

# BENTWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Jenny French

Clerk: Allison Spyer

11 Barley View, North Waltham, Hampshire RG25 2ST

Tel: Email:

## MINUTES OF MEETING

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

### Present:

Parish Councillors	Clerk	District & County Councillors	Others
Jenny French (Chairman) Chris Hurley Tony Costigan Philip Guest Jenny Lewis Veronica Parker Pam Wait	Allison Spyer		Five members of the public

ACTION  
FOR

### 17.55 Apologies for Absence:

Apologies had been received from PC Richard McLaren, David Hawes.

### 17.56 Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations.

### 17.57 Meeting Open to the Public:

Jean Cornelius raised the issue of speed on one of the local bends. JC stated that the subject was brought to the attention of a previous Council several years ago but little was done to address the problem. She would like the issue resurrected and the Council agreed to relook at the problem. CH to speak with Derek Wrale (HCC Highways) and investigate speed control measures.

CH

### 17.58 Minutes of the September Meeting:

JF reported a few errors in the draft minutes:

- 17.43 Chairman's report - 'Golf' should be 'gold'.
- 17.43 Chairman's report – Final line should read that 'the council were 'advised' that the bus shelter would be adopted by the village.'
- 17.45 Matters arising – Should say Cllr J French reported the sum of £283.00 underspent on the grants budget was not required by the Diamond Jubilee Committee.
- 17.46 Clerk to Parish Council - referenced should be references.
- 17.53 Councillors' Reports – Traffic and Highways, CH agreed second line to read kerbing will be put in.
- 17.47 Adoption of Code of Conduct - PG would like it noted that comments were raised but that it was agreed that any queries would be discussed with the incoming clerk.

AS

AS to make amendments and the minutes will be signed off at the next meeting.

### 17.59 Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

### 17.60 Speed Watch Report:

TC requested that a decision regarding the implementation of Speed Watch be decided either for or against at the meeting held tonight. There was a general consensus that the issue had been ongoing for a while and something needed to happen. VP reported that the scheme would cost £500.00 for equipment and would need eight volunteers to man. Motion to join speed watch in principal was proposed by TC and seconded by VP. VP confirmed that no money would be spent until volunteers were in place. The Council voted unanimously yes. A Speed Watch working group responsible for the scheme will be TC, VP and CH. CH also reported that he has been in contact with John Cleverly (Hampshire Police) regarding a traffic survey which should happen in the next week or two. The survey records speed and direction and the data may help get police spot checks within the Village.

TC, VP  
& CH

### 17.61 Standing Orders Revision:

PG reported that he has not seen a copy of the revised standing orders due to problems with his email. JF signed the revisions as correct.

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- Litter Bins:**
- 17.62** CH put forward the proposal to install litter bins on the green. After discussion the general worry was that the installation would create more rubbish, and the question of who would empty it was raised. At this point CH stated that the matter of having a bin was not as simple as he had originally thought and suggested he investigate further and will report back at the next meeting. CH
- 17.63 Change of scheduled meeting:**  
JF suggested that we have a meeting in December and no meeting in January as the preparation for a January meeting interrupted Christmas week. The Council were happy to comply with the suggestion. Dates of meetings already posted on the notice board and website will need to be changed AS to action. AS
- 17.64 Finance:**
- Payments
    1. Audit Commission Fee £162.00
    2. HALC Planning for non-planners £36.00
  - Receipts
    1. Precept £5000.00
- As to forward email of BACs to FAG AS
- 17.65 Finance Advisory Group Report:**  
VP informed the Council that FAG has been discussing whether to insure the memorial. They have also been discussing claiming back VAT but will talk it over with new clerk. FAG also recommended increasing the precept this year by 3% to keep it in line with inflation as it hasn't been raised in a couple of years. PG agreed that the precept should be kept in line with inflation but questioned whether £10,000 was the right starting point. The budget will be discussed in detail at the next FAG Meeting and a full report given at the next Council Meeting FAG
- VP informed the committee that they have not received 2<sup>nd</sup> invoice for hall yet and will contact them if not received soon. FAG
- Finally VP raised a question regarding money given to the PCC. A grant of £250.00 per year is given specifically for the upkeep of the graveyard. VP queried what the money was being spent on as grass appears not to have been mown, or is being mown by volunteers.
- 17.66 Bank Security:**  
As the Parish accounts were accessed by people unknown, PG would like a review of the security arrangements. It was agreed that the issue be discussed at next FAG meeting and they will report back to the council. FAG
- 17.67 Planning Committee Report:**  
PW had nothing to report as no applications have been received since august.
- 17.68 Broadband:**  
PG would like to contact other Parish Councils on the Medstead telephone exchange and establish a joint working party to contact BT and investigate the technical and commercial issues surrounding the potential improvement of broadband services. The Council were in agreement that PG could approach the councils of the other parishes. PG will also write an article for the Villager explaining how people can speed up their broadband connection. This will be done personally and not as a Councillor. PG
- 17.69 Councillors Report:**  
*Bentworth Community Association*, Nothing to report.  
*Footpaths*, JL in talks with HCC to see about putting logs across Jenny Green Lane to stop the 4x4's.  
*Environmental*, JL reported that the little oak tree presented to the Council was thriving and would now like to have it planted. The Council agreed to organise a planting ceremony. JL  
*Pond*, PW informed the Council that the pond is in pretty poor condition with a very low water level. AS suggested that HALC may be able to help the Council apply for a grant to cover the cost of fixing the pond lining. AS to contact HALC and investigate grants further. AS  
*Traffic & Highways*, CH has been investigating mini round-a-bouts to be positioned at the top of Sun Hill and Drury Lane. Ian James from HCC has been on a site visit and agreed that mini round-a-bouts could work, however the Council questioned whether residents would want them PG suggested an article inviting comments from residents go into the Villager and onto the website and this was agreed. TC thanked CH CH

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about arranging to have the hedges cut and maintained along Sun Hill. A member of the public reported a missing speed sign repeater by parsonage farm. CH to have a look and report.

CH

*Open spaces* – Pam reported that Chris has now sanded the notice board. She also asked if the map could be moved to the back of the notice board and villager notices moved to the front. Council agreed.

PW

*Trees* – Veronica reported that a Douglas fir will be felled outside Nigel Griffiths house and a cherry tree will be trimmed

*Young people and families* – PG asked Jean Cornelius if she was happy with the way in which we as Council and JC as our nominated Governor are communicating. JC agreed she was happy but would welcome comments from anybody.

## 17.70 Other Reports:

*Community care*, Nothing to report

*Neighbourhood watch*, PG reported a suspicious peddler in the village. Police were called and man was above board but the police said that if there is anyone deemed suspicious in the village to call police and if they were not busy they will send someone out.

*St Marys School*, Jean Cornelius Confirmed that the school Governors have appointed a new headmistress, her name is Jo Ayres. She also confirmed the Opening of the hall will be at 2.30pm on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November. For those not able to attend, the hall will be open on the next day, Saturday morning 1<sup>st</sup> December, between 10 and 11am. In addition the school is being painted on the outside. She also would also like to ask for old photos of the school in its original form.

## 17.71 Meetings Attended:

Veronica – planning for non-planners

## 17.72 Forthcoming Meetings:

PW was due to attend a planning course on the 20<sup>th</sup> October but now can't go. AS to let Halc know about the cancellation

AS

## 17.73 Date of next Meeting:

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at 7.30pm

The Chairman thanked all members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.10

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