

Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of meeting held on 15 June 2017

Present: Cllr J. Hills (Chair), Cllr P. Balbirnie, Cllr R. Taylor, Cllr B. Herbert, Cllr L. Edwards, Cllr G. Wright and Cllr P. Drew, Cllr K. Plummer and Cllr R. Adams. K. Paradise (Clerk) and approximately 20 members of public were present.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** None
2. **Minutes of the last Meeting:** Cllr Drew proposed the minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 16 June 2016, Cllr Balbirnie seconded them and they were **agreed** as a true record of proceedings.
3. **Chairman's Annual Report:** Cllr Hills had already read his annual report at the Annual Parish Council meeting which was held earlier in the evening. The report is published on the Parish Council's website, in the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting and also in the Parish Magazine.

Cllr Hills said he wanted to take the opportunity to thank some of the people who assist the village over the past twelve months. He thanked Mick Dorling for his work on the Green and David Gollifer for his work on the footpaths. He thanked Alan Gosling who generously allows us to fill up our tractor with diesel without charge which is a very big financial contribution to the village. He thanked Mr Barry Spake who raises and lowers the flags on the Green mostly unnoticed. He thanked Matt and Kevin Plummer for their work providing Christmas lights. If he missed anyone he apologised.

4. **Reports:** Invitations to attend the meeting were circulated to all the organisations that received a financial grant from the Parish Council in 2016/17.
 - i) Methodist Church Luncheon Club: Unfortunately Mrs Marion Gourley was unable to attend. She very kindly sent her report and thanks which were read aloud by the Chairman.
 - ii) Bentley in Bloom: Mr Peter Allington gave a brief report of activities and thanked the Parish Council for its grant in 2016/17.
 - iii) St Mary's Church – Upkeep of the church yard: Mrs Penny Evans-Jones gave a brief report and thanked the Parish Council for its grant in 2016/17.
 - iv) Great Bentley Parish Magazine: Unfortunately Mrs Mary Maskell was unable to attend. Her report will be attached at a later date.
 - v) Gt Bentley Youth Club: Unfortunately Cllr Robert Taylor was unable to stay. His report and thanks were read aloud by the Chairman.
 - vi) Gt Bentley Pre School: Unfortunately Mrs Alison Hunt was unable to attend. Her report which included photographs was read aloud by the Chairman.
 - vii) Gt Bentley Cricket Club: Peter Giles said that the Cricket Club is struggling to survive as are many village clubs. Although struggling for senior cricket, junior cricket is healthy running under 12, under 11 and under 10 teams. Anything the Parish Council can assist with is much appreciated and the grant goes a long way to

help. The Cricket Club has 150 members and is financially stable, but can't raise a senior cricket side at present. The future looks bright for when the juniors come through.

A discussion took place regarding cutting the outfield. The Chairman said that at the beginning of the season the proper format is to give a fixture list to the Parish Council, which will be discussed by the Green Committee.

5. **Village Residents Awards:** This was started last year and is to award people that work on our behalf without pay and without thanks. This is the opportunity to say thank you very much.

A certificate with either wine or flowers were awarded to:

- a) David Gollifer for his hard work concerning the footpaths and providing a report every month.
- b) Barbara Fookes for all the work she has done with Good Neighbours transport. Barbara said she can't do this without of the drivers so please acknowledge the drivers who do all the work for us.
- c) Carole Allington and Mary Maskell (who was not present) for all their hard work with the Parish Magazine.
- d) Rita Bavistock for the fantastic work she does as St Mary's Church Verger.
- e) Peter Allington for his work with Bentley in Bloom.

6. **Open Forum:**

- a) Peter Harry said he has been struck by how all groups in the village are struggling for members or helpers. This has been expressed in this meeting, for example Bentley in Bloom, the Cricket Club, the Drama Club and the Youth Club. He suggested perhaps with an influx of people to the village we may all benefit from it. There is the new community at Sturrick's Lane. Others joined in saying there is a lack of volunteers, no surplus people, people are so busy they can only do so much.
- b) Mick Dorling wanted to thank Bill Herbert. Since he has been retired half his life is taken up with things that happen on the Green. He just goes out and does it. If anything crops up he is there.

7. **Closure:** The Chair made his closing remarks thanking those present for their attendance and the meeting was closed.