

# BENTWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Jane Costigan

Clerk: Mrs Louisa Thomson  
Email: [clerk@bentworthparishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@bentworthparishcouncil.org)

26<sup>th</sup> August 2022

You are summoned to attend the **Parish Council Meeting** of Bentworth Parish Council on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 7.30pm, St Marys Church, Bentworth.**

*Jane Costigan (Chair), Veronica Parker, Danny Green, Kathryn Courtier, Simon Houston, Neal Day, Tim Lipscombe and James Blackmore*

## AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence.**
2. **Minutes** – To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022.
3. **Declaration of Interest** – Councillors are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable Pecuniary interest which they may have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when that item is reached. Unless dispensation has been granted, you may not participate in any discussion of, or vote on, or discharge any function related to any matter in which you have a pecuniary interest as defined by regulations made by the Secretary of State under the Localism Act 2011. You must withdraw from the room or chamber when the meeting discusses and votes on the matter.
4. **Public Participation** – Opportunity for the public to speak on agenda items in accordance with Standing Orders.
5. **Report from County Councillor**
6. **Report from District Councillor**
7. **Herriard Environmental Initiatives**

Herriard are undertaking two activities that we are keen to share more widely to see if they are of interest to other local parishes.

  1. Holding an Eco Fair on the 1st October at Herriard Green, open to all. We have arranged several speakers on topics related to sustainable living, energy and wildlife along with exhibition stands, local producers and activities for children. The event is supported by National Lottery communities Funding and we are keen to include residents from surrounding areas in our event. To that end we will be advertising this via social media and print but were wondering if this is something you could also include in any parish magazine you publish or other communication methods you use.
  2. Currently in discussion with one of the local refill shops to set up a local ordering and drop off point for their products. The intent is for local residents to drop off empty containers in a central village location to be collected on one day per week/fortnight, filled by the shop, charged to the customer direct and then dropped back to the same collection point a few days later filled. This will save travel and packaging and allow a convenient and environmentally conscious way of shopping. As part of our discussions, the shop would be happy to extend this service to other neighbouring local parishes/villages, further increasing the travel reduction benefits and widening the service to more local villagers. They would obviously need a central drop off point in each location for the container drop off and return but beyond that all the payment and administration would be carried out by the shop itself. If volumes are sufficient there would be no delivery charges, so the cost is the same as shopping on the high street but with added convenience and environmental benefits.
8. **Speed Indicator Device (SID) – Update**
9. **Hampshire County Council is seeking the views of residents about 20 mph limits within Hampshire.**

The County Council is keen to hear from as many residents, businesses and other stakeholders as possible, to find out their views on the implementation of 20mph limits in the context of other highways priorities and the County Council's statutory duties to maintain the highway in a safe condition within a limited budget.

The findings from the survey, together with data about use of the highway, speed enforcement, road safety and environmental impacts will be important in helping to shape future policy relating to 20mph speed limits in Hampshire and, in turn, future decision-making around 20mph speed limits.

The survey is available at: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/transportchemes/20mph-speed-limits-consultation> and should take just 15 minutes to complete.

It is open until midnight on Monday 12 September 2022.

**10. East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) - survey that will shape the future Local Plan.**

Under the Climate Change Act, the UK is legally obliged to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 100% by 2050 across all sectors of the economy. One of the most important ways that the Council can influence GHG emissions is via the Local Plan. The Council is currently in the early stages of exploring policy options that will minimise the climate change impacts of future development in East Hampshire. We would like to hear your views on how we may be able to incorporate net zero requirements into the Local Plan, and more broadly, how you think the Local Plan can best contribute to reducing GHG emissions.

The survey will run for 6 weeks. To access the survey, click this link:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CPDVN5G>  
Council to complete survey.

**11. Community Updates – Community Care, Neighbourhood Watch.**

**12. External Auditors Appointment**

Under the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015, SAAA is responsible for appointing external auditors to all applicable opted-in smaller authorities, for setting the terms of appointment for limited assurance reviews and for managing the contracts with the appointed audit firms. Smaller authorities are those whose gross annual income or expenditure is less than £6.5 million. The next 5-year appointing period runs from 2022-23 until 2026-27 and SAAA has undertaken a procurement exercise to appoint auditors to each County area from 1 April 2022. This is to advise you of the option to opt-out of the next round of 5-year audit appointments.

All authorities require an appointed external auditor even if the authority meets the criteria to qualify for exemption, as a Certificate of Exemption is required to be submitted to the external auditor and the auditor must be in place in case of objections from local electors

During the previous 5-year period all smaller authorities were 'opted-in' to the central procurement regime managed by SAAA - no authority decided to 'opt-out' and follow the various complex procedures required under statute to appoint their own external auditor. If you wish to continue as part of the SAAA sector led auditor appointment regime then no action is required, you will remain part of central scheme. However, all authorities must be given the option to opt-out of the central procurement and appointment scheme and appoint their own external auditor for the next 5-year period, although the process is onerous for smaller authorities.

This communication is to advise that whilst all smaller authorities are opted into the central procurement of external auditors by default, any authorities who do not wish to be part of the SAAA arrangements must formally notify SAAA that they wish to opt out within 8 weeks of this communication but no later than 28 October 2022; this decision must be communicated to SAAA via e mail to [admin@saaa.co.uk](mailto:admin@saaa.co.uk). If notification of your decision to opt out is not received within this 8-week period, then your authority will be regarded as opted-in for the next five-year period beginning on 1 April 2022 and ending on 31 March 2027.

Council to decide whether to opt-in or out of the scheme.

**13. Accounts 2022/2023**

Council to approve the following payment:

a) Louisa Thomson – Clerk Salary July 2022	£456.86
b) Louisa Thomson – Clerk Salary August 2022	TBC
c) Louisa Thomson – Clerk's expenses August 2022	TBC
d) St Mary's Church – Parish Council meetings	£ 90.00

**14. Next Meeting**

To confirm the date of the next scheduled Council meeting, Tuesday 4th October 2022.

**15. Close of meeting.**

