

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL
 Minutes of the Council Meeting held in the Village Hall, Bentley on Tuesday 5th
 March 2002 commencing at 7.30pm

1. ATTENDANCE

Mr K R Phillips (Chairman), Mr J Blackmore (Vice Chairman), Mr C C Cripps, Mr D E Eastall, Mr G R Goodwin, Mrs S J Lodge, Mrs K Wheals and M J Baker (Clerk to the Council). In Attendance –11 members of the public.

Apologies for absence – Mr C C Cripps, Mr R J Perkin, and Mrs J Heselden, (District Councillor) and Mrs M Lavender (County Councillor).

(The Chairman adjourned the meeting for the public session)

2. PUBLIC SESSION

The subjects raised were:

- a) Inclusion of the Bentley Improvement Group (BIG) AGM & Election of Officers at the Annual Parish Meeting;
- b) The surface of footpath 55 Case Lane. The Chairman stated that the Parish Council had contacted the Area Highways Manager about the poor surface of the path that had been affected by horses using it with the permission of the landowner. A planned use of the path by a recent hunt had been stopped with the agreement of the landowner.
- c) The central part of large oak tree on playing field was thought to be dead and there were also dead branches on the oak tree in Church Road: the tree warden would be asked to inspect and report back to the Clerk.
- d) The highways drainage work near Sunview in Capel Road had not been effective in preventing water accumulating outside the property
- e) The recent planning application for new build in Grove Road.

(The Chairman closed the public session and the meeting resumed)

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations made.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5 February 2002, were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a) The litterbins had been emptied (Minute 4)
- b) The register of electors had been returned to the Parish Council (Minute 7)
- c) Ms S Lodge agreed to provide a sketch map of the deep ditch next to Bergholt Road (Minute 8)
- d) The false letters had been passed to the police for investigation (Minute 15).

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a) Mr J Blackmore reported on his attendance at the site meeting in connection with application B/01/01921 at The Old Stables in Grove Road. The meeting was held for fact finding and not for receiving local comments.
- b) The planning application for works at the Baptist Church (B/01/01820/FUL) had been approved.
- c) Planning application B/02/00232/LBC for alterations at Pond Hall Farmhouse was received. It was decided to support the Application, as the changes proposed did not affect any near neighbours.
- d) The arrangements for dealing with planning applications under standing order 69 were reviewed. Problems arose where comments on planning applications were required outside of the usual Parish Council meeting schedule. After consideration of the need for transparency it was agreed that, where required to comply with the timetable of Babergh District Council, a special full meeting of the Parish Council would be called to consider such application(s) with the application (s) being the only matter on the agenda.

7.FOOTPATHS

John Webb presented a report on behalf of the Footpath Group. He also mentioned the problems with footpath 55.

8. BENTLEY CEVCP SCHOOL

Mrs P Rayment gave a report on behalf of the Bentley CEVCP School.

9.TREES AT EAST & WEST MILL GREEN

A report by the tree warden, Mr Colin Hawes was received. It was agreed to ask the Babergh Horticultural Officer for help in planting replacement trees for those that had failed. It was also agreed to ask for urgent attention to the overhanging branches of trees in West Mill Green.

10.ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The format of the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Tuesday 20 April was considered. There would be the usual reports from village organisations and Mr Blackmore agreed to approach each with an invitation. He also volunteered to arrange for refreshments. The County and District Councillors would be invited to make a short report each and then join the Parish Councillors in an open Question & Answer Session. The plans for the improvements to the village hall would be explained. The usual AGM of the Bentley Improvement Group would be included.

11. MARKING THE QUEEN'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

It had been decided to distribute Bone china commemorative beakers as a means of marking the Queen's Golden Jubilee. There was a discussion about the potential recipients and it was decided that all children should receive one as a gift and that all households have an opportunity to purchase at least one beaker. It was agreed that all children up to 16 years of age would receive one beaker as a gift and that each household be offered a beaker to purchase at a subsidised price of £1.50 and the opportunity to purchase additional beakers at £3.00 each. The scheme would be widely advertised and the Primary School and Playgroup contacted to ascertain the children involved in these two groups

12. DAMAGE TO C426 VERGES

The Chairman reported the efforts of the Parish Council to minimise the use of the C426 by HGV's. There was to be wholesale kerbing and resurfacing of the C426 through the village during 2002. It was decided to express the serious misgivings of the Council over the potential effects of weight restriction measures publicised as being introduced in adjoining villages.

13. VILLAGE OF YEAR 2002

There was no support for entry to the competition.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

a) A list of 14 items had been circulated with the agenda (copy in Minute Book). It was agreed that the Chairman and his wife be nominated to represent the parish at the opening of the Felaw Maltings in Ipswich by the Queen in July (item 7).
 b) In addition to the listed items the following items were tabled:
 Grant applications from the Playgroup and the Bowls Club would be considered at the May meeting. There had been an application from the Tuesday Club at a previous meeting. A parish record for 2001 from Mr Tombs was also received and the Council asked for its appreciation to be conveyed to him for the splendid report.

15. NEW CODE OF CONDUCT

M J Baker gave a presentation on the steps required for the Council to adopt the new code of conduct and for Councillors to register their financial and membership interests. Copies of the Statutory Instrument 2000/3576 and the Declaration of Acceptance of Office had been provided to Councillors. The Chairman asked for the reason for using the masculine gender throughout the wording of the SI2001/3576. There was a perceived need for training of Councillors to clarify the detailed requirements

16. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

a) A white van had been parked on the hatched road area at the junction of the C426 and Grove Road.
 b) The grass splays at the junction of Link Lane and the C426 required attention.
 c) The verges on the bend of the C426 opposite the playing required clearing of the overgrown hedges and grass.
 d) The hedges near to the Bergholt Road junction impeded visibility of motorists emerging onto the C426.
 e) Two residents in Link Lane had complained of the poor surface and of bushes and trees overhanging the Lane.
 f) There was a large amount of litter near the Police Station in Capel.
 g) There were hedges overhanging the Capel Road carriageway.
 h) The school footway had been swept.

17. AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

The payments totalling £578.70 on the schedule attached to the Minutes were approved. It was confirmed that the tree warden could be reimbursed his expenses.

18. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 9 April at 7.30pm

(The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.18pm)

Following the formal closure of the meeting the Chairman asked for any other public comments:

Attention was requested to the bend in Church Road north of the church to improve the safety of road users perhaps by provision of kerbing.

It was suggested that a public sign be provided for footpath 55 deterring use by horse riders.

A request was made for the verge to be cut near to Oakleigh.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: