

ALL MINUTES ARE UNAPPROVED UNTIL THE NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of Great Bentley Parish Council Planning Committee Meeting 7.15pm, Thursday 7th April 2011 in the Village Hall

Present

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

In Attendance - Approximately 15 electors.

1. Apologies for absence – Cllr Warder

2. Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded that they were required to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they knew they might have in items of business on the meetings agenda. They were reminded that they would need to repeat their declaration at the appropriate point in the meeting and to leave the room if the interest was a prejudicial one. Unforeseen interests must be declared similarly at the appropriate time.

3. Public Question Time

4. Minutes

RESOLVED: That the decisions recorded at the last Meeting on 3^d March 2011 be approved and signed as a correct record.

5. Planning Applications

Planning Reference No.	Application Details	Address	PC Comments
11/00314/FUL	Removal of flat roof to exist garage & re-roof with pitched roof.	High Gables, Weeley Road, Aingers Green	
11/00366/FUL	Proposed extension to form study and en-suite.	Bramhall, St Mary's Rd, Aingers Green	

6. Correspondence

There were no items to report.

7. Planning matters for report (for information only)

No matters were raised.

8. Forthcoming meetings

The next Meeting is scheduled for 12th May 2011.

Business having been concluded, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.39pm.

Signed: Chairman

Date:

Minutes of Great Bentley Parish Council Meeting
7.30pm, Thursday 7th April 2011 in the Village Hall

Present

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

In Attendance

Mick Dorling, Contractor and approximately 19 electors.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME WILL BE FOR A MAXIMUM OF 10 MINUTES AND LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES PER PERSON AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN

55. Apologies for absence – None

56. Minutes – RESOLVED: That the decisions recorded at the last Meeting on 3rd March 2011 be approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr , Seconded by Cllr . The Chairman signed the Minutes.

57. Declarations of Interest – Members were reminded that they were required to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they knew they might have in items of business on the meetings agenda. They were reminded that they would need to repeat their declaration at the appropriate point in the meeting and to leave the room if the interest was a prejudicial one. Unforeseen interests must be declared similarly at the appropriate time.

Cllr Wright declared a Personal & Prejudicial Interest in Item 48 –St Mary's Farm.
Cllr Gibbon declared a Personal & Prejudicial Interest in Item 48 – St Mary's Farm.

58. Police Report & PCSO – The Clerk read out the Police report.

Burglary Dwelling - Weeley Road - (Car taken)

Motor Vehicle Found - Flag Hill - (Stolen vehicle from London)

Obstruction - Plough Road - (Vehicle blocking footpath)

Theft from Motor Vehicle - New Cut - (Hub caps taken)

Theft Other - St Marys Road, The Oats - (Cash taken)

Suspicious Circumstances - Plough Road - (2 Males in a vehicle)

RTC - Colchester Road
Dead Lane

PCSO – To decide if to enter into a new contract with Essex Police for

59. **Clerks Report** – The Clerk read out her report (previously circulated).
60. **Correspondence Report** – Items of correspondence received for the Councils attention.
61. **Information and Reports** - Requests from members for additional matters off report or information only to be brought to the attention of the council.
62. **County and District Councillors Reports**
- i) County Councillor – Apologies were received from Cllr Robinson.
 - ii) District Councillor – Cllr McWilliams –
63. **Finance** – a) Items of approved expenditure for the month were agreed, proposed by Cllr Taylor and Seconded by Cllr Warder. There were no objections.
64. **Highways** –
65. **Website** – Nothing to report.
66. **Allotment Land** – The Chairman read out a brief report on the current situation.
67. **Car Park** -
68. **Housing Needs Survey** –
69. **Street Lighting** –
70. **Village Green Sub-Committee Report** –
- a) **Green Report** – Cllr Herbert read out the Green report.
 - b) **Planning** – As above in Planning Meeting Minutes
71. **Other Reports**
- a) **Tendring District Association of Local Councils** – Cllr Taylor gave a report..

Report on Tendring District Association of Local Councils 23/03/11

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Ian Davidson, Chief Executive of Tendring District Council to give his presentation on “The Big Society”. He said that he had an open door policy and if anyone had a problem or question, he would be happy to deal with it. He added that he had been able to visit several parish council meetings already and that more were booked. He then said that there was a major re-organisation of TDC in train with all senior officers under notice of possible redundancy in readiness for the determination of future hierarchy, stating that not all would lose their jobs but the number would be slimmed down. His presentation is attached at Appendix A to these Minutes.

Ian Davidson Presentation on “The Big Society”

In opening he said that Parishes were very important within the local framework of Tendring District which had a population of 147,000 with a high proportion of elderly people and pockets of deprivation.

Adding that the proposals in the Localism Bill were largely what is already being done in villages and other communities.

The three headings making up the basis of the legislation were:

- Localism
- Decentralisation
- The Big Society

He stressed that the vision was to enhance what was being done anyway by many parishes and smaller localities - giving the example of the various organisations which are working together within a village or community.

He also touched on the attitude prevailing in many quarters "Why don't THEY do something about" when it should be "What can I do about it?" Complaints arise constantly of, "Why doesn't the Council keep the streets tidy?" The Council does not drop the litter, they just pick it up!

He raised the £500,000 fund set up by TDC for groups to apply to for help in getting something started - open to voluntary groups, town and parish councils and so on with the criteria:

The matter of reserves was raised and the meeting was told that the amount of operating reserve for cash spend of about 1.6% was considerably lower than the recommended level of reserves to be held in total of about 2.4%.

TDALC/TDC Liaison Meeting - The Chairman reported that the future of these meetings was considered and that Richard Walker (or another TDC Officer) would be attending the September TDALC meeting to respond to items of which due notice had been given in advance so that he could have the answers to hand. There is another meeting scheduled for 4 July where a decision will be taken on whether to have a TDC officer present at TDALC meetings in future.

The Chairman then reported that Gill Burden had outlined the Big Society £500,000 Fund and what it was intended to do.

Matters of Concern raised by Members – The Chairman called for members to raise concerns:

Libraries - The proposed changes to opening hours was raised and the meeting was informed that ECC member with this responsibility, Cllr Lucas, had stated that the hours of opening were not set in stone yet and that local input into the hours best suited to their population would be taken into account when ECC made the definitive decision on branch library hours. It was then pointed out that it was possible for groups to hire the library when closed at a cost of £17 per hour and that the public would be able to use the normal library facilities during those additional times provided the group was willing to allow access during their meeting(s). Members then said that they believed that the mobile library was not going to be affected by this current round of cuts and Cllr Talbot related the tale of the proposed cut to the mobile service previously when St Osyth was told it would lose the mobile library as it was too near to Brightlingsea Library only 3 miles away - the county having forgotten about the Creek.

Obstructions on footways - Cllr Halls said that he had tried to contact highways about this problem but was passed from one officer to another as each of those he knew had been promoted and no longer had responsibility for such items and that he had been put through to a new number "Community Services" where he was asked all sorts of questions as to what he wished to report. He added that he would let the Secretary have the new number to be circulated.

Fly-Tipping - Various instances of Veolia leaving items which had been put beside rubbish bags/bins being left behind because they were classed as "fly-tipping" because they were not obviously part of that property's legitimate rubbish or recycling. Instances of large items being left for several months were also mentioned and members had been told by Veolia that "the fly-tipping team" collections were about three weeks behind - although some of these items had been left out three months previously. It was pointed out that there were examples of people leaving things they didn't want collected beside the bins and the refuse collectors could be accused of stealing if they took them - the meeting felt that to be ridiculous as people should know better than to put good items next to the rubbish!

Vacancies on Parish Councils - Cllr Balbirnie reported on a vacancy at Weeley which happened when the Chairman of the Parish Council was absent from the meeting, due to sickness, along with another member, who had been recently bereaved, when the remaining councillors had been told that they could not postpone co-option to fill a vacancy - this because the Act uses the word "must" even though it also says "as soon as practical" and EALC had advised that they had to act at the next meeting despite the absences for legitimate reasons.

b) Transport Report – Peter Harry gave his report. New bus service to Clacton.

c) Footpath Report –

Footpath Report for Great Bentley Parish Council March 2011

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 01/04/11

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
5. *Kissing Gate at exit to Churchyard needs repair. Highways informed. Letter sent to Network Rail from Mrs. G. Baker ref. Safety of railway crossing on this footpath. Letter copied to Parish Council.*
- 7.
- 8.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 17.
- 19.

*D.E.Gollifer
(Footpath Representative) 01/04/11*

d) Caretaker Report –

e) NAP Report – Cllr Taylor read out the Report.

Report on Neighbourhood Action Panel 16/03/11

Report from Robert Taylor comprising abbreviated minutes of last meeting with items relating to or of interest to Great Bentley.

1. Chairman's report

1. *Frank thanked all Panel members for sticking with the task in hand – it is a difficult time with the situation regarding NAPs which is still unclear even though a new review document is in circulation.*
2. *By way of a reminder we will be holding a NAP consultation at the Brightlingsea Community Centre on March 26th at 10am – we are sharing a stall at a community event there.*
3. *Two days after our last meeting Frank attended a special NAP review workshop attended by local police officers, officers from police HQ and two other NAP Chairs. He made every effort to convey to senior police officers the views of our panel on the recent review document. He has asked for a statement from Essex Police Authority on NAPs and on the future of Community Speed watch.*

4. *The allocated area of our NAP may have to change to align itself with the policing areas that have come about due to the police reform programme – we may lose some villages from our portfolio and gain a couple. The police report will deal with this and we will of course do our best to fit in with any new policing arrangements.*
5. *At the last NAP meeting there were a number of issues that were raised.*
 - **Speeding** – *Frank pleased that we have had a good follow-up on this from the Roads Policing Casualty Reduction Unit – He reported that a special police operation on the 5th of March in Thorrington, Brightlingsea and Weeley looked at the issues we had raised –During the operation 25 drivers were stopped for serious speeding offences – Out of these 11 drivers were sent on speed awareness training courses and 14 were given on the spot fines. Frank has copies of the investigation forms for panel members to look at. We are also grateful for the continued support from our local officers who have spent time out on our roads with the speed guns and of course we recognise the valuable contribution by the volunteers from Community Speed Watch.*
 - **Fly tipping** – *Frank is also pleased that officers have applied themselves to our fly-tipping priority and have followed up on information received – One case in Alresford is under investigation where a resident has supplied vital information regarding a fly-tipper – this resident contacted me as a direct result of him knowing about the NAP.*
6. **Crimestoppers** – *Frank has been asked by Sgt Russ Cole to highlight the importance of the charity Crimestoppers - they have a hotline for receiving information from the public on crime – Calls can be anonymous – the number is 0800555111.*
7. **Car Crime** - *There is a warning about car crime in the area – especially advice being given not to leave valuables in cars – In a few place thieves are taking the direct approach and smashing car windows to grab whatever is inside.*
8. **B1029** – *Correspondence has been received from the Highways Authority regarding the closure of the B1029 during the bad weather last December; an investigation has been carried out and a report is expected by 31st March 2011.*

2. Police Report Sgt Fraser McCrae

- *Fraser is now stationed at Brightlingsea and the Police Office is due to move into the Fire Station in the near future. The move is due to the savings that are being made to prevent cuts on front line services. Re-structuring and streamlining of the Eastern Division means boundary changes. Fraser has a team of officers covering Alresford, Beaumont, Brightlingsea, Elmstead Market, Frating, Gt & Lt Bentley, Gt. Bromley, Tendring and Thorpe. Fraser is now community based and has more time to deal with issues; other officers include Inspector Matthias and Sgt Hayley Lambert.*
- *Crime and ASB is still favourably low and lower than other areas.*
- *PCSO's are door knocking this month with always most concerns from residents about – dog fouling – speeding – litter and inconsiderate parking.*
- *Fraser mentioned to see individual priorities for each area is useful.*

3. Police and NAP priorities

Alresford

- *Frank reported generic speed ongoing. The issues regarding the railway station is now good after an impacted visit. White House beach not necessarily a priority at present but could be during the summer months.*
- *The Chair of the Youth club is concerned about the knife carrying, drugs and drinking of the youth and would like more police involvement.*
- *Parking around the school is a concern and there is a problem with the layout of the zig zags, signs are incorrect; Ian Taylor TDC is involved.*
- *Speeding issue with Church Lane and Ford Lane. Speeding vehicles travelling on a private road to the fishing lakes.*
- *ASB issues Lodge Cottage Ford Lane*
- *Littering*
- *Too many cold calling incidents*
- *A lady abused at the railway station*

Brightlingsea

- PCSO's can now issue on the spot fines for dog fouling as can the Town Council.
- Speed issues – putting out many tickets
- ASB still an issue but not as bad
- Talking about a dispersal order
- There are concerns regarding the links with PCSO's.
- Look to introducing Neighbourhood Watch
- Janet is concerned The Colne School is not recognising the recent good done by young people. She also expressed concerns regarding the amount of bullying at the school. This led to discussion around bullying and drugs.

Elmstead Market

- Speed and inconsiderate driving issues and working continually on hot spot areas
- Parking issues with the Considerate Parking Initiative being introduced by the Parish Council
- Pedestrian issue – Parish Council looking to applying for a zebra crossing – Frank is to give contact details

Frating

- Campaigning against the mineral extraction
- Len is going to encourage Elmstead to set up a speed watch.
- Dog fouling not so bad at present

Great Bentley

- Speed Watch Team has ceased operation
- CPI to be introduced
- Lynda mentioned how grateful she was to Dan Heard for arranging a police presence (Les Barnes) at the school.
- High Visibility policing is important to Great Bentley

Little Clacton

- ASB problems at Plough Corner

St Osyth

- Speeding issues along the by pass and Point Clear
- Littering

Tendring

- Speeding issues

Thorpe

- There had been an attempted abduction with possible rape
- ASB hotspots – TTC playing field, Tesco, and churchyard
- Fraser mentioned the criminal damages and burglary has been stopped
- Walton lads coming in causing problems
- Need high police visibility

Weeley

- Lack of police visibility
- Parish Council would like police presence at its meetings

f) **Village Events requiring Police Attendance** – There were no new events to discuss.

Business having been concluded, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.41pm.

Signed: Chairman

Date:

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The next Meeting will be held on Thursday 12th May 2011