

BENTLEY PAUNCEFOOT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Bentley Pouncefoot Parish Council Held on Tuesday 17th November 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
 BDC Cllr P Whittaker joined the meeting at approx. 9.00pm
 A Dyson - Clerk

Visitors

4 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.

1	Apologies & Approval of Absence
	WCC Cllr K Taylor did not respond to his invitation to attend the meeting.
2	Minutes
	To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting which was held on 23 rd September 2020.
	The Minutes were accepted by all Councillors and signed by Chair Bewsher who will pass them on to the Clerk at a later date for the records. Actions arising from the last meeting – Councillors had completed all actions assigned to them arising from the meeting
3	Declarations of interest
a)	To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary interests in items on the agenda and their nature Nothing to declare
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
	DCC Cllr K Taylor was not in attendance at the meeting. However, he had spoken with Chair Bewsher and Vice Chair Spence prior to the meeting where they had discussed the possibility of how to improve communications between the PC and the District Council. WCC will not speak directly to individual PCs, however Cllr Taylor said that if the PC report any highway problems on the website portal, he should be copied in on the communication with the reference number. He also advised that between him and BDC Cllr P Whittaker that they would try to attend alternative PC meetings. This would mean that each one only had to attend 3 meetings a year. The Clerk will send 2021 dates to both Councillors asking them which one they can attend.

5	<p>Report from District Council</p> <p>BDC Cllr joined the meeting at approx. 9.00pm as he had been having internet issues. He did not have anything specific to report but joined in the general discussion on the Barn House Farm Development planning meeting which had taken place last week and other general planning issues.</p>
6	<p>Progress Reports</p>
	<p>a) Village Hall update & upcoming events The hall is still closed as per Government guidelines on Covid 19</p> <p>b) Footpaths Mr Milles had confirmed that he would be willing to coordinate volunteers who were willing to help with any works being carried out, however it was felt that this would now be put on hold until the Spring of 2021. Cllr Rands where he could obtain planks which go over the stiles, Chris Cooke advised him to contact Countryside Services at WCC.</p> <p>c) Tree Warden - Cllr Cheape thanked Vice Chair Spence and Cllr Boss for their help in planting some of the trees. Some trees which had been planted along the verge at Woodgate Road were knocked over by horses belonging to travellers in the area. Cllr Cheape had spoken to the travellers and they had agreed to replace the. There will be more planting taking place in the Autumn. Update on loneliness issue – Former PC Councillor Gail is happy to be the contact for the PC on this initiative.</p> <p>d) Tardebigge in Sickness & Relief Charity – Vice Chair Spence attended the last meeting; he will continue to attend and advise the PC accordingly.</p>
7	<p>Lengthsman</p>
	<p>Chris Cooke confirmed where he laid down grit last Winter for the PC (where BDC salt spreaders do not cover) and asked Councillors if they were happy with those locations. It was agreed that he continue as last year and to source the grit as last year from S E Davies and then recharge the PC for their portion.</p>
8	<p>CALC</p>
	<p>The CALC AGM is being held on Monday 30th November via Zoom. The Clerk will attend this meeting on behalf of the PC and report back at the next PC meeting.</p>
9	<p>Superfast Fibre</p>
	<p>Road closure applications for Cur Lane had now been placed by Open Reach in order that they can clear the ducting to get the remainder of residents connected. Their 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> <p>Chair Bewsher had received information from WCC about upgrading Angel Street and Manor Road residents to FTTP, where WCC would match the bid. She is still waiting for a quotation from them.</p> <p>There has been a slight problem with some residents on High Elms Lane, Lower Bentley where although they are “live” the channels under the road are blocked and they cannot pass the wiring through them. Vice Chair Spence had reported this to WCC on behalf of the residents and Open Reach are working on this problem.</p>

10	Bentley Bugle
	Good progress has been made and Vice Chair Spence thanked everyone for their contributions. Vice Chair Spence asked whether the PC felt there was any merit in distributing the copy to residents before Christmas, possibly at the end of November. Chair Bewsher was of the opinion that she would have liked to wait until all residents had access to Superfast Broadband so that could have been announced in the Bugle, however the majority of the PC thought the issue should be published before Christmas and a separate notice regarding the Broadband be issued at a later date as it was a major achievement within the Parish. Vice Chair Spence asked Councillors that had contributed articles, if they could supply him with a photo of themselves to go alongside their articles, these could also be uploaded onto the My Parish website.
11	Meeting dates 2021
	The meeting dates were agreed – as usual bimonthly on the 3 rd Tuesday of the month. All members agreed that the start time would change to 7.00pm unless otherwise notified. It is not known at this time whether the meetings will be held in the village hall or via Zoom due to current Government restrictions regarding Covid 19.
12	Road safety campaign
a)	Following a decision at the last meeting, Cllr Meads wrote to WCC Kit Taylor asking if he would consider a wider area to include Cur Lane and Copyholt Lane be covered by speed restrictions. WCC Taylor's opinion was that the PC should accept his proposals and possibly try and get further restrictions included at a later date. It was agreed that Cllr Meads should write to CC Cllr Taylor asking for clarification that our request to extend the area covered by the speed limits had been passed on to WCC.
b)	<u>Cycling</u> – Cllr Rands had again contacted the Police Commissioner to chase up an earlier query he raised and he has spoken to local cycling clubs. One of the responses that came to him from Cycling UK was that cyclists should not have to wear hi vis outerwear – this is something that the PC feel should be worn as especially with the dark nights coming, visibility on the lanes is very reduced. Cllr Rands will contact the British Horse Society to ascertain what their road safety advice is regarding horses and cyclists. WCC are trying to push their Active Travel Fund to encourage cycling, this could impact again on Cur Lane / Copyholt Lane with people from the new development using that route to get to Bromsgrove station.
13	Risk assessment 2021
	The risk assessment document was read and agreed by all members of the PC. Covid 19 has been added to this year's review.
14	Planning & Consultations.
	Small(er) scale planning applications in the Parish – new notifications / updates Chair Bewsher thanked Cllr Cheape for responding to the planning reform document on behalf of the PC. <u>Foxlydiat development</u> - At the planning meeting on 22 nd September 2020 where the Foxlydiat development was approved, the PC felt that an inappropriate comment regarding Council Tax income had been made by one of the Committee immediately before the vote was cast. Chair Bewsher wrote to Mr Kevin Dicks the Chief Exec of BDC regarding this matter. He responded very quickly that he considered no wrongdoing had taken place. <u>Barn House Farm</u> – this application was approved by the Planning Committee on Monday 5th October 2020 – despite some members of the Committee acknowledging that the PC had made some valid points regarding access and road safety. The PC believes that BDC and Highways have not complied with several their own policies and discussed various options available to them for future review. <u>Foxlydiat Hotel development</u> – no date has been received for the next Committee meeting. <u>20/01018/FUL – Bentley House Farm, Copyholt Lane</u> – since the last PC meeting this application had been approved. However, a number of residents have complained about the noise from the dog paddocks which they feel will only get worse now the number of animals has increased and the length of stay prolonged. BDC Cllr Whittaker advised that residents make their complaints to BDC stating the noise could be regarded as a statutory nuisance.

	<p><u>Britannia House, High Elms Lane, Lower Bentley</u> – the PC had been sent a copy of a Certificate Proposed Lawful Use/Dev for Construction of replacement side extension at this property, When the Clerk asked for plans of this application, she had been informed that the PC should not have received the copy and as such were unable to comment on it. Cllr Rands asked why this was. BDC Cllr Whittaker said that it would have been because the application satisfied the criteria for Lawfulness under the permitted development rights, meaning the residents had provided evidence that the annex had been there for 10 years. However, BDC Cllr Whittaker will ask on behalf of the PC in general why PCs cannot comment on such applications.</p>															
14	Finance															
	<p>To consider payments/receipts as per Clerks Correspondence list issued at meeting. Budget update</p> <table> <tr> <td>Parish Council Account xxxx7848 balance as at 26.08.2020</td> <td>£6365.36</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Footpath Account xxxx8980 balance as at 04.06.2020</td> <td>£138.70</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>To consider payments / receipts as per Clerks correspondence list issued at meeting</p> <table> <tr> <td>A Dyson (August / September salary & exes)</td> <td>£ 735.95</td> <td>Chq no 100556</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C Cooke (Lengthsman)</td> <td>£ 175.20</td> <td>Chq no 100557</td> </tr> </table> <p>Received monies</p> <table> <tr> <td>Lengthsman payment from WCC</td> <td>£162.06</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>a) Budget update Vice Chair Spence advised that the PC were in a good cash position.</p> <p>The PC were still trying to get Barclays banking online. Before this can happen, the Clerk has to become a signatory on the account. This does not mean that she would be able to sign off payments on her own, the PC will put in place a regulation that 2 other signatories approve any payments and the Clerk will enact the wishes of the PC on line. The process is currently with Barclays awaiting authorisation.</p> <p>b) Clerks payment – Chair Bewsher had noted that the Clerk had not received the annual salary increase for 2020. She proposed that the Clerks salary be increased to the correct amount for her grade as per CALC guidelines, Vice Chair Spence seconded and other members of the PC approved. The Clerk thanked everyone for their support.</p>	Parish Council Account xxxx7848 balance as at 26.08.2020	£6365.36		Footpath Account xxxx8980 balance as at 04.06.2020	£138.70		A Dyson (August / September salary & exes)	£ 735.95	Chq no 100556	C Cooke (Lengthsman)	£ 175.20	Chq no 100557	Lengthsman payment from WCC	£162.06	
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15	Councillors Reports & Items for Future Agenda															
	<p>Cllr Rands raised a query with regard to BDC road sweeping as the lanes particularly at this time of year are very muddy and dangerous. The Lengthsman stated that in general BDC do not sweep the roads but did think that the PC could put in a request for this to happen. BDC Cllr Whittaker said the request should go via Environmental Services. The Lengthsman had looked into purchasing a sweeper to keep the lane clear but BDC would not take the waste away meaning he would have to dispose of it at a commercial rate which was price prohibitive.</p>															
16	Date of Next Meeting															
	<p>This is scheduled for Tuesday 19th January 2021 at 19.00. At this point in time it is not known whether this will be held in village hall or via Zoom.</p>															

Meeting Closed at 21.43

Signed:*R Bewsher*..... Chairperson

Date: 19th January 2021