>
<p>08/00010/FUL Mr & Mrs C Warder</p>	<p>Two storey extension to form lounge, bedroom and 2 en-suite shower/wc's.</p>	<p>Willow Tree House Thorrington Road Great Bentley</p>
<p>07/02006/FUL Mr J W & M Fitch</p>	<p>Timber balcony to caravan holiday home. (14 Maple Close)</p>	<p>Bentley Country Park Flag Hill Great Bentley</p>
<p>08/00041/FUL Mr Hart</p>	<p>Raised deck to caravan (10 Ash Drive)</p>	<p>Bentley Country Park Flag Hill Great Bentley</p>
<p>07/01996/FUL R Gosling & Son</p>	<p>Continued change of use of farm buildings for B1, B2 and B8 uses and associated car parking and office.</p>	<p>South Heath Farm South Heath Road Great Bentley</p>
<p>08/00058/FUL Mr J J Herbert</p>	<p>New first floor extension above existing kitchen to form new bedroom. Internal alterations to form revised bathroom and 3rd bedroom/study. Attached secluded area which will incorporate soft tub. Demolish garage, revised landscaping.</p>	<p>30 Woodgreen Estate Plough Road Great Bentley</p>

08/00081/FUL Network Rail	Change of use from land ancillary to the village hall to operational railway land, in association with improvement to the existing level crossing plus associated highway works.	Great Bentley Level Crossing Station Road Great Bentley
08/00095/LUEX G & M Lord & Son	Storage (Class B).	Unit 3 Edens Farm Weeley Road Great Bentley
08/00096/LUEX G & M Lord & Son	Storage (Class B8).	Unit 4 Edens Farm Weeley Road Great Bentley
08/00097/LUEX G & M Lord & Son	Car repairs, modifications including welding and paint spraying (Class B2).	Unit 5 & 6 Edens Farm Weeley Road Great Bentley
08/00098/LUEX G & M Lord & Son	Use as vehicular access and parking area in conjunction with units 1 - 7 Edens Farm Buildings.	Edens Farm Weeley Road Great Bentley
08/00099/LUEX G & M Lord & Son	Storage (Class B).	Unit 7 Edens Farm Weeley Road Great Bentley
08/00100/LUEX G & M Lord & Son	Storage (Class B8).	Unit 1 & 2 Edens Farm Weeley Road Great Bentley
08/00103/FUL Mr & Mrs J Hopkins	Two storey rear extension to form kitchen, living room, bedroom and en-suite.	21 Cedar Way Great Bentley
08/00087/FUL Tendring District Council	Provision of vehicular access for disabled person.	59 De Vere Estate Great Bentley

Clerk to notify TDC Planning Department no objection to the above applications.

- **Consultation on 1APP**

Cllr Yee Cheung explained that 1APP is to be introduced and this means only one application form for planning will be required for any type of application.

21. Other Reports

- Tendring District Association of Local Councils

Cllr Robert Taylor reported a quiet meeting with nothing to report.

b) Footpaths

c) Transport

Transport Representative Peter Harry re-iterated that the Hospital Hopper bus had been saved but fares will go up. Advised the Parish Council to chase 'One' and Network Rail re outstanding matters.

d) Caretakers report

Report from David Tyler read out.

Clerk to chase recycling contractors.

21. Questions from the Members of the Public

It was asked if there was any progress on underground power cables.

Clerk to chase.

A member of the public said he had used the Resource Centre and the facilities were good. The Parish Council was asked when the crossroads had been closed. Cllr bill Herbert responded that it was August 1983.

Meeting closed at 0910

Next meeting Thursday 6th March 2008.