

**Minutes of Great Bentley Parish Council Meeting**  
**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2008 in the Village Hall**

**Present**

Cllr Taylor, Cllr Fox, Cllr Cheung, Cllr Herbert, Cllr Wright, Cllr Gibbon, Cllr Morton, Cllr Balbirnie

**In Attendance**

Kate Mayhew (Clerk), Essex County Councillor Derek Robinson, District Councillor Lynda McWilliams, and approx 6 members of the public.

**Questions from the Public**

Alan Cole – advised the middle path in the Allotments is becoming a quagmire, there is an 18” dip full of water.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Cllr Hills

**2. Minutes**

The meeting was asked to approve the Minutes of the Parish Meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2008. The minutes were approved and signed by Cllr Herbert.

**3. Declaration of Interest**

Cllr Fox for Item 17.

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

None

**5. PCSO**

The Clerk read out PCSO Boyden's report in her absence.

**6. Clerks Report**

All of the correspondence has been replied to from the last meeting.

The Flag Pole has been reported as broken by Michael Turner. **Clerk to arrange repair.**

The Meeting Room is booked for 3 meeting dates next year, 2 for elections and 1 double booking. This is likely to re-occur as Weight Watchers have booked the room weekly and are therefore getting priority.

**Clerk to rebook the room for days as near to usual meeting date as possible.**

Cllr Morton joined the meeting at 7.45pm.

**7 Correspondence**

- Request for a Memorial Bench – **Clerk to request if family would consider placing it on piece of land to the side of Larkfield Road.** Cllr Wright suggested asking family and future requests if they would be happy to contribute to the servicing costs of a bench with plaque. This was not fully embraced.
- Road Signs on the Green – **Clerk to contact highways to reaffix at a higher bracket.**
- Community Service – **Clerk to offer info to other groups via parish magazine.**

- Letter from Conservation Group – The Christmas Tree shredding was agreed, to place bird boxes in the Spinney was agreed.
- Letter regarding speeding vehicles on Thorrington Road – **Cllr Herbert and Cllr McWilliams to contact ECC highways regarding speed reducing measures.**
- Notice from Water Aid Fundraising Team to start from Green. **Apologies from Cllr Wright for Jan and Feb meetings.**
- Listed Buildings in Great Bentley – **Clerk to contact Listed Buildings Dept at ECC, Robin Carpenter, and check if The Plough PH is suitable to be listed. Place on Decembers Agenda.**
- RBL – A donation of £500 towards the upkeep of the Green was received with thanks. Mick Dorling advised that one of the bins used during the Biker Nights had been broken, Cllr Herbert suggested the PC could replace the bin. Proposed by Cllr Taylor, Seconded by Cllr Gibbon.
- GBRC Half Marathon – Use of the green for annual run was not agreed but was agreed. **Clerk to contact.**
- Letter from Mr & Mrs Parker ref: traffic and parking in Great Bentley, deferred to Item 11.
- Land Registration – A company have written to all Parish Councils to offer their services. **Clerk to obtain more details.**

**8. Tree Planting Programme** – Clerk advised Cllr Gibbon that trees recently purchased may be able to be reimbursed under the tree planting programme. **Cllr Gibbon to forward details to Clerk.**

### **9. Information and Reports**

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

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

**County Councillor – Cllr Derek Robinson** – Level Crossing gates due to be closed 17-21<sup>st</sup> November. **Clerk to place in Notice Boards.** Thorrington Level Crossing closed this weekend. Due to be closed again next month. As Older Persons Champion the cost of fuel is concerning elderly, Cllr Robinson campaigning for something to be done to assist. 5% increase on sworn in police officers, 138% increase on PCSO's, 600 more officers being recruited. Other local areas looking into PCSO's being value for money. Cllr Gibbon advised Frating Abbey Road has no verge, causing lorries to go into the ditch. Cllr Robinson to look into it.

**District Councillor – Cllr Lynda McWilliams** – New bottle banks in place, Yorkshire based company are responsible for emptying then, this is working okay at the moment. DisabledGo launched their list of premises in Tendring that have disabled access. Heckford Road, Lacey's Corner black & white reflective posts have been pulled up, 30mph sign been pulled up.

### **11. Highways.**

- Parking in Plough Road – feedback – Cllr Wright suggested removing the island in front of the butchers shop and PO and provide a Herringbone Parking Area. Cllr Taylor advised that any common land taken and used for another purpose must be replaced elsewhere. Cllr Wright made 2 suggestions where land could be reclaimed on the Green therefore enabling the parking to go ahead. Cllr Gibbon proposed Cllr Wrights scheme, Seconded by Cllr Fox. **Clerk to place on Decembers Agenda.**
- Damage to Green from Hedingham Bus – council agreed to claim costs from them. **Clerk to write to bus company.**
- Request from ECC Highways to park on Green whilst carrying out repairs. **Agreed, Clerk to advise.**

- The Clerk advised of a list of roads that ECC Highways have said will have various repairs to kerbs and potholes done in the coming months.
- Request from ECC Highways for a 3 day closure in front of GP Practice and Pharmacy. **Clerk to contact GP & Pharmacy.**

## 12. Great Bentley Football Club

Update on lease – The lease has been signed by the PC and will be returned to Alistair Keeble.

## 13. Finance

- Expenditure for the month approved by Vice Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Herbert and Seconded by Cllr Balbirnie.
- Date arranged for Finance Committee to plan next years budget.
- Deposit Account can attract a higher rate of interest if funds are placed in a 12month bond. **Defer to Finance Committee Meeting.**
- Tuckwells Invoice – a discussion took place on if the works were covered under warranty. Cllr Wright suggested meeting with Tuckwells to discuss and reach an agreement. **Cllr Wright to advise Clerk of outcome.**

## 14. Lighting

- New light at The Triangle – This is now in use.
- One light out in Birch Avenue, order gone out to this. New light on triangle not going off after midnight. **Clerk to contact Cartledge and report timer is wrong.**

15. Village Historical Signs – defer to Decembers Meeting

16. Village Plan – defer to Decembers Meeting

17. Affordable Housing – A discussion took place about the need for AH in the village, Lynda McWilliams suggested contacting the East of England Regional Assembly who are very interested in supporting rural housing. There was some discussion over whether or not the scheme was to go ahead. The PC had been given the impression that funding would be secured but Cllr McWilliams and Cllr Fox advised the matter was still on the table.

18. Millennium Clock – The decision to repair the clock hands is to be left until the time of the service in March 09.

19. Childrens Play Area – Request for picnic benches in the area near to the park **Clerk to contact Ladies Running Club and check if donation were still available.**

20. Speed Watch – Cllr Taylor advised the PCSO had been working with the team. The scheme is working well.

21. Way Leaves – Update – **Clerk to continue efforts to obtain a copy of all way leaves.**

## 22. Committee Reports

a) Allotments – Play Area – Village Green Committee –

The Green report was read out by Cllr Herbert. **Clerk to write to FC advising their equipment can not be left on the green outside the boundaries of the club premises after the work has finished.**

b) Planning – The list of planning applications received was read out.

Planning Applications to 10<sup>th</sup> October 2008

08/01260/FUL Mr & Mrs Forrest	Raised decking to caravan (20 The Saltings).	Bentley Country Park Flag Hill Great Bentley
08/01262/FUL Mr Shepherd	Raised decking to caravan (3 Whitebeam).	Bentley Country Park Flag Hill Great Bentley
08/01414/FUL	Timber Balcony to static caravan holiday home. (22 Poplar Close)	Bentley Country Park Flag Hill Great Bentley

Planning Applications to 17<sup>th</sup> October 2008

08/01110/FUL Mr R Loveday	Erection of timber balcony to caravan (16 Ash Drive).	Bentley Country Park Flag Hill Great Bentley
08/01347/FUL Mr F Dufficy	Construction of new barn to include office, workshop and games areas.	Cottage Farm Holly Bush Hill Great Bentley
08/01427/FUL Mr Stanley Wade	Erection of wall, following demolition of existing, to enable vehicular access to the property.	Sycamores The Green Great Bentley
08/01428/CON Mr Stanley Wade	Erection of wall, following demolition of existing, to enable vehicular access to the property.	Sycamores The Green Great Bentley

Planning Applications to 24<sup>th</sup> October 2008

08/01456/LBC Mrs D Wren	Conversion of existing outbuilding and new garden room.	Jasmine Place The Green Great Bentley
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Planning Applications to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2008

08/01413/FUL Mr Don Bruce	Timber balcony to static caravan holiday home (28 Beech Way).	28 Beech Way Bentley Country Park Flag Hill
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**19. Other Reports**

- a) Tendring District Association of Local Councils – no meeting!
- b) Transport Report – the report was read out by the rep.
- c) Footpaths – The report was read out.
- d) Caretakers Report – The report was read out.

e) NAP – No report.

**Questions from the Members of the Public**

Cllr Wright advised of an email he received from Mr J Gibbs, Mr Gibbs wanted to buy a quad bike and asked where he could ride it in GB, Cllr Wright replied advising he knew of nowhere this could be done.

Alan Cole asked why the issue he raised earlier wasn't mentioned under Allotments as finance was needed to make the repair. Cllr Herbert advised he would raise it with other allotment holders and carry out a repair. This was agreed.

Mick Dorling raised the issue of the clock in the pharmacy needing a revamp, could funds be found depending on the costs? The pharmacy are happy to keep it still. New dustbin in play area required, the other one was vandalised. **Clerk to order.** Open top dustbin on Green was stolen, it was agreed PC would fund the replacement. **Clerk to order.** Comment on fact that PCSO can not deal with parking and this causes frustration in the village.

Peter Harry suggested that if a road closure takes place the local residents are written to. ECC do that as a courtesy.

The meeting closed at 21.57.

**Next meeting Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2008**