

Minutes of Great Bentley Parish Council Meeting
Friday 9th January 2009 in the Village Hall

Present

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

In Attendance

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

Questions from the Public

M. Dorling – Highways – Kellens Farm, right hand side, edge of road is sinking into ditch. Kerbs just past South Heath Farm are protruding out due to previous damage posing a risk of accident if vehicles catch them. Plough Road, right hand side, edge of road is sinking into ditch. Hedge in front of Moss Cottage – Newholme in is so overgrown it's now 2ft out onto road and dangerous. Station Road, coming from Birch Estate to Station, right hand corner, back entrance to The Hollies, a large holly hedge, completely covers footpath. **Clerk to report to Highways and copy Cllr Derek Robinson in.**

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Hills, Cllr Cheung, Cllr Wright, Cllr Morton, Cllr Fox

2. Minutes

The meeting was asked to approve the Minutes of the Parish Meeting of 4th December 2008. The minutes were approved 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 Clerk read out PCSO Boyden's report in her absence. Cllr Balbirnie advised of a vehicle collision without stopping in Larkfield Road and Cllr Gibbon advised of a trailer fire in Dial Road.

6. Clerks Report

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

7 Correspondence

- Letter from Parish Church
- Letter from Family Support, Brightlingsea
- Wayleave Agreement – To be signed
- Letter from Gt Bentley Carnival & Fete

8. Tree Planting Programme – Cllr Gibbon yet to provide details of the tree's he has purchased but will forward to the Clerk when he does.

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 – Supported the proposal of adopting a salt box. School Crossing Patrol – Great Bentley in the past have never met the criteria set by ECC for a patrol and Cllr Robinson felt that it was unlikely this would be approved along with a junction box in that area. Cllr Gibbon asked if it were possible to have a 20mph limit along Plough Road in front of the school. Cllr Robinson advised that if the Parish Council were to apply for this then he would support it. **Clerk to write.** Brightlingsea Luncheon Club needed support to continue the help it gives the users from Great Bentley. Lord Hanningfield wrote advising of ways to support the public in the current climate and the vulnerable elderly will have their tax reduced by £100. Cllr Robinson wants this support to go to young families also. Local small business support being offered help from ECC Bank of Essex. Small business apprenticeships also being given support, Derek to find more details on this Scheme.

District Councillor – Cllr Lynda McWilliams –

Cllr McWilliams was not present at the meeting and the Clerk read out a report on her behalf. A complaint had been received about the lights at the Station being too bright and intrusive into nearby properties. This was rectified before the meeting by Network Rail. Cllr McWilliams had also been approached about the possibility of a School Crossing Patrol and had contacted ECC but the village does not meet the criteria although a programme for assessment has been planned for March. There has also been a request for Forge Lane to be gritted in bad weather for the elderly and vulnerable people using the GP Surgery and Pharmacy. ECC advised that the road would not be suitable for gritting but the Parish Council could adopt a Salt Box at a cost of £350 per year. ECC would maintain the bin but would not be responsible for distributing its contents.

A discussion took place on the viability of adopting a salt bin but taking into account the risks of a legal claim if salting was not done properly and the potential damage the salt could cause to wildlife and the Green Cllr Herbert proposed this not be adopted and Cllr Taylor seconded the proposal.

11. Highways.

- Parking in Plough Road – Responses from the public to the proposals for parking bays was discussed. The Clerk had received less than 10 letters/emails regarding the issue and suggested doing a survey of the locals using this area and obtaining their views. One correspondent requested that if the meeting did not receive a good turnout that the Parish Council call a Public Meeting. It was felt the survey would ensure that the Parish Council will have done all they can to get public opinion before calling a public meeting. One member of the public became very agitated on the matter and left.. Cllr Herbert proposed that the Clerk undertake a survey and Cllr Balbirnie offered his support. **Clerk to arrange a date with Cllr Balbirnie.**

12. Great Bentley Football Club – No new updates.

13. Finance

- Expenditure for the month was approved.
- To approve Budget for 2009/10 – This was proposed by Cllr Herbert and seconded by Cllr Balbirnie.

- To sign letter for Clerk to change details at the bank from previous Clerk. Signed.
- Audit Report – Update from Clerk on recent requests from Audit Commission for more detail but it was anticipated that the Audit would be completed imminently.
- The Village Hall Committee have placed a 5% increase on all fees.
- Internal Auditor – Lynda McWilliams has offered her services. Cllr Taylor proposed and Cllr Herbert seconded the proposal. **Clerk to write.**

14. Lighting – The price for the tri-annual change of bulb and clean had finally arrived at £3,061.30. This is slightly higher than budgeted for but still reasonable. Cllr Taylor proposed the quote be accepted and Cllr Herbert seconded this.

Change of timer on new lamp. This has been reported but not checked as would only show after midnight.

15. Village Historical Signs – The Clerk advised of a list of properties that had given permission for a plaque to be placed on their properties. **Clerk to liaise with Mary Maskell and contact another Parish Council for ideas of costs.**

16. Village Plan – Clerk to defer to February meeting.

17. Affordable Housing – No update.

18. Listed Building – The Plough PH – The Clerk advised of the feedback she had received from ECC and English Heritage on their criteria for proposing a building be Listed. Due to the many parts and ages of the building and the fact that it was well within the Conservation Area the suggestion of applying for LB Status was not thought to be worthwhile. Cllr Gibbon proposed this not go ahead and Cllr Herbert seconded it. **Clerk to write and inform.**

19. Children's Play Area – The Clerk advised she had spoken to Bruce Landscapes and that he has assured he will have completed all works within the month.

20. Speed Watch – No new update.

21. Way Leaves – No further update.

22. Hedingham Bus – The Clerk advised that Hedingham Coaches had requested copies of all photographic evidence before agreeing to reimburse costs for damage to Green. Sadly the particular photo that clearly showed the bus parked on the Green was lost when Cllr Herbert's PC crashed. Due to the relatively small amount of money involved it was agreed unanimously not to pursue claiming costs. **Clerk to write.**

23. Committee Reports

a) Allotments – Play Area – Village Green Committee –

Green Report 1/09

Tree stump and two lumps of concrete removed, holes filled with topsoil

Maple tree planted further from the pond.

Pond cleared but reeds not dug out this year

Other, previously unused, PC goalpost installed on the green.

Original taken to MDs for re-painting, because of work in compound.

Have discussed levelling of Junior Pitch with FC D&R Morton

Unmade tracks levelled. Approx 14 tonnes of road planings used Invoice to come from Morton Contracts .

Football Club

New doorway installed.

Temporary 4.5mm wide roadway of crushed asphalt laid on geo-fabric on top of the grass and metal fencing to restrict access to the work.

Nissen hut demolished and removed .

Highways

The lighting at the railway gates has now been modified after a complaint from residents

Lynda has been investigating a salt box in Forge Lane, Highways reply, it would cost us/doctors £350 and they would need to maintain it

Finance

Lynda would be happy to continue as auditor.

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

08/01640/FUL Mrs P Drew	Rear single storey extension with room to roof and double garage.	Cedarwood Moors Lane Great Bentley
08/01681/TCA Mrs K Pearson	2 No. Maple - remove branches touching telephone wire. 4 No. Holm oak - reduce height by 1/4. 1 No. Beech fell. 1 No. Holm Oak reduce height and width by 1/3. 1 No. Holm Oak - fell.	Goodwyns The Green Great Bentley

- a) Tendring District Association of Local Councils – no meeting
- b) Transport Report – the report was read out.
- c) Footpaths – There was no report this month.
- d) Caretakers Report – The report was read out.
- e) NAP – No report.

Questions from the Members of the Public

Mick Dorling mentioned that the Plough had had an inspection in previous years regarding Listed

Building Consent and it was refused this status. The Lights on the Christmas Tree will need changing next year. The parking issue needs to have a decision made and that whatever happens many will not be happy.

Bob asked when were the double yellow lines going to be done as the problem in Plough Road is still very bad and makes turning right very dangerous, a discussion ensued about the problems already highlighted earlier.

Peter asked why cover the path at the FC with geo-fabric and asphalt if the turf would not be saved anyway?

The meeting closed at 20.38hrs

Next meeting Thursday 5th February 2009