

BENTLEY PAUNCEFOOT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Bentley Paucefoot Parish Council Held on Tuesday 23rd September 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom

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

A Dyson - Clerk

Visitors

2 visitors (as the meeting was held remotely, the Clerk entered all names into the signing in book)

Public Participation

There were no questions from the public.

Chair Bewsher outlined the protocols surrounding the Zoom meeting. She also announced that she had received a letter of resignation from Cllr Gail Teague. The Chair thanked Cllr Teague for her efforts whilst working on behalf of the PC and asked that Cllr Teague update everyone later in the meeting on what she had been working on and decisions could then be made as to who would pick up those items.

1	Apologies & Approval of Absence
	BDC District Councillor P Whittaker and WCC K Taylor did not respond to their invitation to attend the meeting.
2	To approve the Minutes of the Annual meeting and the Ordinary meetings which were held on Tuesday 21st July 2020
	The Minutes were accepted by all Councillors and signed by Chair R Bewsher who will pass them on to the Clerk at a later date for the records. Actions arising from the last meeting - Vice Chair Spence had written to Bromsgrove Flying club with regard to their flying outside of permitted hours. The Chairman of the club had apologised profusely and said he would ensure his members adhered to the rules.
3	Declarations of interest
a)	To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary interests in items on the agenda and their nature Cllr Cheape advised that he had a personal interest in the planning application regarding Perrymill Farm and would not be commenting on it. Cllr Boss advised that he lived next door to Bentley House Farm and would not be offering any view as a Parish Councillor on this planning application.
b)	To declare any other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature Nothing to declare
c)	The Clerk had not received any requests for a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011)
4	Report from County Councillor
	No apologies had been received for not attending the meeting from WCC Cllr K Taylor and no update report had been received from him. In the past WCC Cllr Taylor had spoken to Cllr Boss (previous Chairman) directly on certain matters, if this occurred again Cllr Boss would ask him to correspond directly with the Clerk in order that a complete record of events were in place.

5	<p>Report from District Council</p> <p>No apologies had been received for not attending the meeting from BDC Cllr P Whittaker and no update report had been received from him.</p> <p>Cllr Meads queried whether the non-attendance of District and County Councillors should be escalated. Cllr Teague advised that the CALC Exec had written to all Councillors asking them to attend PC meetings but with limited success. Vice Chair Spence requested that he and Chair Bewsher speak to both parties with regard to building relationships going forward before this happened. It was agreed that as most meetings were held virtually at the moment, there was little excuse for not attending.</p>
6	<p>Progress Reports</p>
	<p>a) <u>Village Hall update & upcoming events</u> The Village Hall reopened for some events but in line with latest Covid 19 regulations will be closing again.</p> <p>b) <u>Footpaths</u> The Clerk had contacted Mr Milles asking him what he would want volunteers to undertake and if he was willing to coordinate any works being carried. He had not responded; the Clerk will contact Mr Milles again.</p> <p>c) <u>Tree Warden</u> - Cllr Cheape will be uprooting the trees from their current positions for replanting shortly. They will be used to create new hedgerows around the Parish and 2 residents in Upper Bentley have requested some of them. Some trees have already been planted in the Woodgate Road area. Cllrs Spence, Boss and Rands offered their help with the planting.</p> <p>d) <u>Tardebigge Relief, in Sickness & Need Charity</u> – Cllr Teague reported that 4 applications for assistance had been received in this quarter. 2 had been accepted and 2 rejected. As Cllr Teague is standing down from the PC, Chair Bewsher asked if she would be prepared to continue to update the PC if any requests were received which were relevant to PC. Cllr Teague explained that it was part of the Charity’s constitution that a representative from the PC sat on the Committee and therefore another Councillor would need to take her place. Vice Chair Spence asked what it entailed – an approx. 2 hour meeting once a quarter. Vice Chair Spence said he would be willing to represent the PC on this basis.</p> <p>e) <u>Update on loneliness issue</u> – Cllr Teague had met with representatives from Bentley WI, Soroptimists International, Tardebigge and Webheath parishes to discuss the same. All parties felt it was a worthwhile project but would prefer Bentley Pauncefoot PC to “head” it up as this would give people the feel that it was more of an independent project. Discussions took place and although the PC is happy to be seen as “leading” the campaign there were some concerns regarding involvement. Cllr Teague will put some words together for Councillors to approve before anything is published. Cllr Teague is happy to represent the PC on this campaign.</p>
7	<p>Lengthsman</p>
	<p>Chris Cooke had spoken with Worcestershire Water Management about several issues but apart from “general” responses in writing to him, no work has been carried out. The Clerk will ask Mr Cooke to chase them up again.</p>
8	<p>CALC</p>
	<p>As Cllr Teague is standing down from the PC, the Clerk agreed to attend the meetings (which are now held via Zoom). Chair Bewsher explained what CALC was and did to attendees who were unaware of the organisation.</p>
9	<p>Superfast Fibre</p>
	<p>All Lower Bentley resident now have access to fast fibre although it doesn’t appear to be the speed they would have wished for however they were very grateful that they had not had to pay for installation. Andrew Baxter (resident) explained that to obtain the best speeds, some residents may have to update their personal devices and routers to newer models. Mr Baxter also offered his help to other residents if they were experiencing problems. Unfortunately, the largest number of residents who had been promised fast fibre by the end of September have not been linked to the fast fibre as the contractors found blockages in the roads which needed permission for closures. The contract has been extended to December 2020 and it is hoped that all residents will have access to the fast fibre by that date.</p>

10	Bentley Bugle
	<p>Vice Chair Spence had sent all Councillors a copy of last years Bugle which he had transposed using a version of Publisher, thereby eliminating external printing costs, for their approval. It was agreed to publish this years version in house. Discussions took place as to whether distribution should be electronic or hard copy. A decision was made that most copies would be electronically sent with a small number of printed copies available for recipients that the PC does not have email details for. Cllr Meads suggested that as fewer hard copies would be available this year that they could be posted rather than distributed by hand.</p> <p>Vice Chair Spence requested that all Councillors send him and the Clerk their contributions to this year's publication before the next PC meeting on the 17th November 2020. Cllr Meads – progress on speed limits, Cllr Rands – Cycling and the new Highway Code suggestions, Cllr Teague – the loneliness campaign, the Clerk will ask the Rev Richard Clerk for input on the Tardebidge Relief in needs and sickness charity, Cllr Cheape – the new planning system and environmental issues, (he would also look into any historical items he may have relating to the Bentley Estate), Cllr Boss – Rural crime and memories of a childhood in Bentley, Chair Bewsher – Chairman's report, Broadband and the Foxlydiate planning applications, Vice Chair Spence – the Bard of Bentley, Clerk – update Councillor details etc and check with CALC that as the printing will be in house that adverts can be charged for.</p> <p>Vice Chair Spence also asked that all Councillors contact any local tradespeople and businesses that they know and ask if they would be prepared to advertise in the publication. A half page advert would be £50 and a full page £100.</p>
11	Bentley Pauncefoot Road Sign in High House Lane
	<p>It is clear that this sign has been moved from its original position by a number of yards. Richard Clewer had been contacted and said that he was not aware of it having been moved. The decision was taken not to pursue this any further.</p>
12	Road safety campaign
a)	<p><u>Speed limits</u> -The PC had received a suggestion from WCC Kit Taylor of proposed 30 mile per hour speed limits on Manor Road, Banks Green and Blacklake Lane. However, it was felt that these limits should cover the Hollyoakes Lane / Cur Lane /Copyholt Lane junction which is a “blind” area turning into a very narrow one car width road. Discussions took place regarding this wider area and whether the PC should involve neighbouring PCs. Decisions were taken for Cllr Meads to respond to WCC Kit Taylor and ask for the wider area to be covered (Chair Bewsher to have sight of the correspondence before it goes to Mr Taylor) and at this stage not to involve other local PCs.</p>
b)	<p><u>Cycling</u> – Cllr Rands had circulated the Governments proposed new Highway Code amendments for cyclists to all Councillors prior to the meeting for their input to the survey, he will complete the document on behalf of the PC and submit it to the Government website. Vice Chair Spence thanked Cllr Rands for the work he had done putting the response together. Cllr Rands also pointed out that the Police & Crime Commissioner is initiating a proposal for a Safer Roads Fund of some £280K, he will look into what this would cover to see if the PC would be able to apply for funding with regard to the Foxlydiate development. Cllr Rands will contact the Police Commissioner again to chase up an earlier query he raised and will also contact local cycling clubs.</p>
13	Planning
a)	Foxlydiate Working Party update -
	<p>The Planning Committee meeting held virtually on the 22nd October 2020 had voted in favour of the Foxlydiate development going ahead. Chair Bewsher thanked Vice Chair Spence for his efforts at that meeting as he was the speaker on behalf of the PC. Although this decision was a huge disappointment, the PC had brought about a number of alterations to the original application which for a small PC is very commendable; location of 3 storey houses moved from the ridge line, Pumphouse Lane to be used as emergency access only, the width of the build corridor around the high pressure gas pipeline increased, footpaths, a bus service, discovered critical documents that had not been posted on the BDC planning website, including the fact that the Mott McDonald transport review had not been updated since 2018, had the original scheduled virtual meeting deferred due to the speed of our rural broadband, highlighted issues of safety with regard to using HGVs on Foxlydiate Lane.</p>

	<p>At the Planning meeting on the 22nd September 2020, members of the PC noted that just prior to vote, one of the planning committee commented “at least Bromsgrove will get the Council Tax from the new development”, members of the PC felt that this comment could have influenced the voting members and that the Chairman of the Committee or his legal representative should have at the very least asked that this comment be ignored and not influence a decision. Chair Bewsher will write to Mr K Dicks Chief Exec of BDC with this concern.</p> <p><u>Barn House Farm</u> – this application is going in front of the Planning Committee on Monday 5th October 2020 – Cllr Cheape will be speaking on behalf of the PC and will report back at the next meeting</p> <p><u>Foxlydiate Hotel</u> – no date has been received for the next Committee meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Spence asked to stand down from the FWP to concentrate on this years publication of the Bentley Bugle and his other parish council responsibilities.</p>
b)	<p>Small(er) scale planning applications in the Parish – new notifications / updates</p> <p><u>19/01144 – Perrymill Farm, Lower Bentley</u> – members of the PC (apart from Cllr Cheape who was unable to take part in discussions as he has an interest in this application) had no objection to this application and BDC have already granted permission with conditions for the application.</p> <p><u>20/00976/FUL – Lych Gates, Angel Street</u> - members of the PC had no objection to this application.</p> <p><u>20/01018/FUL – Bentley House Farm, Copyholt Lane</u> - installation of horse manage 20m x 40m and two grass dog run paddocks for use in conjunction with existing dog care – several residents on Banks Green had voiced their concerns over this application due to the noise level currently associated with the site. There was also concern that the menage would be used at weekends and evenings which would require the area to be lit, further causing an impact on neighbouring residents. Discussions took place and a decision taken to object to the request for additional dog run paddocks due to its impact on residential amenity and asked that if permission were granted for the horse menage that conditions would be imposed to restrict its use to daylight hours only to avoid light pollution.</p>
c)	<p><u>Local Plan Review</u> – Mr M Dunphy of BDC had not responded to a letter sent by Cllr Cheape in August 2020 requesting an overview of how the Local Plan Review will address the climate emergency and how policy will be used to decarbonise buildings and new development. Cllr Cheape will chase for a response</p>
d)	<p><u>Planning reform consultation</u> – this is a very substantial document which raises many concerns, one of which is that outline planning permission can be granted for developments without any consultation with local people. The County Association of Local Councils is one of the many organisations against it. The consultation period ends on 15th October 2020 and Cllr Cheape asked for feedback from other members of the PC in order than he may respond on the PCs behalf.</p>

14	Finance
a)	<p>To consider payments/receipts as per Clerks Correspondence list issued at meeting. Budget update</p> <p>Parish Council Account xxxx7848 balance as at 26.06.2020 £6365.36 Footpath Account xxxx8980 balance as at 04.06.2020 £138.70</p> <p>To consider payments / receipts as per Clerks correspondence list issued at meeting</p> <p>A Dyson (August / September salary & exes) £ 735.95 Chq no 100556 C Cooke (Lengthsman) £ 175.20 Chq no 100557</p> <p>Received monies</p> <p>Lengthsman payment from WCC £162.06</p>
b)	<p>Budget update</p> <p>Vice Chair Spence recommended that in the current climate, where monies might be required to employ professional bodies to assist with legal issues on the Foxlydiate development, no money should be spent on other items at the moment – all members of the PC were in agreement with this.</p>
15	Councillors Reports & Items for Future Agenda
	<p>Councillor Spence asked if there was a list of hunt dates that could be distributed – Cllr Cheape will e mail the Hunt Master to obtain dates.</p> <p>Chair Bewsher had been approached by a number of residents who felt they were unable to comment on planning applications that they were affected by, as they did not wish to cause conflict with neighbours. Chair Bewsher had contacted Dale Birch of BDC with this concern, he had responded that if anyone wished to comment on any applications, they should contact him directly and he would ensure their comments were lodged against the application, however as their details were not available to public viewing they would not be able to updated on any progress on the application.</p>
16	Date of Next Meeting
	<p>This is scheduled for Tuesday 17th November 2020 at 19.30, it is anticipated this will be held remotely via Zoom.</p>

Meeting Closed at 21.43

Signed: ...Roz BewsherChairperson

Date: 17th November 2020