*Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to the Council: Jennifer Spear*

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**Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 25th May 2023 at The Village Hall, Plough Road Great Bentley Colchester CO7 8LG**

Present: Cllr. P. Harry Cllr. B. Herbert Cllr. K. Plummer Cllr. R. Taylor Cllr. F. Edwards Cllr. J. Jepson

Cllr. J. Wharton Cllr. G. Wright TD Cllr. L. McWilliams

In attendance: Mrs Jennifer Spear (Clerk) and 15 members of the public.

**1. Apologies for absence: To receive apologies for absence**

Cllr. P. Dennitts has sent her apologies for this meeting, which was accepted by all present.

In the absence of the Chair, Vice-Chair Cllr. P. Harry will be Chairing the meeting.

**2. Annual Parish Meeting Minutes: To agree the minutes of the last Annual Parish meeting held on 12TH May 2022 as a true record of the meeting for signature by the Parish Council Vice Chairman of this meeting (previously circulated)**

**Resolved** that Cllr K. Plummer proposed that these were accepted as a true record, seconded by Cllr R. Taylor, these were signed by the acting Chair.

At this point the Chair of the Coronation Committee asked to speak before she had to leave for another meeting, she wanted to thank the Parish Council for their financial and

Lorraine from the Coronation Committee wanted to express their gratitude and thanks from the Coronation Committee to the parish council for the support given for the event.

Cllr. P. Harry extended his thanks from the Parish Council for the hard work and effort out in by the members of the coronation committee and at this point read out the section of the Chairs report which echoed this before Lorraine had to leave.

At this point Cllr. K. Plummer also wanted to reiterate the sentiment made by The Chair and Vice Chair of his gratitude to all the volunteers who helped pull off such a successful weekend celebration of events.

**3. To receive the Annual Report from the Parish Council Chairman, read by the Vice Chair, Cllr. P. Harry.**

Previously circulated with the minutes, the Acting Chair read this out to all in attendance.

**4. Speaker: Christopher Blomeley, discussing interim energy saving ideas for Great Bentley residents, with an introduction to locally sourced energy and an introduction about the Manningtree Earth Festival returning this year.**

Just a brief outline of what was discussed included:

There are four main areas of concern for Britain moving forward:

Food Security

Waste Reduction

Transport

Energy

In 10 years there will be no more gas or oil boilers allowed by the Government, what is this going to be replaced with. Are solar panels the answer, but they take up a lot of valuable space on the ground that can be used to grow the extra food that is needed for food security.

To contact the speaker his details are: Chris Blomeley repairreuse@gmail.com

**Questions from Members of the public:**

* *Is there any literature that goes with what has been discussed today about the community energy Colchester, community energy England, how do we set up a Great Bentley Community Energy Group?*

Community Energy Colchester – they go into schools and conduct energy audits which helps public buildings such as schools implement ways in which they can preserve that energy within the school so its not lost and contributing to climate change. They then work with children in the classrooms building wind turbines to educate them and then, send out newsletters to parents to see if they can provide home energy saving advice and help to parents.

* *How do you find a good location for onshore wind?*

There are issues with this due to so called visual pollution, but people have to begin to look at things differently, they can be smaller then the really large ones, and also there are a different kind that don’t create the whooshing noise. Government are backing Air Source Heat pumps for heating where they will provide funding for people to install them on a larger scale.

Community energy is about the community working together to create an alternative way to become energy efficient within a community. He would encourage setting up a community Energy Group

**5. Agenda items for discussion and voting – (*all agenda items submitted by local people beforehand or taken from suggestion board.)***

* It would be really great if the parish Council could support more community projects.
* Corner of Birch Ave old Simmonds yard, has been left in a state of disuse going on 10 years, can something be done about it.
* Planning Protocol why are planning officers are delaying reading an application and seem to be prompting developers for more information which gives the developers more time to complete things

*At this point the clerk advised seeing if John Pateman- Gee to possibly attend one of our next parish councils meeting* *to discuss all things planning.*

* In regards to listed buildings when it comes to planning enforcement is that still outsourced from TDC rather than an inhouse specialist now?
* State of the roads and paths outside the Uber Salon and Morella close and that these have been raised for many years and it still has not been resolved, Cllr P. Harry advised that there are on the agenda for next month.
* Discussed the potential of losing the Tesco and if its going to be moved to the other side of the village

**6. Pride of Great Bentley Awards, nominees are:**

**Len Clayden**

**Mary Maskell**

**Matt Plummer**

**Lucy and Russell Brown**

Cllr. P. Harry and Cllr. J. Wharton introduced all of the award nominees and what they had been nominated for. Cllr. P. Harry announced that the winner of this years Pride of Great Bentley was Matt Plummer and his award was presented by former Cllr. L. Edwards.

At this point Cllr. P. Harry introduced Cllr. K. Plummer who announced a special Thankyou was to be presented to David Gollifer for his long standing service to Great Bentley Village for his voluntary role as the footpath officer. He was presented with an award and it was announced that Great Bentley Parish Council together with Gibbon Farms are dedicating Footpath Number 13 to David, now to be known also at The David Gollifer Walk.

**7. Close of meeting – set date for Annual Parish Meeting 2024.**

**Resolved –** that the date of the next Annual Parish meeting is to be held on April 18th 2024, at 7:00pm.

Just before the meeting closed member of the public, Judy wanted it noting that she wanted to Jo from the village hall committee and the new Clerk for the Parish Council for their contributions since they have joined their roles.

There being no further business the Annual Parish Meeting was closed at 20: 19

**………………………………………………………signed………………………………..date**