

Meeting of Great Bentley Parish Council

Held on 6 April 2017 at Great Bentley Village Hall

MINUTES

Public questions: The Chairman invited questions from the members of the public.

- L. McWilliams expressed concern about a possible visit of a Funfair and how it must not be allowed to clash with the Village Show.

Present: Councillors J. Hills (Chair), B. Herbert, P. Drew, K. Plummer, P. Balbirnie, R. Adams, G. Wright and R. Taylor. Also in attendance were TDC Cllr L. McWilliams, ECC Cllr A. Goggin and Kevin Harkin, Parish Clerk and 19 members of public.

04.17.055 Apologies for absence: Cllr Edwards (work commitment).

04.17.056 Minutes of the last meeting:
Proposed: Cllr Taylor Seconded: Cllr Plummer **RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of meeting on 2 March 2017 as an accurate record of proceedings.**

04.17.057 Matters arising from the minutes: Cllr Adams requested that regard is taken of Mrs McWilliams concern about potential clash of dates between the Village Show and a Funfair booking.

04.17.058 Declarations of Interest: None offered.

04.17.059 Information & Reports: None.

04.17.060 County and District Councillors Reports:

- a) District Councillor - Cllr L. McWilliams reported that Air Show night flights are scheduled again this year after success last year. She provided a TDC Careline update.
- b) County Councillor – Cllr A. Goggin. 92% of primary schools, 95% of secondary schools and 100% of special schools in Essex have been deemed outstanding. This is above the national average. Recently completed speed surveys show that vehicle speeds are lower than many believe. The weight of traffic locally has increased. He has circulated the copy of report Parish Councillors. Colne Radio (Internet radio 106) goes live on 8 April 2017.

04.17.061 Other Reports:

- a) PCSO - PCSO Brandon's extensive report was noted and is attached as Appendix A.

- b) TDALC - Cllr Taylor advised that the minutes of the last meeting have been circulated.
- c) Transport - Mr Harry referred to the closure of the rail ticket office closures and noted that this is an agenda item.
- d) Footpaths - Mr Gollifer provided an update on the level crossing closures. It was agreed to write to Network Rail asking them to erect automatic lights on the two crossings selected for closure as at Frating Abbey.
- e) Caretaker - Mr R. McWilliams' report was noted.

04.17.062 Correspondence: To consider correspondence.

- a) Housing Development in Gt Bentley x 2 – B Jenkin MP. Noted.
- b) Request to use the Green for Village Show on 2 September 2017. Agreed.
- c) Request to erect signs on the Green for Annual Plant Sale. Agreed.
- d) The Path: land drains problems – Lynne Smith. Noted.
- e) Complaint regarding runners on Abrey Close – Gill Harrison. Noted.
- f) Bikers Night – Paul Hamilton. Noted.
- g) Flower Festival request – Gt Bentley Methodist Church. Noted.
- h) North Essex Garden Communities Tending Colchester Borders Workshop. Cllr Plummer agreed to attend and to ask Cllr Edwards to attend also.
- i) Fitness Classes on Village Green – Scott Logan. Noted.

04.17.063 Parish Clerk Report: Clerk presented his report (attached as Appendix B) and invited questions.

04.17.064 Finance Report:

- a) To approve the monthly expenditure report. (attached as Appendix C) Proposed: Cllr Plummer Seconded: Cllr Herbert **RESOLVED: To approve the monthly expenditure report.**
- b) To note the monthly bank reconciliation. Noted.

04.17.065 Village Green Working Party: Cllr Herbert presented his report and fielded questions. Cllr Wright Seconded: Cllr Balbirnie **RESOLVED: To ask Cllr Wright to treat the Green with fertilizer and herbicide where required.** GBPC to pay for the product/material George Wright farms to supply handling and application of product

free of charge and to liaise with Mick Dorling for prior warning notices to be put out before application takes place.

04.17.066 Closure Great Bentley Rail Station Ticket Office: The closure of the railway station ticket office and the new arrangements for ticket sales was noted.

04.17.067 Rail Level Crossing Closure Proposals: Cllr Plummer provided an update confirming that Network Rail has made an Order to close two of the level crossings in the Parish and divert the public footpaths. It was agreed that the proposal to divert Footpath No. 8 through the new allotment site is impractical and to continue to object to this.

Proposed: Cllr Wright Seconded: Cllr Balbirnie **RESOLVED: To delegate to Cllr Plummer to make further representations to Network Rail including seeking professional advice from Holmes and Hills as deemed necessary.**

04.17.068 Electoral review of Tendring: Draft Recommendations: Further to a brief discussion, Cllr Hills agreed to prepare a response on behalf of GBPC.

04.17.069 Replacement of Street Lighting Proposals: Cllr Taylor advised that budgetary provision has been made to convert GBPC's streetlights to LED. Proposed: Cllr Taylor Seconded: Cllr Herbert **RESOLVED: To approve a two year replacement programme to LED lighting together with associated costings.**

04.17.070 Members Allowances: Report noted.

04.17.071 Highways

- a) Relaunch of the Village Speed Watch Initiative. Nothing to report.
- b) 20's Plenty for Us campaign. Nothing to report.
- c) Cllr Balbirnie raised the issue of the hazard posed by having no fence at Tye Bridge. It was agreed to write to Network Rail requesting action to resolve.

04.17.072 Forge Lane Drainage: Cllr Wright declared a non-pecuniary interest. Cllr Wright reported that he had had discussions and he is now working up a proposal to introduce a drainage scheme. The Clerk agreed to forward a copy of the specification to Cllr Wright. Cllr Wright agreed to complete a 'services' search and provide a costing to the next meeting.

04.17.073 Public open space improvements:

- a) The Clerk agreed to contact TDC to find out if they will agree to use S106 monies to fund Christmas lights.
- b) Cllr Hills reported that the issue of using S106 monies to fund the replacements of the tractor is still to be explored.
- c) It was agreed to contact three play equipment companies for proposals.

04.17.074 Neighbourhood Plan (NP): Cllr Drew provided a report. She noted that there are lots of residents who would be willing to assist with the preparation of an NP. The cost of preparing an NPO would run to £15,000+. Alresford PC estimates that its will eventually cost £20,000 and hope to obtain £15,000 in funding towards this cost. Grants would be available from TDC and other organisations.

Wivenhoe TC is progressing well with the preparation of its NP. St Osyth PC has taken a decision not to proceed with a NP. Cllr Drew reported that she is pleased to continue to explore this matter.

04.17.075 Verilocation Contract: Cllr Adams declared a non-pecuniary interest. The Clerk reported that the current 36 month contract ends shortly. Proposed: Cllr Wright Seconded: Cllr Balbirnie **RESOLVED: To approve the renewal of the contract.**

04.17.076 Recording of meetings:
Proposed: Cllr Drew Seconded: Cllr Taylor and **RESOLVED: To agree to postpone a decision.**

04.17.077 Station Road Car Park: Proposed: Cllr Drew Seconded: Cllr Adams **RESOLVED: To agree to limit parking to a maximum of 48 hours at Station Road Car Park and to fabricate and erect suitable signage.**

Public questions The Chairman invited questions from the members of the public.

1. It was noted that someone appeared to undertake a detailed inspection of the Play Area recently. It was suggested that this may have been the annual inspection?
2. Confirmation that the Annual Council meeting is 18 May 2017. The Clerk agreed to publicise on the website.
3. It was confirmed that details of the type of ticket machine to be introduced at the Railway Station have yet to be provided.
4. It was noted that the elections is the same day as the next PC meeting. TDC Cllr McWilliams gave her apologies as she will not be able to attend the PC meeting.

APPENDIX A

PCSO Monthly Report March 2017

EP-20170302-0375 -The Green- Fraud

EP-20170305-0638- A133- Concern, elderly person walking in road.

EP-20170305-0843- Birch Avenue- Concern

EP-20170306-0415- The Green Pharmacy- theft

EP-20170306-0474- Station Car Park- Abandoned car (already contacted TDC for removal)

EP-20170306-0493- Great Bentley- Fox hunt- (transpired Legal)

EP-20170309-0388- A133- Highway disruption, debris in road

EP-20170309-0474- Birch Avenue- Sus persons

EP-20170309-0793- A133- Criminal damage bottle thrown from car window.

EP-20170311-0147 – A120 Vehicle upside down in ditch.

EP-20170312-0874- Birch Avenue- Sus Premises

EP-20170316-0131- A120/A133- Highway disruption.

EP-20170316-0339- Woodgreen Estate- abandoned 999

EP-20170317-0044- Flag Hill- Sus circs.

EP-20170317-0532- A1230/A133- Highway disruption.

EP-20170317-0044- Bentley Country Park- Sus Circs

EP-20170319-0653- Linnet Way- Information

19/03/2017- Stolen Toad sign from Doctors pond The green- Not reported to 101.

EP-20170322-0324- Station Car Park- Abandoned vehicle, vandalised (traders)

EP-20170323-0599- A133- Concern pedestrian on road with a buggy.

EP-20170324-0330- Colchester Road- Bale of hay in Road.

42/34123/17 - 26/02/2017- Burglary Other- Nothing taken- Moors Close, Great Bentley

42/34854/17 - 25/03/2017 reported 27/03/2017- Moors Lane- Other criminal damage to a dwelling

42/36470/17- 02/03/2017- The Path- Dangerous dog.

42/37742/17- 06/03/2017- The Green- Theft from shops.

42/37860/17- 02/03/2017- Woodgreen Estate, St Marys Road- Threats

42/45145/17- 18/03/2017- The Green- Malicious Communications Act 1988

PCSO Tasks

Considerate parking notices issued (attached on separate sheet)

Speak to members of the public on the manner of their parking.

Daily Parking Considerate parking notices- Village and residential

Daily Parking control Tesco- Yellow lines and ASB Parking. Double yellow parking, photos sent to NEPP for prosecution)

School Parking patrols

Fly Tipping Station Car Park- No Correspondence- Contact Council to collect,

01/03/2017 – PNC new abandoned vehicles, station road car park.

01/03/2017- Visit Admirals Farm- Update

02/03/2017- Visit Kevin Harkin Clerk, Update.

Stop Check Vehicle- Sus persons-

06/03/2017- Call on Bete Balbirnie Update and pavement parking leaflets.

06/03/2017- Fly Tip station car Park.

21/03/2017- Essex Community Messaging sent out- Missing Toad sign from The Green.

11/03/2017- Call at Brook farm, Spoke to staff

14/03/2017- Patrol Admirals Farm- Spoke to Ashley Resident Admirals farm house.

14/03/2017- Visit Butchers speak to Dan the owner- Information.

14/03/2017 PNC and Enquiries- Suspicious vehicle Plough road.

20/03/2017- Call in to clerk Kevin Harkin- Update.

21/03/2017- Prepare statement for Zig Zag Parker at School- for FPN

21/03/2017- Patrol area for missing Toad sign- make enquiries with farms/shops etc.

21/03/2017- PNC Sus vehicle- Plough Road

21/03/2017- Call in to Carpenters Farm Shop.

21/03/2017- Call in to BlackHall Farm -Intelligence

24/03/2017- Call in to Blackheath Farm- Update

24/03/2017- School Parking Patrol

24/03/2017- Call In to Admirals Farm _ Update

PARISH CLERK REPORT

6 April 2017

1. Network Rail Level Crossing Reduction Strategy: Formal notice in the form of *The Proposed Network Rail (Essex and Others level Crossing Reduction) Order* was received on 3 April 2017. The order confers powers on Network Rail to close level crossings in the Parish of Great Bentley: E45 Great Bentley Station and E46 Lords No.1.

Note: E45 is not the level crossing on Plough Road but a foot crossing just east of the Railway Station over which Public Footpath No. 8 runs. The Footpath will be diverted.

2. Street Lighting:
 - a) Notice has been received from A & J Lighting Solutions, the Parish Council's street lighting contractor of significant price increases.
 - b) An insurance claim is being pursued to recover the cost to rectify the damage to a streetlight in The Paddocks caused by the last storm.
3. Audio Recording of Meetings: TDC has responded to my inquiry advising that there is no standard operating procedure or policy relating to this matter. There is normally a delay of one or two days before the audio recordings are published. Once published the recordings remain on the TDC website indefinitely. The officer I contacted appeared fairly relaxed about the whole issue. He did say that they encourage the Committee Chairs to make a public announcement at the start of meetings but that has fallen by the wayside to a large extent.
3. Large Scale Housing Development in Gt Bentley: Further to the meeting between parish councillor's, representatives of Protect Gt Bentley and Bernard Jenkin MP, I have received copies of letters BJ sent to ECC's Director for People Operations and ECC's Director for Corporate Services in which he notes the concern of the Parish Council and requests that reviews are undertaken regarding the adequacy of school places provision and the junction at Heckford Road and the A133. Copies of these letters have been circulated.
4. Village Noticeboards: The Noticeboard located on Weeley Road, Aingers Green has had new Perspex fitted and it is now easier to read the notices displayed.
5. Forge Lane Drainage: A letter was sent Highways with an offer to work in partnership with them. A reply or even acknowledgement is awaited.
6. Footpath No. 8 – harassment by dog(s): Further to a complaint about dogs harassing walkers on Footpath 8, I wrote to the householder as requested on 13 February 2017. I received a telephone complaint from another user of the footpath that the dogs continue to intimidate walkers.
7. Bentley Green Players (BGP): GBPC provided £250 in grant aid to BGP in 2016/17. The group has returned the cheque advising that as it turned out they did

not need to use the funding. I must say this is the first time in my 30+ years in local govt. that I have received a returned grant cheque voluntarily.

8. Resignation of the Parish Clerk: I wish to advise that I have resigned from my role as Parish Clerk after four and a half years. The recruitment of a replacement Clerk is progressing. Closing date for applications is Friday 21 April 2017. Interviews will be scheduled w/c 24 April 2017.