

**Minutes of Great Bentley Parish Council Meeting**  
**7.30pm, Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2011 in the Village Hall**

**Present**

Cllr Herbert (Chair), Cllr Balbirnie, Cllr Plummer, Cllr Edwards, Cllr McWilliams and Kate Mayhew (Clerk)

**In Attendance**

Mick Dorling, Contractor and approximately 18 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

Mr B Starsmeare requested allotment holders be reminded to close and lock gates.

Mary Maskell – Millennium clock is not keeping time yet.

Mr D Beckham – fundraising day

- 132. Apologies for absence** – Cllr Warder (Holiday) and Cllr Taylor (Holiday), Cllr Wright, Cllr Hills.
- 133. Minutes** – RESOLVED: That the decisions recorded at the Meetings on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2011 be approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Plummer, Seconded by Cllr Edwards and signed by the Vice Chairman.
- 134. 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.
- 135. Police Report** –
- Criminal Damage - Linnet Way - (Car damaged)
  - Nuisance Youth - Plough Road
  - Theft Other - The Paddocks - (Trailer taken)  
Flag Hill - (Battery taken from traffic lights)
  - Theft from Motor Vehicle - The Paddocks  
Wood Green Estate
  - Theft of Cycle - Plough Road - (Plough Inn)
  - Burglary Dwelling - Flag Hill
  - Animal - Thorrington Road - (Jogger bitten by dog)
  - Theft from Motor Vehicle - Plough Road - (Number plate taken)
  - Suspicious Circumstances - Moors Close - (2 Males acting suspiciously)
  - RTC - Flag Hill  
Thorrington Road  
Plough Road

**136. Clerks Report** – *The Clerk read out her report.*

- 1) *One Plot has become available in the last month.*
- 2) *The Newsletter has been printed and circulated.*
- 3) *The Flag Hill Notice Board has been repaired – unfortunately I can't open it so could this be looked at please!!!*
- 4) *Smith of Derby has carried out the annual service on the millennium clock despite my cancelling their contract. Unfortunately they can not trace any record of my request and as I can't support it with anything in writing it would appear we need to pay the bill. I have again cancelled the contract and retained the email as proof!*

**137. Correspondence Report** – *Items of correspondence received for the Councils attention.*

- 1) *Fenn Wright – Planning Approval for Car Park*
- 2) *Great Bentley Conservation Group – Martins Farm Recycling Centre*
- 3) *Great Bentley Conservation Group – The Spinney – **Agenda at next meeting.***
- 4) *Total Car Parks – Request to discuss managing the Car Park.*
- 5) *UK Power Networks – permission to replace decaying electricity pole next to the Plough. Area needs to be cleared. **Clerk to ask UKPN for cones and signage to assist.***
- 6) *GBGNS – Receipt of grant cheque.*
- 7) *GB Carnival Committee – Donation of £100 to the PC.*
- 8) *St Osyth Parish Council – Closure of Martins Farm Recycling Centre*

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

**139. County and District Councillors Reports**

- i) *County Councillor – Cllr Robinson was not available.*
- ii) *District Councillor – Cllr McWilliams gave her report – spoke on the intended closure of Martins Farm Recycling Centre. Cllr Balbirnie spoke on the same matter relating to industrial waste. The meeting was closed at 20.10 whilst the public gave their thoughts. The meeting was re-opened at 20.13.*

**140. Highways** – *Cllr Herbert advised that Tye Bridge has been surveyed. Pavement outside the deli is breaking up. Cllr McWilliams asked for a site meeting with Highway. **Clerk to arrange with ECC Cllr Robinson and ECC Cllr Tracy Chapman.***

**141. Housing Needs Survey** – *Moira Groborz from the RCCE discussed the outcome of the Housing Needs Survey with Members. The next step in the process is to work directly with a Housing Association. Cllr Edwards felt any proposed development should be shared ownership and allow young people in the village the opportunity to join the property ladder. Moira to ask the HA's if they are willing to work on a shared ownership basis and report back.*

**142. Village Car Parking** – *Cllr Edwards updated Members on the outcome of the Working Party's*

recent meeting and presented Ian Taylor from TDC with some questions that were raised during the meeting. **Cllr Edwards to email the questions to Ian Taylor directly.** Ian Taylor then gave his update on the national parking policies and referred to the proposed Car Park the PC was hoping to provide. It was suggested the PC request the Mobile CCTV camera from North Essex Parking Partnership. **Ian Taylor to request.** Time restrictions would be achievable which would support the car park.

**143. Village Bus Services** – Danny Douglas from Go-Ride discussed the current service they run which services Great Bentley & Aingers Green. The service has been well received. Mr Douglas asked if the PC would support the Big Society Bid and match fund. Brightlingsea has contributed £640.00. Members asked Mr Douglas some questions relating to the service and their application to the Big Society Fund. Cllr McWilliams proposed the PC support our application and Cllr Herbert seconded. **Members to agree finance at the next meeting.**

**144. Southside Football Club Proposal** – To go on next months Agenda.

**145. Finance** – Cllr Plummer proposed the expenditure and Cllr Balbirnie seconded.

Items of Expenditure for August  
2011

04/08/2011	101088	K MAYHEW	A010	CLERKS SALARY	£615.64		£615.64
					£		£
04/08/2011	101088	K MAYHEW	A050	POSTAGE	11.02		11.02
				GRASS CUTTING VILLAGE			
04/08/2011	101089	M DORLING	G010	GREEN	£328.00		£328.00
					£		£
04/08/2011	101089	M DORLING	M040	NOTICE BOARDS	55.00		55.00
					£		£
04/08/2011	101089	M DORLING	M010	GENERAL MAINTENANCE	85.00		85.00
04/08/2011	101089	M DORLING	M010	GENERAL MAINTENANCE	£154.00		£154.00
					£		£
04/08/2011	101090	H TWEED	G020	STRIMMING	76.50		76.50
04/08/2011	101091	CATCH PR	A028	PRINTING	£199.00		£199.00
					£		£
04/08/2011	101092	GBVH	A060	HIRE OF MEETING ROOM	20.30		20.30
04/08/2011	101093	GBVH	A065	RESOURCE CENTRE RENT	£175.55		£175.55
		SMITH OF		MILLENNIUM CLOCK			
04/08/2011	101094	DERBY	M100	SERVICE/REPAIRS	£178.00	£35.60	£213.60
04/08/2011	DD	E-ON	L010	ENERGY CHARGE	£250.89	£50.18	£301.07
					£	£	£
04/08/2011	DD	TALKTALK	A035	BROADBAND CHARGES	16.33	4.09	20.42
		MR R			£		£
04/08/2011	101095	MCWILLIAMS	A013	CARETAKER	80.65		80.65

**146. Website** – nothing to report.

**147. Allotment Land** – Update

**148. Car Park** – As above.

**149. Data Protection Act** – To be discussed next month.

**150. Queens Jubilee Celebrations 2012** - Cllr McWilliams requested the Parish Council donate £2,000 towards the costs and subsidise a further £4,000 should other funding bids not be successful. A decision could not be made due to the fact that 4 out of the 5 Members present

were all on the Working Party for the event. **Clerk to place on Agenda for next month.**

**151. Football Club Matches** – Cllr McWilliams expressed concerns that the number of games played on the Green is disruptive to members of the community wishing to use the Green.

**152. Village Green Sub-Committee Report –**

**a) Green Report –**

Green Meeting 0811 - 28<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at 7.30pm

Those present Councillors Herbert, McWilliams, Warder, Wright and Contractor M. Dorling. Apologies from H. Tweed and Cllr Edwards.

Green

Veolia Water has told us that if we are not satisfied with the Green after their work they will put it right. MD and Cllr Herbert will inspect and report.

Green Verge Cutting

Helen will have to take some time out. We have asked Mr. Glover to cut the road side edges so that Helen can keep up with the remainder.

Trees

Following the fatal accident involving a boy from West Bergholt we discussed whether we should have a professional inspection of our tall trees and insurance against accidents. MD advised a tree expert would look at the 6 trees in question at a cost of £200 plus VAT. The Clerk asked for a show of hands in favour of the work being done. 3 in favour, 1 abstained, 1 against. Motion carried. **Clerk to arrange.**

Gypsies – action plan

As councils all over Essex are worried by possible arrival of Gypsies we discussed what we should do if it happened here. Cllr McWilliams gave a list of helpful contact names including Tendring Careline.

Play area

It was noted that the short legs at the bottom of the slide have deteriorated badly. I phoned Bruce Landscapes and The Clerk and the slide was fenced off to await repair.

Allotments – plan for re-valuing plots.

At the moment we charge £20 per plot, assuming each plot is 8 rods/ 200m<sup>2</sup>. In fact plots vary by a huge amount. The smallest being 95 square metres, the largest being 363m<sup>2</sup>.

Having noted other allotment sites charge by the square metre we feel that would be the way in future. So the proposal is, from 29<sup>th</sup> September 2012 we will charge 10p per square metre per annum with a minimum charge of £10 per tenant. Notice of the change to be given before 29<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2011. **All members were in agreement.**

Allotments-vandalism

Some damage was caused to plot 15 by three young lads. Police were made aware by MD and the lads were caught, questioned and warned about their behaviour.

Highways – Tye Bridge has been surveyed thoroughly, we await the result.

- Pavement outside the Deli in Plough Road is breaking up.

The tractor has a faulty regulator and a new one will arrive next week.

**b) Planning -**

**153. Other Reports**

**a) Tendring District Association of Local Councils –**

*Matters of Concern raised by Members –:*

Data Protection Act - Cllr Bucke raised this as a result of a recent circular from EALC which told Parish Clerks and members that they needed to register under the Act at a cost of £35 per Council.

Whether individual Councillors needed to register was the subject of a discussion which reached no conclusion.

Local Listing - It was reported that information about this could be found on the TDC website under Heritage and Conservation within the Planning Section. It was also reported that the Officer concerned, Phil Hornby, had his e-mail address wrongly printed on the form for registering local listings. It was believed that the 30<sup>th</sup> August deadline for comments related to approval of the process rather than to the submission of a list from each Parish or Town. It was also believed that the process of locally listing buildings or groups of buildings and other items of special interest (e.g. lampposts, parish pumps, pillboxes) would be ongoing as and when new things were considered worth protecting.

Members expressed concern that owners of items proposed for listing locally could object to the listing for various reasons. However, it was pointed out that the local list(s) would not carry such rigid terms and conditions.

Broadband Provision - A recent conference was reported that had been hosted by a company providing a broadband wireless overlay service and which was seeking groups of communities to sign up to their service so as to make it worthwhile for them to provide it. Doubts about the security of wi-fi communications were raised. It was then pointed out that there was an up front payment of £100 required followed by a rental of £15 per month thereafter.

Hedges and Verges - Problems of vegetation overgrowing footways were reported, particularly in the Kirby and Great Holland area where several incidents of vehicles having to move to the middle of the road to avoid pedestrians who were obliged to walk on the edge of the kerbs. It was pointed out that the highway was defined in law as being from ditch to ditch and that where a ditch was on the field side of a hedge, the highway was legally from hedge to hedge and that the County only had responsibility for maintenance of the highway and its verges. It was then reported that in Essex the hedgerow owner was responsible for keeping the hedge under control but that the County did little more than issue a 28 day notice as it did not pursue the matter after that as they were reluctant to incur costs by taking legal action.

Members raised the problem of incursion into the verge to provide access to property where the owner had removed the grass verge and installed a gravel entry. They reported that the County's response had been that they would deal with the matter in due course, instead of taken immediate action, and by so doing the County could be seen to condone the action of the property owner and would have less of a case to put should the matter come to a court action at a later date.

Some parishes reported that they were cutting verges under contract for the County Council and were being paid to make 1½ cuts per year (one this year and two next).

Finally, members were reminded that the Highways Department only cut verges to 1 metre from the edge of the roadway, leaving the remainder of wider verges to grow wild.

**b) Transport Report –** Already mentioned.

**c) Footpath Report –**

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 31/07/11

1.

2.

3. Half of path cleared by Highways during June. Remainder was not cut because

*workmen were impeded by hedge growth from adjacent properties. Situation of hedges now resolved, but further cutting will not take place until September with the autumn cut.*

- 5.
- 7.
- 8.
- 10.
11. *Part of path mown by landowner*
- 12.
- 13.
- 17.
- 19.

*D.E. Gollifer  
(Footpath Representative) 31/07/11*

**d) Caretaker Report –**

The play area equipment that needs repair has been reported to Cllr Bill Herbert.

Bikers Night. This month had been good until Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> with a lot of litter in and around the Cricket Club.

Recycling Centres, clean and tidy and well used.

On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> I received a phone call from a local resident of Fly Tipping in Dead Lane. I quickly found the area, which had revealed more than 40 partly used tyres. This matter reported to T.D.C.

All notice boards appear to be in good order, but still require up to date information on Parish Council members.

**e) NAP Report – No report.**

**Neighbourhood Action Panel Report - Great Bentley PC August 2011**

*NAP meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

- *Linda Belgrove, of Essex Police Authority attended the meeting and explained the role of the Police Authority and how part of their role is to hold the police budget, which is £270m p.a. also they hire and fire the Chief Constable. Over the next 4years there must be savings of £41m made; £17m savings have been made this year.*
- Linda raised other points; -*
- *There has been no recruitment of officers.*
  - *Approx. 400 staff have been made redundant*
  - *The Chief Constable is at present restructuring and re-organising Essex Police Force.*
  - *Linda explained there could be cuts made to the number of PCSO's; technically they are staff whereas a Police Officer would only be forced to leave due to gross misconduct.*
  - *The shift patterns are changing for officers to make a more life/work balance.*
  - *Linda handed out a leaflet explaining the new number 101 emergency number. She went on to explain how this new number would operate.*

***The Chairman Frank Belgrove reported***

*He was very pleased to be able to talk informally and consult with a number of people at the Police stand at the Tendring Show; it was good to see the interest there is in NAPS, Neighbourhood Watch and of course Essex Police.*

He showed the panel a pack for marking property and referred to as DNA marking. Within the pack is a container with a fluid which has microdots that can be easily identified with a UV scanner. The pack is unique to the owner of the property.

#### **Sgt Fraser McCrae reported**

- Fraser reported that police had attended events in Great Bentley, for the Carnival, Brightlingsea and the Tendring Show; he reported all events went well; Great Bentley particularly appreciated the police presence.
- ASB operations carried out in Brightlingsea and Thorpe; hot spot areas done.
- All licensed premises have been visited and reminded of their responsibilities. This is linked to a division wide operation to deal with lone and vulnerable intoxicated females at night who could be at risk from sexual attack.
- Beaumont had a crime spike in May but due to high visibility policing and crime prevention work in the area this has greatly reduced offences.
- Working on crime prevention due to incidents of in-secure property and cars.
- A new trend in rural burglaries has started including areas such as Great Bromley and Ardleigh. **\*\*UPDATE\*\*** a male from outside the area has been arrested and charged with handling stolen goods from one of the offences.

Robert Taylor mentioned that the speed watch group had now finished in Great Bentley; part of the reason was because the group felt they were not doing any good as they were getting data come back as not being correct, which left them feeling despondent.

Linda Belgrove mentioned that a levy will come in next year and volunteer groups may walk away. Community speed watch had been badly served. A new officer is now in charge.

#### **Police Priorities and Action Plan**

The Panel agreed the priorities set out below

1. Speeding vehicles featured strongly again for all areas but with some locations highlighted as more of a problem. Set up community speed watch identified by police and mentioned by some areas Frating and Thorrington, PC Dan Heard to be trained.
2. Identified by Police, insecure or vulnerable property such as houses, sheds, cars, etc in all areas. This is often a key factor in reported crime which is almost gifting criminals a prize each time.
3. Ensure where possible, police presence/interaction with the community at organised events such as festivals, fetes, school events and other similar public gatherings. All areas. Identified by police but also supported by organisers of such events. More police presence out and about on high visibility patrol, on foot and cycle. All areas.

#### **Long Term Action Plan**

1. Alcohol and drug abuse
2. Mobile Phone use
3. Theft of property
4. Driving/speeding issues and use of hand-held mobile phone whilst driving

#### **Other points raised**

- Martine Ward stated that late at night more children are out between the ages of 8 and 10. Thorpe - youth drinking late at night and throw empty bottles in the road. Frank to report to Sgt. Fraser.
- Adrian Simcock mentioned that Warrens pond was given to the community; it is now drained and empty. 4 Youth is happy to work with the Council. Janet Aldridge said to go along to the Town Council meeting and speak to the Council at public question time.
- Jenny Cant has concerns regarding the length of time during the day the Thorrington barriers are down; sometimes up to 20 minutes. If this is noticed by others could they report to either Thorrington Parish Council or Network Rail.
- Lynda McWilliams mentioned the concerns regarding the Martins Farm Civic waste site being proposed, by Essex County Council, for closure. This would take effect after

October this year. The recommended alternative site is at the Rush Green Road site off Jaywick Lane. This was discussed in detail.

f) **Village Events requiring Police Attendance** – Nothing to report.

Business having been concluded, the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.37pm.

Signed: ..... Chairman

Date: .....

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*David Gibbon mentioned tyres dumped in Dial Road and roadside hedge cutting.*

*Mick Dorling spoke on the Football Club and a finish date for all games at the end of the season.*

*Alan Coles confirmed there always is an end date which is the 20<sup>th</sup> May.*

*Alan Coles said £6,000 was a large amount to commit to the Diamond Jubilee.*

*Mary Maskell spoke on the allotment issue, Martins Farm and Edible Essex Scheme.*

*MOP spoke on Finch Drive lighting problem.*

**The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September in the Village Hall.**