

BENTWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Mr Tim Lipscombe

Clerk: Louisa Thomson
Email: clerk@bentworthparishcouncil.org

MINUTES OF MEETING

Tuesday 29th November 2022 at St Marys Church

Present:

| Parish Councillors | Clerk | District & County Councillors | Others |
|---|----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Tim Lipscombe - Chair Neal Day – Vice Chair Veronica Parker | Louisa Thomson | | Members of the public |

Vice Chair Neal Day confirmed the recent resignations of Jane Costigan, Kathryn Courtier, Simon Houston and James Blackmore.

Part I

22.142 Election of Chairman

Proposed Veronica Parker, Seconded Neal Day, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: that Councillor Tim Lipscombe is elected as Chairman. Chairman Lipscombe signed a declaration of acceptance of office and took the chair.

22.143 Confirmation of Minutes – Resolved

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 1st November 2022, copies previously circulated, **Proposed as a true record by Veronica Parker, Seconded Neal Day and RESOLVED: signed by Chair Tim Lipscombe.**

22.144 Report from East Hampshire District Councillor Tony Costigan read by Tim Lipscombe

The pond does not seem to be owned by any one individual or body, including the PC. As regards the Green, Simon Ellis at EHDC has checked Council records and there is no mention of who owns the Green. He suggests that it may be easier for the PC to carry out a search at the Land Registry and see if this throws any light on the matter.

From memory, when Matt was running the Star Inn, he had to sign a waiver with Hants CC that he would not claim any rights over the Green for maintaining it. This tells me that HCC may be the owners. I will continue with my enquiries and will revert later.

With regards to the verge cutting at Jenny Green Lane, Norse did offer to come and cut the verge but they advised that it was outside of the Bentworth Parish boundary and that it was Hampshire Highways. Meantime, Julian Lewis has been down to trim the area. I have been to check, and visibility is clear.

22.145 Councillor Vacancy

There are currently five vacancies on the Parish Council, vacancy notices have been posted and the council is free to co-opt new members.

22.146 East Hampshire District Council Local Plan Seminar

The presentation slides will be available on the Parish Council website.

Neal Day attended and reported that EHDC are at a very preliminary stage and the answers they gave to questions regarding lack of infrastructure such as footpaths, drainage, communications etc showed that there's a lot more work to do.

No specific areas have been identified for development at this stage, but I do get the feeling that things will move quite rapidly so we need to keep a close eye on things.

22.148 Medstead and Four Marks Housing Development

Council don't feel able to comment, as they haven't received an official application from East Hampshire District Council.

22.149 Website Photo Competition

Proposed Neal Day, Seconded Veronica Parker, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: to proceed with the competition, possibly with age group categories. Details to be confirmed, including any prizes.

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22.150 Website

Proposed Neal Day, Seconded Veronica Parker, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: to approve expenditure of up to £300 for Toolbox Digital Services to carry out improvements to the website.

22.151 Community Care

13 trips were carried out during November. A trip to Avenue Nurseries for tea and cake is arranged for the 15th December and a Bingo tea is organised for February.
The group still needs one more driver.

Proposed Veronica Parker, Seconded Neal Day, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders so a member of the public could ask about applying to the Parish Council for grant funding.

Council advised grant funding can be applied for by any organisation and the application forms are on the Parish Council website.

Proposed Neal Day, Seconded Veronica Parker, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to reinstate Standing Orders.

22.152 Neighbourhood Watch

There have been instances of car number plates being stolen around Medstead and Four Marks. Don't leave belongings in view in vehicles, a car in Medstead was broken into and the belongings stolen. Beware of online scams; relatives needing help and heating allowances.

22.153 Speed Indicator Sign (SID) Update

Tim Lipscombe read report provided by David Maltby.
SID Report for 6th to 20th November at Wellers

| | |
|-----------|-------|
| Vehicles: | 20652 |
| 31-35mph: | 6699 |
| 36-40mph: | 1876 |
| 41-45mph: | 349 |
| 46-50mph: | 65 |
| 51-60mph: | 15 |
| 61-70mph: | 1 |
| 71-80mph: | 1 |

71mph on Tuesday 8th November at 21:27

Status with the Police

Maria Jolliffe has put me in touch with the safer roads team, and a researcher has been investigating processing the data from the SID, they have asked for more data to be sent this week to confirm their processing. Hopefully this may lead to some police enforcement in the village.
I will update as soon as I know more.

Regards

David

22.154 Action Log – copy of log following this meeting attached as appendix A.

Proposed Neal Day, Seconded Veronica Parker, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders so a member of the public can address Council.

A member of the public offered to investigate the possibility of getting a licence to use a fire hydrant to fill the village pond.

Proposed Veronica Parker, Seconded Neal Day, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to reinstate Standing Orders.

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22.155 Accounts 2022/2023

Proposed Neal Day, Seconded Veronica Parker, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve the following payment:

- a) Louisa Thomson – Clerk Salary November 2022 £457.06
- b) Louisa Thomson – Clerk's expenses November 2022 £ 6.21
- c) Louisa Thomson – Clerk's Salary December 2022 and January 2023 to be paid in line with clerk's contract, amounts to be confirmed to council at the February meeting.
- d) HM Revenue & Customs following Clerk's December Salary payment.

22.156 Next Meeting

Confirm the date of the next scheduled meeting is Tuesday 7th February 2023.

22.157 Confidential Business

Proposed Veronica Parker, Seconded Neal Day, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: that members of the Public and Press are excluded from the meeting for Part II so matters of a confidential nature can be discussed.

Part II

22.158 Clerk's Salary

Proposed Veronica Parker, Seconded Neal Day, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: to approve the Clerk's pay increase in line with the recent Local Government Association pay agreement, to be back dated to 1st April 2022 to be paid with December 2022 salary.

Part III (Held in Public)

22.159 Close of Meeting – The Chair thanked all present for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Signed.....
Chair Bentworth Parish Council

20th December 2022