

BENTLEY PAUNCEFOOT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Bentley Pauncefoot Parish Council Held on Tuesday 17th May 2022 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr R Bewsher Chair
Cllr B Spence Vice Chair
Cllr N Rands
Cllr R Cheape
Cllr P Meads
Cllr M Morgan

A Dyson – Clerk & RFO

Visitors: G Bewsher, J Milles

Public Participation: No questions or issues were raised

1	<u>Apologies:</u> Cllr A Boss
2	<u>Minutes and Actions:</u> The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 15 th March 2022 were accepted and approved by Councillors. They were signed by Chair Bewsher. All outstanding actions had been completed.
3	<u>Declarations of Interest:</u>
a)	Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda - Nothing to declare
b)	Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda - Cllr Cheape declared an interest regarding footpaths that cross his land
c)	Written requests to the clerk to grant a dispensation - The Clerk had not received any requests for a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011)
4	<u>Progress Reports:</u>
a)	Village Hall Update: - The monthly coffee mornings have now ceased for three months through the summer - Chair Bewsher encouraged all Councillors to attend the forthcoming Jubilee event to be held on Friday 3 rd June - The Village Hall Team had asked if the Parish Council would be willing to donate towards a commemorative gift for all the children attending the Jubilee event. Options of a mug or special commemorative coin were discussed and Cllrs agreed to donate £175 to the Village Hall Team with the suggestion of the commemorative coin. Action: Clerk to transfer money to the Village Hall Team
b)	Footpaths: John Milles has resigned as Footpaths Warden. Chair Bewsher thanked him for his efforts on behalf of the Parish over the last few years. She requested John introduce Cllr Morgan to his contact at WCC John told the PC about some maps etc of the Parish that he has in his possession dating back to the 1950s. He was asked if he would pass them to the Parish Council and they may form an interesting article for the Bugle. The Bridlepath between Upper and Lower Bentley has been unusable for many years.

	<p>Bridlepaths are important for walkers and horse riders especially with the growing danger of using the lanes. It is felt this bridlepath is particularly important given its length. Cllr Morgan agreed to take an action to persuade WCC to carry out the work required to make it usable.</p> <p>Some trees are partially obstructing a footpath that crosses Cllr Cheape's land. He agreed to liaise with John Milles, Cllr Morgan and WCC to get them removed.</p> <p>Actions: Cllr Morgan to liaise with John to meet Patrick White of WCC Anne to contact John and ask him to send the PC the maps etc that he has Cllr Morgan to discuss carrying out the necessary works to make the bridlepath usable Cllr Cheape to liaise with WCC etc to clear the footpath obstructed by fallen trees</p>
5	<p><u>Tardebigge Relief, In Need & Sickness Charity Update:</u></p> <p>Vice Chair Spence provided an update on the work to 'professionalise' financial reporting within the Trust. His investigations highlighted that the signatories for the Trust were, in fact, no longer Trustees and therefore needed to be replaced by two current Trustees including Vice Chair Spence. A spreadsheet, very much along the lines of that used by the Parish Council has been introduced.</p> <p>Vice Chair Spence requested that the item be removed from the agenda going forward, however he would keep the Parish Council informed of any significant developments within the Charity</p>
6	<p><u>Bromsgrove Model Flying Club:</u></p> <p>Following a complaint from a resident the Parish Council had obtained a commitment from the Flying Club to reduce their flying hours significantly by 17 hours as follows:</p> <p>Monday to Thursday 10am to 4pm Friday 2pm to 7pm (Summer)/10am to 4pm (Winter) Saturday 10am to 2pm Sunday 10am to 2pm</p> <p>The Parish Council had further requested that several days be considered "no-flying days" or limited to silent electronic model aeroplanes.</p> <p>Vice Chair Spence read out a response from Mr Alan Brown, the Chairman of the Flying Club stating that the introduction of such no-flying days "would threaten the viability and future of the club as a whole".</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was agreed that Vice Chair Spence should thank Mr Brown for the concessions made and acknowledge that the Parish Council had no wish for the club to completely "fold". - Vice Chair Spence agreed to monitor the application of the new flying timetable and report back to the Parish Council should problems arise. - Vice Chair Spence to inform the resident who first raised the matter. - Cllr Cheape to inform G. Gibbs
7	<p><u>Commemorative Tree Planting:</u></p> <p>The area for the commemorative tree has been cleared. The Parish Council thank P. and M. Gibbs for allowing the hedge to be trimmed back to create the space. It was agreed that Cllr Cheape should plant the tree in readiness for the Jubilee celebration. He will also suggest wording for the plaque.</p> <p>Cllr Boss suggested a commemorative bench also be placed at the site but this was not agreed on the basis that the cost would be prohibitive and it was felt that the site was not suitable.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr Cheape to plant tree and suggest wording for the plaque - Cllr Boss to pass on the Parish Council's thanks to P and M Gibbs

8	CALC: No Updates
9	Road Safety Campaign:
a)	<p>Speed Limit Update Stoke PC has agreed to write to WCC Highways supporting our request to lower the speed limit on Copyholt Lane to 40mph and request that it is extended along the full length of Copyholt Lane.</p> <p>Chair Bewsher had watched a presentation by '20sPlenty' they are asking all Parish Councils to sign motions requesting 20mph speed limits. Their arguments regarding the risk to vulnerable users involved in accidents with cars travelling at speeds greater than 20mph are as relevant on rural lanes as they are in urban areas.</p> <p>As the West Mercia Road Safety Team have not responded to direct contact from the Parish Council nor a request via the local SNT Chair Bewsher has asked County Councillor Kit Taylor to request a meeting on the PC's behalf.</p> <p>Mike Rouse has replaced Alan Amos as Portfolio Holder for Highways at WCC. The Parish Council has written to Sustrans querying the decision to redirect NCN5 away from Pumphouse Lane onto Cur Lane which seems contrary to their stated aim to make more of the routes traffic-free where possible.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr Meads to maintain pressure for a meeting with WCC Highways and the Road Safety Team regarding the speed limit on Cur and Copyholt Lanes
b)	<p>Cycling Cllr Rands advised the Parish Council that following the work on the new Highway Code and his work contacting various cycling and equestrian organisations he felt the item could now be closed. Chair Bewsher thanked him for his efforts and the item will now be included in the general Road Safety Campaign</p>
10	Planning and Consultations:
a)	<p>Foxlydiat Working Party Update:</p> <p>Foxlydiat Hotel application: The application finally went before the planning committee. Once again the Parish Council was given little notice. Cllr Boss spoke on behalf of the PC pointing out important policies that the application failed and no justification for that failure had been provided. The Planning Committee approved the application although the decision notice has not been issued as the S106 agreement still needs to be signed.</p> <p>Foxlydiat (for 2560 dwellings): The PC is still waiting to hear whether their application to apply for a Judicial Review of the Foxlydiat decision will be approved. Both the Defendants (Redditch and Bromsgrove Councils) and the Interested Party (one of the applicants) responded to our application with their 'Statement of Grounds of Resistance'. These documents put forward their arguments against the grounds we have submitted. There was nothing in the documents that changed our position. Also, where they had previously stated that they would 'rigorously oppose' the PC's application for a cost cap, no justification was put forward for this and their response merely stated that it is for the Judge to decide. The PC provided our Barrister with our comments and he drafted a reply which has also been submitted to the Court.</p> <p>If permission is granted the PC will call a community meeting for residents of Bentley Pouncefoot and Webheath to decide how to proceed.</p> <p>The financial implications of the Judicial Review process are a key consideration. Further to the email sent to Councillors on 12 April, Vice Chair Spence went through the likely scenarios once again to ensure all Councillors are aware of the impact of the Judge's decision on the cost cap.</p>

	<p>b) Small(er) scale planning applications in the Parish – new notifications/Updates: 22/00459/FUL Oak Tree Cottage, Copyholt Lane. Change of use of land to equestrian and construction of an outdoor equestrian manege 45m x 25m for private use only.</p> <p>The PC has no objection to this application and noted all the comments from the public citing the dangers of riding on the lanes through the Parish particularly Copyholt Lane</p>
11	<p>Finance:</p>
	<p>a) Year End AGAR:</p> <p>Vice Chair Spence gave a brief review of the independent audit received on 26 April 2022. All actions highlighted were being addressed by the Parish Clerk. In relation to item E (income) all monies related to the donations from the community as a fighting fund for legal action in relation to Foxlydiate have been and will continue to be clearly “earmarked” in the monthly financial report and will be used solely for the purpose intended, namely legal support.</p> <p>The accounts were duly signed off by Chair Bewsher</p>
	<p>b) Consider payments/receipts as per Clerk’s Correspondence List</p> <p>All documents listed below were mailed to Councillors prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Vice Chair Spence updated Councillors on the financial position of the PC and the potential cash flow impact relating to costs which will arise from the application for permission for a Judicial Review of the Foxlydiate planning application approval. This had been set out previously in an email to the Parish Councillors on 12 April.</p> <p>Parish Council Account (Account Number xxxx 7848) Balance at 27.04.2022 - £21333.31</p> <p>Footpath Account (Account Number xxxx 8980) Balance at 04.02.2022 - £138.70</p> <p>Payments to be authorised and paid via BACS – Frank Matthews (jubilee tree) £53.00 (already paid) DM Payroll (auditor) £ 75.00 A Dyson (April / May salary, exes & backdated pay rise) £910.79 Richard Buxton Solicitors inv 1007 £4768.48 Richard Buxton Solicitors inv 1008 £4310.40 C Cooke £231.90 C Cooke £1020 Zurich insurance £244.72</p> <p>Received monies WCC Lengthsman remittance £264.00 WCC Contribution to Jubilee tree £100.00 BDC First Half Precept £3565.50</p> <p>All payments were approved.</p>
12	<p>Lengthsman:</p> <p>No reported issues</p>
13	<p>Report from County Councillor:</p> <p>No report received from the County Councillor</p>

14	<u>Report from District Councillor:</u> No report received from the District Councillor
15	<u>Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agenda:</u> Cllr Rands noted that a finger post was broken in Lower Bentley. He had reported it to WCC who noted that 'it was not a safety hazard'
16	<u>Date of Next Meeting:</u> The next Ordinary Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 19 th July 2022 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Meeting Closed at 20.39

Signed:

Chair, Bentley Pauncefoot Parish Council

Date:

DRAFT