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

Tuesday 1st April 2025 at Jubilee Hall, Bentworth

Present:

Parish Councillors	Clerk	District & County Councillors	Others
Neal Day Nikki White Christian Browning Simon Lane David Eyre-Brook Veronica Parker	Louisa Thomson	District Councillor Tony Costigan County Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee	Members of the public

25.017 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Scott Neville.

25.018 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED
The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 4th February 2025, copies previously circulated.
Proposed as a true record by Simon Lane, Seconded David Eyre-Brook and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED and signed by chairman Neal Day.

25.019 DECLARATION OF INTEREST
Councillor Simon Lane declared an interest in agenda item 10. Village Green Grass Cutting.

25.020 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- A member of the public asked if there would be an independent assessment as to whether the AutoSpeedWatch cameras were having results.

  District Councillor Tony Costigan responded that the cameras were having an impact on speeding throughout the district, but it is an uphill struggle to get the Police to adopt the information. Information from the cameras detailing no MOT/Tax or Insurance are forwarded to the DVLA.

- The applicant of planning item 6. c) EHDC-25-0106-TPO The Park Lodge, Holt End Lane explained the reason for the application was because the holly caused a lot of shade across the garden and are impacting the overhead wire.

25.021 COUNCILLOR UPDATES AND ACTION LOG

- Action log – no items to update.
- Village Pond – Christian Browning updated another estimate for works to the pond will be on next month's agenda.
- Footpaths – Simon Lane updated he has met with Alton Ramblers and has received a grant application form which can be used to help replace any styles or kissing gates. Simon is in the process of walking the footpaths to identify where all the styles and kissing gates are and will then seek the landowners permission to replace any as necessary.
  Veronica Parker – updated that the footpath from Holt End to Wellers Place Farm has a tree down over the metal kissing gate and the paths aren't marked on the fields.
- Website Emails – Simon Lane updated on behalf of Scott Neville, there is a problem with the website emails which he is working on. Go Daddy is due to renew costing £19.82 per annum.
- Litter Pick – Nikki White updated the litter pick will take place on 12th April, all help appreciated.

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25.022 PLANNING

Council considered three planning applications, their comments are forwarded to East Hampshire District Council.

a) EHDC-24-0128-LBC Wellers Place Farm, Holt End Lane
Listed Building Consent
Replace existing plain clay tile roof with a slate roof.

b) EHDC-24-0072-HSE Wellers Place Farm, Holt End Lane
Replace existing plain clay tile roof with a slate roof.

Proposed Simon Lane, Seconded Nikki White, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: Bentworth Parish Council has no comment on these applications and would defer to the EHDC Planning Officer.

c) EHDC-25-0106-TPO The Park Lodge, Holt End Lane
Holly x 17 – Fell. Will be replaced with hedge along road frontage.

Proposed Veronica Parker, Seconded Simon Lane, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: Bentworth Parish Council request more information on the condition of the trees, why they are being removed and what planting they will be replaced with. In the absence of this information Bentworth Parish Council defers to the EHDC Arboricultural Officer.

25.023 AUTOSPEEDWATCH

a) Updated from Scott Neville, read by Simon Lane.

Update

Myself and Simon have installed the new post extensions, and the results are good, we are recording even more vehicles breaking the limit by more than 10mph and there are many repeat offenders now (with 8 or so hits). We may want to adjust Holt End Lane by about 1 degree, but its still working well (its really slight), Station Road is near perfectly aligned. There are some commercial vehicles which have now been recorded 4 times, I expect that the first letter we send regarding speeding to a company with their name on the side of the speeding van will be in the next 2 months (we agreed at a previous meeting we would write to companies where we can see their name on the side of a vehicle and the same vehicle had been caught speeding 5 times in the last 12 months).

In February we recorded 127 vehicles speeding with number plates (both sites). To put into context the improvement as I write this on the 24th of February, myself and David have verified the number plates of 455 vehicles on Station Road alone (we only verify the ones driving at 40 mph or over on the 30 section).

New Camera in the 40mph section
Hampshire County Council did not approve the new pole location because they found it to be in violation of their street clutter policy. Following a discussion we have found a compromise, one of the 40mph repeater signs will be moved to the location that was put forward for AutoSpeedWatch and extended to make it suitable for AutoSpeedWatch. However the cost of moving a pole is more than the cost of installing a new one (which they wont do as that violates the policy).
The post 1st April cost of the s178 licence is £210
The work on the pole is £284.66 prior to price rises on 1st April (which they don't know how much they will be), but they said last year was a 6.8% rise which we might want to use as a guide.
As these costs are more than what was agreed we will need to re-approve.

Data Licence
The yearly data licence for the AutoSpeedWatch cameras needs to be renewed, current costs are £179.00 per camera, these can be purchases from the ASW store online. We need to complete this before 05/04/2025.

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b) & c) **Proposed David Eyre-Brook, Seconded Simon Lane, RESOLVED (Christian Browning abstained):**

b) Approve addition costs to Hampshire County Council following 1st April increases to move an existing 40mph repeater sign post for use by the ASW camera £284.66 plus increase, approved up to £330
S178 licence application to Hampshire Highways £176 previously approved, post 1st April £210.

c) Approved annual data licence for AutoSpeedWatch cameras @ £179 per camera.

25.024 SPEED LIMIT REMINDER DEVICE
Report from David Maltby

SID Report for Denyers between 9 March and 23 March.

	Total (both directions)
Vehicles Recorded	8,683
31-35mph	3,745
36-40mph	1,234
41-45mph	293
46-50mph	59
51-60mph	11
61-70mph	3
>30mph	5,345(61.56%)
>35mph	1,600(18.43%)

Over 60mph
Sunday 16th March 66mph 22:44 towards Medstead
Friday 21st March 61mph 21:24 towards A339
Saturday 22nd March 65mph 17:29 towards A339

25.025 GRANT APPLICATION
Grant application from Home-Start for £500. Clerk to request more information, how will residents benefit?

Councillor Simon Lane took no part in the discussion or decision of the following item.

25.026 VILLAGE GREEN GRASS
Proposed Nikki White, Seconded Veronica Parker, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: to approve costs of £90 per cut to be carried out by SJL Contracting.

25.027 COMMUNITY UPDATES
a) Community Care
- 7 trips where undertaken last month a drop of 50% from previous months.
- The Care Group organised a bingo tea which was well received.

b) Neighbourhood Watch – No update.

25.028 INTERNAL AUDIT
Proposed Simon Lane, Seconded Nikki White, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: to appoint April Skies to carry out the internal audit for 2024/2025 costing £330 plus travel expenses.

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25.029 ACCOUNTS 2025/2026

I) Summary of Receipts and Payments for the 3rd Quarter Ending 31st December 2024 were presented to Council as follows:

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD on 01/10/24	£ 29,574.70
ADD Total Receipts	£ 2,371.02
LESS Total payments	£ 7,602.88
Balance Carried forward 31/12/24	£ 24,342.84

Proposed Nikki White, Seconded Veronica Parker, UNANIMOUSLY RESOVLED: to approve the following payments.

a)	Louisa Thomson – Clerk's Salary February 2025	Paid	£512.12
b)	Louisa Thomson – Clerk's expenses February 2025 (including Microsoft subscription renewal and SID batteries)	Paid	£178.91
c)	Louisa Thomson – Clerk's Salary March 2025		£512.32
d)	Louisa Thomson – Clerk's expenses March 2025		£ 23.30
e)	HM Revenue & Customs – January, February & March 2025		£215.60
f)	DCK Payroll Solutions Ltd – Payroll processing February & March		£ 72.72
g)	Hampshire ALC – Councillor training		£235.20
h)	St Mary's Bentworth C.E. Primary School – Hall Hire		£ 45.00
i)	V Parker – Christmas tree decorating refreshments		£ 16.94
j)	SJL Contracting – Village green grass cutting		£ 90.00

25.030 NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled council meeting will be held on Tuesday 6th May 2025 at 7.30pm, Public Question Time 7.15pm.

CLOSE OF MEETING – The Chair thanked all present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.48pm.

Signed……
Chair Bentworth Parish Council

6th May 2025