

BENTWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Mr Tim Lipscombe

Clerk: Louisa Thomson
Email: clerk@bentworthparishcouncil.org

MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday 5th January 2023 at St Marys Church

Present:

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

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

Resident Nicola White summarised to the Council and members of the public her career and committee work and her what she could bring to the Parish Council should she be successful in joining.

22.160 Confirmation of Minutes – Resolved

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 29th November 2022, copies previously circulated, Proposed as a true record by Veronica Parker, Seconded Neal Day and RESOLVED: signed by Chair Tim Lipscombe.

22.161 Public Participation

A member of the SpeedWatch team explained that the equipment is shared with Four Marks and is currently not working. The team have loaned a speed gun from the Police which is very easy to use and effective. They request that the Parish Council might consider purchasing a Police approved speed gun which would mean the SpeedWatch team aren't restricted by the availability of the existing equipment, the speed gun would complement and could be used in conjunction with the Speed Indicator Sign.

East Hampshire District Councillor Tony Costigan offered to pay for the speed gun from his Community Grant fund. He asked the Clerk to submit a grant application form for his approval.

Councillor Co-option

Councillor Neal Day proposed Mrs Nicola White of Beech Copse, Holt End Lane, Bentworth seconded Councillor Veronica Parker, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: that Mrs Nicola White is co-opted to Bentworth Parish Council.

Councillor Veronica Parker proposed Mr Tony Costigan of The Old Cricketers Inn, Colt Hill, Odiham seconded Councillor Neal Day, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: that Mr Tony Costigan is co-opted to Bentworth Parish Council.

Mrs Nicola White and Mr Tony Costigan signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

22.162 Report from District Councillor Tony Costigan

May Elections - Members of the public will need to show photo ID to vote in the May elections, this is a national decision. East Hampshire District Council are concerned and will get this information to residents as soon as possible. If members of the public don't have photo ID they can apply for a postal vote.

AutoSpeedWatch – The Police have accepted the AutoSpeedWatch system to a point, but not fully. East Hampshire District Council provide funding for villages to have two cameras, this is in the EHDC budget for 2023/2024.

Overgrown Verges – Councillor Costigan has been to look at the verges on the corner of Jenny Green Lane, there is no problem with visibility now. Need to establish ownership to find out who is Responsible for keeping the verges cut, the verges aren't owned by Hampshire County Council

Pond Area – The village pond area is unregistered land, because Bentworth Parish Council have maintained it for more than ten year they can apply to the land registry for ownership.

Village Green – This is owned by Hampshire County Council Highways and not East Hampshire District

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Minutes meeting 5th January 2023 page 2 of 3

Council or the Parish Council. East Hampshire District Council won't cut the grass as the area doesn't belong to them. The Parish Council would need to get permission from Hampshire Highways if they want to employ a contractor to cut the grass.

Land at Glebe Fields – This is owned by East Hampshire District Council.

22.163 Planning

Council considered one planning application, their comments to be forwarded to East Hampshire District Council.

24528/016 Crossways, Trinity Road, Bentworth
Variation of condition 5 of 24528/015 to allow substitution of approved proposed plans and elevations.

The comments by date have closed and EHDC have made a decision on the application.

22.164 East Hampshire District Council Local Plan Consultation

Proposed Neal Day, Seconded Veronica Parker UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: the following comments are forwarded to EHDC.

Bentworth Parish Council comments on the EHDC Local Plan consultation.

Context

Bentworth is a small village of approximately 200 homes, situated in a rural setting approximately 4 miles to the north of Four Marks and 4 miles to the northwest of Alton, and is surrounded by farmland. The Parish Council would like to make the following comments on the Local Plan, which we have grouped into three principal headings: infrastructure, the need to consider the impacts of planning decisions on neighbouring communities, and the sustainability of development in our area.

Infrastructure

Our current infrastructure is already woefully inadequate. The local roads are in a shocking state, full of potholes; there is no public transport apart from the school bus that only operates in term time, and a local service that serves the village once or twice a week; local healthcare services (doctors and dentists) are at or over capacity; and schools are similarly oversubscribed. Increasing the number of homes without first addressing the infrastructure will only cause an already failing system to collapse further.

Impact of development in other locations

EHDC must take a holistic view of the challenges when proposing further developments in towns such as Four Marks. The road through Bentworth already serves as a rat-run between the A31 and the A339 for cars, vans and even HGVs. In 2022, we recorded 474,191 traffic movements through the village, which equates to an average of approx. 1,300 vehicles per day (and because this is an average, some days will be higher than that figure). We already have a problem with speeding: over the year we recorded ~58,000 vehicles exceeding 36mph, with ~520 of these exceeding 50mph, all of these in a 30mph area. Additional development in the region, and in Four Marks in particular, will only make this worse.

Sustainability of development

Bentworth has no shops, no schools other than a small primary school, no healthcare and inadequate public transport. We have several listed buildings, a conservation area, and no space for development within the settlement boundary. As mentioned above, the local infrastructure is already inadequate. Building additional homes in our area is unsustainable. We would resist suggestions that land be made available for housing and would like to see Bentworth at the bottom of any proposed hierarchy.

22.165 Neighbourhood Plan

Councillors to meet with EHDC to establish what would be needed to complete the Neighbourhood Plan.

22.166 Land Ownership – covered under District Councillor report.

22.167 Village Green Grass Cutting – covered under District Councillor report.

22.168 Village Pond - The pond is holding water at the moment and will be monitored.

22.169 Kings Coronation

Proposed Neal Day, Seconded Veronica Parker, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: to arrange a public meeting to establish interest within the village and if there are any volunteers to help organise an event.

BENTWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes meeting 5th January 2023 page 3 of 3

22.170 Litter Pick Risk Assessment

Proposed Neal Day, Seconded Veronica Parker, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: to approve the proposed risk assessment.

22.171 Website Photo Competition

Proposed Neal Day, Seconded Veronica Parker, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: to set the closing date at 30th April 2023 and to approach the school to promoting the competition to children.

22.172 **Website** – Improvements being worked on.

22.173 Speed Indicator Sign (SID) Update

Tim Lipscombe read report provided by David Maltby.

SID Report for 18th December to 1st January at Oaklands

Vehicles:	10781
31-35mph:	4733
36-40mph:	866
41-45mph:	116
46-50mph:	15
51-60mph:	1
61-70mph:	0
71-80mph:	0

Below is the summary for 2022, combining SID data from all the locations and both directions.

Vehicles:	474,191
31-35mph:	162,516
36-40mph:	46,052
41-45mph:	9,446
46-50mph:	2,047
51-60mph:	512
61-70mph:	7
71-80mph:	0

That gives a grand total of 58,100 exceeding 36mph.

Regards
David

22.174 **Action Log** – update from Tim Lipscombe.

22.175 Accounts 2022/2023

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

a) Louisa Thomson – Clerk Salary December 2022 (including backpay)	£706.49
b) Louisa Thomson – Clerk's expenses December 2022	£6.21
c) HMRC – October, November and December	£170.63
d) Information Commissioner – Data Protection Renewal	£40.00
e) Veronica Parker – Noticeboard key cutting	£17.20
f) Kathryn Courtier – Christmas Tree	£230.00
g) Kathryn Courtier – Decorating food and drink (Chairmans allowance)	£ 28.94

22.176 Next Meeting

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

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

Signed.....
Chair Bentworth Parish Council

7th February 2023