

Minutes of Great Bentley Parish Council Planning Committee Meeting
Thursday 3rd June 2010 in the Village Hall

Applications to be discussed with decisions recorded.

Application No: 10/00535/FUL

Sturricks Farm, Sturricks Lane, Great Bentley
Installation of 10kw hurricane GTi wind turbine.

Object on the grounds that the drawing that depicts the position of the turbine doesn't relate to the number of properties that are actually on the ground and it is in fact much closer to adjacent properties. However notwithstanding this the turbine will be clearly seen from the conservation areas in and around the village and will be far too dominant within the area.

Application No. 10/00529/FUL

Hamilton House, The Green, Great Bentley
Proposed 2 storey extension to form study, bedroom and bathroom, pitched roof over existing single storey and wind turbine (extension of time on previously approved application)

Can TDC Plnng confirm this has been validated in light of the fact that no wind turbine is shown on any of the drawings.

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Thursday 3rd June 2010 in the Village Hall

Present

Cllr Hills (Chair), Cllr Herbert (Vice-Chair), Cllr Balbirnie, Cllr Gibbon, Cllr Wright, Cllr Morton
Kate Mayhew (Clerk)

In Attendance

District Councillor L. McWilliams, PCSO Oscroft and 6 members of the public.

Questions from the Public

None

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllr Taylor and Cllr Fox (holiday)
2. **Minutes** – To confirm and sign Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th May 2010. 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 29/04/10 TO 28/05/10 REPORT OF INCIDENTS IN THE GREAT BENTLEY AREA

ALL THESE INCIDENTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO THE GREAT BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

RTC - PLOUGH ROAD COLCHESTER ROAD

MISSING PERSON X2

BURGLARY OTHER - FLAG HILL (shed broken into)
PLOUGH EST ROAD IND

CRIMINAL DAMAGE - BENTLEY ROAD
THE SPINNEY

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

Clerks Report – June 2010

1. Network Rail has still not sent through the draft agreement for the car park so I have chased it up with them again in a bid to progress discussions.
2. The Internal Audit went very well and highlighted several areas that needed improvement as well as areas in which we are succeeding. It has been a worthwhile exercise and I fully recommend continuing to use these Auditors until all procedures and policies are in place. Their report is forthcoming.
3. The End of Year Accounts has been completed. Members are asked to approve them ready for the Annual Return to be sent in July.
4. The new verge cutting contractor has been appointed and the first cut should be done within the next fortnight they advise.
5. There has been a change in Neighbourhood Specialist Officer for Great Bentley and he has requested all Members take his contact details for future reference.

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
June Parish Council Meeting 2010**

1. Hastoe – Request for PC to confirm attendance at Opening Ceremony on Friday 23rd July
Clerk to confirm time with Members.
2. Mrs R Coles – Request to view PC Finances and question value of PCSO and if village should have right to choose if they continue with this service.
3. ECC – Public Rights of Way Rolling Inspection and Maintenance Programme – Great Bentley is to be inspected this financial year and request we only report problems that jeopardise the safety of the public using the network.

Clerk to ensure Footpath Rep advises of any problems that may occur. Clerk to write to ECC regarding 2 footpaths that are blocked (Sturicks Ln-Heckfords Rd and Railway to Blacks)

7. Information and Reports - Requests from members for additional matters off report or information only to be brought to the attention of the council

8. County and District Councillors Reports

- i) County Councillor – Not present, nothing to report.
- ii) District Councillor – Had meeting with enforcement officers for NE regarding Station Watch. They are preparing for increased disruption during summer months and especially at Carnival time. Local homes have been leafleted to report any concerns they have. There are staff changes within National Express that may alter the plans.

9. Vacancy for Parish Councillor – All applications received have been circulated to members previously. One candidate was present at the Meeting and gave a brief talk on his reasons for wishing to be a Parish Councillor.

A paper ballot took place, the majority vote with Mr Cliff Warder. Clerk to write and advise him accordingly.

10. Finance – a) Expenditure for the month was approved by Council. Proposed by Cllr Herbert and Seconded by Cllr Wright. No objections.

**Items of Expenditure for
Approval 3rd June 2010
Great Bentley Parish
Council**

03/06/2010	100863	M. DORLING	G010	GRASS CUTTING VILLAGE GREEN	282.75		282.75
03/06/2010	100864	H TWEED	G020	STRIMMING	96.00		96.00
03/06/2010	100865	GW BENNETT GREAT BENTLEY VILLAGE	G050	REPAIR/MAINTENANCE MOWERS	80.00	14.00	94.00
03/06/2010	100866	HALL	A065	RESOURCE CENTRE RENT	171.27		171.27
03/06/2010	100867	D TYLER	A013	CARETAKER	38.60		38.60
03/06/2010	100868	WYBONE	M050	NEW BINS	146.55	25.65	172.20
03/06/2010	100869	HMRC	A011	CLERKS INCOME TAX (2009/10)	183.00		183.00
03/06/2010	100869	HMRC	A012	CLERKS NI (2009/10)	183.36		183.36
03/06/2010	100870	K MAYHEW	A010	CLERKS SALARY	353.67		353.67
03/06/2010	DD	TALK TALK	A035	BROADBAND CHARGES	19.99	3.50	23.49
03/06/2010	DD	E-ON	L010	ENERGY CHARGE	250.49	43.84	294.33
03/06/2010	100871	M DORLING (REPLACED CHQ NO.100836)	A018	TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	49.56		49.56
03/06/2010	100872	GREAT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL	A0	ROOM HIRE	19.80		19.80
Total					1855.24	86.99	1942.23

b) End of Year Accounts were presented and Cllr Balbirnie proposed they be approved, Seconded by Cllr Herbert. No objections.

11. Highways – Funding approved for a new VAS sign in Heckford Road – Cllr Wright and Cllr Herbert and Cllr Hills agreed to meet with ECC regards positioning of new sign.

Cllr Gibbon advised that Transco had left a hole in the ground and placed cones in the village throughout the Bank Holiday which has caused huge disruption in the village. Suggests the PC write to them and demand an apology for the problems caused. **Clerk to write.**

12 Website – Nothing to report.

13. Affordable Housing and Housing Needs Survey – Cllr Hills to send Members a copy of the questionnaire and will adjust it to make it more relevant to Great Bentley. The questionnaire is returned, sent back to PC and we have to ensure everyone in the village receives a copy.

Cllr Gibbon suggested the delivery of the questionnaires be tasked to a voluntary group in the village for a small donation. **Clerk to place on Agenda for next month.**

14. Village Green Sub-Committee Report –

Green Meeting 0610
No meeting this month.

MD is still re-seeding bare patches on The Green.
The Play area has not yet been started.
2 Bins have arrived and are good.

Complaint that Pond Road gets blocked on Biker Nights.

I have asked a carpenter for a quote for School Notice Board. **Clerk to ensure quote is received by next month.**

The police have kept in touch about the burnt seat.

Complaint about loose chickens on the allotment. **Clerk to write to tenant.**

Complaint about dog fouling at Aingers Green, sign needed. **MD to put sign up.**

Complaint that footpath from Sturricks to Heckford is inaccessible.

Still cannot access web link to TDC.

Bill H

Play area report received, all areas highlighted are low risk or very low risk. Cllr Herbert has some concerns that are in the Report and will compile a list of repairs for Members next month of items he feels should be looked at.

Cllr Herbert raised the point that the Clerks request for an annual pay increase had not been discussed. Cllr Hills asked Members to discuss briefly after the Meeting in a separate closed Meeting.

Clerk to speak with EP on the issue of micro-lights flying and/or landing on the Green during biker nights. (to place on agenda for next month under information and reports)

Cllr Balbirnie raised the point that there are a lot of new people in the village and perhaps a notice in the Parish Magazine reminding public to pick up after their dogs. **Clerk to speak with Mary Maskell to arrange.**

Cllr Balbirnie commented that the planning appeals process at District had changed.

15. Other Reports

a) **Tendring District Association of Local Councils –** There was no report.

b) **Transport Report:**

At the last Parish Passenger Transport Reps meeting with Essex County Council (ECC) in Colchester I highlighted the issue of overcrowding on our weekly bus to Colchester. ECC said they would follow this up with Hedinghams, who is a commercial operator. In the meantime a meeting was requested by ECC to meet with regular bus users from the village. A meeting was held on 20 May in the Village Hall to discuss the possible introduction of a Shopper Bus service – should funding become available.

Shopper buses are a timetabled weekly service providing access for residents of the village to local services. The bus is usually a minibus, more suitable for narrow roads and has wheel chair access. The route, pick up points, times, day of the week and destination are made in consultation with the Parish Council and residents. The service is flexible to allow for picking up and setting down passengers as agreed with the driver. The service cannot be set up to compete with a current commercial service. There is a flat rate fee of £2 (for single or return journeys), concessionary pass holders travel free. The meeting was attended by an ECC Transport Liaison representative (Charm Hobbs), our District Councillor (Lynda McWilliams) and our County Councillor (Derek Robinson) plus approximately 25 village residents.

Guided by an agenda, I welcomed all to the meeting and Charm Hobbs outlined/explained the rationale behind Shopper Buses (as described above). The meeting was overwhelmingly in favour of a shopper bus. It was generally agreed that the route would start at Carpenters Farm shop, through Aingers Green, picking up in St Marys Road and Weeley Road onto Great Bentley stopping at the school, Blacks farm corner and the De Vere estate. The service would run on a Monday or Friday (preferably both) going to primarily Colchester but also Clacton if running on both days. The route would take in a local supermarket. Timings would allow for 3 to 4 hours in either town, ideally returning to allow children to be met out of school. The service would start as soon as funds allowed and would be advertised by leaflet drop and village magazine. Concern was expressed that a minibus would very soon become full, which in a way is good news, as Councillor Robinson stated he had been involved in a similar scheme elsewhere and it was withdrawn through lack of support!!!

Residents also took the opportunity to advise Charm Hobbs about the lack of a substantial bus service, overcrowding and the height difference between local trains and the platform. It was also noted by Charm that some passengers have stopped using the bus service as they did not wish to pay a full fare and then have to stand for the entire journey. Charm also said she would look at passenger numbers on the Mistley – Brightlingsea service – was this service value for money??

Thank you to all those attending – an impressive number – which gave a clear message to ECC about our local transport concerns.

PH

c) Footpaths:

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 28/05/10

- 1.
- 2.
3. Strimming required, Highways notified
- 4.
5. Strimming required on section adjacent to railway, Highways notified
- 7.
- 8.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 17.
- 19.

D.E.Gollifer
(Footpath Representative) 28/05/10

d) Caretaker –

Caretakers report for month of May

Although not reported by me, fire damage was caused to the seat and litter bin in the spinney and reported in the local paper.

A number of tyres were left in Tye Road early in the month and picked up with other litter very quickly by TRDC.

Bikers nights have been very active and it is noticeable an increasing number of cars are parking on the green which I doubt anything can be done about. Although much burger bar litter is incurred, credit to those who clear up.

Notice boards checked and are okay and play area is showing an increasing amount of dropped litter but again is being well used.

Only two weeks since last report and meeting, so little else to comment on.

David Tyler

e) NAP Report – There was no report.

Cllr Herbert advised that all the verges in the village had been cut today.

Meeting closed at 20.34hrs.

Questions from the Members of the Public

Cllr McWilliams gave her apologies for next Month as did Cllr Balbirnie due to full Council Meeting at TDC.

*Mick Dorling – Sign on Green has been changed redirecting traffic. **Clerk to speak with Jenny James.***

Cllr Gibbon advised he will be moving the seat from the Mill House into the Spinney.

The next Meeting will be held on Thursday 1st July 2010