BENTWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Louisa Thomson
Email: clerk@bentworthparishcouncil.org

Neal Day - Chairman, Nikki White – Vice Chairman, Veronica Parker, Scott Neville, Simon Lane, Christian Browning and David Eyre-Brook

MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday 19th September 2024 at Jubilee Hall, Bentworth

Present:

Parish Councillors	Clerk	District & County Councillors	Others
Neal Day Nikki White Scott Neville Simon Lane Christian Browning			Members of the public

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The following matters were raised by members of the public:

- Regular submissions to the Villager to be added to the agenda.
- The Star Inn is an eyesore, and villagers have seen no improvements in the past year. The fencing outside of the building is understood to be in place for safety reasons but is most unpleasant. The building is privately owned and is in a conservation area.
- The Parish Council is not aware of any submitted planning applications. The Clerk will write to EHDC Planning to ask that the site is tidied.
- Several trees in the village are dead or diseased and have been reported. Follow up requested on any actions to resolve this.

24.051 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Veronica Parker and David Eyre-Brook and Clerk Louisa Thomson.

24.052 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED
The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 3rd September 2024, copies previously circulated.
Proposed as a true record by Simon Lane, Seconded Nikki White and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED and signed by chairman Neal Day.

24.053 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
Numerous comments were raised objecting to the possible removal of the swing from the Oak tree on the Village Green.

24.054 SWING ON VILLAGE GREEN
There is a swing attached to the Oak tree on the Village Green, council to approve it's removal.
Having receive numerous objections to removal of the swing from members of the public, the council advised that they were acting in the best interest to preserve a healthy but protected tree in a conservation area.
The council accepted that to act in the best interests of the village that no immediate actions would be taken to remove the swing.
Subject to the insurance liability the council will investigate placing a sign beside the tree advising that users of the swing do so at their own risk.
It was understood that the council are not owners of the swing and have no responsibility for maintenance. The Parish Council will however contact Hampshire County Council who own the green and ask them to inspect the condition off the tree and gives advice regarding the swing.

24.055 BENCHES ON VILLAGE GREEN
The condition of the benches on the green has been checked. Some of the wood is in poor condition and will require replacement or repair in the near future. In the short term a wood preserver treatment may extend the time before repairs are necessitated. Councillors will clean and treat the benches.
Proposed, Seconded, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: to approve the purchase of 5 litres of wood preserver at a cost of £25.75. Amazon comparisons were provided, and the cheapest supplier chosen to source the preserver.

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Proposed, Seconded, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders so members of the public can address the Parish Council.

Proposed, Seconded, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to reinstate Standing Orders.

24.056 PROPOSED REFORMS TO THE NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK ANDOTHER CHANGES TO THE PLANNING SYSTEM
The 106-question survey was completed, **Proposed, Seconded, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** to submit the completed survey. A PDF copy of the submission will be placed on the Parish Council website.

24.057 NEXT MEETING
The next scheduled council meeting will be held on Tuesday 1st October 2024 at 7.30pm, Public Question Time 7.15pm.

CLOSE OF MEETING – The Chair thanked all present for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Signed……
Chair Bentworth Parish Council

1st October 2024