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|  **Meeting of Great Bentley Parish Council****Held on Zoom on 3rd December 2020** |

**MINUTES**

Meeting commenced at 7.46 pm

**Present:** Cllr Dennitts (Chairman), Cllr Herbert, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Plummer, Cllr Harry, Cllr Adams, Cllr Hills & Cllr Edwards. Also, in attendance were the Clerk and 7 members of the public.

**12.20.303 Apologies for absence**:

**12.20.304 Declarations of interest**:

 Cllr Adams - Non-pecuniary Interest – Great Bentley Village Hall Trustee.

 Personal Interest Contractor M Dorling (related person).

**12.20.305 Information and reports since last meeting:**

Cllr Harry noted that the LHP have validated the bus stop at Plough Road, Aingers Green. It is planned to be in front of the hedge alongside Fir Tree House which has just submitted a planning application including the removal of the hedge.

**12.20.306 Minutes of meeting**:

Proposed Cllr Harry, Seconded Cllr Plummer, **Resolved:** To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th November 2020 as an accurate record of proceedings.

**12.20.307 Public Forum**:No questions

**12.20.308 County and District Councillors Reports:**

1. District Councillor - Cllr L McWilliams (See Appendix A) TDC report re Christmas opening to be published by Clerk on the magazine
2. County Councillor - Cllr A Goggin – (See Appendix B) Cllr Taylor noted item 12 is not linked to TDALC. Bridge repairs on Footpath 13 now to be carried out w/c 7.12.20. Community Hunger Initiative at Morrison’s Supermarket. Thanks passed to Cllr Taylor re TDALC meeting

**12.20.309 Other Reports**:

1. PCSO – Report noted (See Appendix C)
2. Transport – Cllr Harry – Nothing to Report
3. Footpaths – Mr D Gollifer – Report noted (See Appendix D)

Cllr Edwards noted that there is a temporary diversion in place for carrot harvesting at St Mary’s Farm near the cinder path and bridleway. The footpath is diverted to an area which is operational.

Proposed Cllr Edwards, Seconded Cllr Taylor, **Resolved**: Clerk to write advising what is taking place and suggest that the public should not walk under an operational conveyor belt. There is space to relocate the temporary footpath. Acknowledge that the work done to open and maintain the footpath across the field before the harvest was excellent.

Clerk to send letter of thanks to Mr Gollifer for his work over the past year.

Cllr Harry noted that the Village Gateway at the bridleway will need to be moved when the new road is installed and there are no plans shown for its relocation. Clerk to note on report

1. Caretaker - Mr R. McWilliams – Report noted (See Appendix E)
2. TDALC – (See Appendix F) Cllr Taylor noted that the Highway Rangers was promoted at the recent meeting and that TDALC are concerned regarding the Essex Speed Plan.

**12.20.310 Finance:**

a) Proposed Cllr Harry, Seconded Cllr Edwards, **Resolved**: Pay Open Spaces Society a total of £100 – Subscription

 £45, Donation £55.

b) Proposed Cllr Hills, Seconded Taylor, abstained Cllr Adams, **Resolved**: To approve the monthly

 expenditure report. (Appendix G). Clerk to add the Open Spaces Society payment as approved above.

c) The monthly bank reconciliations were noted.

1. The completion of the annual audit for the year ended 31st March 2019 by PKF Littlejohn LLP with no matters to note was noted.
2. Donation of £100 from Friends of the Green towards the recent works to the Village Pond was noted. Clerk to

send thanks.

**12.20.311 Budget:**

 Proposed Cllr Taylor, Seconded Cllr Herbert, abstained Cllr Adams, **Resolved**: To adopt the 2021/22 Budget &

 Precept.

**12.20.312 B1027 Speed Limit Review Report Recommendations**:

Cllr Goggin was asked to join the discussion. He confirmed there is no Essex speed plan, that it is a replica of the national speed plan. LHP is there for road safety not pollution or to reduce traffic.

 Cllr Goggin will liaise with Cllr Taylor regarding perceived differences of speed reduction between Suffolk and Essex County Council’s, Cllr Goggin asked for specific examples and he will investigate.

a) Flag Hill - The issues along the stretch of road will be discussed by the ECC Strategic Development team with the District Council to see if anything can be done to assist in the medium to long term.

 b) Hollybush Hill - Extend the existing 40mph speed limit – South East of Dead Lane – incorporate the Lane and the property. Proposed Cllr Harry, Seconded Cllr Edwards, **Resolved**: Clerk to write to Cllr Goggin to ask for recommendations to be taken forward.

**12.20.313 Village Green & Allotment Working Party**: (See Appendix H)

Proposed Cllr Herbert, Seconded Cllr Taylor, Resolved: Clerk to obtain quotation to carryout remedial work to the paving bricks surrounding the War Memorial.

**12.20.314 Members Initiative Fund:**

Proposed Cllr Plummer, Seconded Cllr Harry, **Resolved:** Due to timescale concerns, if village gateway cannot be actioned before end of January to submit the noticeboard area and memorial paving remedial works to Cllr Goggin.

**12.20.315** The Chairman asked if Councillors had anything else they wished to highlight:

Work at Southside and Mill tracks was discussed. Jan Agenda.

The Chairman confirmed that the funds for a tractor have been put in the budget for next year.

Cllr Taylor queried why the zip wire is not back in place, Clerk to check guidance. Jan Agenda.

The Chairman thanked the Councilllors and members of the public including the District and County Councillors for their input this year

**12.20.315 Public Forum:**

A member of the public asked how to have a bench on the Green in memory of her husband. The Chairman noted that the bench outside R43 had been agreed. Cllr Edwards suggested having an agenda item to look at this request and if further benches on the Green are required. Cllr Hills noted point of procedure on how soon a decision can be revisited

 Cllr Goggin noted Highway Rangers and for clerks to contact them direct

 Cllr Goggin thanked the Parish Council for respect and time on behalf of himself and Cllr McWilliams

Meeting closed 8.54 pm

**Chairman’s Signature: Date:**

**Appendix A**

**Cllr McWilliams**

**AFTER COVID LOCKDOWN 2**

Essex is back to a Tier 2 category with a few changes from the previous Tier 2 , but whilst typing these notes it has been mentioned that some Tier 3 categories may be changed soon, no mention of Tier 2 whilst I am typing, though at the beginning of January it has now been considered that decisions will again be made to go before Government if there is a need to change Tiers.

**AN AMBITIOUS VISION FOR AN INNOVATIVE NEW FREEPORT**

New Freeport in the East of England

Public and private sector leaders have a joint vision for a new Freeport on the East Coast.

The Port of Felixstowe and Harwich International Port – both owned by Hutchison Ports – would be a strategic hub linking UK importers and exporters with suppliers and customers across the globe, and be situated at the heart of vital trading routes to Asia and Northern Europe.

The vision has been set out jointly by business and local government leaders from Essex, Suffolk, and the wider region, and work is now underway to develop a detailed bid following the publication of the Government’s Freeports prospectus.

It has been said that the combination of the ports of Felixstowe and Harwich offers the UK a unique opportunity in the post-Brexit world, sitting as they do at the main junction point between the UK's principal trade route to and from the Far East and key freight links to and from northern Europe.

**GREEN CORNER - HECKFORD ROAD**

I contacted Tendring Enforcement relating to the concerns that keep being mentioned about the lack of progress regarding the footway from the Go Homes site and other sites that are now coming to completion.

Tendring Enforcement came out to check progress last week and noted the work had not commenced; the developers were contacted and were told the work was due to commence on 2nd December and due to be finished by 11th December. Enforcement will be coming back to check progress again.

Lynda

Cllr Lynda McWilliams

Tendring District Councillor to the Wards of Great Bentley, Little Bentley and Frating

Tendring District Council Cabinet Member with the portfolio for Partnerships

**Appendix B**

**AG personal notes to Great Bentley parish Council. Week commencing November 30th 2020.**

**Possible Items of interest to residents.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1.** | **Bins** | Resident not had bins delivered or collected for 8 months! | Local farm. Requested TDC via Cllr Talbot. | Sorted. Outstanding rubbish collected & bins delivered. Within 2 days! Clerk advised. |
| **2.** | **Walkway bridges** | Right of way. Bridge repairs | Thanks to Luke for helping with this. Chased again 1/12. | Original date not kept. Covid & stroke reduced team. Scheduled w/c Dec 7. Weather permitting. Job no for replacement of 4m & 4.5 metre lengths. |
| **3.** | **B1027 speed review** | Presented to LHP meeting Nov 19 | Circulated to councilors via Clerk, Never been presented in this manner before. | Some wins and some losses. AG pleased that ECC prepared to look at 11 miles of road as one whole. |
| **4a.** | **B1027 speed review** | Ditto | 60 MPH reduced to 40 to Frowick Lane | Taking in to account Westwood park. Technically St.Osyth council |
| **4b.** | **B1027 speed review** | Ditto | Flag Hill. Residents wanted Zebra Crossing 7/or traffic islands | No reduction yet. Road too narrow. Residents group may settle no overtaking, improved repeaters, roundals. Being investigated. New survey instructed  |
| **4c.** | **B1027 speed review** | Ditto | Speed & volume surveys | Possibly back after December 3? |
| **4d.** | **Speeding on Green** | Discussed Nov Meeting | Advised ECC require roundels in road | Highways advised. Clerk aware. |
| **5.** | **Local supermarket** | Contact made with National firm | They have COVID and community hunger departments who happy & keen to donate. Food, toys. | They are looking to support the smaller local charities. Great Bentley? |
| **6.** | **Full ECC Council** | 8 December 20 | Full agenda.  | Bound to be COVID level |
| **7.** | **Member locality grant** | Submit | Gate or notice board area – or else? | To choose |
| **8.** | **Road repairs. Highways numbers.** | AG asked for numbers & sites in last 4 years. 1,268 in total for the division. | 2016 = 592017 = 162018 = 922019 = 332020 = 20 [to date] | AG to circulate data to Cllrs. Via Clerk. Interesting answer available to residents. Total = 220 for Gt. Bentley |
| **9.** | **MP Briefing Bernard Jenkin** | Views from Whitehall | Exchanged ideas & resident reviews COVID mainly | 26/11/20 |
| **10.** | **Passenger Transport** | All members briefing | Trying to run services with 35/40% of passengers & thus revenues! Tough! | Huge subsidy from ECC. |
| **11.** | **Christmas & half term holiday hunger initiative 30th** | Food for children normally on subsidized school meals. | ECC use Govt funds [£6.3M]to fund direct foodbanks and agencies. Not massive take up in our area | New round of funds available. Any Great Bentley groups? |
| **12.** | **Essential Living fund** | In conjunction TDALC | Clothing, furniture, food etc. | Funds available. Great Bentley projects? |
| **13.** | **Colne School** | Expansion | Extra 300 places. Expansion agreed at Cabinet – AG endorsed. | LHP part. Zebra crossing at last. |

**Appendix C**

**Great Bentley November 2020 Crime report.**

**RECORDED CRIMES-13** 01/11/2020-25/11/2020

**CRIME TYPES-** Malicious communication- Harassment x3- Residential burglary- Attempted burglary- Assault ABH- Assault without injury- Theft x4 milk/in a dwelling/pedal cycle/motor vehicle- criminal damage to vehicle/ smashed window.

**Incidents reported** – 13

**Types reported**- Harassment without violence x3- Burglary- Domestic- Assault ABH- assault without injury- Attempted burglary- theft in a dwelling- theft of pedal cycle- Theft of motor vehicle- Other criminal damage.

**TRUCAM Monthly Total 43**

1/11- Plough Road Aingers Green- 43 caught Top speed 53mph

**Total to date from May 2020 – 442**

**Appendix D**

# Footpath Report for Great Bentley Parish Council, November 2020

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.

1. Heckford Road to Colchester Road (A133)

2. Sturrick Farm to Colchester Road (A133)

3. Heckford Road to Sturrick Lane

4. Thorrington Road to Great Bentley Road

5. Parish Church to Frating abbey

7. Clacton Road (B1027) to Thorrington Creek

8. Great Bentley Green to St. Mary’s Road

10. Hollybush Hill (B1027) to Marsh Farm

11. Weeley Road to Colchester Road (A133)

12. Birch estate to St. Mary’s Road

13. Plough Road (Ainger’s Green) to Frating Abbey Farm Road

17. Tye Road to Weeley via Coppice Farm

19. Dead Lane to HollybushHill (B1027)

20. Cinder Path St. Mary’s Farm

Notes on paths as at 30/11/20

 3. Work to commence on 03/12/20 with a footway to link Footpath 3 withThe

 Path on the green

 8. Optional diversion during carrot harvest using St. Mary’s Road and Footpath 20

 13. Two footbridges require repair (Report to Highways Ref. 2662461 dd.

 16/04/20)

 20. Diversion on Bridleway approved by TDC

There has been a noticeable increase use of footpaths by the public during the lockdown

D.E.Gollifer

Footpath Representative (30/11/20)

**Appendix E**

Starting with the play area, as usual it’s well used with just two pieces of equipment still closed off. On to the bottle bank, this as usual, well used with little rubbish. Now then, the clothing bank has now doubled since my last report. They are both being used. Both car parks still being used, clean and tidy. The allotments are looking good, possibly due to the good weather.

Fly tipping around the area is quite at the present.

**Appendix F**

Tendring District Association of Local Councils Minutes of the Meeting held at Beaumont Village Hall

on Wednesday, 23rd September 2020, starting at 7.30 p.m.

Members present: \* Members absent with no apologies X

Alresford \* Frank Belgrove Little Bromley Vice Chair \* Linda Belgrove Little Clacton X Danny Botterell Ardleigh \* Jayne Marshall and Weeley • Little Oakley X Saul Hunnaball Beaumont \* William Griffiths Manningtree \* Steve Tattum Bradfield \* Alan Coley Mistley \* A Stephen Coiley Jenny Chaplin Brightlingsea X Michael Beckett Ramsey and Parkeston X X Bill Davidson Rob Passmore Elmstead X Nick Bell St Osyth \* Mike Talbot Frating X \* Terry Cuthbert Michelle Salazaar Tendring X X \* Ted Edwards Richard Cronin Michelle Salazaar Thorpe-le-Soken X Jose A Powell Frinton and Walton \* X Fiona Robertson Anne Oxley Thorrington Wix A \* Pam Sadler Kerry Mitchell Great Bentley - Chairman \* Robert Taylor Wrabness X Harry Jones Great Oakley \* Yvonne Bailey Harwich \* Dave McLeod Lawford \* Ben NewmanWright Little Bentley X Phil Suarez Great Bromley A Rosemary Heaney

Also present: Cllr Lynda McWilliams (TDC Representative), Members had a useful friendly discussion prior to the meeting via Zoom The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting at 7.30 and reminded people of how we would conduct the meeting, the normal raising hands if wishing to speak.

**Apologies** were received from those marked with “A”

The Minutes No minutes of the last meeting in January were available to be agreed and signed.

The Chairman explained the difficulties we had been having and that the Clerk had resigned and deposited the associations records with Cllr Taylor.

**Chairman’s report** The Chairman reported that for the Association little had happened due to the pandemic. The Vicechair reported that her work with EALC as the elected member on their executive had become impossible due to the Executive proposal to the EALC Annual meeting to be held tomorrow that there be four changes to their Constitution, without giving due notice to Parish & Town Councils and asking them to consider these changes. Just issued as an agenda item on the Annual meeting agenda. Therefore she had resigned. Our other member Michael Talbot confirmed the accuracy of her statement and asked that the meeting debate this further later in the meeting.

**Election of Chairman** The Chairman called upon the Vice Chair to carry out the election. Nominations were called for Chairman. Robert Taylor was nominated by Frank Belgrove and 3 seconded by David McCleod. No other nominations were received and a unanimous vote in favour was recorded.

**Election of Vice Chair** The Chairman called for nominations for Vice Chair. Linda Belgrove was nominated by Dave McCleod and seconded by Michael Talbot. With no other nominations Linda was elected unanimously.

**Confirm Constitution** The existing Constitution was put to the meeting. Ben Newman-Wright pointed out a typing error in Clause 2b and suggested the word should be “Life” not Like. The meeting agreed and the constitution with the update was agreed.

**Selecting Clerk** Considering the difficulty in finding a clerk Frank Belgrove suggested that an honorarium be offered as the constitution allowed. The Chairman commented that he believed there was sufficient in the account but had no copy of the recent accounts since they were not with the paperwork passed over from the clerk and understood that these still resided with the previous clerk. It was suggested that Dan Land might be one who could point us to a new clerk. It was suggested the title might be better as “Secretary” to the meeting which better described the duties. The Chairman to put out further adverts to Councils and Parish Clerks taking these points into account.

**Dates of Meeting 2021** The Chairman drew attention to the dates for the next meeting document which went out with the meeting agenda and there was no comment so these will be the dates added as an appendix to this meeting’s minutes.

**Future Speakers** The Chairman asked for ideas. Steve Gove the Highways rangers was suggested. Lynda McWilliams suggested that we found someone from TDC to talk us through the White Paper on Local Council devolution which she warned would change a great deal of Local Council work including new Unitary Authorities. Lynda to enquire who best to ask at TDC. Members were concerned about the best way to respond to the white paper and we were advised that if a response was made by a Parish Council it should include the names of those on the Council.

**Report on EALC matters** Michael Talbot commented that Linda’s resignation would be a great loss to EALC and that the changing of the constitution had not been brought to the members the Parishes in the time scale required by the EALC constitution. There was nothing urgent in these changes since urgent issues allowed extension of office in urgent situations such as the pandemic. The situation was that Parishes should brief their members representing then at the Annual meeting and therefore should have time to put it on their Agenda’s. He then commented on the confusion over his membership. He had been ill in the early part of the year and apologised to the staff about not attending the final meeting of Joy Derby’s tenure as CEO. He commented that it was becoming a long way to drive for the meeting. This had been taken as a resignation so he was only lately finding out what had been going on. He commented that the work of Joy Derby in advising and serving local Councils had made the EALC such a worth while organisation, and well worth the money we pay.

**Election of members to sit on EALC executive**, Linda Belgrove proposed Michael Talbot seconded by Dave McCleod. She gave her thanks for all his work and his expertise whilst attending these meetings. Michael reminded us that the executive met bi monthly between 10 am to 12 noon although there was the journey to Dunmow to contend with. There being no second nomination Michael’s appointment was approved unanimously. This leaves a seat vacant.

**Resolution on EALC constitution** The meeting was asked to support the principle that Parishes should be given due time to properly consider the proposed changes. Various people commented that the proposals had not reached their Parish agendas. Linda explained how the constitution works at the annual meeting. Each Parish had two votes and each member of the executive one vote. The meeting in mandating Michael to vote at the EALV AGM passed the following resolution:- That this body was unhappy at the lack of time for consultation to it and the parishes over changes to the constitution and requested that this issue be referred to a later AGM or special meeting with due consultation being carried out. This was passed unanimously.

**Liaison with TDC** Lynda McWilliams agreed to put in motion with Michael Talbot another Liaison meeting. She commented that TDC during the pandemic had been providing support for village halls and members suggestions for people working to support their communities, £1000 being available in each ward. Members commented that they had not heard about this. More detail was given about where the money had gone and about various village halls who had been supported. Members would enquire if their village halls had applied and been supported. Applications should be made to the TDC finance department through Richard Barratt. **Highways Panel** Frank Belgrove brought his report. He commented that Parishes were not attending the Passenger transport meeting and appealed for them to get involved. He commented that the official approach for help from the highways rangers was in the first place through the County Councillor. He commented that one way forward on local safety issues was for Local parishes to offer funding towards the cost. The review of the B1027 was nearly finished and would be out soon. He commented that several pedestrian road crossings had been approved recently, that the St Osyth central road junction was to have traffic calming measures. **Matters of Concern** Dave McCleod commented that the pavement either side of the road through High Street Harwich has been resurfaced and it made the town look so good. Alan Coley commented on the major problem on the A120 causing it to be closed and the stuck HGV traffic had self-diverted through the villages causing danger to villagers and two damaged cars in Bradfield. Members debated how to control this in the emergency situation. There was comment that there were approved diversions routed for organised road works but there were no permanent signs. Once the vehicles left the main road they were just following sat nav directions which did not work with large vehicles for our small side roads. Although the A120 was a highways agency road. Members were encouraged to take this issue up with their County Councillors and for TDALC and Parishes to draw this issue to the attention of EALC for their support. Linda Belgrove thanked Robert, Michael and Jayne for their support in her frustration over the constitution issue and commented that TDALC was noted at EALC as a quality organisation getting things done. Steve Coiley asked about an issue where a builder in Mistley had demolished a building alongside the road opposite the Maltings and removed the support for the pavement which was now collapsing and had been barriered off. He had contacted the County Council highways officers who were unaware and promised to look at it but nothing further had happened. He was advised to contact his County Councillor. Frank Belgrove agreed to take it up and asked for an email from Steve with more detail. There then followed a discussion on the difficulties Village Halls were facing due to the lockdown. Money was available from TDC for independent halls to give support and various ones were listed as having had a grant of £10,000. Lynda McWilliams commented that RCCE can give advice on running village halls. **Date of Next Meeting** – Wednesday 25th November 2020 to take place via Zoom starting at 7.30 pm. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at about 9.00pm

Signed …………………………………………… (Chairman) Date …………………..

Note: At the EALC meeting the next morning there was a vote to approve the changes to the constitution only 33% voted for the constitutional motion; 51% voted against and I guess the remainder did not vote! This was a small victory for democracy. We thank Michael and Linda for their work on this. Please would councils put these important EALC constitutional changes on their agendas so that their appointed delegates can make an informed vote on them at the next meeting of the EALC.

**Appendix G**

List of Payments made between 11/11/2020 and 11/12/2020

Co-Op Current Bank

Date Paid Payee Name Reference Amount Paid Authorized Ref Transaction Detail

26/11/2020 Haven Power Limited DD 364.23 Energy for Streetlighting

01/12/2020 Verilocation DD 12.00 Tractor GPS

11/12/2020 TalkTalk DD 40.58 Telephone & Broadband

List of Payments made between 08/12/2020 and 08/12/2020

Unity Trust Current A/c

Date Paid Payee Name Reference Amount Paid Authorized Ref Transaction Detail

08/12/2020 A&J Lighting BACS 1,244.40 New heads 9109,9107,9104 08/12/2020 East Hays Farming Limited BACS 132.00 10.20.280(c) Pond Clearance

08/12/2020 Glasdon UK Limited BACS 182.76 11.20.290 Litter Bin Lid

08/12/2020 Landscape Services BACS 1,266.00 Verge & Tree Cutting

08/12/2020 PKF Littlejohn LLP BACS 720.00 External Audit

08/12/2020 R McWilliams BACS 69.24 Village Caretaker

08/12/2020 Sutcliffe Play Ltd BACS 24.17 Spare Parts - Junior play

08/12/2020 TMB Ltd BACS 121.68 I.T. Contracts

08/12/2020 M Dorling BACS 236.75 Grass, Pond, Memorial

08/12/2020 Philip Liverton Ltd BACS 2,400.00 09.20.268(iv) Southside & Mill Tracks

Plus agreed at meeting:

08/12/2020 Open Spaces Society BACS 100.00 12.20.310 £45 Subs, £55 Donation

**Appendix H**

Green report 1220

Meeting held on Zoom at 9am Sunday 22nd November 2020

Those present, Cllrs. P.Drew, R.Adams, P.Harry and B. Herbert.

Items of interest on The Green and surrounding area from previous month.

5 traffic cones were replaced in The Street plus one remaining cone. Rubbish removed by Veolia.

Willow trees behind The Mill flats have been topped.

Damage to Moorland tracks photographed for The Clerk.

The top section of the bin near The Plough has been replaced and the Veolia man now has a key.

The Allotment Water has been turned off before the frost comes.

Southside and Mill tracks have been levelled and rolled.

Mr. Glover has been asked to do a final strim on parts of The Green and Larkfield.

The Pond has been cleared out and the waste disposed of. Some levelling up and seeding of grass was needed. Mick says some fish have died since and have been removed. The big fish were stolen from the pond before work began.

Conkers has been asked to cut the allotment/ Village Hall hedge and the pond along the brick wall.

Some of the paving bricks surrounding The War Memorial have dropped slightly and we would propose taking remedial action.

Red lion cars have been parked further forward onto Church land.