

## **BENTLEY PAUNCEFOOT PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Bentley Pouncefoot Parish Council Held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7.00pm in the village hall**

**Present** : Cllr R Bewsher – Chair  
 Cllr B Spence – Vice Chair  
 Cllr A Boss  
 Cllr R Cheape  
 Cllr P Meads  
 Cllr N Rands  
 District Cllr P Whittaker joined the meeting at 8.15  
 A Dyson - Clerk

**Visitors** : G Bewsher, C Cooke, L Halls, M Morgan

#### **Public Participation**

There were no questions from the Public. Mr M Morgan had joined the meeting with a view to becoming a Councillor on the PC. Chair Bewsher introduced him and Councillors in turn introduced themselves to Mr Morgan.

<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies &amp; Approval of Absence</b>
	WCC Cllr K Taylor
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes</b>
	To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting which was held on 21 <sup>st</sup> September 2021
	All items were accepted by Councillors and signed by Chair Bewsher. <b>Actions arising from the last meeting</b> – All outstanding items had been completed.
<b>3</b>	<b>Declarations of interest</b>
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)
<b>4</b>	<b>Report from County Councillor</b>
	No report received
<b>5</b>	<b>Report from District Council</b>
	No report received. Before Mr Whittaker joined the meeting, Councillors agreed that if Cllr Whittaker was unable to attend PC meetings, he should send a report to the PC of items of interest within the District. The list of next year's meeting dates will be sent to him (and to WCC Cllr K Taylor) asking him to put his name against at least 3 dates he could attend. When District Councillor Whittaker joined the meeting Chair Bewsher challenged him on his nonattendance at PC meetings which the PC believe leads them to not getting the right degree of representation within the District. Mr Whittaker said PC meetings sometimes clashed with other meetings he had. The PC understand that this can happen, however if an ad hoc meeting is called Mr Whittaker should be able to say that he has a prior meeting with Bentley. The Clerk gave Mr Whittaker a hard copy of next year's dates for his diary and Chair Bewsher asked him if he could commit to attending at least 3 of the meetings it would be a step forward.

	<p>The PC felt that Cllr Whittaker should have notified them of the change to the planning constitution specifically around the change to TPOs. Mr Whittaker is unaware of a mechanism whereby PCs are advised of such changes, however he believed if BDC thought issues were applicable to PCs they would send communications to them but clearly this is not the case. In a report BDC said they were disappointed with the response from Parishes but the PC were not aware of the initiative - how can the PC put their recommendations forward if no one is asking them for their contribution, this is where clearer communication from the District councillor would be beneficial. Another initiative within the district regarding a "Bromsgrove wide" transport scheme is a further area where the PC do not know what is available to their residents – what area does the initiative cover? Mr Whittaker did not know the answer to this.</p> <p>The PC believe that these are the kind of issues Cllr Whittaker should be communicating with the PC on. Also the PC had asked Mr Whittaker to speak to the Planning Authority on a matter requesting a response by 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and as yet he had not responded to them. On this matter Mr Whittaker confirmed that he had spoken to the Planning department, and they did not confirm or deny that they had said the Planning authority would not respond to emails.</p>
<b>6</b>	<b>Progress Reports</b>
a)	<b><u>Village Hall update &amp; upcoming events</u></b> Nothing new to report. The monthly coffee morning is proving very successful.
b)	<b><u>Footpaths</u></b> Still no response from WCC regarding the Parish Council's request for a kissing gate to be installed on High Elms Lane. The Parish Clerk will contact John Milles and ask him to chase his contact.
<b>7</b>	<b>Lengthsman</b>
	<p>Cllr Rands is unaware of whether the speeding sign on the Alcester has been fixed, he will take a look next week. A section of road outside Sheltwood Farm has been reported. Chair Bewsher had asked the Lengthsman to look at flooding on Holyoakes Lane following heavy rain some weeks ago. Mr Cooke had visited the site and the ditches were clear and the flooding had cleared. Cllr Boss said that he had been told by an employee of Ringway that the PC could employ someone to clear ditches etc and WCC would reimburse the money. Mr Cooke did not think this was the case, however Cllrs Boss and Rands would look into it. Mr Cooke asked if the PC were satisfied with the gritting arrangements that had been in place over the last couple of years, the PC were in agreement however, the Clerk would write to WCC Cllr Taylor asking him to look again at extending the routes covered by WCC.</p> <p>With regard to the payment of the Lengthsman invoices whereby WCC do not allow on their invoices to incorporate the VAT element of the invoice, the Clerk and Cllr Rands had agreed that the VAT element that the PC are paying out, should be claimed back from HMRC in line with other invoices (this is how other PCs reclaim the difference also)</p>
<b>8</b>	<b>CALC.</b>
	CALC seem to be focussing on several issues – diversity, bullying, carbon footprint etc that may apply to larger PCs but have little relevance to Bentley. They had recently sent out a Carbon Footprint survey which when Bentley was input into it brought up that the Parish had a huge carbon footprint mainly caused by manufacturing! Cllr Cheape would look at this as obviously it is incorrect.
<b>9</b>	<b>Road Safety</b>
a)	<p>Unfortunately, the 40 mile per hour enforcement zone from the roundabout at Webheath to the edge of Coalash Lane which had been approved by Highways and should have been effective from the end of November 2021 has been overruled by Sarah Gilmour head of Traffic Management at WCC. The PC has written to Ms Gilmour challenging this decision. A letter has also been sent to John Champion of West Mercia Police querying correspondence from the Police to WCC Highways that stated the Police would not be prepared to enforce a 40mph speed limit on the lane – this is clearly contradictory to the Commissioners focus on road safety and the PC have asked for his comments. The PC would like to have a meeting with WCC Cllr K Taylor on his return from holiday to discuss the matter.</p> <p>On the plus side the 30 mph speed signs have now been erected on Banks Green and Manor Road.</p>

b)	Cllr Rands advised that the new Highway Code is encouraging cyclists to wear hi visibility clothing, however Cycling UK are not enforcing it. Cllr Rands had been in contact with the Police regarding the Young Rider Campaign where the Police have been given a sum of £15K to encourage safety mainly it appears by handing out hi vis and lights primarily to younger riders as they feel it is more difficult to encourage older riders to change their habits. There is initiative called "Operation Snap" which is encouraging drivers with dash cam to report any problems. There still appears to be a lack of coordination between the various bodies regarding the issue of safety.
<b>10</b>	<b>Meeting dates 2022</b> – dates were agreed for 2022. Copies of dates will be sent to WCC Cllr Kit Taylor and the Village Hall administration team.
<b>11</b>	<b>Risk assessment</b> – there are some sections of the Standing Orders and Finance regulations which need amending. These changes will be made before the next meeting and the new Risk Assessment document signed off at that meeting.
<b>12</b>	<b>Bentley Bugle 2021</b> Cllr Spence explained the mechanism of distributing the copies – the majority by email and hard copies for people who do not have access to email. There are some minor amendments to be made to the copy circulated today with a distribution date planned for early next week.
<b>13</b>	<b>Crime Prevention Drop in event</b> The drop in event took Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2021. Mike Simpson and two of his officers attended to give advice and "freebies" to help with safety however the attendance, although the event had been well publicised, was very disappointing.
<b>14</b>	<b>Planning &amp; Consultations</b>
a)	<u>Foxydiat Working Party update</u> Chair Bewsher asked BDC Cllr Whittaker whether he had heard when the decision notice would be issued. He said he had heard nothing, but believed the Planning Department was in disarray with several key members of the committee refusing to attend meetings. Chair Bewsher asked him as the Ward Councillor if he could ask the Planning Department for an update, he said he could but he didn't think he would get one! As mentioned in Item 5 above, Chair Bewsher asked Cllr Whittaker whether he had spoken to Ms Bamford regarding her comments of not responding to emails, he had and Ms Bamford did not confirm or deny that she had made the comments. Cllr Whittaker has told the Planning authority he is unhappy with the way Bentley Pauncefoot has been treated with regard to the proposed development. The PC had received a response from Sajid Javid saying that local plans are approved by District, so the PC have now written to Michael Gove explaining the situation. Cllr Rands has written to the donors willing to support the PC in applying for a Judicial Review to advise them that no decision can be made until the Decision Letter is issued.
b)	<u>Barn House Farm</u> Work has commenced on the site and within the first week there were complaints about trees being taken down, noise, start times, mud on the road etc. All conditions for the work should have been on the website prior to work commencing which would have negated the need for the PC to contact BDC about several issues.
c)	<u>Small(er) scale planning applications in the Parish</u> <b>21/01078/FUL</b> – Proposed rear roof extension to form larger bedrooms and addition en suite – Dale House, Woodgate Road, Lower Bentley – a query had been submitted to BDC on the 4 <sup>th</sup> October 2021 – no response as yet <b>21/01528/LBC</b> – Removal of existing flat roof dormer and replacement with new pitched roof – Kennels Cottage, Manor Road, Upper Bentley – Councillors have no objection to this application <b>21/01527/FUL</b> – Removal of existing flat roof dormer and replacement with new pitched roof – Kennels Cottage, Manor Road, Upper Bentley – Councillors have no objection to this application

d)	Dale Birch – Planning Officer - had distributed an email explaining what the suffixes on planning applications refer to. Chair Bewsher asked for Councillor’s approval that the PC ask for clarification on a number of the items with particular regard as to what is on the planning portal and what applications the PC should be consulted on when applications go before the Committee – Councillors agreed.
<b>15</b>	<b>Finance</b>
a)	<p>Vice Chair Spence advised that the PCs spending is in line with budget and financially the PC is in a good position.</p> <p>Parish Council Account xxxx7848 balance as at 27.10.2021                   £9097.07  Footpath Account xxxx8980 balance as at 04.02.2021                   £138.70</p>
b)	<p><u>Payments to Be authorised and paid via BACS -</u></p> <p>A Dyson (October / November salary &amp; exes)                                   £666.41  C Cooke (2 invoices)   £217.98</p>
<b>16</b>	<b>Councillors Reports &amp; Items for Future Agenda</b>
	<p>Vice Chair Spence advised he wished to step down from his role on the Tardebigge Sickness &amp; Relief Charity Committee and asked for another Councillor to take his place. A decision will be made at the PC Meeting in January 2022.</p> <p>A Lower Bentley resident has approached Vice Chair Spence and expressed a concern that Bromsgrove Model Flying Club are able to fly their models 7 days per week and 365 days per year. He asked if the PC would be prepared to approach the Club to ask them to voluntarily limit the number of days per week that they can fly.</p> <p>Chair Bewsher agreed that the matter be placed on the agenda for the January PC.</p> <p>Cllr Whittaker advised that the PC could contact Worcester Regulatory Services and ask them to intervene.</p>
<b>16</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>
	This is scheduled for Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

**Meeting Closed at 20.45**

**Signed:** *Roz Bewsher* Chair

**Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022