

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

7th January 2013, 7.30pm, Village School, Bentworth

Present:

Parish Councillors	Clerk	District & County Councillors	Others
Jenny French (Chairman) Tony Costigan David Hawes Philip Guest Veronica Parker Pam Wait	Allison Spyer		3 members of the public

**ACTION
FOR**

17.94 Apologies for Absence:

Apologies received from Chris Hurley, Jenny Lewis, Jean Cornelius, PC Richard MacLaren

17.95 Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations.

17.96 Meeting Open to the Public:

No members of the public wished to speak.

17.97 Minutes of the October & November Meetings:

Minutes of both meetings were passed. Proposed by DH seconded by PW and the committee unanimously agreed.

17.98 Matters arising:

PG asked if the issue regarding the Church lawn had been resolved and JF confirmed a response to the original letter has been sent.
PG thanked DH for all his work regarding Glebe Fields and DH reciprocated in kind.

17.99 Speed Watch Update:

VP reported that so far there were six volunteers currently but the scheme would ideally need eight. DH volunteered at the meeting. AS to oversee VP's efforts while she is away. AS to write a follow up article for the Villager with CH as the contact requesting one more volunteer. PG thanked the clerk for finding the funding for the campaign.

AS

18.01 Localism of Council Tax Support:

The Council reviewed the letter template from NALC that has been sent requesting the PC sign and send to MP Eric Pickles with regards to the localism of the council tax support. After a healthy discussion it was agreed that more information and a better understanding was required. DH offered to look into it further and report back at the next meeting.

DH

18.02 Grants / Funding:

The Heritage Lottery Fund has been identified as a potential source of funding for the Village. PG asked if AS could send the Council a link to the heritage fund website for further discussion at the next meeting. PW highlighted a couple of Village issues that would benefit from funding, They were the resurrection of Lords Waste Footpath and the installation of a red phone box instead of the modern one.

AS

18.03 Finance:

Payments for approval

- Allison Spyer, Salary £315.00
- Toby Steven, Website £41.81

Payments to AS and TS were passed, motion proposed by VP, seconded by DH and unanimously agreed by the Council

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- CPRE, Annual Membership £29.00

Payment to CPRE was deferred until AS can check what the CPRE membership is made up of as PG questioned whether we, as a Council, are allowed to be a member.

AS

Payments made since last meeting

- Alison Spyer, Salary £423.00

Payment approved by VP and seconded by PW, unanimously agreed by the Council. They question was raised regarding staff management and how the Council approved / oversaw the allocation of hours spent on various tasks. It was agreed to set up a formal procedure at the next meeting and will need to go on the next agenda

AS

Receipts

- HCC £500.00 SpeedWatch

18.04 Finance Advisory Group Report:

VP gave the Council a brief outline of the current situation, being that EHDC under the new Council Tax Support Scheme have requested that Bentworth reduce their previous years precept request by £380.00. A grant of £350.00 would then be given to cover the shortfall with the remaining £30.00 being Bentworths contribution to reduce the cost of Council Tax support by 10%. VP reported that at the recent FAG meeting a draft budget of £8900.00 had been drawn up which would more than cover the request as the previous year's precept had been £10,000.00. There was much discussion amongst the councillors as to whether the budget should be left as it currently is (minus the £380.00), kept in line with the draft budget or lowered even further. The general accord seemed to be that the current precept of £10,000 (minus the reduction) was sufficient and would act as a buffer for potentially leaner times ahead. It was suggested that the Council increase the draft budget presented by £720 under the heading 'extraordinary budgeting' thus bringing it back in line with the previous year's precept request (minus the required reduction). It was finally agreed to settle the discussion with a vote.

18.05 Budget / Precept:

A budget of £9620.00 was put forward. The motion was proposed by DH and seconded by VP. Five councillors voted in favour of the budget (DH, VP, TC, JF & PW) and PG opposed. The motion was passed. A precept of £9620.00 was then put forward, proposed by DH and seconded by VP. Five Councillors voted in favour of the precept (DH, VP, TC, JF & PW) and PG abstained. The motion was passed.

18.06 Participatory Budgeting:

The Council approved at an earlier meeting in the year to set aside £500.00 in participatory budgeting for the Village to decide what they would like to see the money spent on. It was agreed the scheme would need to be widely publicised and VP suggested putting an item in the villager asking for ideas. VP also suggested a leaflet drop. It was put forward that the annual meeting be the best place to introduce the scheme. A system of how the requests should be managed would also need to be put in place.

VP

18.07 Donations:

CAB have requested a donation. In previous years a payment of £200.00 has been sent. However it was agreed to defer payment until the March meeting as it was decided that FAG should discuss donations and a procedure put in place to manage requests. Results of discussion to go on March's agenda.

FAG

18.08 Planning Committee Report:

PW reported that an application from Backmeadow has been received to replace a conservatory and rebuild two chimney stacks. The planning committee had no objections. Conservations have also approved as it is a listed house.

Planning

PG requested that the variations emails should be circulated to the Planning committee and their terms of reference amended to cover this. This was agreed.

18.09 Stile Update:

As Jenny Lewis was unable to make the meeting there was no stile update. This will be addressed at the next meeting.

18.10 Councillors Report:

Bentworth Community Assoc: No correspondence received

Environment: JL reported (via JF) that Jenny Green Lane has had metal barriers installed. JL is also walking the lanes to see what else needs to be done.

Footpaths: After discussion it was agreed that TC & PW would email AS with a list of Footpaths that need

TC/PW/AS

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trimming and AS to get onto HCC / Highways to have them trimmed.

Health & Safety: Nothing to report.

Open Spaces: PW reported that the end of the green by the telephone kiosk is just mud, caused mainly by cars parking there. The council agreed to have it posted at some point. In the meantime PW to get cones from the police as a temporary measure to deter drivers. AS to look into having posts installed.

AS/PW

Pond: PW reported that the advice from Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to fix the pond would require a lot of work and be costly. The option favoured by the pond group would be to leave it as it is and maintain it. However PW has been in contact with two companies to give quotes for repairs (one charging £60.00, one free). It was agreed to get one (free) quote for now. AS to find out who did the North Waltham pond in the meantime.

PW/AS

Traffic & Highways: Cllr Chris Hurley was unable to attend the meeting however he did submit a report to the Council via the Clerk which was read out. The Council decided that it would be best to defer all items until the next meeting when Cllr Hurley was back as it was felt his presence was required regarding any decisions.

Trees: VP reported that she has received a request to have an Oak tree up at Bentworth hall crowned and as she is due to be away for the next few weeks would not have time to inspect it, could someone else do this? AS to ask Stuart Garside East Hants to look at it.

AS

Young people and families: PG would like to thank the Griffiths family for putting Christmas lights on the bus shelter.

Broadband: PG reported that this issue is progressing

18.11 Other Reports:

Community Care:

Neighbourhood watch:

St Marys School: Jean Cornelius was not in attendance but reported prior to the meeting that:- We have had a very happy busy December, preparing for Christmas. We have had nativity plays, church services, carol singing at Sainsbury's, roast turkey lunch, parties, and art competitions. Some of the older children also spent a week's residential course at Calshott. A complaint has been received about there being only one toilet available during a large village event. The disabled toilet is always available to be used. The only criteria is that if there is a disabled person needing to use it, they have priority. We haven't heard as yet if and hopefully when we will receive money for Phase II of the hall to refurbish the toilets etc. I will keep you informed when we have any information. Finally I hope to be able to bring Mrs Jo Ayres who will be our new head teacher, to your meeting on 6th February 2013. She will start as our new head, at the beginning of the spring term, which is Monday 7th January.

18.12 Meetings Attended:

None attended

18.13 Forthcoming Meetings:

Code of conduct VP, TC, DH PW, JL, PG all attending

AS attending clerks conference

18.14 Date of next Meeting:

Wednesday 6th February at 7.30pm

The Chairman thanked all members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.45

Signed Date