

Minutes of the Meeting of Great Bentley Parish Council Thursday 7 February 201

Present

Cllr J. Hills (Chair), Cllr B. Herbert, Cllr G. Wright, Cllr P. Balbirnie, Cllr L. Edwards, Cllr K. Plummer, Cllr C. Warder, and K. Harkin (Parish Clerk)

In Attendance – Essex County Councillor Derek Robinson and 11 electors.

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PER PERSON AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN**

1. David Gibbon raised a matter of road freezing that needs attention.
2. Mary Maskell informed that she has received a letter from a resident regarding a barn owl.
3. Mary Maskell expressed disappointment that the Parish Council website has not published recent copies of the Village magazine. She was reassured by the Chair that this matter is in-hand.
4. Fencing near the bridge – The Chair asked the Clerk to write to both write to British Rail and Highways asking the responsible organisation to make arrangements to have repairs completed.
5. The meeting was informed that the First Responders have had their remit expanded and now cover a number of local villages.

247. Apologies for absence – Cllr R. Taylor and Cllr L. McWilliams both on holidays.

248. Minutes of the meeting held on 3 January 2013

The minutes of the meeting on 3 January 2013 were approved and signed by the Cllr Herbert who Chaired that meeting.

249. Declarations of Interest – *Members were reminded that they are required to declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests they might have in relation to items of business on the agenda. They were reminded that they would need to repeat their declaration(s) at the appropriate point in the meeting and leave the meeting room if the interest was a pecuniary interest Unforeseen interests must be declared similarly at the appropriate time.*

Cllr Wright – St Mary's Farm – Renting land for growing potatoes.

250. Police Report

A written report outlining the incidents in the village over the past month had been submitted and circulated to members. The incidents recorded included;

- a) Criminal Damage - Thorrington Road and Station Road
- b) Abandoned Vehicle - Heckfords Road
- c) Attempted theft from motor vehicle - Larkfield Road
- d) Theft from motor vehicle - The Path
- e) Suspicious Circumstances - The Path - (Male at window)
- f) RTC - Plough Road and Weeley Road

Cllr Wright raised the issue of local catalytic converter inspections.

251. County and District Councillors Reports

- i) Cllr L. McWilliams submitted a written report of activities in her absence. This was circulated to members and discussed very briefly.
- ii) Cllr D. Robinson provided a verbal report
 - Work continues at ECC as it reorganises itself into a commissioning body.
 - Approval has recently been given for drop kerbs on Plough Road near Tesco.

- Additional Highway funding is likely to become available over the next 12 months. This is different to the routine maintenance budget.
- The Tendring Youth Strategy Group will be looking for initiatives to fund. This initiative may not have been advertised as well as it might. The Clerk was asked to ensure that it is reported in the Village magazine.

Cllr Balbernie raised an unresolved highways issue and Cllr Robinson agreed to pursue it.

252. Clerks Report

- The Clerk provided an update on the progress of the insurance claim relating to the vandalism caused to the Martyrs Memorial.
- Further to complaints about the damage to the Green caused by the circus, the Clerk has been in contact asking if it would be possible to visit Great Bentley earlier in 2013 when the ground conditions are likely to be drier and therefore lead to less damage. Consideration is being given to this request and a response is awaited.
- The Clerk has offered ECC an opportunity to provide a presentation on its superfast broadband initiative on 7 March prior to Parish Council meeting. ECC wishes to group Arleigh, Little Bromley and Great Bentley together for the presentation and hopes to attract any interested members of the public to the presentation. Details have yet to be finalised and as soon as they have they will advertised.

253. Correspondence

- Correspondence from the Royal Mail advising of the decision to operate a part time post office service from the Garage together with a letter from Mrs Bishop regarding the post box on Plough Road was considered. Cllr Herbert provided an update of the current situation and advised that negotiations with Royal Mail continue.
- A request from the Great Bentley Show was considered and agreed. **Resolved:** The Clerk to respond.
- Friends of the Green wrote offering a £500 donation from fund raising on the Green on Wednesday evenings during the summer. It hopes that the Parish Council can identify the specific use for which this money is used. **Resolved:** The Clerk was asked to respond suggesting that this money could be used for signage for the new car park, fund improvements to the new car park or as a contribution towards a new play slide in the Children's Play Area. A second letter from the Friends regarding the circus visit had been received. **Resolved:** The Clerk to respond advising of developments.
- Carnival request agreed. **Resolved:** The Clerk to respond.

254. Information and Reports - Requests from Members for additional matters of report or information only to be brought to the attention of the Council.

255. Finance

- A report prepared by the Clerk outlining the expenditure incurred by the Parish Council since its last meeting was circulated to members. It was proposed by Cllr Herbert and seconded by Cllr Plummer and **Resolved:** to agree this expenditure report.
- To approve requests for non-budgeted items – None.

256 Village Green Sub-Committee Report

- A written Green report had been submitted and circulated to members. Cllr Wright asked that Landscape Services be invited to tender for the Parish Council's strimming work subject to being able to comply with all the terms and conditions.

It was noted that there had been a complaint about the standard of workmanship regarding the tree work completed in the vicinity of the Methodist Church, which was forwarded to TDC's Tree Officer. The contractor had been notified and has agreed to return to rectify the situation.

The issue of damage to the Green by vehicles using the adjacent road was raised.
Resolved: The Clerk was asked to write to the properties drawing their attention to the damage being caused and asking for their cooperation. It was agreed to include this as an agenda item at the next meeting.

257 Other Reports

- a) **Tendring District Association of Local Councils** - No report.
- b) **Transport Report** - No report.
- c) **Footpaths Report** - Written report submitted in advance and circulated.
- d) **Caretaker's Report** - Written report submitted in advance and circulated.
- e) **NAP** – No report.
- f) **Village Events** – Nothing to report.

258. Affordable Housing – No further update at present.

259. Southside Pitch/Football Club – No further update at present.

260. Village Parking/Car Park

It was reported that the new car park is now open. While usage to date has been minimal it is hoped that motorists will start using the new facility in greater numbers. It was agreed to promote the new car park;

Resolved:

- i) That the Clerk should obtain quotations to improve the signage.
- ii) Clerk to procure 100 concrete rail sleepers
- iii) Introduce a weekly (recorded) inspection regime to be undertaken by Cllr Herbert.

261. Highways

- i) It was noted that various areas around the village have been gritted. A new delivery of grit has been delivered and is being stored under cover.
- ii) There is a pothole on Heckfords Road, 100m before the village sign. **Resolved:** To report it to Highways Dept.

262. Street Lighting

It was reported that there is a lamp out on a street light on Heckfords Road close to the Methodist Church.

263. Website

The Clerk reported that good progress has been made on the new website. All of the information from the old website has been transposed on to the new site. The aim is to include routine village news in order that it becomes useful to villagers. The new website will contain more information than previously. It will take a little time to collect and publish this information. It is hoped to launch the new website before the end of February.

264. Allotment Land

It was reported that the new allotment site has been marked out.

Resolved:

- i) Cllr Wright was asked to check with Mr Irwin that he is satisfied with the markings.
- ii) The Clerk to obtain a couple of quotations for fencing/m
- iii) The Clerk to obtain a quotation for the installation of a gate.
- iv) The Clerk to make an application to Edible Essex.

265. Village Signs

Cllr Hills raised the issue of litter on Heckfords Road. He offered to erect a sign at his expense to encourage motorists who use the lay-by not to leave litter. **Resolved:** Agreed unanimously.

266. Village Parking Survey

Members agreed that now the new car park has opened, members and villagers alike will be monitoring congestion albeit informally to see if the new facility eases congestion.

Resolved:

- i) That the Clerk writes to the Headteacher of Great Bentley Primary School asking the School to encourage parents to use the new car park when dropping off and collecting pupils.
- ii) That this is included as an agenda item for the next meeting

267. Procurement of replacement equipment for the Children's Play Area

Business having been concluded, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.01pm

Signed: Chairman

Date:

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**Minutes of
Great Bentley Parish Council Planning Committee Meeting
7 February 2013**

Present

Cllr J. Hills (Chair), Cllr B. Herbert, Cllr G. Wright, Cllr P. Balbirnie, Cllr L. Edwards, Cllr K. Plummer, Cllr C. Warder and K. Harkin (Parish Clerk)

In Attendance – 11 electors.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: No questions.

72. Apologies for absence

Cllr R. Taylor and Cllr L. McWilliams both on holidays.

73. Minutes of the last meeting

It was resolved to approve the Minutes of the 3 January 2013 and they were signed by the Cllr Herbert who Chaired that meeting.

74. Planning Applications considered:

Planning Reference No. & Email Link	Application Details	Address	Resolved unanimously
13/00034/FUL Mr & Mrs Herbert	Proposed detached garage.	Bouverie St Marys Road Great Bentley	No objection
13/00040/TCA Mrs B Harvey	2 No. Silver Birch - reduce by 30%	Pathside Cottage The Path Great Bentley	No objection

75. Correspondence

The Clerk advised that there was no correspondence for consideration. He went on to brief the meeting about a conversation regarding the Tendring District Local Plan (TDLP) he had with Mr

Gary Guiver, Tendring DC's Planning Services Manager. Mr Guiver indicated that the District Council has completed its consultation regarding its draft TDLP and is currently considering the issues raised. Once the TDLP has been amended there will be a further consultation exercise probably during the summer of 2013.

76. Planning Matters for Report – None

Business having been completed the Chairman closed the Meeting at 7.25pm.

The next Planning Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday 7 March 2013 at 7.15pm.