

**Minutes of Great Bentley Parish Council Meeting**  
**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2009 in the Village Hall**

**Present**

Cllr Hills, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Herbert, Cllr Gibbon, Cllr De Vaux Balbirnie

**In Attendance**

Kate Mayhew (Clerk), Essex County Councillor Derek Robinson, Tendring District Councillor Lynda McWilliams and approx 18 members of the public.

**Questions from the Public**

Mary Maskell advised that the exit at the Station does not have a sign advising that a train is approaching. A vehicle was seen driving over the level crossing as the barriers were dropping and had to reverse back on to the road. **Clerk to write to Network Rail and inform them of incident, cc to Cllr Hills.** Mary also advised that the signs for the Toads Crossing should now be out. **Clerk to remind ECC of this.**

Cllr Gibbon joined the meeting at 19.32hrs.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Cllr Fox, Cllr Wright, Cllr Morton

**2. Minutes**

The meeting was asked to approve the Minutes of the Parish Meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> January 2009. The minutes were approved proposed by Cllr Taylor, Seconded by Cllr Gibbon and signed by the Vice Chairman, Cllr Herbert.

**3. Declaration of Interest**

None

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

None

**5. PCSO**

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

**6. Clerks Report**

All of the correspondence has been replied to from the last meeting. There is a Training Bursary from EALC, it was agreed that the Clerk should apply for this. Regarding information held on PC, it was agreed that the Clerk should keep a separate copy of all information on USB at home. Cover has been found for the March meeting from the Clerk at East Mersea.

**7 Correspondence**

- Civic Ceremony
- Planning Services Briefing – 17<sup>th</sup> March – Weeley CO. Cllr Hills, Cllr Taylor and the Clerk would like to attend.

- Wayleave Agreement – It was agreed to enter into Wayleave Agreement and the documents were signed by Cllr Gibbon and Cllr Herbert.
- Bentley in Bloom – **Clerk to arrange Cheque for their annual donation for April meeting.**
- Conservation Group – Village clean up day – Judging for Best Village is in early May. A clean up day would be beneficial in late April. Cllr Gibbon suggested a prize of £20 for the youngsters who pick up the most rubbish and offered to donate, Cllr Hills offered to match that figure. Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April is agreed date. **Clerk to place in March and April's Parish Magazine and put posters up in local shops.**
- Minerals and Waste Framework – GBPC have previously made their position clear, the main issue was Admirals Farm. **Clerk to locate previous correspondence and email to all Cllrs. Send direct to TDC and copy to ECC before deadline.** Ensure position is clearly stated. Cllr Robinson advised of meeting next week for local PC's.
- Affordable Housing – Mr Collier, concerned that a new Housing Assoc would change the agreed procedure for allowing locals to have the housing. Clerk to determine if Section 106 agreement is still in place. **Clerk also to check if planning approval has been given without opportunity for objection. Clerk to place on March Agenda.**
- InTend Newsletter – available to all who wish to view it.

Additional Item – Legal action pursued on behalf of Mr David Beckham

- The Friends of the Green – Parking in Village – deferred to item 11
- Margaret Ellis – Minerals Extraction
- Conservation Group – Sand and Gravel Extraction – The Parish Councils position is to be made clear to ECC through the Consultation Documents. **Clerk to arrange.**
- Mr Collier – Affordable Housing – **Clerk to contact Rural Housing Trust and seek reassurance that the original restrictions on who is awarded housing will pass on to new Housing Association. Clerk to advise Mr Collier.**

8. **Tree Planting Programme** – Tree's have now been bought and planted. TDC have refunded us the money through the Grant system.

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

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

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

**County Councillor – Cllr Derek Robinson** – Minerals meeting arranged for 12<sup>th</sup> Feb. Cllrs Herbert & Gibbon and the Clerk to attend; Road damage, Frating Abbey Road, asked ECC officer to contact Cllr Gibbon, been advised work would be done in April. Small businesses, concerned that current financial climate will increase homelessness and has asked TDC & CBC if they have a contingency plan in place but didn't get feedback. Personal budgets for people needing personal care at home - people can choose their carer and use their own budget to pay them. County Council 1.9% increase on tax; ECC looking to outsource other services and ensuring value for money, it will be discussed at future meetings. Cllr Herbert advised not happy with some of the highway repairs, some are failing just 7 weeks after repairs completed. Cllr McWilliams, advised that area near Cricket Club has been repaired so does not meet criteria for further repair. Cllr Robinson advised he would bring an officer from ECC to view the problem area's in the next couple of weeks whilst looking at other areas.

**District Councillor – Cllr Lynda McWilliams** – Potholes reported; another one at junction of Birch Ave & Laburnum. Contacted ECC, repair due next week. The other repairs do not meet the criteria for repair. NAP had meeting last month, are now meeting on a monthly basis. Cllr Taylor is Vice Chairman, has put a case forward for Plough Road parking issue with PCSO.

Parking attendants to visit the village up to 3 times per week, warning notices to be erected and bollards; This would be an interim measure. Affordable Housing – residents contacted her regarding their concerns, contacted RCCE, who are interested in this issue and have offered their support. Cllr Hills advised they may not be able to help but Cllr McWilliams believes the S106 has not been signed.

## 11. Highways

- Parking in Plough Road – Responses from the public to the proposals for parking bays. The Clerk advised of the outcome of the traffic survey. Cllr Herbert felt the majority of problems would be alleviated if parents would park in Village Hall CP. Cllr Balbirnie advised that restrictions would be worthless if not enforced. The Chairman asked if anyone objected to a 20mph limit. Signage from Village Hall to the Plough would be required. Cllr Taylor advised that pressure needed to be kept up on ECC for a generic 20mph limit near a school which was requested in the TDC area. Cllr Gibbon advised that the PC have a speed gun which could be used. The Chairman suggested the purchase of a VAS sign for the area. Cllr Taylor asked Cllr Robinson if we could apply for one next financial year. The Chairman asked Cllr Robinson to find out and advise the PC on the outcome. Cllr Balbirnie proposed a 20mph, Seconded by Cllr Taylor. **Clerk to obtain quotes for signage.**
- 3hr parking restrictions – 8am-6pm – a discussion ensued about whether this would be a viable suggestion and would not move the problem into residential area's. It could affect many people adversely. Cllr Gibbon proposed 3hr bays from double yellow lines outside Tesco up to the Plough. No seconder. **Clerk to contact Network Rail for car park and contact MP Bernard Jenkins. Clerk to collate information from survey to enable outcome to be discussed at public meeting.**

Cllr Gibbon left the room at 20.29

12. Great Bentley Football Club – No new updates.

## 13. Finance

- Expenditure for the month was approved.
- Audit Report – Audit Commission have completed the Audit.

14. Lighting - Cllr Taylor advised the maintenance would be done this week. 4 outs reported but any others will be dealt with by the tri-annual service.

15. Village Historical Signs – Mary Maskell advised of costs and firm who did the signs.

Cllr Gibbon rejoined the meeting at 20.37

16. Village Plan – Cllr Hills felt this would not be a worthwhile expense at the moment. No proposers.

17. Affordable Housing – No update.

18. Children's Play Area – The Clerk advised that works should have been completed. Cllr Herbert to check first and advise, if works not done Clerk to chase.

19. Speed Watch – No new update. Cllr Taylor was with volunteers last week, any offenders are reported and letters sent. 3 strike system in place. The team need more volunteers, **Clerk to place in Parish Magazine. Clerk to ensure grant for parish magazine has been issued.**

20. Way Leaves – No further update.

**21. Freedom of Information** – It was agreed that this would be adopted. Items not for information need “commercially sensitive” to be written on them. **Clerk to complete all requests for signing off at next meeting.**

## **22. Committee Reports**

- a) Allotments – play area – Village Green Committee
- b) Planning – The list of planning applications received was read out.

## **23. Other Reports**

- a) Tendring District Association of Local Councils – an interesting presentation on health inequalities, dying in TDC area is lower than rest of Essex. Gt Bentley & Alresford are in line with the average. Looking into training for Cllrs, H&S and Risk Assessment were top subjects.
- b) Transport Report – Peter advised that after 7 months of hard work he had come full circle and was no further forward. He felt it was best to draw a line under it.
- c) Footpaths – There was no report this month.
- d) Caretakers Report – The report was read out by the Chairman. More rubbish in Heckford road layby in the ditch and dial road. **Clerk to advise TDC.**
- e) NAP –

Cllr Balbirnie advised that the Tour de Tendring is being reinstated this year.

Cllr Hills reiterated that the PC are to pursue a 20mph speed limit, **Clerk to write to school regarding use of Village Hall Car Park and would they put a notice up at the school and parents newsletter.**

Meeting closed at 20.54hrs.

## **Questions from the Members of the Public**

Member of the public advised that in Station Road outside his house cars are always blocking his driveway and that he is not able to access his property. Cllr Gibbon mentioned residents parking permits. The member of public advised this would be welcomed. **Clerk to include residents parking permits in the information collated from survey.** Cllr Gibbon proposed that residents parking be pursued forthwith. It was discussed how visitors would be able to park but residents would be able to purchase tickets for them. A discussion took place about the area of residents parking to be considered and that Station Road alone would push the problem elsewhere. Mick Dorling raised the issue of calling a public meeting to discuss this in more detail. It was suggested that the PCSO be given the right to issue tickets. Peter Harry suggested asking those who trade in the village how many of their staff use the street to park in the area. Cllr Balbirnie proposed for a public meeting, Cllr Cheung seconded the proposal. 6pm on the day of the next meeting in the main hall. **Clerk to contact Highways for their dates and then book Methodist Church Hall for hire. Get someone from Highways to attend and Derek Robinson.** Another member of the public suggested that the parking rights for the Village Hall be made public. Cllr Gibbon suggested a gate in the far end of the Village Hall Car Park. A lady from the public mentioned that the recycling area which takes up 4 spaces should not be necessary now that there is a doorstep collection. It was objected to years ago. **Clerk to include in public meeting.** Lynda advised the Parish Plan was carried out by others in the village, funds are available, the Parish Council are happy to support this. **Clerk to write to Mary Maskell advising of this.** Cllr Gibbon requested the Clerk **write to Cllr Fox wishing him a speedy recovery following his operation.** A member of the public mentioned the mineral extraction would have a big impact on the village. Cllr Hills advised that the objection would be reinforced by the PC and suggested that people can write to ECC independently. Cllr Gibbon advised that gravel pits would not be considered for landfill sites. Another

member asked when the letter would be sent and it was confirmed that it would be next week. He also asked how strongly were the PC opposed due to a member of the Council having an interest in the scheme. He also mentioned that a petition could be raised against this scheme. He advised that road signs are not usually erected in an area unless a fatality has occurred. Peter Harry advised that Brightlingsea wharf is being considered for transporting the ballast. David Gollifer mentioned the water table be included in the submission.

The meeting closed at 21.30hrs

**Next meeting Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2009**