GREAT BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Full Council Meeting September 2021

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Great Bentley Parish Council held on Thursday 5th August 2021 at The Community Resource Centre Plough Road Great Bentley Colchester CO7 8LG commencing at 19. hours.

PRESENT:		
CHAIRMAN:	Councillor Mrs P Dennitts	
COUNCILLORS:	Councillor R. Adams; Councillor L Edwards; Councillor P.	
	Harry; Councillor B Herbert; Councillor J Hills; Councillor K	
	Plummer; Councillor R Taylor; Councillor G Wright (from	
	19.43 hours)	
CLERK TO THE COUNCIL:	Mrs D Humphris	
ALSO PRESENT:	Essex County Councillor Alan Goggin	
	Tendring District Councillor Mrs L McWilliams	
	Four members of the public.	

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RESOLVED: to accept apologies from	
Councillor P Harry and Councillor J Hills. A message was received that	
Councillor Wright would be late.	
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:	
Councillor Adams declared a personal non-pecuniary interest in the payments	
as he is related to Mr Dorling who undertakes work on behalf of the Parish	
Council. He declared a further personal interest as Trustee and Vice Chairman	
of the Village Hall.	
Councillor Herbert declared a personal interest in matters relating to the	
Southside Track	
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION None	
MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS (previously circulated)	
RESOLVED (unanimously): that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 th August	
2021 (previously circulated) should be signed by the Chairman as a true record	
of the meeting.	
MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING (previously	
circulated)	
The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 5 th August 2021 were	
received and acknowledged.	
REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS	
a) County Councillor Alan Goggin submitted a report as per Appendix 'a'	
b) District Councillor Lynda Mc Williams submitted a report as per	
Appendix'b' and added that she has been working with residents and	
Councillor Goggin reference parking issues around the Pharmacy and	
also that she has been re-elected to the Crime Panel.	
COUNCIL REPORTS	
a) The Green – working party report (previously circulated) (Appendix 'c') was	
accepted by the Council and actioned as follows:	

	i) <u>Grass cutting/Maintenance</u> : It was agreed to ask the contractor to strim the floor of the spinney and remove dead or broken branches and cut the grass in the ditch, Conservation area and clear away. We will consult with the Conservation Group as they usually pay for the Conservation Area <u>Action: Clerk</u>		
	 ii) <u>New allotment site:</u> Organise a contractor to cut the grass <u>Action: Clerk</u> iii) <u>Cricket Club:</u> Write to the Cricket Club to ask when the shed they are erecting in the Conservation area will be completed. <u>Action: Clerk</u> b) <u>Footpath report</u> was noted (Appendix 'd') c) <u>Caretaker's report</u> was noted (Appendix 'e') 		
09/21.101			
09/21.101	CLERK'S REPORT The Clerk reported as follows:		
	1. Temporary Event Notice The Water Works Moors Lane Great Bentley (circulated 12/8/21)		
	 PCSO still on sick leave. Police are doing regular patrols. Clerk/ Councillor Harry investigating the new special constable initiative to report to a future meeting 		
	3. Speedwatch. The village speedwatch co-ordinators are looking for more volunteers. Update: Some volunteers have been out with the Speedgun recently.		
	4. Note of thanks received from the Football Club reference permission to have portable floodlights on The Green.		
	5. Clerk has undertaken refresher GDPR training in order to review Retention of Records policies and Freedom of Information Publication Scheme		
	6. Cala Homes have donated £1000 towards the installation of water at the new Allotments Funds will be ring-fenced in Council accounts accordingly.		
	 Fly tipping at Station Car Park – awaiting quote from Veolia for clearance. 2 fridges next to The Plough reported to TDC online. Update 2/9 Quote for £400 approved and flytipping being removed 4th September. 		
	8. Jeff Wright Memorial seat being replaced by suppliers and 10% discount from our next order negotiated re inconvenience.		
	 9. Had a meeting with MM and walked around allotments. Dealt with request for tanks to be self filling with ballcocks and advised not possible due to previous legionnaires reports. taps have hosepipes attached and must be removed as this is where the bacteria can thrive. Allotments noticeboard will be updated accordingly. Waiting list reviewed and vacant allotments offered. Further request to level tracks to be looked at and costed. 		
	Councillors asked for it to be minuted that they are very pleased with the work that the new Clerk is doing.		
<u>09/21.102</u>	MATTERS RELATING TO THE GREEN Councillor Wright joined the meeting		
	a) Southside Track The solicitors quotation and subsequent advice has been received and there was a consensus of opinion that the advice meant that some action was possible as the land in question is Village Green(Registration VG68)		

	with Common Rights. Som was <u>RESOLVED</u> : that all m proposals for full considera <u>b) Request for a memorial</u> connections and the bench was <u>RESOLVED</u> : (unanim provided by the person req poor quality of benches that was asked to investigate dia and costs for the Council to	nembers would be asked to tion at the October Parish <u>bench:</u> The request is for a is to be sited to the north s nously) to approve the requ uesting the bench. There w it have been purchased in r ifferent suppliers with more	submit their ideas and Council meeting. resident with long village side of 'Rest Awhile' and it uest with funding to be vas discussion about the recent years and the Clerk hard-wearing solutions
	<u>c) Request for Sunday boo</u> was to be an event aimed a the bootcamp. <u>RESOLVED</u> objection to this going ahea	at local people who would t): (unanimously) to confirr	be encouraged to walk to m that the Council had no
	 Request a new drawing Request more details a there must be no evide completed. 	Council to confirm their sta at they have not yet receive the request for a storage of mously) to write to the age ent confirming that all fees g detailing the plans about the proposed storage ince of the existence of a ta mission will be given for an	ance on this matter <u>.</u> The ed confirmation that all compound on the Green. ent as follows: are to be paid. tank – emphasise that ank after all works are
09.21/103	HIGHWAYS MATTERS: T		speeding and parking
	problems in the Village and congested areas in the mid there seemed to be few op Goggin advised that he wa Chief Highways Engineer a	I particularly the dangers for Idle of the Village. There we tions to manage this. Esse s happy to arrange a meeti and councillors, to walk aro	or pedestrians around the as frustration at the fact x County Councillor Alan ng with the County Council
09.21/104	FINANCE AND ACCOUNT	ſS	
	a) <u>RESOLVED:</u> to app which included some	rove the payments list pres e payments made for June	•
	SEPTEMBER 2021 PAYMENTS		
	Great Bentley Village Hall	224.2	Office Rental
	Landscape Services (Aug)	456	Grass cutting
	ТМВ	127.68	ICT software and support
	R McWilliams	69.24	Village Caretaker
	Michael Dorling	348	Grass cutting
	Michael Dorling	75.58	Maintenance (various)

EALC	408	Caretaker Playground
2,20	100	Inspection and RP11
		qualification
SLCC	36	Clerk GDPR training
SLCC	234	Annual subscription renewal
Staff Costs	5753.85	June/July/Aug salary
		pensions PAYE
Bellet Ltd	363.6	Tractor maintenance
Mrs D Humphris	10.2	Stamps re-imbursement
AJ GIBL	151.08	Tractor annual insurance
		renewal
Mrs P Dennitts	400	Re-imburse re fly tipping
		costs paid by card
Essex Pension Fund C.NO.	685.18	CANCELLED CHEQUE
102271		
HMRC C.NO.102272	744.83	CANCELLED CHEQUE
June 2021		
Talk Talk	41.15	Broadband and telephone
July 2021		
ICO	35	GDPR registration renewal
Talk Talk	42.68	Broadband and telephone
Haven Power	338.65	Streetlights electric
August 2021		
Haven Power	348.58	Streetlights electric
SEPTEMBER 2021		
Verilocation	12	GPS for tractor

b) Financial Report and Bank reconciliation

Since 1/8/21 accounting software gas been re-structured to ensure transparent reporting of all budgets/cost centres (report circulated).

For example, the Green standpipe and the tractor now have their own costs codes and items like PCSO have been separated from the administration budget (as this clearly does not relate to administration) and other new cost centres have been created to ensure logical reporting for all items.

Unity Trust account have been reconciled to 31st August.

The Bank statement and Reconciliation statement has been circulated showing bank balance of £41277.16 at 31/8/16.

The Co-op Bank account is usually used for Direct Debits and receipts only, but for last month was used to issue cheques for regular council payments as the Clerk's Unity Trust online banking had not been processed. The Co-op account has been reconciled to 30th June (details circulated) and the Clerk will have access to this account by the time of the October meeting to report full up to date reconciliation.

The budget report circulated shows all expenditure is in line with budgets with total expenditure year to date at £56665 against budget of £118,642. We have, of course, made no payments re PCSO due to her ongoing sickness but all other budgets are broadly in line with expected 5 months expenditure. The employment costs budget will need to be re-aligned for the new clerks increased hours/salary (for full review next month)

09/21.105	AUDIT MATTERS:
<u>03/21.103</u>	AUDIT MATTERS.
	a) Completion of external audit. Councillors noted the receipt of the finalised AGAR from auditors and noted the following action point: To ensure risk assessments are updated. Action: Clerk to update and bring to a future meeting for approval.
	b) Internal Audit Matters. With most invoices now being received electronically it is time consuming to print those invoices for initialling at each meeting. Therefore, after seeking advice from the internal auditor it was RESOLVED : (unanimously) to approve a subscription of £8 per month to 'docusign' to enable electronic viewing and confirmation of invoices by councillors authorising bank payments. Internal audit procedures will be updated accordingly.
09/21.106	RETENTION OF RECORDS POLICY AND GDPR
	a) Retention of Records Policy RESOLVED: (unanimously) to approve the policy presented by the Clerk.
	b) Freedom of Information Publication Scheme RESOLVED: (unanimously) to approve the scheme presented by the Clerk.
	<u>c) Destruction of records in line with Retention of Records Policy RESOLVED: (unanimously) to approve expenditure up to a maximum of £250 to destroy confidential paperwork that does not need to be kept.</u>
	<u>d) Fireproof Cabinet RESOLVED: (unanimously)</u> to approve the purchase of a fireproof cabinet at a cost of £889 (3 quotes considered) to ensure proper storage of paper records including minutes/audit documents etc.
09/21.107	PLAY AREA
	<u>a) Annual Play Inspection Report:</u> Members noted receipt of the report with only low risk maintenance issues highlighted. An issue relating to a drain top and a potential trip hazard was raised and Councillor Taylor and County Councillor Goggin will meet on site to see what needs to happen.
	b) <u>Post COVID: Re-instatement of play equipment</u> : RESOLVED: (unanimously) to approve re-instatement of the three swings and zip wire seat at a cost of £30 and the post installation independent inspection of £110 which is an insurance requirement before the equipment can be put into use after being installed.
	<u>c) Weekly Play Inspection Sheets</u> Councillors noted that these had not been produced during lockdown but were now being completed again on a weekly basis.
	<u>d) Routine Play Inspection Course</u> Councillors noted that the Village Caretaker is to undertake this course and after passing the subsequent exam he will be a qualified RPII inspector for routine inspections
	e) Wet Pour Repairs Trip hazards have been identified on the wet pour surfaces which need action, and it was therefore RESOLVED: (unanimously) to accept

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	a quote from a local play company (recommended by TDC) of £532 for the	
	repairs to be completed quickly.	
<u>09/21.108</u>	TRACTOR REPAIRS	
	<u>RESOLVED: (unanimously)</u> as specialised repairs to approve a quote for £288 (inclusive of VAT) to repair the brake seal. Some discussion ensued about the increasing costs relating to the Tractor and it was agreed to bring the matter of a new tractor (with updated quotes) to the Council for consideration at the October meeting.	
<u>09/21.109</u>	ALLOTMENTS	
	a) Allotment rental charges for the year September 2021 – September 2022. <u>RESOLVED</u>: (unanimously) to keep the rental costs at the existing level for another year.	
	b) Allotment Software Councillors expressed concern about the start-up costs of £349 and after some discussion RESOLVED: (unanimously) to approve the annual cost of £124 but to ask the Clerk to negotiate on the remaining £255 set up cost. It was RESOLVED: (unanimously) to give the Clerk authorisation to negotiate up to a total of £349 maximum start-up cost.	
<u>09/21.110</u>	STAFF PENSION	
	It was RESOLVED: (unanimously) to confirm that the Clerk Mrs D Humphris is to be authorised to join the LGPS pension scheme with effect from her employment start date of 1 st August 2021. Councillors noted that in accordance with legislation requirements this matter has been publically advertised on the Village Noticeboard since 23 rd August 2021.	
<u>09/21.111</u>	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	
	<u>Allotments:</u> An issue was raised about maintenance of some plots and associated walkways. The Clerk confirmed that annual bills will be sent out soon with reminders as to expectations and matters will be monitored and managed going forwards.	
	<u>Highways:</u> A request was made to join the Council on their meeting with the County Council Highways engineer to be organised by Councillor Goggin. The Chairman advised that this meeting was for councillors only but promised that all discussions would be fed back to Villagers. <u>Council Meetings</u> Councillors were pleased to receive feedback saying that	
	there was now a feeling that Councillors genuinely understood Villagers'	
00/21 112	CONCERNS.	
<u>09/21.112</u>	DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING Thursday 7 th October 2021 at Great Bentley Village Hall following the end of the Planning Meeting which commences at 7.00pm	
	Signed CHAIRMAN: Date	
	SIGNED BY CLLR P DENNITTS 7 TH OCTOBER 2021	
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Appendix A – County Councillor Report Minute No.09/21.099a

<u>1.</u>	<u>Aug 9.</u> AG & Cllr McWilliams_Meeting residents on Green/Robin Close re barrier on walkway. Met other neighbours too. General access questions. May come to full GB council? [AF]. Took opportunity with LM to look at earth on grass re leftover from highway repairs. Pleased to see already attended.
2.	<u>Aug 6.</u> MP. Chris Heaton MP and minister at Dept for transport visits Alresford train station. He special responsibility for rail, cycling, and walking. AG invited. Good opportunity to question re scooters etc in Clacton. Mentioned ferry at St.Osyth to Brightlingsea and problems of villages such as Great Bentley where bus services limited.
<u>3.</u>	Aug 23. Meeting cabinet member for waste & recycling. Cllr. Buckley New ECC contract discussed
<u>4.</u>	<u>Aug 26.</u> Site meeting Colne academy. Safeguarding points from local residents around new extension.
<u>5.</u>	<u>Aug 12</u> . Westwood Park resident [Mrs H] comments re request for bus stops improvements. Explained LHP waiting for data from bus company re numbers of residents using embark and disembark stops. Some parts of GB parish here.
<u>6.</u>	Aug 26. Via Cllr. Mcwilliams - comment from local farmer about road edges and kerbs in Dial Road. Checked with Highways. No immediate date given for repairs. Category 3. Clerk involved too.
<u>7.</u>	Aug. Monthly parish meetings for Thorrington, Alresford St.Osyth & Brightlingsea All now back to face to face but some persons with masks and socially distant. Appears to work well. Many conditions relaxed.
<u>8.</u>	Aug 15. Resident [Mrs PC] complaint re parking near pharmacy. Also included Cllr McWilliams. AG advised resident needs to bring to bring her views to GB Council. In writing or in person at monthly meeting. She would like greater restrictions. Explained North Essex Parking Partnership rules.
<u>9.</u>	Aug 19. Drawings & recommendations from LHP re Thorrington Road & Weeley Road speed points. Email to be circulated to all Councillors. LTEN 202004 & 202005. Discuss? As a result, the engineering team recommended a scheme to increase the size of the of the repeater signage, as well as implement carriageway roundels next to the existing signage, to enhance the presence of the 30mph speed limit. As part of the scheme, it was also recommended to include the 30mph section on Heckfords Road. Attached both drawings for the scheme, which has now been sent to the Direct Delivery team for implementation.
<u>10</u>	Local Highways Panel. I thought that councillors might like to see the link to the Highways page which shows how defects are prioritised. How we prioritise highway issues - Essex County Council (essexhighways.org)
<u>11.</u>	May 27 2021. Member initiative relaunched. £10,000 available. Discuss what was learnt last
<u>12.</u>	time but also fresh opportunity to look at next local needs. Speed survey. LHP update. I can now confirm that they speed and volume survey has been ordered for Plough Road, just south of the junction with The Paddocks. The surveys will most likely take 6-8 weeks before the results are returned to me, and I will share them with you once I have received them. With regards to the carriageway roundels, Karen has informed me that she will have a discussion with the developer to see whether this is possible. I am sure she will liaise with the Parish Council once we are aware of timescales. LEFT OVER FROM LAST MONTH. AWAITING SOME CLARIFICATION FROM ECC.

Appendix B – District Councillor Report Minute No.09/21.099b

I do hope you were able to go and enjoy The Red Arrows and Battle of Britain Fly Pasts for Clacton's 150th Celebrations.

It was hoped that the surprise free offer of the Two US Air Force (USAF) F-15E Strike Eagles from the 48th Fighter Wing, operating out of RAF Lakenheath would still be able to take part on the Thursday.

A REMINDER THAT THE WORLD'S BEST CYCLING TEAMS WILL BE HEADING TO COLCHESTER AND CLACTON FOR 2021 WOMEN'S TOUR

Twelve of the world's top 15 cycling teams will be among those in action at this year's Women's Tour, the UK's most prestigious women's cycle race, from Monday 4th to Saturday 9th October.

Colchester and Clacton will host the penultimate stage of the Women's Tour, which will see the teams race from the historic castle town to the Essex Sunshine Coast on Friday 8th October.

Rescheduled from its traditional June calendar position due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the race will attract an allstar field once again for its seventh edition, with all nine of the top division UCI Women's World Tour teams confirmed to race.

INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM

In case you are not aware Government Ministers have agreed that there shall be no changes to the Integrated Care System (ICS) boundaries in the East of England, which means as a District Tendring shall continue as being part of the Suffolk and North Essex ICS. From my portfolio as the Cabinet member for partnerships with health being a major part of the portfolio this is good news for Tendring.

EAST SUFFOLK AND NORTH ESSEX NHS FOUNDATION TRUST (ESNEFT)

I am very pleased to have been selected as a Governor again on the trust. I shall be representing Colchester and Tendring.

I previously served on the trust for 8 years and then there came the required break, but as I have said I am pleased to be back with the trust especially as it now has so much more to offer. I have given you a link for further information.

https://www.esneft.nhs.uk/about-us/about-esneft/

NEW WEBSITE FOR TENDRING LEISURE CENTRES

Tendring leisure centres now has its own website <u>www.tendringleisure.co.uk</u>, and contains information about all five of the Tendring District Council-run (TDC) centres, as well as the wide range of available classes and sports that people can take part in, leisure services caters for all ages, abilities, and interests in some top facilities. Information will also still be available on TDC's main website.

Appendix C- The Green report Minute No.09/21.100a

Green meeting 0921 26th Aug 6.30pm at the Pond

Those present Cllrs. Adams, Harry, Dennitts and Herbert and Councils contractor M. Dorling.

Grass cutting

We need The Clerk to arrange with Landscape Services that they will Strim the floor of the spinney and remove dead or broken branches, cut the grass in the ditch, Conservation area and clear away. We will consult with the Conservation Group as they usually pay for the Con. Area.

Parking

We have asked car owners not to park on The Green, some have obeyed.

Rogue drivers

Our TDC Cllr. reported car going across The Green from Green Corner to The Path, no trace was found and no bollards have been removed.

Allotments

With clerk and discuss the rent at next meeting.

New allotment

needs attention. Grass not cut and to write to Affinity re-laying on water?

Verge cutting,

All areas including conservation zones. What about Plough Road? Mr. Irwin. Plough Road and seat

Path and Forge Lane

County Councillor dealing

Cricket Club

Some months ago the club started to have a shed erected. As this is in a Conservation Area and Planning permission was required, may we know when it is expected to be finished.

Tractor

Engine problems- oil leak.

Appendix D- Footpath report Minute No.09/21.100b

Footpath Report for Great Bentley Parish Council, August 2021

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 31/08/21

- 3. Whole footpath to be strimmed by contractor
- 5. Section of footpath adjacent to rail track to be strimmed
- 8. Northern end of Footpath to be strimmed
- 10. Footpath sign at Hollybush Hill to be cleared of vegetation
- 11. North end of footpath to be strimmed, two footbridges to be cleared and

Footpath sign at Weeley Road end to be cleared of vegetation

19. The western end of Footpath to be strimmed.

Appendix E– Village Caretaker's report Minute No.09/21.100c

Starting with the play area, this is in good shape, just waiting for everything to be reinstated. Onto the bottle bank, clean tidy and well used, and all the black plastic bags have been cleared. The clothing bank, well used, clean and tidy. Station car park, still waiting for the fly tipping to be removed otherwise in good order. Village hall car park is clean and tidy. From here and it's the allotments, still looking good with all pathways cleared and regularly used. All notice boards are in good shape bar one, and that is the one on Flag Hill. The wood around the windows requires attention. Lastly the fly tipping in our area, and the only thing to report are the two fridges next to the bottle bank. Weekly play area check list to follow.