

# BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 7 OCTOBER 2010 AT 7.30 PM

**Present** Cllr J Orr- Chairman                      Mrs J Scott – Clerk      Cllr R Feltwell      Cllr K Wheals  
                 Cllr C Cripps                                      Cllr R Goodwin              Cllr P Rayment      Cllr R Perkin

Also in attendance: -. Mr Mike Young –Central Area Highways Manager, County Councillor David Yorke-Edwards - 14 members of the public

1. **To record apologies for absence:** – District Councillor J Hinton, PCSO Denise Ford and C Hawes – Tree Warden
2. **Police Report** – No reported crimes in Bentley for the month of September. The Clerk had still not heard from PC Austin regarding next stage and it was proposed that we write to his Inspector to progress.

Proposed: Cllr R Perkin                      Seconded Cllr R Goodwin                      All in favour      CU

**Action: Clerk to contact Inspector**

3. **To Receive Declarations of Interest Relating to Agenda Items:** - Cllr Rayment declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda item 12 – Grants (Playgroup).
4. **To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – Thursday 2 September 2010** – Cllrs had been re-issued page 552 as amended and the minutes were approved as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Cllr P Rayment                      Seconded Cllr C Cripps                      All in favour      CU

5. **Matters arising from the minutes** – **Page 552 - Item 4** Clerk e-mailed to see if list exists – should have been map (reason for re-issue of page 552) e-mailed them again but have not heard back. **Item 6** Litter bin is finally installed. **Page 553 Public Session** – Notice was sent to Bugle Team re Footpath 24 – Sent e-mail to residents of Link House – drafted letter not yet gone out to Residents of The Link and Bergholt Road **Page 554 Public Session** – Notice board – in hand Mr Cooper has just got the sign from sign writers and maintenance will be undertaken in the near future. **Page 555 - Item 12** Flood Survey sent to SCC. **Item 13 SALC** informed of BPC support. **Item 14** Contacted Capel St Mary Clerk re 2 proposed footpaths – She wanted to know who the request originated from as they had not received a formal request for these to be installed – copied to Chairman, Footpath Warden and Mr R Higgins. **Page 556** Wrote to landowners to arrange meeting. **Item 16** Cheque for Chaplet to be passed tonight, **Item 18 Wrote** to Mid Suffolk – their reply is in Correspondence file. **Item 20** – E-mailed PC G Austin – as yet no reply. Contacted Raydon Clerk – They are trying to get interest going, have talked to immediate neighbouring parishes and got some people in Holton and Stratford St Mary – one in Raydon – The next stage is the Police will hold a meeting to tell us what goes on. He was going to get back to me but not heard anything . **Page 557** Contacted Viridor – groups of 8-10 residents and Cllrs can attend – Clerk will put notice up informing residents so she can arrange a visit.

**Action: Clerk - Notice on Board re Viridor visit (Re-cycling)**

6. **Address by Mike Young – Central Area Highways Manager - re Dangerous Footway – Church Road** Mr Young introduced himself to the meeting and stated he was responsible for highways and footways in Central Suffolk and was surprised to receive a letter with a petition (119 signatures) requesting SCC undertake remedial work to be progressed as a matter of urgency on something that goes back to 2004/05. He had been to look at the site with County Councillor Yorke-Edwards and stated that if it could have been easily done it

would have been done. However, he could not justify the cost of £15-20K in a budget that was diminishing year by year. He had looked at the correspondence and it seemed the various accidents are due to slipping in icy weather so suggested laying a surface made up of fine asphalt and limestone aggregate - a possible pragmatic solution is to dress the surface with a high frictional material. This could be done reasonably quickly to alleviate the problem. This surface would not go all the way down to the school. Another alternative would be a salt bin – Bentley PC might want to consider purchasing a grit bin. The Chairman said he was unhappy with the SCC decision not to progress with the improvements because they had acknowledged there is a problem – it is all year round not only in icy weather with pushchairs and children’s bikes with stabilisers have great difficulty. He did not consider SCC’s solution acceptable and it would not provide a permanent solution to the problems. The Chairman thanked Mr Young for coming to the Council Meeting and asked him to stay for questions during the Public Session. Councillors would discuss it further under Agenda item 24.

## Public Session – Meeting adjourned

Mr M Anderton stated that the problem has been well documented re concerns about the slopes - conditions that applied in outline approval should apply to full planning. 1 in 20 over the first 5 metres. They are 1 in 12 and 1 in 8 and create problems for pushchairs etc He personally gritted the slopes in the winter but once the snow and slush had gone the sand on the pavement created a slipping problem.

A parishioner stated that it is the camber of the pavement that causes the problem.

Neil Roberts - A Bentley resident with extensive planning experience, said Bentley PC can formally apply for an enforcement order and offered to meet with the Chairman to discuss.

Mr Osbon asked if the £20K that was going to be used for a pavement (Bergholt Road) that had not been asked for could be used to put Church Road right. He was told the money would just go back into the budget. It was not transferable.

Mr Young asked the Parish Council to decide whether it wanted SCC to undertake the remedial works outlined earlier. The Chairman told Mike Young that it was not a decision for the Parish Council. SCC were the highways authority and any action to be taken to resolve the clearly identified problem was their responsibility not the Councils. The Chairman again thanked Mr Young for attending before he left the meeting.

Cllr Orr asked for any points on the agenda items. Mr K Phillips stated he had asked three times when the resolution was passed to scrap the Correspondence Lists. Cllr Orr told him the Clerk does not produce a list. Cllrs go through the correspondence. 10 e-mails had been sent in the last three months to clarify – this is the way the Council works and will be clarified under Agenda item 24. Mr Phillips was unhappy with this reply and left the meeting.

Rob Higgins asked in light of the new proposed footpaths will the Council re-consider getting involved? Cllr Orr stated that a meeting had been arranged for Tuesday with the landowners to talk about issues re permissive footpaths, shoots and badgers. We are not intending talking about the new footpaths. The PC has taken a decision they will respect Capel PC’s decision on them when they review it. This will be discussed under Agenda item 16

Mr Higgins further commented on the state of the footpath by Nelson Potters Wood Yard - it is a disgrace – Cllr Orr reminded the meeting that all footpath matters should be reported to the Footpath Warden (Allan Cribb). A reminder to parishioners should be put in the Bugle.

Replacement of road markings at the end of Bergholt Road – Clerk will contact SCC – might have to be an agenda item.

<b>Action: Write to SCC re road marking Bergholt Road -</b>
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Items not on agenda – A question was asked about play equipment for children – parents don't want to go to Case Lane they feel the Village Hall would be a much better site. The Parish Council are looking to create a scheme for up to 7 year olds swings, slides etc

Mr Anderton announced that Bentley Comrades have been overwhelmed by the generosity of people re Help for Heroes. To date they have raised £1,405 and are hoping for more donations to make it up to £1,500.

7. **Planning Applications**

a) **To note decisions of Planning Authority on previous applications** -

**B/1000881/FHA** Trenance, Capel Road, Bentley **Permission has been granted**

b) **To give comments on any new applications in hand** – No new applications.

Councillors agreed unanimously to adjourn the meeting which went back into public session - County Councillor Yorke-Edwards had not yet given his report.

The County Councillor reported on two items - Council Services to be delivered differently in the future – by changing the way Council services are delivered the County Council will be able to reduce costs, reduce its size, cut out waste and bureaucracy and give the people of Suffolk a better say on how they receive services *Full report in minute book – appendix 1*

He reported on progress in terms of the Energy from Waste Facility (incinerator). A contract had now been signed to provide an incinerator to burn waste that would normally go into landfill. Meetings are to be held in Bury St Edmunds and various libraries in the area (Sudbury, Felixstowe and Lowestoft) – County Councillor Yorke-Edwards would report back on these. He stated he still had money in his Locality Budget and could help in providing salt bin previously spoken about and also that he had received a letter from the Village Hall Management Committee to help with 1/3 of the cost of a vehicle activated sign. The Parish Council are still researching the cost of these signs and had not received a copy of the letter from the VHMC committing them to 1/3. This will be an agenda item. Cllr Orr said that £1K from the Locality budget would be much appreciated. County Councillor left the meeting.

The meeting went back into session

8. **To receive report from Footpath Warden** – Allan Cribb reported that the last walk was in the Somersham area on 5 September and the next one is on Sunday at 2.30pm. The AGM is on 27 October at 7.30 Mr Rob Parker County butterfly recorder is the speaker and a warm invitation is extended to anyone in Bentley who wishes to come along. It is a very short AGM with refreshments.

9. **To receive report from Bentley CEVCP School** - Cllr Rayment reported that the Federation between Bentley School and Copdock is going very well. The children at both schools are working on the same topics. The infant class, now called Wolves, are doing Castles and dragons and joined Copdock on a visit to Orford Castle., which they all enjoyed. The older children's class is now called the Adders and are studying the Second World War. A group of older children visited Ipswich High School for a music workshop and Year 6 went to East Bergholt High School for a Forensic Science Day. Bentley were visited by Ofsted and the school held a Macmillan Tea Event - raised £128. This week is World Book Week and visitors have come into school to read to children who dressed as their favourite character. – *Full report in minute book – appendix 2*

10. **Tree Warden's Report** - In the absence of the Colin Hawes the Clerk reported that the Ash tree at Berry Farm, Capel Road, Bentley which was referred to at last month's Parish Council Meeting, has been pollarded. *Full report in minute book – appendix 3*

11. **To receive report from Neighbourhood Watch** - Mr Ingham sent his apologies – there was nothing to report but wished to make people aware of an attempted distraction burglary supposedly by Water Board officials – there is no such thing as the Water Board.

Councillor Rayment left the room

12. **Grants 2010** - Two applications had been received - Bentley Toddler Group and Bentley Footpath Society Cllr Perkin was concerned that Cllrs had not had time to consider the Footpath Society application and proposed it be deferred until the next meeting

Proposed: Cllr R Perkin      Seconded Cllr R Goodwin      All in favour      CU

The original application (May) was put aside because of the new criteria – Cllr Perkin stated there is a need for financial assistance to replace ageing equipment. They do fund raise and this will obviously have to continue. Cllr Perkin proposed that the Group be awarded a grant of £250 as requested. It was agreed that it would be prudent to budget for equipment and would like to see evidence of that in any future grant application.

Proposed: Cllr R Perkin      Seconded Cllr R Goodwin      6 in favour

This was also an opportunity to remind Clubs that grant applications for year 2011/12 should be submitted by 1 November to give Council time to conduct our own budget.

<b>Action Clerk to write and inform Toddler Group - Grant – Footpath Society – Agenda item</b>
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Cllr Rayment returned to the meeting

13. **To approve audited accounts** – Councillors had been issued with External auditor's certificate and opinion which was in accordance with the Audit Commission's requirements and it was proposed that the accounts for 2009/2010 be approved.

Proposed: Cllr R Perkin      Seconded Cllr K Wheals      All in favour      CU

- 14/15 **To Review Risk Assessment – increase value of assets** - It was proposed to increase value of assets by 4.7% (RPI) which should be done annually. Annual increase in insurance cover to be adjusted accordingly.

Proposed: Cllr R Perkin      Seconded Cllr B Feltwell      All in favour      CU

Risk Assessment form will be updated and Cllrs provided with a copy.

<b>Action: Increase assets by 4.7% - provide Cllrs with copy of Risk Assessment – uplift insurance policy</b>
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16. **Bentley Walkers Proposed Public Footpaths** – Cllr Orr reported that a meeting had been arranged with the Landowners and we will continue to talk about permissive footpaths, signs for the shoots and the badger aspect. – since the last meeting issues have arisen with one of the badger sets due to coppicing. There needs to be a site visit to one particular set and to walk the two footpaths. They will also be asked to put notices of the shoots at the four main entrances to the woods. The request from the floor asking us to reconsider taking the lead regarding the two new footpaths will not be discussed at this meeting. SCC has indicated that no decision on these footpaths will not be made until the land has been sold.

The meeting closed on a nodded agreement - Clarify the cul de sac path will not be affected – write to Ms George – Allan Cribb reiterated that that was in hand. – Meeting went back into session. There was a request from the floor for us to review our decision – meeting closed on a nodded agreement – Allan Cribb suggested writing to the respective Parish Council asking if they would support an application made by this Council – back into session It was proposed that we seek clarification that they are going to lead on this if not then Bentley Parish Council will.

Proposed: Cllr R Perkin      Seconded Cllr K Wheals      All in favour      CU

<b>Action: Clerk to contact Capel St Mary Clerk re two proposed new footpaths – Meeting</b>
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**with Landowners**

17. **To discuss Consultation Document – Licensing Act 2003** - Councillors wished it to be noted that they had seen the document.

Proposed: Cllr R Perkin      Seconded Cllr P Rayment      All in favour      CU

18. **Proposed Village Seat** - This had been requested by a parishioner at the Annual Parish Meeting. The Clerk had obtained quotes from Broxap, Glasdon, Benches Direct, Genesis and Paul Willis (metal). There was a great deal of discussion on whether there was a need, where it was to be sited, maintenance and upkeep. West Mill Green was mentioned as a probable site. The meeting closed on a nodded agreement – A parishioner asked for a seat on the green at Silver Leys so parents could sit out and watch their children play on the green – meeting went back into session - Cllr Goodwin stated he would personally donate a metal seat to Silver Leys – Cllrs then discussed whether to buy another seat to match and it was proposed another metal seat be purchased situated on the main road.

Proposed: Cllr C Cripps      Seconded Cllr K Wheals      All in favour      CU

**Action: Clerk to contact Paul Willis re seat and SCC re siting of it.**

19. **To approve accounts – 6 months to September 2010** - Cllr Perkin stated he had reviewed the accounts and the situation was what we would expect - there were no discrepancies and he proposed that the accounts be accepted.

Proposed: Cllr R Perkin      Seconded Cllr R Goodwin      All in favour      CU

20. **Re-gravelling of Churchyard Path (requested by 3 Cllrs)** - Cllr Perkin, Cllr Orr and Cllr Goodwin – Quotations received were very similar and as Mr Richmond is well known and lives in the village it was thought the job would be done in a more efficient way. It was therefore proposed that the Clerk order from Collins.

Proposed: Cllr R Perkin      Seconded Cllr R Goodwin      All in favour      CU

**Action Clerk to order gravel for Church yard path**

21. **Correspondence Lists** - Cllr Orr stated that so much time had been taken up with requests for these lists that were no longer produced (since February) and proposed that as there was no requirement to produce such a list the Clerk continues her present practice.

Proposed: Cllr J Orr      Seconded Cllr P Rayment      All in favour      CU

22. **Volunteers – Speed Control - The** Clerk had still heard nothing from PC Gary Austin and it was proposed that she write a letter to his inspector to try and move along. She was also asked to write to SCC regarding reinstatement of road markings at Bergholt Road junction.

Proposed: Cllr R Perkin      Seconded Cllr P Rayment      All in favour      CU

**Action: Write to Inspector re Speed Control and SCC re reinstatement of road markings at Bergholt Road Junction,**

23. **Action Plan Update – Local Homes for Local People – Update** - A meeting was arranged for 6 October 2010 at 10 am at Babergh District Council and things are progressing. Due to have another meeting before December.

24. **School Travel Plan Update** – Cllrs discussed the proposals put forward by Mr Young and agreed that after all this time we cannot let it go. Cllr Goodwin suggested an alternative to the points discussed earlier with Mike Young - would there be enough room the other side of the road to construct a pavement? Meeting closed on a nodded agreement – a parishioner thought it would be dangerous for children to cross further down the road. It was agreed that the

Parish Council would take advice from Neil Roberts on how we might get BDC to enforce the approved conditions – meeting went back into session The Clerk will write to Mr Young – thanking him for attending the meeting and seeking his comments on the above.

Proposed: Cllr P Rayment      Seconded Cllr B Feltwell      All in favour      CU

**Action: Clerk to write to Mr Young**

25. **Playing Fields Committee Update – Case Lane - Update** - The Clerk had e-mail SCC for an update on the ditching but had not received a reply. It was agreed to hold a Playing Field Society Meeting at 7 pm before the 4 November meeting. Need to get something done about goal posts.

**Action: Meeting 7pm - Playing Field Society - Agenda**

26. **Agenda item 27 - Exchange of information by Councillors and matters for consideration at future meetings** –. Cllr Perkin requested bus shelters be an agenda item at the November meeting.

Cllr Goodwin requested that the Clerk write to the Village Hall Management Committee requesting use of the area next to the Village Hall for a childrens' playground – he had been approached by several mothers and grandmothers requesting the playground be sited at the Village Hall. The equipment would be for up to 6 or 7 year olds consisting swing, slide etc.

Proposed: Cllr R Goodwin      Seconded Cllr C Cripps      All in favour      CU

Cllr Cripps stated that the hedge along the avenue (between Moonrakers & Cllr Perkin) was very overhanging. Cllr Perkin stated that the homeowner had obtained a quote to get this done but he did not know the outcome.

Cllr Wheals reported dropped drain opposite Capel Rig – dangerous for bicycles. Clerk will contact SCC highways

Cllr Orr - Review of the Village Plan – Agenda item      Also ask Clerk to write to VHMC requesting a copy of the letter sent to County Councillor.

**Action Clerk to write to VHMC re playground and ask for a copy of the letter sent to County Councillor– contact SCC re dropped drain**

27. **Agenda item 26 - To receive Correspondence** - The Clerk drew Councillors' attention to E-mail from SCC regarding Clerk's enquiry into Vehicle Activated Signs. – Agenda item Renewal of Spamfighter and toner (Clerk's expenses). Meeting with Parish Councils 11 November – Stoke by Nayland – 25 November Hintlesham Gold Club. Land Registry – Registering your Councils Property - Agenda item – Babergh Development Framework Core Strategy – the future growth of Babergh - (sent round on special circulation - Agenda item (workshops – dates) E-mails received from Mr Osbon – concerns re woodland – and Mrs Doolan – litter bin and overgrown footpaths –E-mail from SCC re Clerk's enquiry about Vehicle Activated Signs that collect data and an e-mail from Mr Higgins addressed to Capel Clerk.

**Action: – Agenda items – Vehicle Activated Signs – Registering your Council's Property, Development Framework Core Strategy -**

27. **To Authorise Payments** - The following payments were authorised.

100843	Suffolk ACRE Services	Insurance policy renewal	£455.16
100844	Royal British Legion	Donation – Chaplet – Remembrance Sunday	£75.00
100845	BDO Stoy Hayward	Auditing Annual Return - 31 March 2010	£158.63
100846	Bentley Village Hall	Hire of Hall – September/October	£30.00
100847	Mr Munday	7 <sup>th</sup> cut of grass + extras	£150.00

100848	Mrs J Scott	Salary - September	£331.43	
		Expenses	<u>£61.34</u>	£392.77
			£392.77	

It was proposed that these be paid en bloc.

Proposed: Cllr R Perkin      Seconded: Cllr R Goodwin      All in favour      CU

28. **To confirm date of next scheduled meeting** – Thursday 4 November 2010 at 7.30 pm. –  
 Playing Field Society Meeting 7 pm - The meeting closed at 9.55 pm.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: