

## Minutes of the Meeting of Great Bentley Parish Council Thursday 7 March 2013

### Present

Cllr J. Hills (Chair), Cllr R. Taylor, Cllr B. Herbert, Cllr L. McWilliams, Cllr K. Plummer and K. Harkin (Parish Clerk).

**In Attendance** – Essex County Councillor Derek Robinson and 6 electors.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME WILL BE FOR A MAXIMUM OF 10 MINUTES AND LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES PER PERSON AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN

1. It was noted that the Millennium Clock is not working.
2. There was a suggestion that a 'Hampton Gate' should be erected where the 'Cinder Path' joins Plough Road to safeguard the life-stock. He was informed that would be a matter for Essex County Council.
3. It was noted that the joyful views driving in to the village are ruined by the vehicles parking on the roadside.
4. There was an enquiry about whether the accounts for the Jubilee have been finalised. Cllr McWilliams indicated that there has been a delay but that they will be finalised shortly.

### 268. Apologies for absence

Cllr G. Wright (personal), Cllr P Balbernie (illness), Cllr L. Edwards (work commitment) and Cllr C. Warder (work commitment).

### 269. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 7 February 2013 were approved and signed as a true record of proceedings.

### 270. 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 R Taylor (allotments) and Cllr L McWilliams (Caretaker).

### 271. Correspondence

- i) Request from TDC for Parishes to adopt a Tourism Champion. Cllr Hills volunteered to represent Gt Bentley.
- ii) A letter signed by 40+ allotment holders requesting action to be taken to address the rabbit and vermin issue. **Resolved:** The Clerk was asked to contact TDC and a private contractor and obtain a price to repair the fencing.
- iii) A letter from TDC alerting to the Tidy Tending Campaign was noted.
- iv) A letter from the Essex Heritage Trust asking to be alerted of any heritage project(s) that need additional funding. **Resolved:** The Clerk to respond enquiring if funding would be available for the erection of a Blue Plaque.

### 272. Information and Reports - Requests from Members for additional matters of report or information only to be brought to the attention of the Council - None.

### 273. County and District Councillors Reports

- i) Cllr D. Robinson provided a verbal report
  - Reiterated that additional Highway funding is likely to become available over the next 12 months. This funding is for improvements and is not to supplement the routine maintenance budget. He indicated that there have not been a lot of projects identified to

date so it makes it important to give this matter consideration. A brief period brainstorming produced the following list for consideration

- a) Kerbing at Tye Bridge
- b) Kerbing at Dead Lane, Southheath
- c) Improvements to Heckford Road layby.
- d) Install a Hampton Gate on the Cinder Path.
- e) Safety Improvement works to A133/Heckford Road junction.
- f) Improvements to the footpath from Thorrington Road to Brook Farm.

The Chairman asked that this matter is included as an agenda item at the next Council meeting.

- It was noted that ECC is to gain a Cabinet member for Health when the Primary Care Trust ceases in July.
- County Hall continues to focus on the 'efficiency' agenda.

- ii) Cllr L. McWilliams presented a verbal report  
She provided an update on the progress of the Draft Local Plan. The current Local Plan expires on 27 March at which time TDC will commence working with the yet to be formally adopted Draft Local Plan. The schedule indicates that the Draft Local Plan will be formally adopted in spring 2014.

#### **274. Clerks Report**

The Clerk referred to his previously circulated written report and précised the contents verbally.

- i) New Website; the new website has now been formatted. The Clerk has received some training. The launch has been delayed to March.
- ii) Cycle Stands; an offer of two cycle stands for the village was received. The Chairman of the Village Hall showed interest and the application form has been forwarded to him for his attention.
- iii) New Car Park; a letter has been sent to the Head teacher of the Great Bentley Primary asking the School to encourage parents to use the new car park. There appears to be a few more vehicles using the car park over the past couple of weeks.
- iv) Martyrs Memorial; the insurance company has requested a second quotation for the repair work. This has now been obtained and forwarded on.
- v) Damage to Village Green; a letter has been sent to the occupiers of the properties adjacent to the green where the damage has been caused as requested asking for cooperation in parking to minimise damage to the Green.
- vi) Children's Play Area – Slide; an inspection of the play slide has been completed. The Clerks judgement is that the slide remains serviceable. His advice is to continue to operate it until the contractor who undertakes the weekly safety inspections advises replacement.

#### **275. Finance**

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

#### **276. Village Green Sub-Committee Report**

Cllr B. Herbert presented a verbal report including the following items.

- New Allotments; EMS Engineering has fabricated a gate and charged £435 (as previously quoted). The gate has been erected on-site. It is now urgent that GBPC finalises the legal agreement regarding access.
- Football Pitch; Work is due to start on Saturday morning.
- Unmade Tracks; David Gibbon has kindly levelled the Southside Track as far as the concrete strips and I have filled the potholes further along at the request of residents.
- Grass-Strimming Contract; in the absence of a second quotation being received and with the growing season fast approaching, members were asked to consider letting the contract. It

was proposed by Cllr Herbert, seconded by Cllr Taylor and agreed to award a one-year contract to Conkers.

**277. Other Reports**

- a) Police Report; A written report outlining the incidents in the village in February was previously circulated. The Chairman noted the following incidents.
  - i) Nuisance Vehicle - St Mary's Road - (Motorcycle on Bridleway)
  - ii) Burglary Other - Strurrick Lane, (Tools taken from sheds)
  - iii) Animal - Station Road - (Dog left in car )
  - iv) Fire - Flag Hill - (Car on fire)
  - v) RTC - Plough Road.
- b) Tendring District Association of Local Councils; report previously circulated. No comment.
- c) Transport Report; Verbal report provided.
- d) Footpaths Report; Nothing to report.
- e) Caretaker's Report; Written report previously circulated. No comment.
- f) NAP; Nothing to report.
- g) Village Events; **Resolved**; The Clerk was asked to notify the Police of the dates of the Carnival (29 June), Village Show (31 August) and Memorial Service (10 November).

**278. Allotment Site Land**

The Chairman asked that this be an agenda item at the next meeting. **Resolved**; That quotations are sought for both wood and concrete fence posts for the perimeter fencing.

- 279. Procurement of replacement equipment for the Children's Play Area; Resolved**; That the procurement of a replacement play slide is deferred until the Council's play area inspector advises that the slide needs to be replaced.

Signed: ..... Chairman

Date: .....

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME WILL BE FOR A MAXIMUM OF 10 MINUTES AND LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES PER PERSON AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN**

1. Would the Council consider purchasing a replacement post box with leftover funds from the Jubilee? It was agreed to consider.
2. The fence is still unrepaired on both sides of the railway embankment at Tye Bridge.
3. The two (surplus to requirements) playground signs at Aingers Green have yet to be removed. Agreed to report it to highways.

Business having been concluded, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm

**The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 4 April 2013.**

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

**Present**

Cllr J. Hills (Chair), Cllr R. Taylor, Cllr B. Herbert, Cllr L. McWilliams, Cllr K. Plummer and K. Harkin (Parish Clerk).

**In Attendance** – 6 electors.

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:**

The Chairman explained that the more than usual activity was due to the preceding public meeting about superfast broadband and the presentation provided by Mr Phillip Wilson of Essex County Council. He asked the Clerk to ensure that the content of the meeting is publicised for villagers to note.

**77. Apologies for absence**

Cllr G. Wright (personal), Cllr P Balbernie (illness), Cllr L. Edwards (work commitment) and Cllr C. Warder (work commitment).

**78. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting on 7 February 2013 were proposed by Cllr Herbert and seconded by Cllr Hills, agreed and signed as a true record of proceedings.

**79. Planning Applications considered:**

<b>Planning Reference No. &amp; Email Link</b>	<b>Application Details</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Resolved unanimously</b>
13/00167/FUL Mr Kevin Wisbey	Variation of conditions 1 & 3 of planning permission 00/01102/FUL to alter the opening hours and allow the use of amplified music.	Golfe Hall, Plough Road, Great Bentley	<b>No objection</b>

**80. Correspondence** – None.

**81. Planning Matters for Report** – None.

Business having been completed the Chairman closed the Meeting at 7.40pm.

The next Planning Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday 4 April 2013 at 7.15pm.