

BENTWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting held in the School Hall
on Tuesday May 15th 2012 at 7.30pm

17.04 Present: Cllrs J French (Chairman), T Costigan, P Guest, C Hurley and P Wait; Barbara Lees (clerk) and 4 members of the public.

17.05 Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs J Lewis and V Parker.

17.06 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

17.08 Request to lobby Damian Hinds MP

The Chairman explained the reason for calling an extraordinary meeting: the request had arrived too late for the Parish Council meeting of May 1st 2012, and included a deadline of May 17th, which meant that it would be too late to consider it at the meeting of June 6th. An emailed message had been received from Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC), drawing attention to information from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), to the effect that there would be an Early Day Motion (EDM) in the House of Commons. The EDM would support a Bill which would seek to redress an imbalance in the planning system whereby local councils did not have the same right of appeal as developers to contest planning decisions in their area.

Cllr Hurley spoke in favour and proposed and Cllr Wait seconded the

Motion: That Bentworth Parish Council shall write to Damian Hinds MP

- a. to tell him that the Council considers that the planning framework should be changed so that local councils have the same right as developers to appeal planning decisions;
- b. to ask that he support the Planning Applications (Appeals by Town and Parish Councils) Bill when it is introduced;
- c. to tell him that the Bill is supported by the National Association of Local Councils, which represents 10,000 Town and Parish Councils in England, with the support of the Suffolk and the Kent Associations of Local Councils, along with that of the Hampshire Association and the Hertfordshire Association.

Councillors voted unanimously in favour.

The clerk agreed to write to Damian Hinds MP the following day, by email, using the draft letter supplied by NALC.

17.09 Date of next meeting

The next ordinary meeting of the Council would be on Wednesday June 6th 2012 at 7.30pm in the School Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.36pm.