

# BENTWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Chairperson: Mrs Jenny French

Clerk: Allison Spyer

14 Barley View, North Waltham, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG25 2ST  
Tel: 07786 063570 Email: clerk.bentworth@parish.hants.gov.uk

## MINUTES OF MEETING

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2013, 7.30pm, Village School, Bentworth

### Present:

Parish Councillors	Clerk	District & County Councillors	Others
Jenny French (Chairperson) Pam Wait David Hawes Jenny Lewis Philip Guest Tony Costigan	Allison Spyer		PC Richard McLaren 17 Members of the public in attendance

**ACTION  
FOR**

### 18.56 Apologies for Absence:

Apologies received from Chris Hurley, Veronica Parker, Mark Kemp-Gee

### 18.57 Declarations of Interest:

DH announced that several members of the Council have purchased tickets to the Blues Festival.

### 18.58 Councillor Resignations:

JF announced that Pam Waite is stepping down from the Council and thanked her for her hard work over the past 10 years. JF then announced that she herself is now stepping down.

### 18.59 Vote in new Chairperson for duration of meeting:

TC nominated DH for acting Chairman which was seconded by JL, the rest of the council voted in agreement and the motion was passed.

As his first act as Chairman DH thanked JF for her all her efforts over the years and read out a short Statement on her behalf which is included as an addendum at the end of the minutes.

### 18.60 Meeting Open to the Public:

Christopher Chesney spoke in support of Matt Williams and the Star Inn Pub and the Blues Festival. Toby Stevens also spoke up with regards to the festival asking that in the future a sensible discussion takes place as to how the festival is not intrusive to those local residents who are not attending the event. Peter Barlow would like to make sure that the promised finish time of 11pm is accurate and does not go on until 11.45 as in previous years.

### 18.61 Minutes of the March Meeting:

Minutes were approved, proposed by TC seconded by PG.

### 18.62 Matters arising. Actions from previous meetings:

- AS to seek permission from HCC for the PC to make improvements to The Lords Waste – Ongoing until Chris Hurley returns.
- AS to find out if Bentworth Community Assoc has disbanded. AS confirmed they are in the process of winding things up. Further information will be given at a later meeting.
- AS find arboriculturist to offer costings to survey all large trees in the village - Ongoing
- AS to add Roundabouts to May agenda – Ongoing
- AS to confirm with HCC that no installation of roundabouts has been organised. AS confirmed that this is the case.
- AS to put risk assessments on April agenda – Completed
- JF to forward all risk assessments to councillors for approval – Completed
- PG to organise Communications review – Ongoing
- PG to organise Housing review – Ongoing
- AS to ascertain whether the PC can rent the green to the Star Inn for the duration of the Blues Festival. AS confirmed this is not possible for the council to do.
- AS to contact school requesting breakdown of hours used by the PC for meeting – AS confirmed that the breakdown of hours had been calculated by VP will be discussed further during FAG report.
- AS to put the information regarding BOATS on the website – completed

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## 18.63 Risk Assessments:

There were no issues from the risk assessments and they were approved and signed by the PC. Proposed by JL seconded by TC.

## 18.64 Bentworth Blues Festival:

Several motions regarding the Blues Festival were put forward for consideration. They are:

The Parish Council notes that the proposed license is an on-going Premises Licence not a Temporary Event Notice, allows unlimited numbers of attendees, is for four days of entertainment and for hours that extend beyond those planned by the organisers and previously agreed by the council. The notice is incorrectly worded with regard to the proposed dates and as written the application omits any reference to dates at all, in effect allowing a festival every weekend of the year, and does not specify the genre of music. The Parish Council will oppose the proposed Premises License on the grounds that the use of the license as proposed, in particular with regard to the number of days, extended hours and unlimited numbers would create an unacceptable public nuisance in a small village with disproportionate impact on close neighbours, working people, home workers and families with children. The council will also note in its objection that the existing permission for the use of the green is for 2013 only and that the dates are wrongly defined in the notice and completely omitted in the application. The council will note that the festival as previously held generated complaints about nuisance and that the proposed PL would allow a festival which generates many times the level of nuisance compared to previous years. The licence should specify in particular the genre of music in that a festival of music other than blues may generate more nuisances.

Motion proposed by PG and seconded by TC, unanimously agreed by rest of the Council.

AS

The Parish Council will authorise the Clerk to withdraw the objections once the major concerns of the close neighbours have been addressed and resolved.

Motion proposed by PG and seconded by DH, unanimously agreed by rest of the Council.

AS

The Parish Council invites members of the public to submit their views in writing to the clerk of the council so that they can be considered by the council as it finalises its position with regard to more permanent arrangements from 2014.

Motion proposed by PG, seconded by DH. JL for, TC against so the motion was passed.

The Parish Council will hold a public meeting in October where all interested parties can air their views on what constitutes the acceptable conditions upon which the blues festival may take place in 2014.

PG proposed, JL seconded, unanimously agreed by the rest of the Council.

PC

## 18.65 PC Richard McLaren

Announced his retirement and that he has two more duties to do. PC Peter Kelly will be taking over his duties. Peter Kelly's email address will be Peter.kelly@hampshire.pnn.police.uk He reported there had been relative success at Burkham with regards to the littering problem. Speedwatch is moving forward and the equipment is currently being purchased. He has viewed safety arrangement for the Blues festival and confirmed Matt has been very responsible and the Police will support the festival itself. PC Richard McLaren then thanked the Council. DH thanked PC Richard McLaren for all his support over the past several years.

## 18.66 Bi-Monthly Meetings:

JL has reviewed previous minutes whereby the PC met Bi-monthly and wondered if at any time we could go back to that. The council were in agreement with this suggestion and will follow this up in June after the AGM.

AS

## 18.67 Community Oil Purchase:

The parish council agreed that while Councillors / Clerk currently had a full workload and could not commit to setting up a community oil purchase scheme, they would be supportive if local residents wanted to organise one amongst themselves

## 18.68 Letter in response to complaint:

The parish council agreed to allow the Clerk to send a letter PG has drafted that refutes the claim that Bentworth Parish Council acted improperly with regard to the planning meeting dealing with the Cirrus eco house. PG proposed TC seconded and the rest of the council were in full agreement.

AS

## 18.69 Finance:

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## Payments for approval

- Allison Spyer, Salary £360.00
- Allison Spyer, Expenses £24.19
- ICO, Data protection £35.00
- HALC, Membership £206.00
- Fred Moir, refreshment reimbursement £33.72
- R Murrell, Bus shelter glass £24.30

PG proposed payments JL seconded, unanimous agreement with the rest of the council

## Receipts

- No current receipts

### 18.70 FAG Update:

Fag Committee met to and discussed the hall fees. VP has calculated the hours used are less than the Hours budgeted for. AS contacted the school with the total hours used and can now confirm that we are waiting for an amended invoice for a lower amount which has been agreed with the school.

Participatory budgeting was also covered with VP confirming that she and TC and PG will meet to design a form for leaflet drop to all local residents.

The last item discussed was donations and it was agreed to donate some money to CAB, FAG would like the PC to agree an amount they would like to donate. There is currently still £267 left in the budget for donations. FAG to draw up a list of donations for pc to agree on at the next PC meeting.

FAG

### 18.71 Planning Committee Report:

PG was voted onto the the planning committee for one month, proposed by TC and seconded by DH, unanimous agreement with the rest of the council.

20334/006 Redwood Farm, Jenny Green Lane

Single storey extension to rear, part conversion of garage/workshop to utility room.

**No Objection**

### 18.72 Councillors Report:

*Environment:* JL reported that the BOATS are now closed and most have metal gates on, however those that have been repaired have been done so very badly this will be an ongoing issue. Paths closed until June for walkers, September for cyclists and riders and October for 4x4's. It is the 4x4s that are doing most of the damage and some drivers have been continuing to use the closed BOATS. It was requested that if locals observed cars using these paths and was safe to do so, to take note of license plate numbers and report to the police.

*Footpaths:*

*Health & Safety:*

*Open Spaces:*

*Pond:*

*Traffic & Highways:*

*Trees:*

*Young people and families:*

*Broadband:* PG reported that the Medstead Exchange Broadband Group now has a full complement of Parish Councils. HCC has now signed a contract with BT with the objective that every house has superfast broadband. PG has also published a broadband self help guide to help improve broadband speed in the Villager and also on the Bentworth PC website.

### 18.73 Other Reports:

*Community Care:* Fred Moir reported the CC scheme was in robust health with plenty of drivers if anyone needs them

*Neighbourhood watch:* Daytime robberies are on-going, use alarms if you have one as the perpetrators are in and out very quickly if you see anything suspicious dial 101. PG confirmed this number was very good for non-emergency situations and they responded very quickly.

*St Marys School:*

*Litter Pick* – JL reported that 13 people turned up for the litter pick and they packed loads of bags of rubbish which Nigel Griffiths kindly took to the tip. Bentworth PC thanked all those who helped.

### 18.74 Meetings Attended:

Several councillors attended the Code of Conduct meeting in Alton

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## 18.75 Forthcoming Meetings:

### 18.76 Date of next Meeting:

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May at 7.30pm AGM

18.77 The Chairman thanked all members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 20.40

Signed ..... Date .....

### Addendum 1 – Resignation of Jenny French

Firstly I would like to apologise to all those who voted for me. I have a very strong belief that if you take on a commitment you should see it through and I was determined to complete this term of office. However, I have found Parish Council business increasingly demanding and had to ask myself - at what cost?

Before Christmas my father had a fall that resulted in the need for a hip replacement. His recovery from this had been very slow and 3 weeks ago he was admitted into hospital in a confused state. We never really got any conclusive answers as to what was wrong with him although a bladder infection was treated. It was 2 weeks into his stay in hospital that the worry of this along with concern for the strain it was putting on my mother I made the decision to resign from the Parish Council.

Sadly, within a week of making my intentions known to the Council my father died.

My siblings and I are now fully committed with supporting my mother in coming to terms with his death and settling into her new life alone after nearly 63 years of marriage.

I thank you all for your support and understanding.