

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 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

6th March 2013, 8.00pm, Village School, Bentworth

Present:

**ACTION
FOR**

Parish Councillors	Clerk	District & County Councillors	Others
Jenny French (Chairperson) Pam Wait Veronica Parker Jenny Lewis Philip Guest	Allison Spyer		18 in attendance

1 Apologies for Absence:

Apologies received from Tony Costigan, David Hawes, Chris Hurley, Mark Kemp-Gee, Patrick Burridge, Wendy Young

2 Minutes of the 2012 APM:

The minutes were approved. PW proposed VP seconded JF and JL agreed PG abstained as he was not on the council at the time.

3 Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

4 Chairpersons Report:

Addendum Attached.

5 Financial Report:

AS provided current bank statements showing that the current account was in credit by the amount of £592.11 and the deposit account was in credit by the amount of £14,473.80. AS also presented the Parish Council and attending public with the current year's income and spend to date which is attached.

6 County Councillors Report:

Mark Kemp-Gee was unable to attend the meeting and due to technical difficulties was unable to send his report in before the meeting, however he has since sent in the following:

"I am very sorry that I cannot be with you this evening as we charge up the batteries with a week's holiday before electioneering begins for the County Council elections on 2nd May. It has been a good year for Bentworth with the arrival of the Jubilee Hall and I have also been pleased to help with a contribution to the forthcoming SpeedWatch programme.

Times have been busy at the County Council too as we have cut £100 million out of our budget over the last two years to make up for the loss of central government rate support grant and we will need to reduce the budget by another £40 million over the next two years for the same reason. Despite all this we have recently announced that the County Council element of council tax will be frozen for the fourth year.

On a less successful note, at the request of the Parish Council, Hampshire Highways have conducted a survey on the amount of lorry rat running through Medstead and Bentworth to the A339 and vice versa. Despite most expectations the number on a daily basis was surprisingly small and no justification therefore can be made for a lorry ban except for access. I am hopeful, however, that the forthcoming 20 mph limit in the centre of Medstead will help deter lorries. As always, please let me know if anything requires my help or support and if the elections go well for me I look forward to representing you at the County Council for another four years'.

7 District Councillors Report:

Patrick Burridge was unable to attend due to ill health.

8 Veronica Parkers Report Re SpeedWatch and Participatory Budgeting:

VP reported that SpeedWatch would soon be up and running. There are nine volunteers including two Councillors, if anyone else would like to put their name down to please let her know.

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

VP took the opportunity to launch Participatory Budgeting, an initiative which allows the residents of Bentworth to spend £500.00 out of the budget on something they would like to see implemented in the village, an example of this was potentially installing a 'loop' in the new Jubilee Hall which would benefit residents with hearing difficulties. There was much discussion regarding the decision making process, one suggestion was to allow villagers to decide at a public meeting, another suggestion was for the council to decide after all suggestions had been considered and narrowed down to three. It was agreed however that the process would need to be discussed further and refined but all in all the public were very happy with the initiative.

9 Electors Open Forum:

J Moir (Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator) unfortunately had to announce that a few day-time robberies had taken place recently. It was confirmed that two cars had been used and during one incident a local resident had managed to obtain a license plate and report it to the police. The full NHW Team were congratulated for their prompt response. VP informed everyone that when a silver golf (make of car suspected in the robberies) was parked outside her house the police knocked on her door within minutes of it being reported. Nigel Griffiths suggested that John Stockdales extensive email system be used and this was deemed a good idea.

Jean Cornelius reported on behalf of the school: There are 100 children at the school at the moment, and another new child is joining next week. Phase I of the refurbishing of the hall is being finalised. Plans have been drawn up and are as ready as can be to proceed with Phase II, but as yet we haven't heard about the funding. JC also thanked Chris Hurley for arranging a meeting with Ian James (EHDC) to come and watch parents arriving at the school from 8.45 am., coming down from The Star. Ian said he thought painting white lines wasn't any good; speed bumps were out because of noise, pollution etc. He would explore the possibility of putting in a footpath.

PG asked what the school was doing in terms of reducing speeding on the school run. Head Teacher Jo Ayres informed him that they have requested parents watch their speed in the Newsletter and she has been out in the morning speaking to parents directly. SpeedWatch was discussed as a good indicator to finding out who was speeding with the possibility of naming and shaming repeat offenders. Jo Ayres requested that those responsible for the implementation of SpeedWatch come into the school and explain the initiative to the children who would then hopefully carry the message home to their parents that cars were being monitored. Nigel Griffiths suggested having non official observers on the Green highlighting persistent offenders.

10 Closure of Meeting:

JF thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 10.00pm

Signed Date

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

Addendum 1

Annual report from Chairperson Jenny French

I understand this is where I summarise what we have been up to over the past year and what a year it has been. Three new councillors, a new clerk, a new bus shelter and a diamond jubilee. And I have barely scratched the surface. Firstly Tony Costigan was co-opted filling the place that Peter Barlow had left, then we were saddened at the resignations of Fred Moir and Jo Robinson, their contribution was much valued and we thank them for the hard work they put in during their time on the council. Their places were subsequently filled by; Philip Guest and David Hawes. All three new councillors have been very active members of the council.

Tony Brooking was asked to get a team together to come up with some ideas for the upcoming Diamond Jubilee. And my goodness did his team do us all proud. With the invaluable help of Roy Kendrick using the charitable status of the BCA we had an amazing weekend and made a considerable amount of money towards the refurbishment of the school hall, or should I say Jubilee Hall. A huge thank you to everyone involved. And we must not forget the scarecrows a big thank you to Jenny Lewis for organising them, they well and truly put Bentworth on the map.

We were offered a Jubilee Oak from the Woodland Trust. This duly arrived looking very sorry for itself. Jenny Lewis took it in and nurtured it until late autumn when after an aborted attempt to make a 'bit of a do' of the planting of it we decided that it really needed to be in the ground if it was going to survive. So one Saturday afternoon Tony Costigan, Veronica Parker and myself ventured of to a site kindly given by Phil Blatchford and planted it. It is in his field adjacent to the footpath that runs from the bottom of Sun Hill to Tinkers lane. It came with an ugly green label to identify it. If it thrives we may have a nice plaque made..

With June came the resignation of our Clerk Barbara Lees, who had worked so hard in getting us up to date, meeting with regulations, updating our standing orders and generally keeping us under control. A recruitment committee was established to find a replacement. And what a great job they did. While an also clerkless Medstead were on their 3rd round of advertising, we had successfully recruited. Advertisements were placed from which we received 6 applications who were all good candidates. We interviewed 3 who were experienced clerks for other parishes. Having so many new councillors we felt it important to have someone with experience. Allison joined us in September and has proved to be a huge asset to the council.

August brought us a lovely new bus shelter. Although most people were happy to replace the potentially dangerous eyesore that was there before, there were varying opinions as to the design of what it should be replaced with and at what cost. After being petitioned over the first design proposal, a working party of 3 councillors were established to come up with a new simplified design.. This was put out for 3 quotations. Ian Hughs' quote was by far the cheapest mainly because he was able to recycle some materials he had from another job and he wanted to do something for the village so there was no real profit in it for him.

During the summer a notice was circulated that the mobile library was under threat and that several services would be discontinued. A prompt response to this including efforts from Philip Guest resulted in us keeping our service, - for now anyway. An example, of good communications and people working together.

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

Although during the time the Parish Council was clerk less and felt the need to cancel a couple of meetings we were still extremely busy. A communications team had been established and they came up with suggested amendments to put in our standing orders, the planning committee drew up their terms of reference and the finance advisory group were busy looking at financial regulations. All recommendations were duly adopted at subsequent council meetings.

The planning committee have received 25 planning applications to comment on. Some are much easier than others and the help of planning officers and Patrick Burridge with his planning hat on have been invaluable.

Philip Guest has been working with the County Council and others to improve our broadband provision.

Jenny Lewis has been working with the county council on the condition of our byways. Jenny Green Lane has been closed to traffic for several months now while it has been so persistently wet.

Chris Hurley continues to work with highways and has established a good relationship with their representative. The ditches on the corner by the farm on trinity road were cleared out within 48 hours of reporting. Other work has been carried out on grips and ditches and work has started on potholes. We have been promised that the potholes in the main road through the village will be filled.

We had yet another traffic survey done in the village, this time it was not school holidays nor were we under several inches of snow so the data was more believable. This confirmed to the authorities what we all know, we do have a speeding problem through the village, this may result in occasional police speed cameras.

The Parish Council decided to join a scheme called Speedwatch. Veronica Parker will explain what it is and how it all works later. It costs £500 to join which County Councillor Mark Kemp Gee has given us from his budget. A big thank you to Mark

The Parish Council decided to adopt the new code of conduct and several councillors have recently been on training sessions for it.

After a healthy debate we decided to keep the precept the same and have drawn up a budget to allow for some new initiatives. We have included in that budget an amount of £500 for participatory budgeting. This is where you all have a part to play. Again Veronica will explain what this is all about later.

Some more thank you's To Matt Williams for continuing to look after the green,
It is a real asset to the village now unlike how it used to be.

To Toby Stevens for looking after our website

To Mark Kemp-Gee and Patrick Burridge who have both been extremely supportive of Bentworth on many occasions.

And to Fred Moir for organising the spread this evening.

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

Addendum 2.

Budget vs Spend to date

2012 / 2013 Budget:

Clerks wages	4440
Clerks expenses	200
Councillor expenses	50
Chairman's allowance	50
Books	50
Insurance	500
Training and conference	250
Hall hire	450
Audit fees	375
Subscriptions (HALC)	200
Data protection	35
Grants and donations	570
Section 137	300
Future election	250
Repairs and maintenance	350
VAT on payments	100
	8170

2012 / 2013 Spend to date:

	2654.6	56%
	57.43	29%
	0	
	43.22	86%
	0	
	414.28	83%
	290	116%
	245	54%
	162	43%
	202	101%
	0	
	267	47%
	50	17%
	0	
	80	23%
	79.85	80%
	4545.38	55%

2012 / 2013 Receipts to date:

Precept	10,000
VAT repayment	57
HCC Funding	500
	10,557

Additional payments made in 2012 not included in precept budget:

Box benches	240
Bus shelter	4950
	5190