

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 November, 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		Ten members of the public

**ACTION
FOR**

17.74 Apologies for Absence:

Apologies received from David Hawes.

17.75 Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations. However PG advised that the new declarations of interests form needs to be completed with spousal details if not done previously.

17.76 Meeting Open to the Public:

No member of the public wished to speak.

17.77 Minutes of the September & October Meeting:

PG requested that when motions are carried the exact wording should be recorded.

17.65 FAG Report, PG would like it minuted that he said the inflation could be too much

17.65 FAG Report VP would to amend the minutes to state she said that *some* areas of grass appeared to have not been mown.

AS

17.78 Matters arising:

There were no matters arising however PG would like new version of standing orders, JF to send him a copy.

JF

17.79 Apology:

Regarding Glebe Fields, Chairwoman Jenny French read out the Councils apology in full to the attending public. The apology reads:

'In October 2011 an article regarding planning matters, within the Parish of Bentworth, was published in the "Villager" magazine. It is accepted, unanimously by the Council, that the language and tone used in the article regarding the quality and impact of the development was inappropriate. The Parish Council apologises without reservation, for any offence caused by the manner in which the article was written. The Council is fully aware that Certificates of Lawful Development are a legitimate means for validating planning Intentions and are within the scope of permitted development. The Council has already completed the process of implementing specific terms of reference for the Planning Committee and a formal Communications Policy in order to prevent a recurrence of such an issue'.

The full apology will also be printed in the Villager.

AS

17.80 Speed Watch Report:

CH reported that an article for the Villager outlining SpeedWatch and calling for volunteers missed the last issues deadline. It was agreed that CH & VP would write a paragraph for this month's edition. AS reported that SpeedWatch will now be fully funded from the Environmental Fund which is part of HCC Members Grants Budget managed by Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee. The Council expressed their gratitude. CH informed the Council that he was in receipt of the Traffic Survey Report and would publish the full report in the next edition of the Villager; however a brief summary shows that Bentworth does have a level of non-compliance with the 30 mph speed limit which meets the criteria for enforcement by the local Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT).

CH

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17.81 Litter Bins:

CH reported to the Council that he had looked into getting litter bins but was proving to be very difficult. The full Council decided against it.

17.82 Finance:

- Payments

1. Allison Spyer, Salary	£450.00
2. Robert Wheadon, Minute taking	£50.00

AS advised the Council that she had made an error when calculating her salary and had not included the hours from her first week's employment. AS presented the Council with a timesheet and breakdown of her hours which amounted to 50 hours over the past seven weeks. The Council agreed to pay the amended amount and the other invoice to Robert Wheadon. PG proposed the motion and VP seconded, the vote was unanimous.

- Receipts

No current receipts

17.83 Finance Advisory Group Report:

VP informed the Council that she and AS had met the previous week to discuss the issues that FAG are likely to deal with, however the primary reason for the meeting on this occasion was to discuss and set a draft budget for the Councils approval. The Council were in receipt of the draft budget and a summary of the discussion is below:

17.84 Budget:

PG raised the issue of clerk salary as he had previously calculated the annual salary as lower due to the fact he thought the clerk would be working less hours than the clerks contract now states. The JF reported that the additional hours were needed to get the new clerk up to speed and informed the Council that the previous clerk had been doing far more than her contracted hours. PG made it clear he would like to see the precept cut to £8000 and feels this could be achieved by paying £1000 of the clerk's salary from the reserve account, cutting the 3% inflation increase, and the participatory budget of £500 then potentially shaving money off other areas. There were several strong reactions to the suggestion with the majority of the Council in favour of keeping the precept at its current level. The Council did not have the bank statements to hand to confirm the full amount in the reserve account. VP reminded the council that previously the precept had more than doubled in one year and did not think this was advisable and felt the best way to avoid this was by introducing small manageable increases. PG would prefer to have lower precept which would be raised or lowered depending on what the village needed on an annual basis. It was agreed by the majority that the Council did not have enough information to hand to make an informed decision at this time and so the budget was deferred to the next meeting in December to give FAG the opportunity to prepare.

FAG

17.85 Participatory Budgeting: I

VP reminded the Council that the decision to implement Participatory Budgeting had already been agreed and she would be unhappy to reverse it. PG felt that the £500 allocated to the parish residents would be spent on things that were not essential and would prefer to take it out of the budget and reduce the precept. This item was also deferred until the council were in receipt of more information.

FAG

17.86 Clerks Discretionary Spend:

It was agreed that the Clerk is allowed a discretionary amount of £50.00 per year to spend on such things as training without the approval of the full council. Motion proposed by TC and seconded by PW, vote unanimous.

17.87 Planning Committee Report:

PW reported two applications have been received this month:

4 Glebe Fields - no objections

Holt lodge - no objections

PG would like terms of ref published on website

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17.88 Planting of Jubilee Oak Tree:

JF raised the issue because now is the appropriate time to plant the tree to co-inside with tree week. It was agreed the event would require a planting ceremony. The date agreed upon is Saturday 1st December at 2pm subject to Phil Blatchford being available to attend; the alternative date of 25th Nov was suggested if he is unavailable on the 1st. TC to check dates with PB. PG agreed to dig the hole and JF is to plant the tree. TC will also invite the Vicar to bless the tree. The full details will be advertised in the Villager once all is confirmed

PG
TC
JL

17.89 Councillors Report:

Bentworth Community Association, Nothing to report

Footpaths & Environmental, JL reported that if Jenny green lane is to be closed again the council have permission to drop two dead trees across the path so that walkers can walk round but 4x4s can't drive thru. JL requested that if anyone sees drivers on the lane to take registration numbers. JL has also received an email from and neighbouring village resident complaining that footpath 28 boundary is overgrown and requesting it be cut back. JL not sure if it's part of Bentworth JL to have a look and check boundaries.

JL

Land behind church street, broken stiles cannot be taken out, land owners won't repair. Stile update to go on the next agenda. JL will keep on at HCC and a full update to go on the next agenda.

AS

Pond, PW summarised the history of the pond and reported she is having trouble putting together costings for a repair. Frances Parris provided PW with the name and details of ecological person who can advise. AS to contact HALC to ask if they have any suggestions with regard to pond contactors who would provide a free quote for the repair. Once the Council have proper figures AS can apply for lottery funding.

AS

Traffic & Highways, 1 CH confirmed that kerbing around the pond is imminent. 2. CH advised the Council that all the drains in village all been cleaned recently. He has put an order in and potholes in Church Street should be filled in next week. 3 Mini round-a-bouts majority of people asked were for it and a few against. PG suggested changing priority by moving give way sign. Both VP and TC both against mini roundabouts and agreed PGs suggestion to be considered. PG to draw up his suggestion. Nigel Griffiths has offered to donate slow down signs for wheelie bins. It was agreed that mini round-a-bouts would be deferred until further notice but we would go ahead with SpeedWatch in the meantime

PG

Open spaces – Nothing to report

Trees – Nothing to report

Young people and families – PG confirmed that he has a meeting with someone important at BT and will be asking for a solution to speed up broadband. In the meantime PG will write to all ten clerks on the Medstead exchange.

PG

17.90 Other Reports:

Community care, Nothing to report

Neighbourhood watch, Nothing to report

St Marys School, Jean Cornelius informed the Council that the Hall should have been finished in October but was slightly delayed with weather. She would like it to be known that if you hire the hall you can use the kitchen but there are certain items you can't use such as combi oven and fridges however there are alternatives onsite. Phase two of the works will include the toilets to be refurbished and the outside landscaped. There will be an official Opening ceremony on 30th November at 2.30pm and for those who can't make that date, the following morning Saturday 1st December at 10 am.

TC advised the Council that he would like the hall to be kept as is and not used specifically as a school hall. He would not like the climbing frame to go up but rather placed in a cupboard and no blue tacked posters up on the wall as he felt it detracted from the commercial use of the space.

PG queried why school governors meeting minutes were not on the website. Frances Parris (attending public) responded that the website update was not a priority currently; instead they were focussing on recruitment.

17.91 Meetings Attended:

17.92 Forthcoming Meetings:

AS HALC conference for January

17.93 Date of next Meeting:

Wednesday 5th December 2012 at 7.30pm

The Chairman thanked all members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 21.15

Signed Date

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