

BENTLEY PAUNCEFOOT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Bentley Paucefoot Parish Council Held On Tuesday 17th September 2019 at 7.30pm in Bentley Village Hall

Present : Cllr A Boss – Chair
 Cllr R Bewsher – Vice Chair
 Cllr R Cheape
 Cllr P Meads
 Cllr B Spence

A Dyson - Clerk

Public Participation

2 members of the public were in attendance (please refer to signing in book). No questions were raised from the floor prior to the commencement of the meeting.

1.	Declaration of Acceptance of Office
	Mr Nicholas Rands has been co-opted on to the Parish Council. Mr Rands signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office form, duly witnessed by the Clerk. Mr Rands joined other members of the PC at the table for the commencement of the meeting.
2.	Apologies & Approval of Absence
	Councillor G Teague had sent apologies for not attending the meeting. However, the absence was not approved by other members of the PC as due notice of meeting dates had been given in November 2018 and this was the second time in 3 meetings that Cllr Teague was unable to attend. Chair Boss will speak to Cllr Teague regarding this matter.
3.	Declaration of Interest
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) None b) Chair Boss read and signed is Disclosable Pecuniary interests which the Clerk will forward to BDC. Cllr Rands will sign his separately and return to the Clerk. c) None d) None
4.	To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting which was held on Tuesday 16th July 2019.
	The Minutes were accepted by all Councillors and signed by Cllr A Boss – Chair.
5.	Progress Reports
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Village Hall update & upcoming events Bromsgrove Farmers Club are holding an event at the VH on Saturday 28th September 2019. The Violettes are performing on Saturday 12th October 2019. It is proposed to hold an event to rename the bar but full details are not yet available. b) Footpaths Chair Boss obtained 2 quotations to have the hedge cut back along the bridle path linking Manor Road to Lower Bentley, however some residents were reluctant for this work to take place. The Clerk will report the access problem of the path to Worcester CC and await their conclusions.

c)	<p>Tree Warden Cllr Cheape is planning to commence planting of the trees donated earlier in the year on or about the 8th/9th October 2019. The Clerk will e mail residents asking for volunteers to help with the planting and to ask for suggestions of where the planting should take place.</p>
d)	<p>Tardebigge Relief, in Need & Sickness Charity In her absence Cllr Teague had advised that no further requests for funding had been received. The next meeting will be held in October 2019.</p>
6.	Lengthsman
	<p>Lengthsman Chris Cooke was in attendance. He raised the issue of a number of trees in the Parish that required a number of lower branches removing once leaves had dropped in order that they remain trees rather than bushes – the PC confirmed they were happy for him to carry out this work. Mr Cooke also advised that he had spoken to SE Davies regarding the supply of rock salt for the forthcoming Winter. Their cost was slightly lower than WCC but the main plus was that they would supply when demand was needed rather than one large amount delivered to Mr Cooke’s premises at the start of the season. Chair Boss raised a concern that if the weather was very inclement, would SE Davies be able to supply on time. Mr Cooke did not see this as a problem and was confident SE Davies would be able to supply when required. Mr Cooke asked the PC if they were happy with the gritting routes he currently covers where WCC do not cover. It was agreed that Mr Cooke should carry on gritting the routes as previous, however the PC will review the routes dependent on weather conditions this winter.</p> <p>Fly tipping is still happening but Mr Cooke is happy with BDCs quick response to any issues he has reported. Unfortunately, North Worcester Water Management does not respond to issues reported with a general of response of “it will be looked at”. The PC asked whether Mr Cooke wanted the problem escalated higher, Mr Cooke said not at the moment – Cllr Spence asked Mr Cooke to keep a note of issues not dealt with in a timely manner in order that there is a record available should the PC decide to take the matter to WCC at a later date.</p> <p>Mr Cooke has agreed with Richard Clewer of Highways that next year he will spray the area within 2 feet of road bollards to keep down the vegetation in order that the grass cutting machine used by Highways does not need to trim as close to the bollards as a number of them have been damaged this year.</p>
7	CALC
	<p>Cllr Meads had attended the last meeting on the basis that Ruth Bamford was due to speak at the meeting; however at the last minute Ms Bamford said she was unable to attend. This was disappointing and it would have been beneficial to have been aware of her absence prior to the meeting.</p>
8.	Superfast Fibre
	<p>Vice Chair Bewsher has been advised that WCC are confident the cabinet covering Angel Street and Manor Road should be live by the end of September 2019.</p> <p>The other funding bids are still tied up in bureaucracy within the many departments involved.</p> <p>Airband have not responded with regard to the possibility of them providing a broadband service to the Parish.</p> <p>The Clerk will contact County Councillor Kit Taylor who said he would raise the issue of Broadband speed within the Parish at a meeting he was having on the 17th July 2019, to ask what the outcome of that meeting was.</p>
9.	New Homes Bonus 2019/2020
	<p>A grant of £1480.00 has been obtained from the Grant Committee for funding towards enhancing the playground at the Village Hall. Lyn Hancock from the VH Committee thanked Cllr Spence and the PC for their efforts in obtaining this grant which is very much appreciated. Following a further inspection of the playground, one item has been condemned, resulting in a swing being closed down. Cllr Spence has to send all requested documents relating to the funding to the Grant Committee before they will make the donation. If there are any costings on works that need to be carried out over and above the received funding, the VH will make up the shortfall. Chair Boss asked that the PC ensure they are complying with VAT regulations by claiming back the VAT on any goods purchased for the playground. The Clerk will check the legalities with the Accountant who works on behalf of the PC.</p>

10.	Police Commissioner visit November 19th 2019
	It is important that all residents are involved in this visit. The PC is looking for residents to attend the meeting and ask the Commissioner directly any questions or queries they have with regard to policing within the Community. A further e mail will be sent out asking for any questions and for volunteers to stand up and speak on the evening. On behalf of the VH, Lyn Hancock said that refreshments would be provided for all attendees on the evening.
11.	Road Safety campaign
	<p>Chair Boss thanked Cllr Spence for all his hard work and efforts in getting this campaign to fruition. The "Lanes are our Lives" pamphlets had now been distributed to all residents and to the 2 new housing developments in Webheath. Banners with the slogan had also been erected on entry signs to the village and Chair Boss has received a number of positive comments regarding the same. The banners will be removed after a short period and re-erected next Spring.</p> <p>Richard Clewer of Highways department has not yet responded with the PCs request for the cost of a Traffic Regulation Order.</p> <p>WCC Cllr Kit Taylor, likewise, has not responded regarding the discussions he was holding with Andy Amos of Highways, Sally Everest of WCC and Mr Clewer to discuss the speeding regulation issue.</p>
12.	Clerks Performance review
	Vice Chair Bewsher had carried out the Clerk's performance on 13 th August 2019 and reported her conclusions other Councillors. Chair Boss signed off the performance review and a copy will be held by Vice Chair Bewsher and the Clerk. Both Chair Bewsher and the Clerk agreed that a review should take place biennially rather than annually.
13.	The Foxlydiat Temporary Working Party
	<p>Cllr Spence again defined the purpose of the FTWP in that it is there not to stop the housing development but to liaise with the planning department in identifying significant issues which will affect the Community when the development is approved i.e. the FTWP has been instrumental in ensuring that Pumphouse Lane will be closed to all traffic and that the construction of 3 storey properties on the ridgeline would have a greater impact on the locality than the Planners had originally anticipated. However, the developers and planners are still very dismissive about the PCs concern of extra traffic impacting on rural roads, which already have seen a 60% increase in traffic since the new developments on Church Road, Webheath have been built.</p> <p>Whilst looking at a planning application for another area, Chair Bewsher noticed a document which she felt should have been on the planning portal for the Foxlydiat development. She contacted Simon Jones of the Planning department to point this out and when that document had been uploaded it became clear that there was a report from HSE rejecting the development on safety reasons due the gas and oil pipelines on the site. This report was dated April 2018 and the FTWP felt that it could be construed that BDC had deliberately not disclosed this information. Simon Jones and Dale Birch of BDC asked for a meeting with the FTWP to try and clarify the situation with regard to pipelines and the special BDC planning meeting to discuss the application scheduled to take place on the 16th September 2019 was cancelled. BDC Planners have now rescheduled this meeting, without any consultation with the FWTP, for 14th October 2019. Following deep concerns from other Councillors and residents at the PC meeting upon hearing the news about the pipelines, the FTWP do not feel the PC is being given enough time to by BDC Planners to fully understand the HSE implications of advice regarding acceptable levels of housing density and the nature of risks referred to and will ask that the special planning meeting be postponed to the end of November 2019 at the earliest.</p>

	On a separate issue, if and when the development does go ahead, the PC will be entitled to claim monies from the local authority under Government Section 106 funding to mitigate the effects of the development on the area. Councillors agreed any Section 106 monies would be used to try and purchase, from Bentley Estates, an area of land opposite the village hall which could be turned into a village green/cricket area. Cllr Cheape will ask his father who sits on the Bentley Estates Board, to ascertain if this would be something Bentley Estates would agree to.	
14.	Planning	
	Small(er) scale planning applications in the Parish – new notifications / updates:	
a)	19/00823/FUL –Barn at Fosters Green Farm, Fosters Green, Lower Bentley – conversion of redundant barn to form a 2 bedroom dwelling. Barn approx. 25M north east of Fosters Green Farm House.	
b)	19/00824/LBC –Barn at Fosters Green Farm, Fosters Green, Lower Bentley – conversion of redundant barn to form a 2 bedroom dwelling. Barn approx. 25M north east of Fosters Green Farm House.	
	The PC had already submitted its response to BDC agreeing in principle to the development but asking that the design pays due heed to the Conservation and Sustainable Development Principles issued by English Heritage.	
15.	Finance	
a)	Review of spend to date The Clerk distributed a copy of spend against budget year to date. This document was accepted as being within the current budget limits year to date.	
	Parish Council Account Bank Balance as at 27.08.19 Account No. ending 7848 £7,949.70 Footpath Account Bank Balance as at 05.04.19 Account No. ending 8980 £638.70	
	To consider payments / receipts as per Clerks correspondence list issued at meeting	
	A Dyson (August 19 / Sept 19 salary & exes)	£570.16
	CALC (Training x 2)	£ 60.00
	B Spence (Road banners reimbursement of cost)	£198.00
	C Cooke (Lengthsman)	£250.40
	B Spence (reimbursement of purchase of gift on behalf of Chairman)	£ 55.00
	Received monies	
	Nil	
16.	Clerks update	
	Nothing to report.	
17.	Councillors Reports & Items for Future Agenda	
	Vice Chair Bewsher asked members of the Public to leave as she wished to speak to other Councillors regarding the Performance review of the Clerk (please refer to Minute 12). Following the review, Vice Chair proposed that a 3% salary increase be awarded to the Clerk, Cllr Spence seconded this proposal and it was agreed by all Councillors.	

18.	Date of Next Meeting
	This is scheduled for Tuesday 19 th November 2019 at 19.30 in Bentley Village Hall.

Meeting Closed at 21.30

Signed:Chair Person

Date:

DRAFT