

# BENTWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: David Hawes

Clerk: Allison Spyer

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

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## MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

5<sup>th</sup> May, 8.15pm, Jubilee Hall, Bentworth

**Present:**

**ACTION  
FOR**

Parish Councillors	Clerk	District & County Councillors	Others
David Hawes Veronica Parker Jenny Lewis Paul Mellish Tony Costigan Chris Hurley Abbey George	Allison Spyer	Mark Kemp-Gee	26 members of the public in attendance

**1 Apologies for Absence:**

No apologies

**Minutes of 2014 APM:**

The minutes were deemed correct. Proposed by TC and seconded by VP with unanimous agreement from the rest of the council.

**2 Matters arising:**

There were no matters arising.

**3 Chairpersons Report: Annual review.**

It is now four years since the last Parish Council election in May 2011. Only three out of the original eight councillors are currently on the council plus there have been other councillors that have come and gone during the period. This high churn rate puts pressure on this voluntary organisation due to lack of continuity and resource. This year's Parish Council election went unopposed due to the lack of nominations from villagers. We needed ten, to trigger an election, but only received seven nominations from existing councillors. There still exists a casual vacancy so please consider putting your name forward. This said the council has achieved a great deal during the last four years. In no particular order I will now go over the events since the last APM.

**The Pond.**

It was decided that the pond should remain as a feature of the village but that would facilitate some major renovation work. The area was cleared by the "Community Pay Back" scheme. Community Payback gives local communities the opportunity to suggest suitable areas for offenders to rejuvenate as part of their Community Order. Materials, such as the liner, have been purchased with the help of monies kindly donated by Robert Lee-Woods. We now wait for the drier months to complete the project and are looking for a band of willing helpers.

**Participatory Budgeting Scheme**

Village gates were voted as being a good way in which to spend the allocated £500. The gates have been purchased and are currently in storage awaiting their installation this spring.

**Village Green**

After many months of consideration, with a view to beautify the area around the post box and the main notice board, the decision was taken to curb, grass and include a pull in for anyone wishing to post a letter or read the notice board. This is now complete and is a fine addition to the village. With the departure of Matt from the Star, who kept the green to a very high standard, there have been discussions on how to maintain the green into the future. Currently Matt Smith has taken over this task for which we thank him. We are looking into making a rota for this task so it is not all on one individual.

**Commemorative Bench 1914**

The council decided to commemorate, the fallen in the Great War, by purchasing a bench and having it customised with a suitable inscription. This was carried out and now sits in the church yard by the village cenotaph.

**Village public houses**

Both the Star and the Sun have won the "Pubs as a Hub" section of the Fullers Village of the year competition for the second year running. It was decided to register both the Star and the Sun public houses as "Assets of Community Value". The appropriate audit was produced, submitted and accepted.

**Proposed Submission Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations**

The EHDC plan initially allocated six dwellings on the plot of land adjacent to Church Street and Ashley Road for

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consideration. This topic was covered by an Extraordinary Council Meeting. There was much discussion and a straw-pole of the attendees indicated that if we agreed to six on the site hopefully that would satisfy the EHDC. The council voted a maximum of six dwellings would be acceptable and submitted the resolution accordingly. The EHDC has now initiated a second consultation period on the "Site Allocations Plan" running from Friday 10 April to Friday 22 May 2015. This plan now proposes twelve dwellings. We have now reiterated our initial comments that were received during the last public consultation period which ran between 19 December 2014 and 6 February 2015. This will be updated and as from the AGM on Tuesday the 5th of May Bentworth will create a Neighbourhood Plan.

## Broadband

There is much concern regarding the extremely slow progress being made to increase the broadband speed in the village. This issue was raised at a number of council meetings and it was decided to hold an extraordinary meeting on this subject alone last September. Glen Pacey informed the meeting that those that are on BT Box twelve in the village will get onto a faster speed first. The date will not be confirmed until September this year.

## Website

The new website is up and running. We have received a number comments of praise regarding the new format. This is really a work in progress and a living document that will grow with the inputs of the various village organisations.

## Speed Watch

Continues and is up and running most weeks. However it is dependant upon a small group of volunteers. Please see if you can spare an hour of your time a month to join the group and make a difference.

## Neighbourhood Watch

This has been updated and made more relevant as there had been a number of changes to the initial participants.

**and finally** . . . I would just like to name a few persons outside of the council that have assisted greatly. John Stockdale with his round robin emails, Toby Stevens with the website and a number of other issue, Jean Cornelius with her school updates now being presented by Abby, Fred for neighbourhood watch plus the Care Group and the catering at the APM's, Nicky Branch for his knowledge on all matters council, Matt Smith as already mentioned regarding mowing of the green, PC Peter Kelly for keeping an eye on the village plus many others whom I have not mentioned. We are all indebted to you for your much needed support. I would also like to thank our learned clerk Allison, all members of the council and of course you, our parishioners.

**Thank you.....**

## 4 Financial Report:

AS provided current bank statements showing that the current account was in credit by the amount of £17638.00 at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015. AS also presented the Parish Council and attending public with the current year's income and spend to date below:

14/15 Budget		Spend		15/16 Budget
Clerks wages	£4600.00	4734	102%	£4600.00
Clerks expenses	£300.00	278	92%	£360.00
Cllr expenses	£51.00	0	-	£51
Chairman allowance	£51.00	0	-	£51
Repairs	£100.00	0	-	£100
Insurance	£430.00	418.00	97%	£430.00
Grants/donations	£500.00	284.00	56%	£500.00
Training / conf	£364.00	35.00	9%	£364.00
Hall hire	£450.00	221.00	49%	£450.00
Audit fees	£375.00	320.00	85%	£375.00
Subscriptions	£234.00	209.00	89%	£234.00
Part budget	£500.00	478.00	95%	£500.00
Contingency	£810.00	0	-	£1000.00
Benches etc	£80.00	0	-	£100.00
Bus shelter	£100.00	0	-	£100.00
Reserves	£250.00	0	-	-
Future elections	£250.00	0	-	£250.00
Fireworks	£250.00	250.00	100%	£250.00
Data protection	£35.00	35.00	100%	£35.00
Misc		2334.00		
Laptop & support	-	75.00		£250.00
	£9730.00	9671.00	99%	£10,000.00

2014/2015 Precept £9730.00, Donation from BCA £700, Donation for the pond £1200 & VAT repayment £221.00 so total income for the year was £11,851.00

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Misc items – memorial bench, website set up, pond liner, scarecrow comp & community payback scheme

## 5 County Councillors Report:

County Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee made the following comments:

Council tax has been frozen for 6th year running despite RSG being nearly halved over the last 5 years.  
HCC capital spend programme stands at a record £800 million high for new schools, roads & broadband.  
84% of our primary schools are rated as good or outstanding with 98% of children get into a school within their top three choices.

Extra Care spaces for elderly increased from 500 to 700

Hampshire roads are rated in a national survey as some of the best maintained of all English Counties.

I would like to thank the Parish Council for their 4 year term of office and for their support of Hampshire County Council

## 6 District Councillors Report:

Newly elected District Councillor Tony Costigan gave the following report:

Air space above Bentworth. I have been advised that Farnborough have applied for Planning Permission to change the air space that they currently use. If successful it could have an adverse effect on the local airfield at Lasham but would also mean that the inbound and outbound flights would come over Bentworth. Therefore not only are we concerned as regards to Lasham but also and equally as concerned about noise levels over Bentworth. It has been agreed that I will approach the Chairman of Lasham airfield who is a resident of Bentworth, with a view to obtaining a full brief. I will report my finding at the next PC gathering.

Bentworth Church - The Church is in danger of closing and I am keen to recruit locals to make a monetary contributions by Direct Debit on a monthly basis. I will seek the help of John Stockdale with a view to sending an e-mail out asking for volunteers to help to save our Church.

Church Lane development crises. As you know the PC were concerned that EHDC have changed the specification of 6 houses in Church Road to 12. The Consultation period is still live and it has been agreed that the PC will push, along with my assistance at DC level, to keep the allocation of houses to the original figure. It is my intention to have meetings with the Planning Officers who are based at Penns Place, after I have completed my initiation programme which starts on Tuesday 19th. May 2015. I will report my findings at the next PC meeting.

## 7 Electors Open Forum:

No member of the public wished to speak

## 8 Closure of Meeting:

Chairman DH closed the meeting at 9.20

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