**Great Bentley Parish Council**

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

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**Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on the 12/h May 2022 at The Village Hall, Plough Road Great Bentley Colchester CO7 8LG**

1. **Apologies**

None received

1. **Acceptance of previous minutes**

**Resolved** Cllr K. Plummer proposed that the draft minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2021 were a true record, seconded by Cllr. B. Herbert, all in favour.

1. **Climate Change**

A presentation was given by Jon ball Chair of Climate action group Mistley and north Essex.

* Tendring District Council have declared a climate emergency, the aim is to be net zero in emissions by 2030, with an electricity action plan implemented for 2020-2023
* There is a need for a Cross district approach was discussed, e.g. building efficiencies. Heating and vehicles emissions as key contributors. Mitigation steps could include emissions offset. Eg. Solar farms, tree planting. But emission reduction is the first stage.
* TDC Cllr Talbot is the Portfolio holder for Climate Change in Tendring and very support of cross district practical action and ideas gathering.
* Manningtree PACE group (Practical Action for Climate and Environment) proactive approach in local community. A range of ideas and initiatives were discussed.
1. **Public Participation Session in relation to the presentation**
* Planning policy only requires 2 solar panels per roof, why such a low requirement, should this be increased?

*Local plan empowers TDC to request more, to go beyond national policy. New applications do have higher requirements. Two solar panels improves ‘SAF’ assessment, 16 panels seen as optimal.*

* Planning in conservation, ok to remove old tree and replace with new?

*Lobby planner to review approach?*

* Leave village green (or areas) to allow buttercups to grow. Weekly rotation to improve biodiversity and save money. (May June July left)
* Community allotments, growing community food supply, wellbeing benefits
* GBPC green agenda. Council needs to take ownership from clerk (June Meeting).
1. **Chairman report**
2. **Reports from local groups**

Football club – potential folding, but the teams are really excelling

**7. Public Participation session**

A MOP of the public asked about a lack of communication from the PC, can the magazine have a monthly report

A MOP raised the issues of the School improvement, what support is there in place for this?

A MOP stated that Lufkins corner is still an issue, highways have been to site and but can the PC push them to get this fixed?

A MOP raised the issue of increasing public engagement of increasing attendance at meetings.

Cllr. L. McWilliams advised everyone about the coming wind farm applications

**8. Pride of Great Bentley Awards**

The three nominees for the award:

Tracey Abhams

Mick Dorling

Plummer Family

**9. Date and time of the next meeting:**

April 13th 2023

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 20.02

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