

**Minutes of Great Bentley Parish Council Planning Committee Meeting  
Thursday 1st April 2010 in the Village Hall**

<i>Application Ref No.</i>	<i>Details of Application</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Parish Council Decision with any Comments.</i>
10/00239/TCA	Remove large conifer on front boundary.	Deeping, Weeley Road, Gt Bentley	No comment
10/00253/FUL 10/00254/LBC	Ground floor extn to Form garden room.	Pond House, The Green, Gt Bentley	No objections.
10/00247/FUL	Proposed alterations and extensions.	Bell Cottage, The Path, Gt Bentley.	No objections.
10/00336/FUL	Retrospective change of use from former Little Chef to van hire depot with office accommodation.	Former Little Chef, Colchester Road, Great Bentley	Out of character with countryside which Needs protecting. Dangerous junction. Highways Objection. No site lines.
10/00345/FUL	Demolish garage, link lobby & rear conserve. Construct single storey side extension creating new hall, study, utility room & kitchen. Construct new rear conservatory.	59 Birch Avenue, Great Bentley	No objections.

**Minutes of Great Bentley Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting 2010  
Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 in the Village Hall**

The Chairman read out his Annual Report

**Great Bentley Parish Council**

**Chairman's Report 2010**

Since our last meeting, as your Parish Council, we have been consistently trying to achieve efficiencies and looking for ways to improve our environment and surroundings as well as looking after the Parishes interests.

Sadly we have lost one councillor Yee Cheung who has worked well during her time with us but has had to retire due to other commitments. However during the year we have essentially maintained our stable platform of Councillors on which we can rely and therefore continue to work as a good team and pull in

*the right direction. As said previously, there will be natural changes in the future as peoples' commitments and responsibilities alter.*

*Our District Councillor, Linda McWilliams, continues with her good work in supporting us and the people of Great Bentley at District level and our County Councillor, Derek Robinson, works tirelessly on our behalf concerning matters between the local and county arenas, especially Highways.*

*Our Clerk, Kate Mayhew, continues to show willingness and enthusiasm for this challenging role and has proved to be a worthy asset to the Parish Council.*

## **1. Street Lighting**

*Through Robert Taylor's continued vigilance, repairs to our street lights have been carried out quickly and efficiently. This year however we are consulting to withdraw certain street lighting after a certain hour during the night. Until recently there had been a poor response to our request for replies. However some people have now taken the opportunity to enter into the discussion and have opposed the proposal. The tone of the letter was perhaps unfortunate. But this is exactly the type of response we wanted and have requested. We want people to come to our meetings; we want people to engage in the community, we want people to write to us to give us their opinions. It's what democracy is all about.*

*Far too often we put things forward in the Parish magazine, which is a very useful conduit and we hear nothing.*

*Here, a group has taken a great deal of trouble to go around and canvass others and have asked their opinion and then record it. In the vacuum of a poor response we now have another side to consider. It is not for me to decide the outcome of whether we turn the lights off or leave them on, it is for all of the council to decide but because of these people we now have a balance of opinion and therefore are able to explore things further. As a council we are working for the good of the people as a whole.*

*As I said last year, if parishioners have further requests for street lighting we would ask you to write in to the Parish Clerk so we can take the appropriate action.*

## **2. Affordable Housing**

*I am happy to report that we have finally been able to deliver the affordable housing that we have worked so hard to provide over so many years. We are looking forward to having a look around*

*the properties in the near future and welcome the opportunity that these dwellings will provide. All should be thanked who were involved with the bringing forward this scheme, including the current members of the council and the past. Particularly the landowners and the provider RSL. We hope that the properties are treated and maintained with the respect they are due in light of the tremendous efforts that have gone towards them being delivered*

**3. The Parish Community Resource Centre**

*I still believe people like the idea of having a centre where they can liaise with the Parish Council, maybe only occasionally, and view planning application drawings although it is now perhaps easier than previously, to view these on line through the Planning Portal. The centre is under constant review but the criticism of it is much less than it was, as people start to appreciate the positive benefit that it brings. It is also still used as a base by the PCSO.*

**4. Young People and Activities**

*The Parish Council continues to encourage young people to participate in all forms of sport and outdoor activity thus reducing the amount of troublesome behaviour within the village. The Parish Council also supports the Football and Cricket Club, appreciating both their promotion of sport and social responsibility and team building. However, I would once again ask both of the Clubs to be mindful of the protection of the green to ensure that it is treated with respect on days when damage could occur.*

*I would also remind members of particularly the football club about the bad language that we have witnessed. This needs to be stamped out.*

*We are still searching for an area for the possible construction for a skate board park but in reality it will be down to a philanthropic land owner and available funding.*

**5. Bikers on the Green**

*The Parish Council's position remains unchanged with regard to not giving permission for bikers to come on to the green. However, we still need to manage the situation as best we can and at the same time remain vigilant to ensure that the rules and regulations of the council are upheld.*

**6. PCSO**

*We have had a change of PCSO this year and things are working again smoothly. Following discussions we now receive log reports on where the PCSO is at any one time in the village. The*

*Parish Council we will continue to support the work of our PCSO and thank her for her valued services this year.*

**7. Parking**

*Parking is still a problem within the village but could be easily improved greatly if just a little more consideration was given to others and people stopped parking of the double yellow lines. The additional yellow lines have made things safer as have the railings at Tesco's that we did last year. Negotiations are on-going with Network Rail with regard to car parking for the longer term and we hope to have things in place in the near future.*

**8. The Pond**

*The pond continues to look healthy and the ecology thrives.*

**9. Surgery Parking**

*With the continual support and help from the Surgery itself, the number of people parking on the green has reduced.*

**10. Fly Tipping**

*This problem has got worse.*

*It is very sad that litter continues to be dumped out of cars along our roadsides and verges, together with rubbish being left in lay-bys in and around the village. Its lazy and it just makes everywhere look awful.*

*The mentality of people eating food and then dumping the packaging out of the window I am afraid it quite beyond me. The Parish Council are aware that some individuals are collecting this up at their own expense and for this we would like to thank you. Once again, I urge you if you see anyone littering our village, please report it to Tendring District Council or even us and we will do it on your behalf. We have got to do all we can to stop this.*

**11. Highways Verges**

*The Parish Council continues to cut the highways verges and other areas of land for the County Council. Therefore, this work is carried out more often and at more appropriate times of the year.*

**12. License for use of green for entertainment**

*Anyone wishing to use the green for organised functions must have written permission and sign up to the conditions that the Council has to apply. Once again, I would like to remind members of the public that if you would like to erect signage on the green for a limited amount of time for any reason, you must have written permission.*

*Finally I would like to thank once again the other members of the Parish Council and its helpers, our wardens, caretakers and contractors.*

*As I say every year.....Councillors.....you work on behalf of all members of the community without reward and sometimes with criticism. I wish to thank you for your efforts this year, not as your Chairman but as a member of the community of Great Bentley.*

*Members of the public. Please engage with us. Its no good saying you are too busy. Look around this table we are all busy people and yet we all try to make a positive contribution to our community. At our meetings sometimes there are too few people here, and generally it's the same faces. Encourage your friends to become part of the community it can be sometimes dull but its more often fun, and you get a sense of achievement in that you have helped someone for no reward.*

*I would also like to remind you that there is a spare seat on the Council.*

*I will now ask the public if they have anything they would like to discuss within the report. I shall keep the timing of this brief as we have a long evening ahead.*

#### *Questions from the Public*

*Mick Dorling asked if new tenants of Housing Development were from within the village and the Chairman confirmed this. Cllr Gibbon thanked the Chairman for his contribution to the Housing Development in ensuring the new housing fits in with the surroundings. Cllr Herbert said he had followed the whole process and he could not fault the system. Cllr Wright advised that TDC allocated the houses on a needs basis. Cllr McWilliams advised there had been concerns in the village that new tenants had come from Council Housing and therefore didn't have the same needs as others in privately rented or living at home.*

*Mary Maskell – thanked all the Parish Councillors for their work; the new Notice Board on the Allotments and for generally responding to villagers requests. Mary asked if there could be fuller Minutes which could go in the paper. Alan Cole asked why Minutes could not go on the website as unapproved and then change them when approved. Cllr Taylor advised it wasn't best practice. It was agreed to place them on the website in red until approved then change them to black.*

*Mary Maskell asked if she could mention the bikers in a magazine article, it was agreed.*

*Annual Parish Meeting ended 19.55hrs*

**Minutes of Great Bentley Parish Council Meeting**  
**1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 in the Village Hall**

**Present**

Cllr Hills (Chair), Cllr Herbert (Vice-Chair), Cllr Balbirnie, Cllr Gibbon, Cllr Fox, Cllr Wright, Cllr Taylor.

**In Attendance**

Kate Mayhew (Clerk), County Councillor D. Robinson, District Councillor L. McWilliams, PCSO Oscroft and 10 members of the public.

**Questions from the Public**

Mick Dorling – Felt the delays with the Railway Gates are getting worse.

MOP – Street light outside Rambler Cottage not working and Forge Lane needs to be looked at as road surface is particularly bad.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllr Morton
2. **Minutes** – To confirm and sign Minutes of the Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2010. Proposed by Cllr Balbirnie. All in favour. The Chairman signed the Minutes.
3. **Declarations of Interest** – None
4. **PCSO Report** – The PCSO read out her report (previously circulated)

**FROM 01/03/10 TO 29/03/10 REPORT OF INCIDENTS IN THE GREAT BENTLEY AREA**

ALL INCIDENTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO GREAT BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

**RTC ..... THORRINGTON RD**  
**HOLLY BUSH HILL**

**NUISANCE YOUTH.....THE PATH**

**NUISANCE OTHER.....PINE CLOSE, BIRCH**  
**AVENUE, DE VERE ESTATE**

**OBSTRUCTION..... NEW CUT**  
ADVICE GIVEN

**CRIMINAL DAMAGE.....THORRINGTON ROAD**

YOU CAN CONTACT ME ON 0300 333 4444 EXTENSION 487603/4 OR ON THE MOBILE 07798602268. ALSO YOU CAN EMAIL ME ON Rachael.oscroft@essex.pnn.police.uk

THANKS

PCSO RACHAEL OSCROFT 72834

5. **Clerks Report** – The Chairman read out the Clerks report (previously circulated)

**Clerks Report – April 2010**

1. The problem with youth leaving the pub and causing a nuisance on the Green along with the damage to the Thorrington Rd Notice Board has been reported to the Police, an incident number

has been issued and Inspector Morton is to speak to the landlord of The Plough and also arrange a high visibility presence at the weekends to deter further incidences. The Notice Board has been repaired at a cost of £85.

2. *The Notice Board at Aingers Green has now been replaced due to the old one becoming irreparable which I saw myself. This has been to some expense but has come in cheaper than previous contractors. There are now locks on this Notice Board and Thorrington Road. I will get a key cut for the caretaker.*
3. *Network Rail has finished its investigations for the new Car Park and a draft agreement is being sent over which has not arrived as of today's date. They have requested a date the PC wishes to take it over. The VOA has asked for a lot of information in order to give a cost for the Rates payable which has been given to JH already.*
4. *Allotments are starting to get busy again as the weather slowly starts to improve; the Clerk will start up regular inspections again with Cllr Herbert and chase up those from last year who agreed to keep theirs tidy and used.*
5. *The VAT claims have been sent off for 08/09 financial year and 09/10. Total being claimed is £3,800.89.*
6. *I attended a Clerks Networking Event recently where I met some of the Clerks from the neighbouring Parish and Town Councils and got an idea of what was of most concern to them. The main problem seems to be the political wranglings within TDC. There will be a meeting every quarter which I would like to attend.*
7. *Cllr Hills has written to Nick Turner, TDC Chairman regarding the potholes in the village and the danger they represent to the bikers who will start visiting soon. Nick Turner has forwarded the concerns to Nick Hume at ECC on our behalf. No reply has been received yet.*
8. *I spoke with Janet Aldrige from Brightlingsea Town Council in great length about the Considerate Parking Scheme and although a far greater problem exists in B'Sea than Great Bentley the basis of the scheme applies everywhere and with our PCSO could be of value to the problem area's in the village. Information from TDC has previously been circulated to Members but these area's need to be identified.*
9. *I have confirmation from Hastoe that the new tenants of the Affordable Housing are all from Great Bentley.*
10. *Highways have written to Tye Lodge to ask them to remove the mirrors outside their property.*
11. *Resource Centre – I have done quite a bit of extra work to clear out old paperwork and files no longer needed, update the filing system and make it easy to access by anyone who needs to, like Auditors or future Clerks. Some of the old ledgers will be sent to the Records Office but a detailed inventory will of course be sent to Council for prior approval but there is still much to do.*
12. *I have completed a full year of monitoring my hours as requested by members. There are of course peak times such as allotment renewal, end/start of financial year and it slows down a bit in winter plus new duties such as the website, some training being undertake and I spend much more time with the public due to being at the CRC regularly but on average the hours worked are 16.5 per week.*
13. *I have received the Annual Return from the Audit Commission and will commence work on this once all bank statements have been received and will forward the end of year accounts to members as soon as possible.*

14. *I have been very busy this month dealing with residents concerned about the street lighting. All comments have been given to Cllr Taylor but feelings are very strong against the proposal.*
15. *I am attending a workshop in 2 weeks time with HMRC at Ipswich on the Online System for submitting PAYE details which may make the payroll system a lot quicker and easier.*
16. *The trench dug on the Green by BT will be repaired after the Easter Bank Holiday.*
17. *Essex Police are beginning their preparations for overseeing the Biker Nights.*

*Thank you.*

*Kate Mayhew  
Clerk to Great Bentley Parish Council*

6. **Correspondence** – *Items of correspondence received for the Councils attention were read out and discussed by the Chairman.*

**Correspondence Report  
April Parish Council Meeting 2010**

- 1 *Request from St Mary's Church for permission to display boards as follows:*

<i>May</i>	<i>Countryside Day</i>
<i>September</i>	<i>Art &amp; Flower Festival</i>
<i>Christmas</i>	<i>Tree Festival</i>

**All dates agreed.**

- 2 *Request from TDC for Parish Council to identify any land owned by PC or others in the village that would be suitable for accommodating Gypsy's/Travellers.*

**No land identified.**

- 3 *ECC – Temporary Road Closure – already being advertised in Plough Rd.*

- 4 *Audit Commission – appointment of External Auditor is Wayne Rickard.*

- 5 *Colchester CVS – Questionnaire on Accounts Services*

- 6 *ECC – Temporary Closure of Footpath 12 on April 15<sup>th</sup>*

- 7 *Request for consideration as new Parish Councillor from Michael Hicks of The Poplars, The Green.*

**To be discussed along with any others received.**

- 8 *GBYFC – Notification they intend to hold a Football Festival on 3<sup>rd</sup> July.*

- 9 *Audit Commission – Request for Annual Return 2009/10.*

- 10 *EALC – Request for Annual Affiliation Fee of £415.36*

- 11 *GB Running Club – Donation of £250 for upkeep of Green in thanks for support of Half Marathon. – **Clerk to write and thank them.***

7. **Information & Reports** – Requests from members for additional matters off report or information only to be brought to the attention of the council.
8. **Street Lighting Consultation** – The Chairman gave a brief report on events to date and reassured the public the Parish Council is glad to have received recent comments about the consultation which have been read by all Members. Cllr Wright suggested the meeting be closed after Cllr Taylor's report to allow members of the public who have raised concerns to speak. Chairman agreed. Cllr Taylor read out his report. The Chairman thanked Cllr Taylor for the time spent making the report. The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.10hrs. The Chairman re-opened the Meeting at 20.12hrs. A discussion took place amongst Members. Cllr Herbert, Cllr Gibbon wanted the Parish Council to scrap the idea. Cllr Wright acknowledged the feeling of the public and also wanted to scrap the plan. Cllr Fox agreed. Cllr Hills said he wanted to give time for the public to comment on Cllr Taylor's report and wait for a response on some of the other proposals made in his report. Cllr Taylor advised some of the lights are ECC responsibility and they may in the future decide to turn them off. Proposed by Cllr Gibbon, Seconded by Cllr Balbirnie. The final decision to be deferred for another month.
9. **Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plan** – Members discussed the existing CAMPS in the district and commented that the format doesn't apply to Great Bentley and the input into the scheme didn't seem worthwhile when considering the cost as it gave no further power to the PC to protect the Conservation Area. All agreed to not take it further. **Clerk to write.**
10. **County and District Councillors Reports**
  - i) County Councillor – Cllr Robinson advised he had attended a Highways Meeting where GB issues were raised and ECC have responded. Railway Gates – advised GBPC join in with other local PC's who experience the same problems. No notice of light-outs in other area's of the County. New Chairman at County and there has been a change of several portfolio holders.
  - ii) District Councillor – Railway Gates, is it worth using TDALC to support the PC's? Litter – A133 & A120 very bad, Veolia are working hard to clear it before the tourist season starts. Flytipping Officer at TDC has been successful with bringing cases to court but penalties handed down by Magistrates are overly lenient and MP has been asked to help. Cllr Gibbon advised of recent flytipping – **Clerk to report.** Brightlingsea TC is bringing in a new initiative on dog trails. Signs from St Osyth Market all over the village. **Clerk to report to ECC.**
11. **Village Hall Committee** – It is being taken forward in a way which is hoped will work, no further input from PC required.
12. **Review of Standing Orders and Financial Standing Orders** – Members reviewed the current Standing and Financial Standing Orders. It was proposed to adopt the current system by Cllr Wright and Seconded by Cllr Balbirnie.
13. **Internal Audit Procedure** – Members discussed the Clerks request to use a formal Internal Audit system with a view to ensuring all Financial Procedures are up to date and in line with current regulations and legislation. The Chairman felt this was a good idea, it was Proposed by Cllr Fox and Seconded by Cllr Taylor.
14. **Finance** – Expenditure for the month was approved by Council. Proposed by Cllr Fox and Seconded by Cllr Taylor. No objections.
15. **Railway Gates** – Problems are still occurring. The Clerk has written to Network Rail asking for policy on closures. The Chairman suggested it be left for a month before writing to complain again.
16. **Highways – Clerk to send a highways reporting form for potholes – include all area's of GB especially Forge Lane. Copy to JH.** Tye bridge, overhanging tree's.

17. **Website** – All up to date. Clerk to input Minutes onto the website as unapproved in red italics until they have been approved at next meeting.

18. **Village Green Sub-Committee Report** – Cllr Herbert read out the Green Report.

*Richard Morton has retired and a new Contractor needs to be found to cut the grass verges. 5 contractors have been identified. Clerk to invite them to tender for the work and will liaise with Cllr Herbert.*

*Fertiliser going to cross approximately £400.*

*Request for 2 new lightweight bins – Cllr Fox to get them if Mick Dorling happy with them. Alan Coles advised there are bins in the football club compound. Cllr Wright offered some bins too.*

a) Allotments – Play Area – Green

**Green Report**  
**Meeting held 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

*Those present Cllrs. G.Wright, D.Gibbon, B.Herbert and contractors H.Tweed and M.Dorling.*

**Update.**

*A contractor working for EDF has inspected the filled-in trenches at Green Corner. He may not be the same contractor responsible for work outside Hall Farm.*

*Low branches and debris have been removed from the Green.*

*Grass cutting has started.*

*Cllr. Gibbon has provided a replacement tree for the damaged memorial tree outside The Methodist Chapel. M.D. has informed the family involved and will re-plant.*

**Verge Cutting.**

*Following the retirement of Richard Morton we need to find a suitable verge cutting contractor.*

*The suggestions were:*

*Drew Fairley, Frowick Hall, Frowick Lane, St Osyth*

*John Glover, Station Road, Great Bentley.*

*Gordon Black, Hall Farm. Great Bentley.*

*Phillip Liverton Ltd. 30 Harwich Road, Ardleigh*

*John Peak & Sons, 8, Hall Cottages, Frating.*

*Per yd. or per hour? Conservation area?*

**New Junior Pitch.**

*Due to vandalism of the fencing it has now been removed.*

*The pitch needs rolling Cllr Wright to consult with Paynes of Weeley and Cllr Gibbon to consult with David Morton.*

*Cllr Wright will provide us with a full plan and costings of spreading fertilizer and lime onto the southern parts of The Green. The Cricket Club will be consulted before their outfield is interfered with.*

**Vandalism.**

*The notice board in Thorrington Road has had its door ripped off and one of the Frog signs has been taken and broken. They have both been found in Larkfield.*

**New Bins**

*M.D. has requested two new light-weight movable rubbish bins for functions on The Green.*

**Notice Board**

*The notice board at Aingers Green has been completely renewed, painted and with a new padlock. Invoice to come*

**Allotments.**

*Water meter reading has been taken and the results sent to Village Hall treasurer.  
The water has been turned on and the system checked for over-winter damage. None found.*

*Meeting closed at 8.25pm*

*Bill Herbert*

b) *Planning Applications – please see above.*

**19. Other Reports**

a) *Tendring District Association of Local Councils –*

**Great Bentley Parish Council 1/04/10**

**Report on Tendring District Association of Local Councils  
Meeting 24/3/2010**

*Report from Robert Taylor*

**Planning**

*The chairman Secretary and Vice Chairman met with members and officers of TDC on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February. Also at the meeting were Mr Harris and Ms Duff of ECC Highways.*

a) *The main issue on the agenda was the sudden change in TDC standing orders raised with TDALC by St Osyth Parish Council. Set out below is an extract from the reply to St Osyth following the meeting.*

*“Thank you for your letter which I took to the bi monthly TDALC meeting and then on to our liaison meeting which we hold regularly with TDC. Our other members were very concerned that this had happened with no intimation or consultation through the channels set up for that purpose. At the liaison meeting we received no real apology but a talk from the officers on why they had had to do this. Michael Talbot was there and helped us make our presentation. The following is a summary of what we learned at the meeting:-*

*It appears that when the audit commission reported recently on Tendring DC they criticised the existing system for not being transparent because the decision whether to support the Parishes or Councillors request was taken behind closed doors.*

*The new system was devised to overcome this criticism and is as follows:-*

*That all District Councillors have the right to call any Planning Application in to be heard by the full Planning Committee.*

*This cannot be stopped by anyone else once the request has been made. The Councillor can make this request conditional upon whether an officer decision would be for Approval or Refusal.*

*The new system is on trial for six months which will end in June. If it is shown at the end of this time not to have worked satisfactorily then TDALC needs the evidence from Parishes to take it up with TDC.*

*Thus if a Parish has concerns about an application and has some doubt whether officers will support their objections or approval then they need to get their District Councillor or a neighbouring District Councillor to call it in. (the Councillor does not have to speak on the issue or give reasons, just ask for the call in). The Parish spokesman will then be able to address the Committee.*

*TDC promised to write to all Parishes explaining the new arrangement.*

*The Planning Department have promised that they will be prepared to meet Parish representatives and advise them on the planning issues involved as they prepare their case.*

Having heard the arguments the Leadership agreed to give the system a try and report back on our experience.

b) There was a discussion with ECC officers the issues over 20mph speed limits. They explained the work around 20s plenty where there was an experiment starting at Alresford School which you will have noted in the press. A strategy document was being prepared on these issues, which was expected to be with Parish Councils by mid March.

b) Transport Report:

No major report this month, however as highlighted below the 'Hospital Hopper' will accept concessionary passes as from 4th May. I am checking to see IF this is a direct service to the hospitals OR will it drop off/pick up on the way ie. in Colchester.

Peter Harry  
Transport Representative

The first item is taken from the Passenger Transport Newsletter - April 2010 which will be available to representatives at the Parish transport meetings or with the minutes of the parish reps meetings.

### **Concessionary Travel**

From 6 April 2010 the age of eligibility for a Concessionary Bus Pass will be changing. In line with the increase of pension age for women, by 2020 the age you will be able to apply for your bus pass will be 65. The new eligible age for the Concessionary Bus Pass will be introduced in phased stages. For people born between the 6 April 1950 - 5 April 1955 the Government has decided that the date you can get your pass will increase by two months for every month between those 5 years. For example:

**If you were born before:**

5 April 1950

**You will qualify for a pass on:**

Date of 60th Birthday

**If you are born between:**

6 April 1950 - 5 May 1950

6 May 1950 - 5 June 1950

6 June 1950 - 5 July 1950

6 July 1950 - 5 August 1950

6 August 1950 - 5 September 1950

and so on....

**You will qualify for a pass on:**

6 May 2010

6 July 2010

6 September 2010

6 November 2010

6 January 2011

A retirement age calculator is available at <http://pensions.direct.gov.uk/en/state-pension-age-calculator/home.asp> which can also calculate your age of entitlement. In order that it gives the correct date, you must always make sure it is set to the female age, as the male age of retirement is already 65, rather than 60. If you have any questions about applying for your bus pass or would like an application form, please contact your local borough/district council on the contact details below:

Tendring District Council

Tel: 01255 686262

Online: [tendringdc.gov.uk](http://tendringdc.gov.uk)

### **Hospital Hopper**

Tendring Community Transport has registered a new Hospital Hopper service which will operate under a section 22 permit. This is a registered bus service which will take passengers to Colchester General Hospital and Essex County Hospital.

The service will be operating via Great Bentley Village Hall if passengers have booked in advance by telephoning TCT between 9.00 and 5.00 Mon – Fri on 01255 436962 to make a booking or obtain a copy of the timetable. There will be 3 return journeys Monday to Fridays commencing on Tuesday 4 May 2010. The vehicle will be a 15 seat minibus and the concessionary pass will be valid on this service.

Charm Hobbs, Transport Liaison Officer, Passenger Transport, Environment Sustainability & Highways

c) *Footpaths:*

**Footpath Report for Great Bentley Parish Council March 2010**

*The numbering of paths in the parish of Great Bentley is as stated on the "Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way for the County of Essex" dated 1 July 2002, scale 1:10,000. For descriptions of paths please see previous reports.*

*Notes on paths as at 26/03/10*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
7. *Trees, bushes and grass on sea-wall cut by Highways and metal access steps to sea-wall installed.*
- 8.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 17.
- 19.

*D.E.Gollifer  
(Footpath Representative) 26/03/10*

- d) *Caretaker – The Chairman read out the report.*
- e) *NAP – There was no report. Lynda McWilliams reported that Station Watch would be introduced at Great Bentley.*

*Meeting closed at 21.01hrs.*

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

*Cllr McWilliams – Best Kept Village has been applied for again. Damage to Weeley Heath Road was reported, it is very dangerous. Could Bentley Green Players place a board on the Green for their next performance – agreed.*

*Peter Harry - Mobile homes starting to come through the village again.*

*Cllrs Hills, Fox, Wright and Gibbon to donate £20 each for the prize for Village Clean Up.*

*Alan Coles – FC parking area screed has been removed and can it be put back. Cllr Gibbon advised area to be reseeded. Games still being played. Cllr Wright advised it was being dealt with.*

*Mary Maskell – Entered GB into the liveliest village competition.*

*Cllr Gibbon – Thorington Hall will open to view the Bluebells to raise money for Charity on May Bank Holiday.*

***The Annual Council Meeting and May meeting will be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2010***