

## **BENTLEY PAUNCEFOOT PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Bentley Paucefoot Parish Council Held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllr R Cheape                      Chair    C Wood – Clerk & RFO  
 Cllr N Rands                      Vice Chair  
 Cllr M Morgan  
 Cllr B Coleman

**Visitors:** B, Dyson, L Hancock, G Bewsher, WCC Cllr K Taylor, District Cllr P Whittaker,  
 SNT PCSO J Evans

#### **Public Participation:**

A parishioner complained regarding waste bins left outside a property on Manor Road – concern around potential hazard / fly tipping. Chair Cheape to follow the matter up. PCSO Jonathan Evans to look into road safety concerns.

G Bewsher requested an update on Copyholt Lane (discussed under Item No. 13)

1	<b><u>Apologies :</u></b> Cllr A Boss, C Cooke
2	<b><u>Minutes and Actions:</u></b> The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 were accepted and approved by Councillors. They were signed by Chair Cheape. All outstanding matters had been dealt with other than the outstanding response from Paul Green re Copyholt Lane (discussed under Item No. 13)
3	<b><u>Declarations of Interest:</u></b>
a	Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda Nothing to declare
b	Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda Nothing to declare
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	<b><u>Village Hall Update</u></b> <b><u>Forthcoming Events:</u></b> <b><i>Bentley Village Hall Christmas Lunch</i></b> – 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2023: 11.00am walk, 1.00pm lunch. All tickets now sold. <b><i>Pantomime at Bentley Village Hall</i></b> – “Puss in Boots” - 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2024, 2.30pm. Bookings to be made via the link: <a href="https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/46959">https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/46959</a>
5	<b><u>Footpaths Update:</u></b> Cllr Morgan reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patrick White, Senior Public Rights of Way Officer, WCC dealing with repair of gates/bridges at the rear of Tardebigge Farm to Copyholt Lane across to Sheltwood Lane and back towards Pikes Pool Lane.</li> </ul>

6	<p><b>CALC</b></p> <p>Update from the Clerk</p> <p>WCC upgrading IT Systems, impacting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MyParishAdmin – this will no longer be on WCC website affecting BPPC who currently use the website. CALC will look at website providers offering a group rate for those PC's affected.</li> <li>• Lengthsman service – will be an automated portal and no longer a manual process.</li> </ul>																				
7	<p><b>Road Safety Campaign</b></p> <p>Background to this is that former Chair Bewsher and Cllr Meads met with Bob Haines, Paul Green and Paul Waterhouse on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023. The take away from the meeting was that the police confirmed they would enforce a 40ph speed limit, contrary to the statement by WCC. Following the meeting, former Chair Bewsher sent a document justifying why the lane should be 40mph to Paul Green of WCC on 30th January 2023. Despite numerous follow up calls and emails the Parish Council still await a response (See Item No. 13).</p>																				
8	<p><b>Social Media</b></p> <p>There have been three separate areas fly-tipped in the Parish.</p> <p>Anyone can report fly-tipping on the WCC Highways Portal.</p> <p>Providing the “<i>what3words</i>” code gives an accurate location and easier identification of site.</p>																				
9	<p><b>Planning and Consultations:</b></p>																				
a)	<p><b>Foxlydiate Working Party</b></p> <p>Chair Cheape had attended a meeting with Cllr Karen May who gave reassurance in relation to the parish boundary and BPPC growing in terms of electorate. Cllr May advised that it is a huge opportunity for the parish to write a wish list to the developer e.g., heat network, cycle paths, bus services, neighbourhood watch etc. Cllr May is keen to meet with residents to consult with them. Chair Cheape suggested progressing this after the January 2024 meeting.</p>																				
b)	<p><b>Neighbourhood Planning</b></p> <p>Cllr Rands researched grant funding, current window closes March 2024, £10,000 funding available with a further £8,000 which could be used for training, developing a website - needs to align with BDC strategy.</p> <p>It was agreed to wait and pursue the Cllr May consultation with residents before applying for funding.</p>																				
10	<p><b>Finance</b></p>																				
a)	<p><b>2024/2025 Budget and precept consideration</b></p> <p>The draft budget was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting for their consideration.</p>																				
b)	<table> <tr> <td>Parish Council Account Bank Balance as at 27.10.23</td> <td>£7,031.09</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(Account Number xxxx7848)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Footpath Account Bank Balance as at 03.02.2023</td> <td>£138.70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(Account Number xxxx8980)</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Consider payments to be paid via BACS – approved by all Councillors</u></p> <table> <tr> <td>C Wood (Salary &amp; exes) (October 2023)</td> <td>£312.97</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C Wood (Salary &amp; exes) (November 2023)</td> <td>£291.55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C Cooke invoice 6014</td> <td>£ 96.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C Cooke invoice 6019</td> <td>£352.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BDC Election Expenses 4/5/23 recharge expenses</td> <td>£118.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PFK Littlejohn LLP – Annual Return 2022/2023</td> <td>£252.00</td> </tr> </table>	Parish Council Account Bank Balance as at 27.10.23	£7,031.09	(Account Number xxxx7848)		Footpath Account Bank Balance as at 03.02.2023	£138.70	(Account Number xxxx8980)		C Wood (Salary & exes) (October 2023)	£312.97	C Wood (Salary & exes) (November 2023)	£291.55	C Cooke invoice 6014	£ 96.00	C Cooke invoice 6019	£352.80	BDC Election Expenses 4/5/23 recharge expenses	£118.00	PFK Littlejohn LLP – Annual Return 2022/2023	£252.00
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	<b>Received monies</b>	
	WCC Lengthsman payments (7.11.23)	£472.75
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Half Precept (3.10.23)	£3,744.00
11	<b>Lengthsman</b>	
	No report / update received.	
12	<b>Police / SNT Update</b>	
	Twelve weeks into the role. Intend to be a visible presence in the community. Happy to deal with speeding concerns, fly tipping. Provided contact details to the Clerk. Would look into the speeding issue on Copyholt Lane. Discussion around speeding on Forest Lane Hanbury on the narrow bridge, where there have been 3 separate accidents. Considered signage may help, will visit the site (although outside of the Bentley Pauncefoot Parish boundary).	
13	<b>Report from County Councillor:</b>	
	Discussion around Paul Green / Copyholt Lane outstanding report. WCC Cllr Taylor asked for the information to be provided to him to progress this. Richard Cenci is the Highways Liaison Officer and would be contacted by the PC. WCC Cllr Taylor discussed the difficulties in getting the speed limit lowered on Copyholt Lane, following the data cable analysis which indicated no speeding problems and also not meeting the criteria. Surface dressing has been done to parts where the road was slippery. Paul Middleton Assistant PCC for West Mercia Police has failed to respond.	
	<b>Floods noted in the following areas:</b>	
	<b>Feckenham / Bentley Pauncefoot border</b> – standing water in the road previously raised by Lengthsman Chris Cooke. Appears to be a crushed or blocked culvert. Richard Cenci and his opposite number in Redditch are progressing this.	
	<b>Upper Gambolds Lane (Finstall Parish)</b> – always flooded. WCC Cllr Taylor will feed back to Finstall PC.	
	<b>High Elms Lane</b> – Blocked culvert.	
	<b>Flood risk timetable</b> – Practical operations / cleaning of gulley / culverts/drains – timetable required for works – should be once a year. Lengthsman can no longer deal with these issues due to H&S. WCC Highways responsible who sub-contract to Ringway.	
	Highlighted the importance of reporting issues on WCC Highways Portal and to WCC Cllr Kit Taylor and District Cllr Peter Whittaker. Use “ <i>what3words</i> ” to pinpoint the location.	
14	<b>Report from District Councillor:</b>	
	District Cllr Whittaker asked the resident who had raised the issue about waste bins left out on Manor Road to provide him with the information.	
	<b>New Environment Act 2021</b> – Task group formed and all districts in Bromsgrove can't introduce it until 2027.	
	<b>Council's finances to end of March 2023</b> – overspent by £1.2m (has to show a balanced budget, used £300,000 and reserves to balance). Wages increased by £750,000 for staff. Savings and challenges have been identified. Budget set February 2024 (following notification from central government of funding provided to BDC in December 2023). Biggest overspend areas impacted by rising fuel prices, maintenance of vehicles.	
15	<b>Bentley Bugle</b>	
	Chair Cheape updated the meeting on the variety of articles and photographs received from residents. Once all articles are received will start to be pulled together.	
16	<b>Dates for Meetings - 2024</b>	
	It was resolved the meetings could continue to take place the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, every two months from 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2024.	

17	<b>Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agenda:</b> None.
18	<b>Date of Next Meeting:</b> The next Ordinary Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

**Meeting Closed at 19.58**

**Signed:** *R Cheape*

**Chair, Bentley Pauncefoot Parish Council**

**Date: 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024**