

## **BENTLEY PAUNCEFOOT PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Bentley Pouncefoot Parish Council Held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 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 N Rands

A Dyson - Clerk

#### **Public Participation**

4 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.

<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies &amp; Approval of Absence</b>
	Cllrs Spence and Teague sent their apologies, which were accepted and approved by the Chair.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>
	a) None b) None c) None d) None
<b>3.</b>	<b>To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting was held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2019.</b>
	The Minutes were accepted by all Councillors and signed by Cllr A Boss – Chair.
<b>4.</b>	<b>Progress Reports</b>
	a) <b><u>Village Hall update &amp; upcoming events</u></b> A very good turnout for the Violettes on Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> October 2019. The history evening and renaming of the bar to “The Squire’s Bar” was a very interesting evening. 2 Christmas events are due to take place in December one for the children of the parish and an evening event for adults. .
	b) <b><u>Footpaths</u></b> A resident contacted the PC regarding hard core that had been dropped alongside a path close to his property. Chair Boss & Cllr Spence visited the site and agreed that the hard core was not environmentally friendly. The resident has asked the Environmental department to visit the site.
	c) <b><u>Tree Warden</u></b> Cllr Cheape has some issues as to where some of the trees should be planted and would appreciate any thoughts on where they could go.
	d) <b><u>Tardebigge Relief, in Need &amp; Sickness Charity</u></b> In her absence Cllr Teague had advised that requests had been received from New Starts – an initiative to house homeless people whilst coming off abusive substances – this request had been approved. A request for funding had been approved for talking therapies only for people in the Batchley area who have or are suffering from mental health issues. 2 other requests had been refused as they did not meet the objectives of the charity.
	e) <b><u>Meeting dates 2020</u></b> Agreed and noted by all Councillors.

<b>5.</b>	<b>Lengthsman</b>
	<p>Lengthsman Chris Cooke was in attendance. A resident had raised an issue with flooding by his property. This issue has been occurring for a couple of years with Highways and the Water Management people visiting the site. In reality the ditches need to be dug out but due to public risk, the road needs to be closed to traffic for this work to take place. Mr Cooke has asked Richard Clewer of Highways if this could be arranged but has had no response – the Clerk will contact WCC Cllr Kit Taylor to ask if he can bring pressure on Highways department to get the road closed in order that the work can take place.</p> <p>Due to the severe flooding in the last week the Lengthsman has been working alongside Highways at night to try and clear gullies – whilst the work of the contractors once they attended multiple sites was good, the organisation by Highways department of such work was appalling to the extent that in some cases the contractors arrived at sites with no night lights etc and if the Lengthsman had not been in attendance they would not have had sufficient light / equipment to carry out the necessary work.</p>
<b>6.</b>	<b>CALC</b>
	The Bromsgrove Area CALC meeting is due to take place on the 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2019. Susan Satchell had asked if any PCs would like to talk about how they had tackled any challenging planning proposals that occurred within their Parish. Cllrs Spence & Vice Chair Bewsher kindly agreed to talk to the meeting about the issues Bentley has had with the Foxlydiate development.
<b>7.</b>	<b>Risk assessment</b>
	Following the recommendation of the external Auditor last year, the Clerk has collated a “Risk Assessment” document for the PC to review. This was agreed as being correct and signed by the Chair.
<b>8.</b>	<b>Bentley Bugle 2020</b>
	Vice Chair Bewsher and the Clerk have had the first meeting with regard to next year’s issue. Any suggestions for articles would be greatly appreciated. Articles need to be completed by mid December. Cllr Spence has already drafted 2 articles for publication – one covering the “lanes are our lives” project and an update from FTWP on the work they have been doing.
<b>9.</b>	<b>Superfast Fibre</b>
	<p>Yet again the “go live” dates that WCC gave for the cabinet covering Angel Street and Manor Road have been missed! Only this week has Pump House Lane been closed to traffic in order that BT can put the ducting in so it was impossible that a September 2019 date could ever have been achieved.</p> <p>Cllr Meads had written to Right Hon Sajid Javid MP again to ask if he would write to Clive Selly on our behalf to find out what is happening with rural broadband but the response was somewhat inconclusive.</p> <p>Airband have not responded with regard to the possibility of them providing a broadband service to the Parish – Vice Chair Bewsher believes this is because when they looked at what is needed for Bentley, the cost is prohibitive.</p> <p>The Clerk had contacted 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 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019, to ask what the outcome of that meeting was but he had not responded.</p>
<b>10.</b>	<b>New Homes Bonus 2019/2020</b>
	The Village Hall Committee is in the process of letting the PC know what equipment is required and this will be ordered shortly.

<b>11.</b>	<b>Foxlydiat Temporary Working Party</b>		
	<p>Vice Chair Bewsher explained to the events leading up to the Planning meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019, how the meeting was executed on that date and the outcome. Due to the number of issues arising from the conduct of the Planning Officers on the night and the way the meeting was held, the FTWP asked the PC if they were prepared to spend money on obtaining legal advice. This had been approved by Councillors prior to the PC meeting and a meeting has already taken place. The Legal Team advised the PC to obtain the services of an independent traffic consultant for their help. The PC also agreed to this. Some monies have been donated to the PC from the disbanded BAAG funds (BAAG was a group set up originally opposing the Foxlydiat development) and the PC thanked them for their donation which will be used towards Legal fees.</p> <p>Vice Chair Bewsher also advised that Cllr Spence wished to step down from the FTWP and asked if anyone would like to take his place. Cllr Rands agreed to take over the vacancy created by Cllr Spence.</p>		
<b>12.</b>	<b>Planning</b>		
a)	<p>Small(er) scale planning applications in the Parish – new notifications / updates:</p> <p><b>19/01356/FUL</b> –full planning application for the demolition of existing buildings and the development of 63 dwellings with associated public open space and infrastructure – Barn House Farm, Foxlydiat Lane, Redditch.</p> <p>Cllr Cheape has been looking at this application and there are a number of issues to be taken into consideration – he will respond by 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019 to the Clerk for submission to BDC.</p>		
<b>13.</b>	<b>Finance</b>		
a)	<p><b>Review of spend to date</b></p> <p>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.</p>		
	<p>Parish Council Account Bank Balance as at 25.10.19 Account No. ending 7848   £12,812.62 Footpath Account Bank Balance as at 05.04.19 Account No. ending 8980   £638.70</p>		
	To consider payments / receipts as per Clerks correspondence list issued at meeting		
	A Dyson (Oct 19 / Nov 19 salary & exes)	£675.69	Cheque no 100531
	MSC Planning Associates Ltd	£600.00	Cheque no 100532
	Shakespeare Martineau LLP Clients Account	£600.00	Cheque no 100533
	C Cooke (Lengthsman)	£295.38	Cheque no 100534
	<b>Received monies</b>		
	BDC New Homes bonus	£1480.00	
	BDC 2 <sup>nd</sup> half precept	£2762.50	
	WCC – Lengthsman payment	£ 112.92	
	BAAG money donation for Foxlydiat legal monies	£1444.58	
<b>14.</b>	<b>Clerks update</b>		
	Nothing to report.		

15.	<p><b>Councillors Reports &amp; Items for Future Agenda</b></p> <p>Cllrs Cheape and Rands had attended a local planning meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019 where BDC set out their plans and proposals for local planning going forward. Cllr Rands updated the Parish Council with the main points which had arisen from the meeting – many of which appeared to be in complete contrast to the actual way BDC are currently carrying out their planning proposals. The call for preferred site options should be in approx. 18 months' time.</p>
	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p>
	<p>This is scheduled for Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020 at 19.30 in Bentley Village Hall.</p>

**Meeting Closed at 21.00**

**Signed:** .....A R BOSS.....Chairperson

**Date:** .....21<sup>st</sup> January 2020.....