

## Minutes of Great Bentley Parish Council Planning Committee Meeting 7.10pm, Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2012 in the Village Hall

### Present

Cllr Herbert (Chair), Cllr Warder, Cllr Balbirnie, Cllr Edwards, Cllr Plummer, Cllr Taylor and Kate Mayhew (Clerk)

**In Attendance** – Approximately 12 electors.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllr Hills - late

2. **Declarations of Interest** –

Members were reminded that they were required to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they knew they might have in items of business on the meeting's agenda. They were reminded that they would need to repeat their declaration at the appropriate point in the meeting and to leave the room if the interest was a prejudicial one. Unforeseen interests must be declared similarly at the appropriate time.

3. **Public Question Time** –

J Bishop . spoke on the parking problems in the village and how application numbers 11/01436/FUL and 11/01443/OUT will increase the risk and her concern for the youth in the area and the lack of policing. Request for Members to acknowledge these risks.

R Mackenzie . thanked Members for rejecting application 11/01436/FUL.

A Bishop . spoke on the reference to the Core Strategy and how it affects application no. 11/01443/OUT

4. **Minutes**

RESOLVED: That the decisions recorded at the last Meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011 be approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Taylor and Seconded by Cllr Balbirnie.

5. **Planning Applications**

Planning Reference No.	Application Details	Address & PC Comments
11/01425/FUL	Change of lawful use from Highway to residential cartilage.	Moynes Farm Wick Road, Great Bentley.
11/01436/FUL	Variation of Condition 01 and Condition 03 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>DECISION:</b> Objection.
11/01443/OUT	Erection of 22 houses together with associated garages and parking, alterations to vehicular access, formation of access road and all ancillary works.	Land to rear of Bold Venture, Station Road, Great Bentley.  <b>DECISION:</b> Objection.
11/01448/FUL	Alterations and additions.	The Old School House, Plough Road, Gt Bentley  <b>DECISION:</b> No objection.
11/01483/FUL	Erection of double garage with lean-to wood store.	St Mary's Grange, St Mary's Road, Great Bentley.  <b>DECISION:</b> No objection.

11/01498/FUL	Variation of condition 03 of planning permission 11/00833/FUL to allow use of natural slate in place of clay pantiles.	Carpenters Farm, St Mary's Road, Great Bentley. <b>DECISION:</b> No objections
11/01512/FUL	Proposed cladding on south elevation.	1 Goodwyns Mews, Birch Avenue, Great Bentley <b>DECISION:</b> No objections

All members were in agreement with the comments made on the above applications.

6. **Correspondence** – R Mackenzie, Great Bentley Post Office . ref: Golfe Hall  
TDC Planning Committee Minutes 13/12/2011
7. **Planning matters for report** (for information only) - No matters were raised.
8. **Forthcoming meetings**

The next Meeting is scheduled for 2nd February 2012.

Business having been concluded, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.49pm

Signed: [Signature] . Chairman

Date: [Signature] .

**Minutes of Great Bentley Parish Council Meeting**  
**7.30pm, Thursday 5th January 2012 in the Village Hall**

**Present**

*Cllr Warder, (Chair), Cllr Herbert (Vice-Chair), Cllr Hills, Cllr Wright, Cllr Balbimie, Cllr Plummer, Cllr Taylor, Cllr McWilliams, Cllr Edwards and Kate Mayhew (Clerk)*

**In Attendance** – *Approximately 14 electors and County Councillor Derek Robinson*

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

*Mr Bishop – spoke on the absence of a PCSO especially during school hours. Clerk to chase Essex Police for a response on the return of PCSO Boyden.*

*Mrs Bishop – spoke on the condition of the roads due to increased traffic. Cllr Warder explained the current position of the Council on the matter.*

1. **Apologies for absence** – None.
2. **Minutes** – **RESOLVED:** *That the decisions recorded at the Meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011 be approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr McWilliams, Seconded by Cllr Taylor and signed by the Chairman.*
3. **Declarations of Interest** – *Members were reminded that they were required to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they knew they might have in items of business on the meetings agenda. They were reminded that they would need to repeat their declaration at the appropriate point in the meeting and to leave the room if the interest was a prejudicial one. Unforeseen interests must be declared similarly at the appropriate time.*

Cllr McWilliams – Caretaker  
Cllr Warder – Football Club and Carnival

**4. Police Report – PCSO Les Barnes read out the report.**

Suspicious Circumstances - Thorrington Road - (Door to door sales man)  
Shair Lane - (Suspicious vehicle)

Tree Down - Flag Hill

Fly Tipping - St Marys Road

Criminal Damage - Sturrick Lane x 2 - (Christmas lights cable cut)

Burglary Dwelling - New Cut

Burglary Other - Flag Hill

RTC - Heckfords Road

Shair Lane

Weeley Road

The Green

**5. Clerks Report – Clerks Report - January 2012**

- 1) *There has not been a response to our Big Society Bid as yet. We should hear in February.*
- 2) *I have been liaising with the East of England Ambulance Trust and The Community Heartbeat Trust with regards the additional funding required for the CFR group to be fully equipped post training. **\*Cllr Taylor raised the point of how we find the funding that Members guaranteed. Clerk to place on Agenda for February.***
- 3) *I have had the office PC looked at with regards to the problems I've been having and the advice is that a new PC is required as the current one is too old to keep up with the demand. The system is very slow, regularly failing and struggling to link to more recent software. The company I have liaised with on this are sending a spec over with a view to obtaining quotes but I do feel that all the office equipment needs to be brought in line, i.e. the phone, broadband, network etc so I am looking generally at how to save money but be more accessible to the public and improve our portfolio of services. I have tried to get the access codes for the office PC so that I can start making new year alterations to the website but Webeck are not responding to my emails or voicemails. Could Cllr Wright assist please?*
- 4) *It is time to start collating information for the Parish Annual Newsletter - please advise any groups or organisations you are part of to email me if they wish to have a space -it would be nice to have some new groups participate this year. I also intend to publish an overview of our income/expenditure.*
- 5) *Due to the changes in the Recycling Collections I have been advised that I will be receiving a stock of two other coloured bins as well as the green ones. This will somewhat cramp the CRC - any suggestions?*

- 6) *The alarm for the CRC is due to be serviced and the engineer has advised a new battery will be required. I will arrange for this to be carried out.*
- 7) *The FC has suggested a meeting to discuss the creation of a Statement of Understanding between themselves and the Parish Council. Who would like to be involved with this? **Cllr Wright and Cllr Herbert.***

*Thank you. Kate Mayhew, Clerk to Great Bentley Parish Council*

**6. Correspondence Report** – Items of correspondence received for the Councils attention.

- 1) TDC Forward Plan 123
- 2) UK Power Networks – Wayleave Cheque of £148.84p
- 3) GBVH – Rent increase on Hall Hire and CRC.
- 4) ECC – Temporary closure of Footpath 12 17<sup>th</sup> January
- 5) S Ernst – Smoking at the Railway Station – Actioned
- 6) Conservative Group – Neighbourhood Plan

**7. Information and Reports** - Requests from members for additional matters off report or information only to be brought to the attention of the council.

*Cllr Taylor spoke on street lighting in the village and presented his report on outages.*

*Cllr Taylor spoke on bus shelters – Clerk to investigate grants prior to February Meeting – try ECC!*

**8. County and District Councillors Reports**

- i) *County Councillor – Cllr Robinson spoke on the closure of Martins Farm Recycling Centre and his efforts to stop the closure. Personal contact with Highways Officers has been lost and he now has to go through committee officers with a response in 3 days. Full budget next month, cuts are due, lots of issues to be expected. Cllr Edwards spoke ref Martins Farm and what measures have been taken to increase services at Clacton. Cllr Robinson advised that no measures had been taken as yet. Weight restrictions at Weeley Bridge – request to County to change the weight limit so that local business vehicles can be diverted from Tye Bridge to Weeley Bridge. **Clerk to chase.***
- ii) *District Councillor – TDC is looking to reduce their budget by 0.5%, Tendring SOS Bus is being launched in Clacton on 7/1/12 due to help those in need of support whilst out in the evening. Volunteers needed to staff the bus.*

**9. Procurement of Services by Contractors/Sub-Contractors** – Forms to be circulated to all members for their comments. All purchase orders to be linked to the budget item code showing the related budget figures and add terms and conditions to purchase order documents. **Clerk to work with the Chairman to produce a suitable system.**

**10. Highways** – Accidents on Shair Lane/Heckfords Road/Weeley Road – Cllr Robinson advised that previous meetings with Highways had not proved fruitful. Cllr Hills suggested ghosting as an option and asked Cllr Robinson if Highways would take it on – general feeling is to continue to pursue Highways proactively and maybe use the press for support. **Clerk to write to**

**Bernard Jenkins and contact the press.**

11. **Village Parking/Car Park** – Cllr Hills suggested a Plan B in case funding isn't received. Cllr Taylor advised the signing needs to be done first and professionally. **Clerk to contact Ian Taylor at TDC regards his opinion on the bare minimum for a car park and risk assessment.**
12. **Flag Hill Speed Calming Working Party** – Cllr Plummer gave an update on the lack of progress with Highways on reducing the speed limit. The chances of reducing the limit to 30mph are very low and other speed calming measures are not appropriate for the type of road. Cllr Plummer to contact a neighbouring PC for support.
13. **Finance** – Cllr McWilliams proposed the expenditure and Cllr Warder seconded.

				<u>Items of Expenditure for January 2012</u>			
05/01/2012	101140	M DORLING	M010	GENERAL MAINTENANCE	£500.00		£500.00
					£		£
05/01/2012	101141	MAY GURNEY LTD	L020	LAMP REPAIR	67.61	£13.52	81.13
					£		£
05/01/2012	101142	LANDSCAPE SERVICES GREAT BENTLEY VILLAGE	G030	GRASS VERGE CUTTING HIRE OF MEETING	90.00	£18.00	£108.00
					£		£
05/01/2012	101143	HALL	A060	ROOM	20.90		20.90
					£		£
05/01/2012	101144	MR R MCWILLIAMS	A013	CARETAKER	86.55		86.55
05/01/2012	101145	K MAYHEW	A010	CLERKS SALARY	£615.64		£615.64
					£	£	£
05/01/2012	DD	TALKTALK	A035	BROADBAND CHARGES	16.33	4.09	20.42
05/01/2012	DD	E-ON	L010	ENERGY CHARGE	£255.95	£51.19	£307.14
					£		£
05/01/2012	DD	BT - TELEPHONE GREAT BENTLEY VILLAGE	A030	TELEPHONE RESOURCE CENTRE	50.28	£15.04	90.25
05/01/2012	101146	HALL	A065	RENT	£180.82		£180.82
					£		£
05/01/2012	101147	HMRC	A012	CLERKS NI	5.58		5.58

14. **Website** – General update from the Clerk.
15. **Allotment Land** – General discussion on the lack of progress. Cllr Wright suggested a working party to move things along much quicker than is happening. Cllr Hills suggested himself, the Clerk, Cllr Wright and the Chairman form a group. Cllr Plummer requested he be involved also. **Cllr Hills to speak with Ellisons to find out what the current position is.**

16. **Village Green Sub-Committee Report** –

a) **Green Report** –

Report of Green Committee Meeting held at The Resource Centre  
29<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at 7.30pm

Those present were Cllrs. L. McWilliams, C. Warder and B. Herbert and contractors H. Tweed and M. Dorling.

**Unmade tracks**

We would like Mr. D. Gibbon to repair the unmade tracks around the Green using his purpose made machine and will seek the full PCs approval to ask him. **Clerk to ensure Mr Gibbon has relevant insurance certificates to carry out the work.**

### **Southside football pitch**

The company which the FC had contacted have been back to make a more detailed examination of the ground, their results will go to the FC.

We also discussed the movements of the surface, which have become far more noticeable in the last six months. **The Chairman has asked the Football Club to provide all reports for the February Meeting.**

### **Trees**

The trees at the rear of Chapel Terrace need attention as reported earlier in the month. **Clerk to apply for Planning Permission with TDC.**

### **Vandalism**

We are undergoing a spate of vandalism where signs are being interfered with and removed. The one way sign in Birch Ave. has been turned round many times, metal dog fouling signs and the wooden signs asking not drive on the grass which we put out in the winter removed and the notice board in Thorrington Road broken.

### **Motor bike night**

M.D wants us to know the full accounts are with an accountant and should be with us at the Feb. meeting.

### **Christmas trees**

M.D reminded us that the trees will be shredded before the next meeting and asked permission to give the usual donation to the man who shreds them for charity.

### **Seat in Plough Road**

Nothing has been mentioned lately about this and it is has been missed by people walking along there. We feel that it should be replaced by a heavy concrete ended seat with wooden slats as before. **Clerk to approach Livertons with cost of £434.00.**

### **Verge Cutting**

We feel that we have established a good working relationship with our new contractor and think this or the Highways grant may be in danger if TDC were to follow Colchester Council in taking over the whole district verge cutting. Just something to be aware of.

Meeting ended 8.30pm

Bill Herbert

#### **b) Planning -**

#### **17. Other Reports**

##### **a) Tendring District Association of Local Councils –**

**Transport Report** – Peter Harry advised that bus shelters were additional street furniture liable for vandalism and take up a lot of room and prevent drivers from dropping passengers near their homes.

##### **b)**

##### **c) Footpath Report – December 2011**

The numbering of paths in the parish of Great Bentley is as stated on the “Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way for the County of Essex” dated 1 July 2002, scale 1:10,000. For descriptions of paths please see previous reports.

Notes on paths as at 31/12/11

1.

- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
7. *Small tree cleared from path in woodland close to access.*
8. *Litter on entrance to path from Birch Avenue completely cleared up by Village Caretaker. Unacceptable amount of litter still on Railtrack property left by rail-line workmen.*
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
13. *Signpost at Frating Abbey Farm road in need of repair. Highways informed.*
- 17.
- 19.

*D.E. Gollifer  
(Footpath Representative) 31/12/11*

*Cllr Hills – discussed the Cinder Path and that he had come under a lot of criticism by a particular member of the public for his handling of the matter and was being questioned as to who he had sought legal advice from. He stated that he could not remember specifically who he had sought advice from and proposed the Parish Council seek formal legal advice on the matter. No response has been received from Essex County Council on the outcome of the application but the allotment issue had been and still was a priority.*

**d) Caretaker Report – Report for the month of December 2011**

The play area - good order - not a lot of litter for the time of the year Spinney and pond both good. Recycling Centres, clean and tidy and well used. All notice boards are in good order with up to date information with the exception of Thorrington Road. Fly tipping, St Mary's Road Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Mr Irwin had informed Highways and Highways closed the road. I reported the fly tipping to our District and Parish Councillors. TDC cleared within 3 days; took longer than normal due to presence of asbestos.

**e) NAP Report – Report on Neighbourhood Action Panel 16/11/11**

*Report from Robert Taylor comprising abbreviated minutes of last meeting with items relating to or of interest to Great Bentley.*

**Chairs report**

*The Chair thanked all the Panel Members for their help through the year. It is the last meeting for 2011 and perhaps the last meeting for Fraser MacRae with us. A replacement is due to be appointed. (As soon as the name of his successor is known, we will let the Panel know).*

*The Chair has mentioned that this year had been very difficult for the Panel, due to the uncertainty surrounding all matters. But the Panel's decision to become independent has enabled us to retain the name of Neighbourhood Action Panel and to carry on more or less the same as before. He pointed out that it was interesting that in the new Essex Police Reform Programme NAPs play an important role. The police chaired Neighbourhood Meeting idea seems to have been shelved and NAPs are back. In the Blueprint document to be implemented in March 2012, the Chief Constable states: Community engagement- partnership and problem solving approach. Engagement and consultation will take place through the use of the NAP's public meetings.*

*The Chair placed an emphasis on the fact that WE NEED MORE PANEL MEMBERS and we must address this over the next few months.*

*At recent consultation events and in feedback from a number of sources, there has been a growing concern about plans to close police stations and cut police numbers. The justification given is to save money, but this does seem to be an unwise way of economising.*

*The basic issues that continue to dominate are:*

- *road safety (speeding) and mobile phone use while driving.*
- *drink and drug problems (often involving young people).*
- *concerns about property (acquisitive) crime.*
- *closure of Martin's farm recycling centre bringing fears of fly-tipping - which is already a problem in all our communities.*
- *railway crossing safety is also something that many are concerned about, following incidents involving elderly pedestrians.*
- *The threat of the closure of 4youth in Brightlingsea has been an additional issue. But there has been a last minute reprieve.*

*Since the last meeting, the Chair has attended three community based functions, one in Sheffield, one in Norwich and one in Ingatestone. He compared notes and picked up ideas from other parts of the country. Over the next few months, he will try to use some of those ideas with our accord. He pointed out that many other NAPs and similar Neighbourhood/policing groups have regular columns in newspapers and magazines, asking not only for residents to contact them with local issues, but also seeking potential new members. We should have a look at that. He pointed that he would like to follow up Martine Ward's idea for some kind of membership/identity card.*

*The Chair made a visit to the Lord Lieutenant of Essex: Chris Palmer-Tomkinson as he wanted to know more about our little group. He was very positive about what we do and will recommend acceptance of our funding request when he becomes the High Sheriff of Essex next year. This is not a foregone offer of acceptance though, if successful. This will be a grant for £1,000.*

*In March the new policing arrangements will come into force and we will be losing officers as some will relocate. The Chair thanked them for all the hard work they have put in over the years to benefit our area.*

*The Panel should be pleased with the great support that we have had with our drugs and alcohol awareness campaign backed by OPEN ROAD group and the ESSEX YOUNG PEOPLE'S DRUGS AND ALCOHOL ADVISORY SERVICE. This resulted in youth clubs being visited as well as street work being carried out. There has been one direct referral of a youth in serious danger of drug related harm. EYPDAS visited known street locations in our area where young people gather and spoke with them on drug and alcohol issues. We will get a full report on this later.*

*The Chair finished by thanking again the Members of Panel for everything achieved this year, including the setting up of another community speedwatch group and the good contacts we have established with a number of agencies that have enabled us to get things done.*

#### **Police report.**

*Fraser was kind enough to send me his report:*

*As it stands, my team are still not back to full strength. Up until recently I had no neighbourhood constables as they were supporting shift. I was supported however by a NC from Mistley and we managed to continue our good work. I now have one of my NC's back so I hope that we can increase our level of service to the communities we cover.*

*Crime figures for the last 64 days.*

*Great Bentley. 13 crimes. Hot spot was Thorrington Rd with 4 different victims of 2 damages, 1 burglary and 1 assault. 5 repeat victims of ASB. 3 different callers from The Path re nuisance youths.*

*The team have been involved in a number of events including.....*

*Attendance at firework displays.*

*Wreath laying events on armistice and remembrance days.*

*Ongoing work with EYPDAS.*

*Meetings at Ashfern House in Gt Bromley with Alison PEPPER from EYPDAS and the residents re drugs and alcohol misuse.*

*Numerous schools visits.*

*Development of and attendance at Speedwatch events.*



Ongoing work re Selecta DNA.

**Police Priorities**

Speeding and use of mobile phone while driving  
Vulnerable property identification kit  
Door knocking  
ASB has picked up: Halloween and 5<sup>th</sup> November

**Adrian Simcock's report**

Bands went well. £900 was raised for Alresford.  
Fran Anderson is the representative for Tendring Youth Council. Although it is difficult to approach her, Adrian will try again.  
4Youth has a reprieve. The work is being carried out. Adrian is holding a few events to raise some more funds: auctions

**Membership & Nap promotion campaign**

We need to think about advertising and trying to attract more members.  
Support drugs and alcohol organisations  
Fundraising events  
Contacting youth councils and groups

**f) Village Events requiring Police Attendance – None**

Business having been concluded, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.35pm

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**

Mr Hume – advised he was trying to seek answers to his questions to Cllr Hills regards the Cinder Path and that he had sought advice from the CLA, ECC and the Ramblers Association all of whom had said he has a strong case for supporting the application to have the Cinder Path adopted as a formal Footpath. He felt that the PC had not fully debated the issue or present it to the public in 2010 and was still trying to ascertain whom Cllr Hills had sought his legal advice from. A heated discussion took place between Cllr Hills and Mr Hume.

Clive French – advised the FC had discussed the Southside Pitch with a turf consultant and works could go ahead later in the year with the associated costs of approx £5,000 being met by the Football Club, the area would be out of action for approx 3months. TO be discussed further on receipt of reports.

David Gibbon – suggested Mr E Wright be considered for tree surgery works on the Green. Spoke on the allotment issue and the Cinder Path issue.

Cllr Herbert spoke on the issue and advised the existing footpath over St Mary's Farm was fenced and gated.

Peter Harry spoke on the accidents that occurred on the A133 and traffic being diverted through Great Bentley caused gridlock. Suggested local businesses sponsor the new car park.

Mick Dorling – advised the lettering on the Marty's Memorial needed attention. Householders in Larkfield Road were parking on the Green open area. **Clerk to write to all properties.** Xmas Tree Shredding donations to go to the Air Ambulance. Memorial Service for 2012 will require a police presence. Van in front of pharmacy has 4 flat tyres, is not illegally parked though.

*MOP – Praised the Christmas lights but asked for some on the North side of the Green this year.*

*Mr Bishop – spoke on speeding in the village. **Clerk to report to Essex Police.** Members discussed.*

***The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2012 in the Village Hall.***