

BENTLEY PAUNCEFOOT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Bentley Paucefoot Parish Council Held on Tuesday 21st July 2020 at 8.00pm in Bentley Village Hall

Present : Cllr R Bewsher – Chair
 Cllr B Spence – Vice Chair
 Cllr A Boss
 Cllr P Meads
 Cllr N Rands
 Cllr G Teague
 WCC Cllr K Taylor

A Dyson - Clerk

Visitors

5 visitors (per current Covid 19 advice – the Clerk entered everyone’s names into the signing in book)

Public Participation

Mr D Taylor asked the Chair if the PC was taking any action with regard to speeding through the Parish. Chair Bewsher explained what the PC has been doing with regard to trying to get the speed limit on the roads reduced and the PCs frustration with Worcester County Council Highways. WCC Cllr K Taylor said that he had not received complaints from residents. The PC said they were challenging speeding on behalf of residents but apparently this would be seen as 1 complaint. The Clerk will write to residents asking them to personally send any issues they have direct to WCC Cllr Taylor. For further discussions please see item 8.

1	Apologies & Approval of Absence
	Cllr R Cheape. BDC District Councillor P Whittaker did not respond to his invitation to attend the meeting.
2	To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting was held on Tuesday 21st January 2020
	The Minutes were accepted by all Councillors and signed by Cllr R Bewsher – Chair.
3	Progress Reports
	a) <u>Village Hall update & upcoming events</u> The new equipment for the playground has been erected. The hall is currently closed to all events that are outside of the Governments current ruling on gathering sizes. Again in line with Government regulations, the play area has reopened but use is at peoples own risk, a sign has been erected to this effect.
	b) <u>Footpaths</u> There is quite a bit of furniture (stiles etc) to repair and keeping the vegetation free of the paths needs a fair bit of strimming especially the long sections. John Milles is happy to continue but realistically could do with some help. The Clerk will send an email out to residents asking for volunteers and will ask Mr Milles if he would be prepared to coordinate this if volunteers do come forward. Cllr Rands asked where Footpath signage could be obtained, Mr Milles has a number of signs, Cllr Rands will contact him directly.
	c) <u>Tree Warden</u> Cllr Cheape’s contact intends starting the planting of trees during Autumn 2020.
4	Lengthsman
	WCC have agreed to some road closures taking place in order that vegetation can be cut back. This will be ongoing throughout the Autumn months.

5	CALC
	Cllr Teague attended the last meeting. Chair Bewsher said the CALC meeting Minutes mention 106 funding and Councillor allowances but it isn't clear how these are allocated. One of the items CALC is focussing on is loneliness in Parishes. Cllr Spence mentioned that Bentley WI have a "buddy up" scheme in place and asked whether this was something the PC could link into? Chair Bewsher asked Cllr Teague if she would be able to coordinate with the WI to see what could be achieved and report back at the next meeting.
6	Superfast Fibre
	Chair Bewsher has been contacted by Worcester CC who informed her that all residents would soon have access to Superfast Fibre at no cost. WCC had originally said that some residents would have to contribute to the cost but as fibre had now been installed to all poles this was no longer the case. This is a huge accomplishment for the PC who have been trying to get this benefit for residents for a number of years.
7	Bentley Bugle
	A discussion took place regarding the publication timing of the Bugle and it was agreed to continue to aim to get the publication to all residents by the end of January. There was some delay at the printers this year, therefore a decision was taken to publish in house. The Clerk will send an electronic copy of this years Bugle to Cllr Spence to see if this is a possible option.
8	Road Safety Campaign
a)	Councillors reiterated that the speed limits on the lanes are unacceptable. Many dangers -no footpaths, no street lighting, heavy agricultural traffic, moving of animals, school children use the lanes on out of bounds courses, a national cycle route and asked WCC Cllr what can we do? WCC Cllr Taylor advised to keep on and on fighting. Cllr Meads agreed to write to Rt Hon Sajid Javid to ask if he could arrange a meeting for the PC with WCC to discuss the issue. WCC Highways said the data cable evidence showed there was no problem with speeding vehicles, however this is because of the 60 mph limit – if the limit was less vehicles would be speeding! WCC Cllr Taylor said that local Police will only put officers on speed duties on roads where there is likely to be a number of vehicles not observing the limit. Drivers should drive safety regardless of the road limit but how do we get this message across to people?
b)	Cllr Rands raised concerns about the number of cyclists travelling at speed causing problems for themselves and other road users. He has already spoken with the Police Commissioner and will follow up. He will also contact local cycle groups to see if we can jointly raise awareness of problems with them. WCC have introduced an Emergency Travel fund to improve cycle lanes throughout the county. Chair Bewsher contacted WCC Cllr Amos for more information on this but the details on how the fund will be used are yet to be finalised. Cyclists, frequently travelling at speed or even racing each other, are a hazard on cycle routes throughout the Parish already, if routes are to be improved for cyclists how will this impact on the speed restrictions the PC is hoping to get in place?
9	Planning
a)	The Foxlydiat Temporary Working Party (to be renamed The Foxlydiat Working Party) has been kept busy. The Traffic Consultants put together 2 reports for us to submit to the planners. They pointed out a number of areas that fell short of what we felt was required for a full planning application, they also pointed out some concerns with the construction access plan, especially using Foxlydiat Lane for construction vehicle access with two lorries not being able to pass each other! In February RBC held a further planning committee meeting following the deferral in November. The report that was issued to the planning committee and the general public did not include the reports from our Traffic Consultants. Chair Bewsher complained to the Monitoring Officer and an apology was issued. Although RBC's committee rejected the application in November because of construction traffic using Foxlydiat Lane, it was approved even though construction traffic will still use Foxlydiat Lane. The Foxlydiat Working Party still believe there are highway safety concerns so a letter was sent to the Head of Planning, copied to Rt Hon Sajid Javid, both Redditch & Bromsgrove planning committee Chairs, all members of Bromsgrove's planning committee, Peter Whittaker, the Leader of Bromsgrove & Redditch Council etc. detailing our concerns. The application is going back before Bromsgrove's planning committee. A date for the meeting was set but cancelled due to Covid 19. We current await a new date.

b)	Small(er) scale planning applications in the Parish – new notifications / updates 20/00583/FUL – field View House Bank Green – convert garage and replace the roof, replace existing porch, alterations to fenestration / cladding to all external walls – the PC had no objections to this application.
10	Finance
a)	2019 / 2020 End of year audit sign off . All Councillors had received a copy of the accounts approved by the Independent Auditor. Vice Chair Spence raised the action where the Auditor had pointed out that Bank Reconciliations had not been carried out correctly. The Clerk had now rectified this and Bank recs will be carried out monthly with copies being sent to all Councillors. On this basis Chair Bewsher signed the accounts, witnessed by the Clerk for publication.
b)	Banking payments – should we go on line? It was agreed by all that this would preferable to the current situation as long as there was still a process in place that payments could be checked by current signatories prior to them being processed. The Clerk will contact Barclays with regard to setting this up
c)	To consider payments/receipts as per Clerks Correspondence list issued at meeting. Budget update Parish Council Account xxxx7848 balance as at 26.06.2020 £8494.03 Footpath Account xxxx8980 balance as at 04.02.2020 £138.70 To consider payments / receipts as per Clerks correspondence list issued at meeting A Dyson (June / July salary & exes) £ 598.73 Chq no 100552 ICO Data Protection F £ 40.00 Chq no 100553 Greenfield Garden Services (VH play area) £1531.20 Chq no 100554 C Cooke (Lengthsman) £ 160.80 Chq no 100555 Received monies Bentley Village Hall (shortfall to NHB spend) £ 241.38
d)	Budget update Vice Chair Spence asked the Clerk to send each Councillor a copy of the budget / spend going forward document and asked them to bring any ideas as to what the PC could spend some money on to the next meeting.
11	Councillors Reports & Items for Future Agenda
	Councillor Spence will be contacting the Chairman of Bromsgrove Model Flying Club quietly requesting that they adhere to their own guidelines in terms of start and finish times. There have been a number of recent occasions when the flying and consequent noise has begun before the scheduled daily start time or after they are due to cease flying. Cllr Teague advised that St Marys Church has now reopened on Wednesdays between 11.00 and 1.00pm for private prayer. Cllr Rand advised that a caravan had been parked in Woodgate and asked if anyone knew the rules of parking up = WCC Cllr Taylor advised that it was illegal. Chair Bewsher advised that the Bentley Pouncefoot sign which had been erected by Highways near to the Tardebigge village hall had been moved without our knowledge further up the road. Previously Tardebigge PC had complained that it was originally in their boundary. The Clerk had spoken to Richard Clewer of Highways who was not aware of the sign being moved by his team – WCC Cllr K Taylor will speak to Mr Clewer.

12	Date of Next Meeting
	This is scheduled for Tuesday 15 th September 2020 at 19.30 in Bentley Village Hall.

Meeting Closed at 21.27

Signed:Roz BewsherChairperson

Date: 23rd September 2020