

BENTWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Mrs Jane Costigan

Clerk: Allison Spyer

Home Port, Church Road, North Waltham RG25 2BL

Tel: 07786 063570 Email: clerk.bentworth@parish.hants.gov.uk

MINUTES OF MEETING

Tuesday 1 December via Zoom App

Present:

| Parish Councillors | Clerk | District & County Councillors | Others |
|--|---------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Jane Costigan (Chair) Veronica Parker (Vice Chair) Tony Costigan Callum Knight Danny Green Kathryn Courtier | Allison Spyer | | Seven members of the public |

ACTION FOR

- 28.97 Apologies for absence:**
There were no apologies
- 28.98 Declarations of interest:**
There were no declarations of interest
- 28.99 Police Update:**
There was no Police update.
- 29.00 Meeting open to the public:**
No members of the public wished to speak.
- 29.01 Minutes of the Nov Meetings:**
The minutes of the November meeting were approved but will be amended to reflect discussion and not outcome.

- 29.02 Matters Arising:**
Compliance Issues – Ongoing. TC will however liaise with EHDC regarding Russell House and seek assurances the complaint is being investigated.
Clerk Review – Ongoing and will be completed in January
Police Report – JC was able to confirm Dan Ross is still our beat officer and will report at future meetings (no attendance at this meeting however).
Website – DG confirmed that a 25% deposit has been paid and the site is officially in development and should be completed by the new year barring any complications (unforeseen). Bentworth PC now have full control and once launched will be run by DG. The email coms will also change and be linked. TC offered a DC grant of £500 to go towards the site and AS will apply.

DG/AS

- 29.03 SpeedWatch Signs:**
Bentworth PC would like to officially thank all those that helped to erect the new SpeedWatch signs. Jane and Tony Costigan, Callum Knight, Kathryn Courtier, Andy Moir & Nick Bolsover. JC to ask Jason to put in the sockets at the sites where needed. In addition thanks to be given to RAW Window Cleaning who cleaned the street signs for free. John Stockdale will circulate the company details recommending their services. The SpeedWatch team (VP, CK & KC) will undertake further equipment training of Friday 11 December.

JS

- 29.04 St Marys School – New Railings & Gates**
Concerns have been raised within the community regarding the new electronic lock on the school gates resulting in possible loss of access during weekends and holiday periods. Thank you to Jo Ayres for joining the meeting and confirming that the lock is released after school hours and the pedestrian gates to the school hall are never locked so access to the defib will not be compromised. During term-time there will be personal onsite between 6am – 7.30pm

- 29.05 Spending Approval:**
Parish Christmas Tree & Decorations – A local parishioner has very kindly donated the money to purchase the Christmas tree. The PC would like to buy decorations and lights for the tree which will be going up this week. A budget of £100.00 was proposed by JC and seconded by CK with unanimous agreement from the rest of the council, VP to purchase. Sunday 13 December was proposed as the date for the

VP

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community to decorate the tree (at a social distance).

Metal Soldier Silhouette – The PC discussed purchasing two metal silhouettes to replace the plastic ones we have and be more in-keeping with other local villages. One for the village green and the second for the graveyard. A budget of £350.00 was suggested, JC proposed and TC seconded with unanimous agreement from the council. TC to purchase.

TC

Neighbourhood Plan:

It was agreed to publicise Boyd McCleary's Statement regarding the NP in both the minutes and meeting report for the villager. DG will also include a NP section on the new website. Statement in full below:

Bentworth Parish Council took a decision in July 2015 to embark on the process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish. A Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee was set up, questionnaires were sent out, a number of public meetings were held, a great deal of work was done and an emerging Vision, Objectives, Policies and Community Aspirations were produced.

However, when East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) announced in early 2019 that they were going to undertake a major revision of their Local Plan, with which our Neighbourhood Plan has to be aligned, they advised that parishes which had not completed their Neighbourhood Plans should put their work on hold. Bentworth Parish Council accepted this advice. The Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee submitted extensive comments on EHDC's draft Local Plan in March 2019, since when the Steering Committee has not met.

The Parish Council considered at its meeting on the 1 December 2020 whether we should pick up the work on the Neighbourhood Plan. The Council noted that there was at present a great deal of uncertainty: Covid-19, significant delays in the production of East Hampshire District Council's Local Plan and the publication by the Government of sweeping planning reforms. In the light of this uncertainty, the Council concluded that it did not make sense at this stage to expend the time, energy and money that would be required to revive the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Parish Council noted that this decision to leave the Neighbourhood Plan in suspense should be reviewed in mid-2021. Meanwhile the Council would like to put on record its thanks to the members of the Steering Committee, its observers and advisors for the work done so far.

For information: The members of the Committee were:

- Boyd McCleary
- Colin Brooks
- Debbie Rhodes
- Jenny French (subsequently replaced by Alasdair Pepper)
- Veronica Parker
- David Hutley

- David Hawes, Observer
- Nicholas Branch, Observer

- Jean Cornelius, Adviser on the Village School
- Peter Egerton-Warburton, Adviser on Real Estate

District Councillor Update:

It has been an interesting 4 weeks at district level, dealing with the ongoing issues that Covid has created for all local governments. Meantime, our waste contractors have again worked admirably under difficult circumstances. Please refer to the PC website for the December collections; some of you may already have received emails from John Stockade highlighting the collection dates. Again John, thank you for your ongoing support. Your efforts and the services you provide are well respected within the community.

The festive season is well and truly upon us and as you will see from the PC Minutes, we have an anonymous donor who paid for the Christmas tree which I believe stands at 14 feet. Thanks go to Julian Lewis and his team for the very quick response in setting up the tree on the Green while the weather was dry.

In addition to the tree, we have purchased Christmas lights (720) which should be bright enough to see while driving by. Again John is assisting by dealing with the battery power to have them lit.

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I understand that the PC, via the website and John Stockade's news bulletins, will be inviting the residents along to decorate the tree with any spare baubles and tinsel that they may have. This could be good fun, especially for some of the children. Of course it goes without saying that if you meet other families please be aware of social distancing. Sadly the current criteria prevents us from making this a social event, which would have been nice. That said, I hope that you enjoy the opportunity to decorate the tree.

You will all be familiar with the localised flooding spots within the Bentworth area. Two have caused serious concerns for a number of years, one by the golden post box and the other on the corner by Mr and Mrs Stockdale's home. With the assistance of Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee, we have recently had a meeting with the Highway Engineers who have checked the drain and culvert at the golden post box. They report that the drains are clear, undamaged and functioning. It would appear that the issues lie with the outlet pipe which runs into the ditch behind the post box and in front of the hedge to the side of the Village Green. We were advised to lower the ground level within the ditch which would allow the water to flow, gather in the ditch and eventually soak away. It is hoped that this will alleviate the flooding in this spot. As far as the other site is concerned, I understand that the contractors have been appointed to come and clear the soakaways at this location as well as other drains within the village which again should help with the flooding. I am told that this will be completed before Christmas. There were further discussions with the engineers as to the place a third drain on the corner of Church Street. This will be on the agenda for April next year as Highways will have to budget for the work. Our thanks go to Cllr Callum Knight who has agreed to lower the level of the ditch at no cost to the PC.

We are investigating the continual flooding at the end of New Copse. It might just be a case of clearing rubble from the road drain. Bear with me, we are working on having these issues resolved.

It is the time of the year again to deal with the salt bins. They have all been checked and had the contents broken up so that they are easily accessible when required. Please feel free to use the salt on the areas that are renowned as being difficult particularly when they are icy; this will not be done for you.

I have been advised by EHDC that an EV charging point has been installed in the car park to Lasham Gliding Club. This may be helpful to some of those using such vehicles in the community.

It would seem that the PC have managed to get to the bottom of the dog waste bin problem. Apparently, the bin outside of the school near to the entrance on the right as you approach is for bagged dog waste as well as normal waste. Plans are afoot for a second bin to be installed. I suspect that there will be further information available in January.

Meantime, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and let us hope that 2021 is a much better year for us all.

29.06 Finance:

(a) Payments for approval

- Allison Spyer, Salary & costs £513.79
- HMRC, PAYE £16.20
- Toolboxdigital, Website build deposit £625.00

All payments were proposed by JC and seconded by TC with unanimous agreement from the rest of the council.

(b) Receipts

- No Current Receipts

(c) Balance of Current Account

- Available funds in the Treasury Account £9670.00

(d) Grant Application

The Care Group applied for a grant of £150.00 to pay for their annual insurance. VP proposed and CK seconded with unanimous agreement from the rest of the council. AS to release the funds.

AS

(e) FAG Meeting Deferred

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29.07 Village Appearance:

No current litter pick planned but residents are encouraged pick up litter as an when seen out and about. If anyone would like to use the litter pick equipment Veronica Parker has it.

29.08 Planning Committee Report:

21602/018, Hookers Place, Village Street, Bentworth GU34 5RB

Listed building consent – conversion of garage to part ancillary accommodation and part storeroom.

No Objection

21602/017, Hookers Place, Village Street, Bentworth GU34 5RB

Conversion of garage to part ancillary accommodation and part storeroom.

No Objection

54261/009, The Coach House, Holt End Lane, Bentworth GU34 5JU

Listed building consent – Enclose the existing porch canopy over the entrance of the Coach House. A simple black plinth with horizontal T&G cladding to the walls of the porch are proposed. The existing slate tile roof canopy will be retained. The porch will also have a new window to match the recently installed joinery to the Coach House. The window will be installed directly in front of the window to the cottage.

No Objection

29.09 Councillors Report:

Environment: VP to send KC all the info from EHDC re: Hayley Lane becoming a public footpath. JS will include the suggestion in one of his emails to garner the level of support for this suggestion

VP/JS

Traffic & Highways: Nothing to report

SpeedWatch: Nothing to report

Trees: Nothing to report

Young people and families: Nothing to report

Website: Previously discussed

Broadband: Local resident Dan Steel is trying to get superfast broadband into properties currently without it.

If there is enough interest he will be able to obtain a quote and possibly a grant. If you are not currently on his list please email your interest to largecatsdan@gmail.com

Communications: Nothing to report

Village Green: Nothing to report

29.10 Other Reports:

Community Care: Still operating, there are only around 2-3 trips a month.

Neighbourhood watch: Be aware there is an amazon prime phone call scam, please as ever do not divulge personal information over the phone.

29.11 Meetings Attended:

None

29.12 Forthcoming Meetings:

29.13 Correspondence Received:

29.14 Date of next Meeting:

Tuesday 2 Feb 2021

Signed Date

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Appendix 1.

BENTWORTH PARISH COUNCIL PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2021 / 2022

ANNUAL OUTGOINGS

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Clerk gross salary | £6825.00 |
| Clerks expenses | £500.00 |
| Councillors expenses | £200.00 |
| Chairman's allowance | £85.00 |
| Insurance | £480.00 |
| Grants and donations | £500.00 |
| Training | £400.00 |
| Hall hire | £250.00 |
| Audit fees | £350.00 |
| Subscriptions (HALC & CPRE) | £270.00 |
| Data protection | £35.00 |
| Participatory budgeting | £500.00 |
| Village appearance & maintenance | £1000.00 |
| Laptop / tech support | £150,00 |
| Website | £2000.00 |
| Contingency | £2000.00 |
| TOTAL | £15,545.00 |

ADDITIONAL INCOME

| | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| Other grants | £500.00 minimum EHDC |
| VAT | Unknown |

Precept request for 2022 / 2022 £10,000.00

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It is suggested that any amount spent over the annual precept comes out of the BC reserves thus starting to draw them down.