Great Bentley Parish Council

**Minutes of the Meeting of Great Bentley Parish Council at the Community Resource Centre Plough Road, Great Bentley at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 7th July 2022.**

**Present:** Cllr Pippa Dennitts, Cllr Roger Adams, Cllr Bill Herbert, Cllr Kevin Plummer,

Cllr Alison Clarke, Locum Parish Clerk: Grahame Walkingshaw, TDC Lynda McWilliams & ECC Alan Goggin & 24 residents.

**22/50 Welcome and apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr George Wright.

**22/51 Declaration of Members interest**

Cllr Bill Herbert declared a non-pecuniary interest in 22/60

Cllr Luke Edwards Plummer declared a non-pecuniary interest in 22/63.1 (Book Service)

Cllr Roger Adams declared a non-pecuniary interest (related persons) in 22/62

**22/52 Public Open Forum** (Maximum 15 minutes)

A resident asked if Cllr George Wright had an update on the land that he gifted for the new development & new doctor’s surgery. TDC Lynda McWilliams will relay the answer to that question to members of the public, as Cllr George Wright was not present at the meeting.

A resident reported that certain footpaths are overgrown and require cutting. The Chairman, Pippa Dennitts explained that the contractor responsible for cutting back vegetation had been informed.

A resident informed the meeting of the intention for two mature trees to be removed as part of this planning application (Land at Moorlands Farm). He explained the trees would be removed to add 1 extra house to the development.

**22/53 To approve the minutes of the last meeting** (8th June 2022)

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved

 Proposed: Cllr Kevin Plummer Seconded: Cllr Alison Clarke

 Agreed by all

**22/54 Visitors Report** (ECC Alan Goggin, TDC Lynda McWilliams)

ECC Alan Goggin informed the meeting that Plough Road was being discussed at the Local Highways Panel. He will make contact with Cllr Peter Harry to discuss options.

**22/55 Cadent Gas (Guest Speaker**)

Andrew Stone (Support Manager), Kate Bloomfield & Marc Robinson made a presentation to the meeting to explain the proposed gas pipework across the Village Green & Sturrick Lane. Andrew Stone explained the length of time the work would take, the type of pipework necessary and explained that they would not be storing any gas on the village green. The site would be returned to its normal condition by Cadent Gas once the work is completed. Cadent Gas will follow up with the Parish Council to ensure they are happy with the site once all work has been completed. Work on Sturrick Lane is due to commence on the 25th July 2022.

**22/56 Clerk’s Report**

The clerk reported that a letter from Bentley in Bloom had been received thanking the Parish Council for the grant money given to them.

**22/57 Council Reports:**

1. Footpath report – this backed up earlier comments from resident about overgrown footpaths requiring attention.
2. Caretaker’s Report – the caretaker had checked all playground equipment and reported it was in good order. There had been no cases of fly tipping to report. The area around the Clothing Bank, both Car Parks and the allotments are all in good order.
3. PCSO Crime Report – Nothing to report
4. Tree Wardens Report – the Tree Wardens report was read out to the meeting. Two residents are compiling an inventory of all the trees in the village and a copy will be retained by the Parish Council.

**22/58 The Green Working Party**

New Allotment Takeovers – Cllr Pippa Dennitts proposed that when a new allotment is taken over and it requires a lot of attention, that the new plot holder is given 6 months free rent in order to put the allotment back into a good working condition.

Proposed: Cllr Pippa Dennitts Seconded: Cllr Roger Adams

Agreed by all

Aingers Green sign – the prompt replacement of the damaged sign was noted and appreciated.

**22/59 The Personnel Committee**

Cllr Luke Edwards proposed to agree the recommendation from the Personnel Committee to approve the following policies:

Proposed: Cllr Luke Edwards Seconded: Cllr Peter Harry

Agreed by all

 Disciplinary Policy

Equality & Diversity Policy

Expenses Policy

Grievance Policy

Whistleblowing policy

Sickness/Absence Policy

Cllr Pippa Dennitts recommended the Parish Council place an advert for an RFO (15 hours a week). Cllr Roger Adams proposed to go ahead with the advert.

Proposed: Cllr Roger Adams Seconded: Cllr Luke Edwards

**22/60 Southside Track**

No further updates

**22/61 Highways & Transport Reports:**

1. Transport Report – the chairman, Pippa Dennitts read out the latest highways & transport report to the meeting.
2. Speed Indicator Devices – no further updates

**22/62 Finance**

To approve payments for July 2022 in accordance with the Budget

 July Payments:

 Electricity £555.69

 Electricity £44.91

 Electricity £9.77

 Verilocation £12.00

 PC Salary £1035.40

HMRC £396.02

Landscape Services £42.00

Landscape Services £456.00

Great Bentley Village Hall £1,378.80

TMB Group £55.66

EALC £108.00

Postage Stamps £39.12

Key for Notice Board £8.00

Plummer Electrical £43.25

George Wright Farms £1.20

Philip Liverton Limited £1,800.00

RCCE £72.60

New Printer £810.40

ICO £40.00

Grounds Maintenance £772.10

Caretaker £69.24

Signs Made Easy Ltd £47.40

Landscape Services £300.00

Bentley Admin Payroll £55.80

MTM Plant & Sales Ltd £894.00

 Total £9,047.36

Cllr Luke Edwards proposed to accept the payments for June 2022.

Proposed: Cllr Luke Edwards Seconded: Cllr Alison Clarke

Agreed by all

**22/63 Planning/Housing**

63.1 Applications for discussion at meeting

**21/02176/FUL – Land at Moorlands Farm, Great Bentley** – Construction of 26 dwellings with associate access, perking, public open space, landscaping and other works (amended plans)

Cllr Pippa Dennitts proposed to add an extra objection to this application to state: The Parish Council object to this planning application for the same reasons previously given and would object further to the removal of 2 mature trees

Proposed: Cllr Pippa Dennitts Seconded: Cllr Peter Harry

**Comments:** The Parish Council object to this planning application for the same reasons previously given and would object further to the removal of 2 mature trees

**22/00619/TDCPI – Land off Sturrick Lane, Great Bentley –** Technical Details Consent pursuant to Permission in principle application ref: 19/01047/PIP for one single dwelling

**This application was covered in our June meeting.**

**22/00869/FUL** – **The Book Service, Colchester Road, Frating** – Proposed erection of a marquee which will be in place for longer than 28 days and is over 100 square metres.

Cllr Roger Adams proposed “no comment”

Proposed: Cllr Roger Adams Seconded: Cllr Peter Harry

(Cllr Luke Edwards did not vote as he had declared an interest)

Agreed by all other Councillors present.

**Comments**: No comment

**22/00898/FULHH – 54 De Vere Estate, Great Bentley** – proposed

demolition of part constructed extension and erection of new single storey side/rear extension with front porch.

Cllr Alison Clarke proposed “no comment”

Proposed: Cllr Alison Clarke Seconded: Cllr Peter Harry

(Cllr Bill Herbert abstained)

Agreed by all other Councillors present.

**Comments**: No comment

**22/00975/FULHH – 18 Hill Cottages, Flag Hill, Great** Bentley - proposed single storey rear extension to enlarge the kitchen/diner to add a utility room.

Cllr Luke Edwards proposed “no comment”

Proposed: Cllr Luke Edwards Seconded: Cllr Kevin Plummer

Agreed by all.

**Comments**: No comment

63.2 Planning Applications – Observations conveyed under delegated authority since last meeting

 None

63.3 Planning Applications – Decisions received since last meeting

 None

**22/64 To review the effectiveness of the system of internal control (Internal Audit)**

Proposal to approve the internal audit & review.

Proposed: Cllr Luke Edwards Seconded: Cllr Roger Adams

**22/65 To review Standing Orders**

It was proposed to accept the standing orders dated December 2021 and to update the Standing orders in line with the new publication dated 2022

Proposed: Cllr Pippa Dennitts Seconded: Cllr Luke Edwards

**22/66 To review Financial Regulations**

It was proposed to approve the Financial Regulations

Proposed: Cllr Luke Edwards Seconded: Cllr Roger Adams

Cllr Pippa Dennitts requested that 6:11 was actioned and that passwords from the clerk were given to the chair in a sealed envelope.

Agreed by all

**22/67 To Review Financial Risk Assessment**

It was proposed to approve the Financial Risk Assessment

Proposed: Cllr Luke Edwards Seconded: Cllr Peter Harry

**22/68 Salt Bag Partnership Scheme**

Cllr Luke Edwards proposed to accept the Salt Bag Partnership Scheme.

 Proposed: Cllr Luke Edwards Seconded: Cllr Kevin Plummer

 The salt will be stored at George Wrights farm.

Agreed by all.

**22/69 Training/Events**

69.1 Reports on attended events

69.2 Nominations for new events

**22/70 Information Exchange/Items for next agenda**

Cllr Pippa Dennitts informed the meeting that residents from new developments obtain recycling bins from the developers of the site and not the Parish Council

Cllr Pippa Dennitts informed the meeting that a new bench would be in memorial to Dr George and also be a “happy to chat” bench – Cllr Pippa Dennitts had been in touch with the family to discuss this further.

Cllr Pippa Dennitts informed the meeting that the Environment Working Group now had 3 Councillors and 1 member of the public on it.

Cllr Pippa Dennitts reported that there had been no further contact in regards to an insurance claim.

Cllr Pippa Dennitts reported that she had been keeping the website up to date and would link a page on the site for action groups such as the latest action against pylons group.

**22/71 To confirm date and time of next meeting**

Date of next meeting: Thursday 1st September 2022 at 7.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.34 p.m.