

## **BENTLEY PAUNCEFOOT PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Bentley Pouncefoot Parish Council Held on Tuesday 17 September 2024 and which was adjourned and held on Wednesday 25 September 2024 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall (due to the meeting on Tuesday 17 September 2024 not being quorate)**

**Present:** Cllr N Rands (Chair) C Wood – Clerk & RFO  
Cllr M Morgan (Vice Chair)  
Cllr B Coleman  
Cllr A Boss  
District Councillor P Whittaker

**Visitors:** 2 members of the public – names entered in the signing in book

#### **Public Participation:**

No members of the public wished to raise any matters.

#### **1. Apologies**

C Cooke, Cllr Taylor

#### **2. Minutes and Actions**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 16 July 2024 were reviewed.

**Approved by all Councillors. The Minutes were signed by Cllr Rands.**

#### **3. Declarations of Interest**

- a. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda  
Nothing to declare
- b. Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda  
Cllr Rands declared a disclosable interest in Item 15 Perrymill on the basis that it could be perceived that he could have a biased view because he is a neighbour.
- c. Written requests to the clerk to grant a dispensation  
The Clerk received a request for a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) from Cllr Rands in relation to Item Number 11(c) - Perrymill Farm, on the Agenda. The Clerk exercised her duty to grant dispensation to Cllr Rands on Item No. 11(c) on this Agenda due to it being a parish concern raised by the residents of Bentley Pouncefoot seeking the Parish Council's assistance with this neighbourhood concern.

#### **4. Village Hall Update**

- Busy with functions and children's parties.
- Harvest Supper – 12 October 2024
- Christmas party will be organised and advertised in due course.

#### **5. Footpaths Update**

- Bridleway off Manor Road overgrown – Cllr Morgan will follow up with WCC.
- Still working on trimming back hedges on bridleways.
- Wormingtons / Mays are making arrangements to put in swing fences on public footpaths from Tardebigge working towards Lower Bentley.

**6. CALC Issues / Updates**

- WCC still considering removing MyParishAdmin section from Worcestershire County Council website. No decision made to date, but in the meantime CALC are looking to obtain quotes from website development companies on behalf of all those Parish Councils who would be affected.
- CALC Meeting in August – Presentation from SNT Insp. R Field who confirmed the police actively pursue shoplifters & work collaboratively with shops in Bromsgrove and Redditch, to identify perpetrators and pursue action against them.

**7. Road Safety Campaign**

- Discussion around safety measures which could be looked into i.e., rumble strips, chicane – none were considered to be appropriate along Cur Lane / Copyholt Lane.

**8. Speeding on Cur Lane / Copyholt Lane**

- Following receipt of the WCC Highways report which didn't recommend lowering the speed limit; it was considered that this would make the lanes more dangerous, Councillors discussed the way forward.
- Recent communication from Stoke Parish Council who had raised concerns regarding speeding along Copyholt Lane falling into their Parish boundary.
- A copy of the WCC Highways report has been forwarded to Stoke Parish Council.
- Contact County Councillor K Taylor to request further traffic data analysis to be carried out (the last one was carried out in 2018). Cllr Coleman to liaise with Stoke Parish Council.

**9. Social Media**

- Gates were being lifted off hinges and dropped on the ground nearby.
- A grey Ford transit van had been driving round acting suspiciously and claiming to be from Severn Trent – HK73 UVG – residents please be aware.

**10. Bentley Bugle**

- Cllr Rands asked for feedback on whether the Parish Council thought it would be a good idea to publish a copy of the Bugle bi-annually (so next edition would be published in 2025). Councillors agreed to this proposal. Cllr Boss offered to help with progressing this in 2025.

**Action: Update on the Bugle to be provided at the November Parish Council meeting.**

**11. Planning & Consultations**

**a) Foxlydiat Working Party**

- The Parish Council contacted by a concerned resident at the Foxlydiat site about the felling of oak trees with TPO orders on them. Cllr Rands was advised by BDC tree officer that any planning permission overrides TPO orders.
- District Cllr Whittaker would investigate this further, as he indicated that planning permission does not override a TPO order.

**Foxlydiat Community Governance Review**

- R Bewsher updated the Parish Council about a recent meeting with Cllr Karen May which she had attended with Cllr Rands and C Wood – discussion around the content of the meeting and advantages and disadvantages raised with Councillors.
- The Parish Council agreed that they wish to pursue working on a community governance review and R Bewsher, Cllr Rands and Cllr Coleman would work on formulating a letter to be sent to residents in the Parish.

**Action: Clerk to provide up to date register of electors to Cllrs.**

**b) 24/00509/FUL – The Croft, Banks Green, Upper Bentley, Worcestershire**

Rear single storey extension and dormers.

No objection from Parish Council.

**Action: Clerk to submit Parish Council's response.**

**24/00412/FUL - Keys Cottage, Woodgate Road, Lower Bentley**

Update following submission to BDC 6 June 2024.

**No BDC decision at date of meeting.**

**c) Perrymill Farm**

- Emails from the Parish Council which had been sent to Cllr Karen May and Head of Planning, Ruth Bamford had been forwarded to Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) two months ago and since raised with Cllr K Taylor and Ruth Bamford but no response or update had been received to date.
- District Cllr Whittaker advised what he considered to be the process regarding WRS and ongoing enforcement cases.

**12. Temporary Event Notices**

To apply for a temporary event notice an application needs to be made to Bromsgrove District Council (District Cllr Whittaker explained the process). The Parish Council had contacted WRS to enquire as to whether they could be notified of temporary event notices issued (the Police and Environmental Health are current consultees notified). District Cllr Whittaker will liaise with County Cllr Taylor to progress.

**13. Finance**

- a. **Bank Reconciliation** – Councillors were provided with bank statements and bank reconciliations for the periods 31 July 2024 and 31 August 2024.

**Bank statements and bank reconciliations approved by the Parish Council.**

- b. The following invoices were approved for payment by the Parish Council. Once approved the Clerk would add payments using online banking, to be authorised by one Councillor (Clerk payments are not published and are confidential to the Parish Council).

Invoice	Number	Amount
Clerks Salary (August and September 2024)		
Clerks Expenses (Augusts and September 2024)		
HMRC (direct debit 22/10/2024)		£72.40
Village Hall (additional rental for reconvened Parish Council meeting 25/09/2024)		£20.00

**Action: Clerk to add to payments using online banking, to be authorised by one Councillor.**

- c. The following payment to be authorised by the Parish Council for additional Village Hall fees incurred (meeting adjourned from Tuesday 17 September 2024 to Wednesday 25 September 2024):

Invoice	Number	Amount
Village Hall Hire (additional hire 25/09/24)		£20.00

- d. Councillors confirmed approval of the Lengthsman invoice approved outside of the ordinary meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> September, adjourned until 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024 (the invoice had been emailed to Councillors on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2024 and in order to not delay payment of the invoice to the Lengthsman the Parish Council authorised payment to be made from Barclays Bank current account ending xxxx7848:.

Invoice	Number	Amount
C Cooke Lengthsman	6400	£136.50

- e. The following monies were received by the Parish Council (into the Barclays Bank current account ending xxxx7848):

Invoice	Number	Amount
WCC (Lengthsman)	6339	£99.75

#### 14. Parish Councillor Vacancy

Councillors were asked if they could promote the Councillor vacancy.

#### 15. Battery Storage Facility

A Councillor from Bentley Pauncefoot had been invited and had attended a public meeting arranged by Feckenham Parish Council regarding the planning applications for battery storage facilities in Feckenham. Fifty containers were approved in 2022, there are further applications for 400 and 200. Feckenham Parish Council have carried out a huge amount of research, the following elements were raised:

- **Fire risk** - if a unit catches fire and spreads difficult to put out / would take huge amounts of water (likely to use whole of Redditch water supply) and where would the water drain off to / risk of contamination. Smoke generated from a fire would impact local residents (not thought to be a risk to Bentley Pauncefoot Parish at this stage).
- **Noise pollution** – generated from air conditioning units to keep the batteries cool.
- **Greenbelt land** – Government promoting renewables/battery storage is needed to meet net zero targets.
- **Grid connection** – has to be capacity.

The Parish Council to be kept updated on developments with this item.

#### 16. Lengthsman

Update on behalf of Chris Cooke (who was unable to attend) from Councillors:

- High Elms Lane – Ditch and culverts need to be kept clear from debris and vegetation – once a high amount of rainfall, Chris will check the issue.
- Fosters Green (Woodgate Road) vegetation / overhanging tree branches – Chris spoken to the resident who had hedge / tree works carried out to request the vegetations and overhanging branches be tidied up.
- Grangeford House – drainage to be checked.
- Banks Green – flooding resolved / drains unblocked by WCC Highways.

#### 17. Police / SNT

Nothing to report.

**18. Report from County Councillor**

- Update provided regarding TPO oak tree removal on the Foxlydiat development after concerns raised by residents and attendance by Cllr Rands and BDC Senior Tree Officer. Planning Department confirmed approval gained for removal.

**19. Report from District Councillor**

- Discussion around the need to build more houses (increased from 386 to 704 per annum) and the various sites explored to meet the demand under the Local Plan (understood to be over 300 sites under consideration).

**20. Councillors Reports & items for future Agenda**

No items to be considered.

**22. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Bentley Pauncefoot Parish Council will take place on Tuesday 19 November 2024 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

**Meeting Closed at 8:25pm**

**Signed:**

**Chair, Bentley Pauncefoot Parish Council**

