

BENTLEY PAUNCEFOOT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Bentley Paucefoot Parish Council Held on Tuesday 15th March 2022 at 7.00pm in the village hall

Present : Cllr R Bewsher – Chair
 Cllr B Spence – Vice Chair
 Cllr A Boss
 Cllr P Meads
 Cllr M Morgan
 Cllr N Rands
 District Cllr P Whittaker

A Dyson - Clerk

Visitors : G Bewsher, RBC Cllr M Dormer, L Halls, T Hills, J Harrop, S Harrop

Public Participation

There were no questions from members of the Public. Cllr Matt Dormer advised that he was attending purely as a visitor but as he was representative for CALC, he was more than happy to give any updates on CALC activities that the PC were interested in.

1	Apologies & Approval of Absence
	Cllr Ron Cheape, DC Cllr Kit Taylor, Chris Cooke (Lengthsman), John Milles (Footpath officer)
2	Minutes
	To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting which was held on 18 th January 2022.
	All items were accepted by Councillors and signed by Chair Bewsher.
	Actions arising from the last meeting – All outstanding items had been completed.
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 Vice Chair Spence and Cllr Rands declared an interest in Item 6 Bromsgrove Model Flying Club as Vice Chair Spence & Cllr Rands are affected by the noise. No other Councillor had any interests to declare.
c)	The Clerk had not received any requests for a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011)
4	Progress Reports
a)	<u>Village Hall update & upcoming events</u> The litter pick took place on Sunday 6 th March 2022 but was not very well attended. In future, the Clerk will ensure that the date and details are sent to all residents. The Clerk has made a complaint to BDC Environmental department as they did not respond to any of her requests for equipment for the pick and it was not until a member of the VH team telephoned a personal contact in the department that arrangements were made. BDC Cllr Peter Whittaker said he would speak to the Portfolio holder regarding this matter.
b)	<u>Footpaths</u> John Milles advised the Clerk that he has now been in contact with Patrick White of WCC who has promised he will visit Mr Milles shortly.

5	<p>Tardebigge Relief, in need & Sickness Charity</p> <p>Vice Chair Spence has requested a meeting with the Treasurer and Secretary to create a comprehensive Quarterly Financial Report in order to better inform the Trustees of the Trust's financial position.</p>
6	<p>Bromsgrove Model Flying Club</p> <p>A proposal has been received from Alan Brown, Chairman of the BMFC with a proposal that they limit flying to between the hours of 10 AM and 4 PM Monday to Friday and 10 AM to 2 PM on Saturdays and Sundays. This would be in effect a reduction of 17 hours flying per week.</p> <p>Vice Chair Spence telephoned Mr Brown and stated that whilst this was an encouraging proposal however it still means flying noisy IC models every day and asked him to consider introducing three days (including one at the weekend) when either no flying took place or only electric powered models can be used. Alan Brown said that he would put this request before his Committee and get back to Vice Chair Spence. The PC were happy for Vice Chair Spence to carry on communications with Mr Brown on the PCs behalf.</p>
7	<p>Commemorative Tree planting – Queens Jubilee</p> <p>The tree has now been ordered and paid for by WCC Cllr Kit Taylor – the PC thanks him for his donation. The site of the tree will be near the bridle path close to the telephone box. An area of land and hedging will be cleared for this. Once in place a plaque will be commissioned to go alongside the tree. Cllr Cheape will suggest the wording for the plaque</p>
8	<p>CALC</p> <p>Chair Bewsher and the Clerk attended the last meeting via Zoom. Both felt that the content of the meeting bore little relevance to what is happening in our Parish and that agenda items were too far reaching. RDC Cllr Matt Dormer said he would be happy to meet with Bentley Pauncefoot PC separately and take any items of concern to the next CALC meeting that he attends.</p>
9	<p>Road Safety Campaign</p> <p>One of the reasons WCC gave for refusing to reduce the speed limit to 40mph on Cur Lane / Copyholt Lane was that the Police would not enforce the lower speed limit. The PC asked for a meeting with the local SNT which took place 15th March 2022. The officers from the SNT said they could not carry out speed enforcement on the lanes as currently the limit was 60mph and the safety of their officers was a concern due to there being no safe off-road areas to stand. They also said that accident and speed data did not back up a need for a speed reduction on those lanes. RBC Cllr Dormer agreed, based on the data, that the Police have a good argument to say no but he would speak to WCC Cllr Alan Amos on our behalf. Chair Bewsher told him that BPPC believe basing the decision on accidents is not acceptable and thanked him for offering to speak to Cllr Amos. Another reason for refusing to lower the speed limit is that Copyholt Lane continues into Stoke Parish. Chair Bewsher and Vice Chair Spence attended Stoke Priors PC meeting to advise what Bentley were discussing with Highways and request they support reducing the speed limit to 40mph along the length of Copyholt Lane that is in Stoke's parish. The Minutes of this meeting have not yet been published so we are not aware of what decision has been made.</p>
10	<p>Planning & Consultations</p> <p>a) <u>Foxlydiate Working party – update</u></p> <p>Since the last PC meeting, the decision notice for the Foxlydiate development has been issued. A number of mitigation impact requests, particularly with regard to traffic concerns, that the PC had asked for have not been included. Chair Bewsher and Vice Chair Spence, acting on behalf of the PC, have been in correspondence with Barristers who believe that several concerns have not been properly addressed and therefore the decision has been made to go to first stage of a judicial review. A pre action protocol letter was sent to the Planning Authority for BDC and RBC and also to the Developer who refuted the claims. The PCs chosen legal team has reviewed the response and felt there are grounds to take the matter further. Documents have now been submitted to a Judge for his review to ascertain if there is a case going forward.</p>

	<p>Flyers have been distributed to the residents on Foxlydiat Lane and surrounding area advising them of what the PC are trying to achieve. If the case does go to Court monies will have to be raised to cover the costs. It is proposed if this were the case a public meeting would be held inviting Bentley and Webheath residents explaining what is happening. Currently, thanks to several donations from residents, the PC is financially viable to cover costs so far.</p> <p>No decision has been made on the Foxlydiat Hotel.</p>												
b)	<p><u>Small(er) scale planning applications in the Parish</u> 20/10568/FUL – Redevelopment and change of use to a large portion of an existing mixed use commercial site known as Cur Lane Farm, involving the demolition of existing storage buildings and the erection of 7 new homes, set out around 2 new courtyards, access from a new roadway ingress off Cur Lane. Two of the existing storage barns will remain to the northern end of the site – this application was rejected at a BDC planning meeting on 07.03-2022 – one of the reasons being it was unsustainable. RDC Cllr Matt Dormer said it was a timing issue and that once facilities had been developed on the proposed Foxlydiat site that permission would be granted for this application as it would then be classed as sustainable.</p>												
11	<p>Finance</p> <p><u>Parish Clerk Salary increase</u> CALC had issued salary increase guidelines backdated to April 2021. Councillors agreed with this.</p> <p>Vice Chair Spence advised that new Council tax figures had been received by residents showing increases in all services except for the PC costs which were -1.4%. This was in line with the PC's decision in January not to increase the Precept request this year.</p> <p>Vice Chair Spence distributed a spreadsheet to all Councillors showing the current financial position, he made it clear that any donations received towards the cost of a judicial review were shown separately to the main cash of the PC. He thanked Cllrs Boss and Rands for their efforts in securing these donations, currently standing at £14,370.00 and felt it demonstrated that people had confidence in the PC and what they were trying to achieve on their behalf.</p> <table> <tr> <td>Parish Council Bank Account xxxx7848 as at 25.02.2022</td> <td>£16037.29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Footpath Bank Account xxxx8980 as at 04.02.2022</td> <td>£138.70</td> </tr> </table> <p>Payments To Be authorised and paid via BACS –</p> <table> <tr> <td>Richard Buxton Solicitors</td> <td>£2000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A Dyson (Feb / March salary & exes)</td> <td>£632.88</td> </tr> </table> <p>Received monies</p> <table> <tr> <td>WCC Lengthsman remittance</td> <td>£289.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donations towards judicial review</td> <td>£14,370.00</td> </tr> </table>	Parish Council Bank Account xxxx7848 as at 25.02.2022	£16037.29	Footpath Bank Account xxxx8980 as at 04.02.2022	£138.70	Richard Buxton Solicitors	£2000.00	A Dyson (Feb / March salary & exes)	£632.88	WCC Lengthsman remittance	£289.20	Donations towards judicial review	£14,370.00
Parish Council Bank Account xxxx7848 as at 25.02.2022	£16037.29												
Footpath Bank Account xxxx8980 as at 04.02.2022	£138.70												
Richard Buxton Solicitors	£2000.00												
A Dyson (Feb / March salary & exes)	£632.88												
WCC Lengthsman remittance	£289.20												
Donations towards judicial review	£14,370.00												
12	<p>Lengthsman – issues / updates</p> <p>The contract for 2022 / 2023 has been received from WCC. The Chair and Vice Chair will check the content, the Clerk will then sign the document and return it to WCC. A new Service Contract will then be issued to Chris Cooke. The funding from WCC has slightly increased. Chair Bewsher said that there is a limited number of gritting routes and only one gritting bin within Bentley Pauncefoot, previously the PC has asked WCC Cllr Kit Taylor if routes could be increased, and another bin obtained. The Clerk will chase Mr Taylor for a response.</p>												
13	<p>Report from County Councillor</p> <p>District Councillor Taylor was unable to attend the meeting. Previously he had said he would try and arrange a meeting with Cllr Alan Amos and Sarah Gilmore regarding the speed limit on Cur / Copyholt Lanes – the Clerk will chase for a response on this. As Item 12 above, the Clerk will chase WCC Cllr Taylor with regarding to extending gritting routes within the Parish and getting another grit bin.</p>												

14	Report from District Council Cllr Whittaker will speak to the Portfolio holder regarding the lack of response from Environmental department to the request for equipment for the litter pick.
15	Councillors Reports & Items for Future Agenda Chair Bewsher advised that she been informed that the update gigabit voucher scheme expires at the end of March. However, as no fibre has yet been installed she had requested that this date be extended to the end of July 2022 as hopefully the work will be completed by the end of May 2022.
16	Date of Next Meeting This is scheduled for Tuesday 17 th May 2022 at 7.30pm, preceded by the Annual Meeting at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.
The meeting closed to the Public at 21.00	
	Parish Councillors Roles & Responsibilities Chair Bewsher reminded Councillors that the next meeting in May was the start of the new year and it was now time to think about everyone's roles and responsibilities going forward. Vice Chair Spence distributed the current roles and asked everyone to consider the list and said if there was currently a role that someone was covering that anyone else would like to take on this was perfectly acceptable. It is likely that Chair Bewsher and Vice Chair Spence will stand down from their positions in May 2023.

Signed:

Date:

DRAFT