

BENTLEY PAUNCEFOOT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Bentley Pouncefoot Parish Council Held on Tuesday 18 March 2025 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr N Rands (Chair) C Wood – Clerk & RFO
Cllr M Morgan (Vice Chair)
Cllr A Boss
Cllr W Davies

Visitors: 3 members of the public – names entered in the signing in book

Public Participation:

- Roadworks on Birchfield Road, advised 37 days for the current one way traffic system. Discussion around permanent access once the first phase of houses are constructed and requirements to build other access.
- Footpaths and styles in the parish in need of repair / replacement. Cllr Morgan is meeting with WCC Public Rights of Way Officer to discuss.

1. Apologies

Cllr K Taylor, Cllr P Whittaker, C Cooke (Lengthsman)

2. Minutes and Actions

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 21 January 2025 were reviewed.

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

Proposed: Cllr Boss, Seconded: Cllr Morgan

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
Nothing to declare
- c. Written requests to the clerk to grant a dispensation
The Clerk had not received any requests for dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011)

4. SNT / Police Update

- Recovered abandoned vehicle from Banks Green.
- Called to a potential distraction burglary but later stood down as false alarm.

5. Village Hall Update

- 23 February – Annual litter pick (approximately 45 residents attended).
- 5 May – Bluebell walk and afternoon tea at the Village Hall (further details to follow).
- 6 June – Pantomime (further details to follow).
- November (date TBC) – Masterchef event by local resident chefs.
- Various dates booked out for children's parties.

6. Footpaths Update

Cllr Morgan will meet with the WCC Public Rights of Way Officer regarding the footpaths in the parish.

7. CALC Issues / Updates

- Clerk updated regarding move to Unitary discussions and implications for parish councils / transfer of assets to parish councils and implications and opportunities.
- Website support from WCC. Clerk had approached County and District Councillors for help with any costs associated with a potential new website, should this be required.

8. Road Safety Campaign

- Cur Lane / Copyholt Lane – increase in traffic. Cllr Davies had been in liaison with a Cllr from Stoke Prior. Had been asked to contact the Parish Council, not yet received a response.

Action: Clerk to email Clerk to Stoke Parish Council to progress.

9. Social Media

- No update.

10. Planning & Consultations**a) Foxlydiate Working Party**

- No update provided.

b) Foxlydiate First School Consultation – no update.**c) 24/01342/FUL – Keys Cottage, Woodgate Road, Lower Bentley, Worcestershire – Garage conversion to annexe (expired 21/02/25, Parish Council comments submitted 20/02/25).**

24/00170/FUL – Field View House (please note this application was included on the Agenda in error)

d) 25/00174/FUL – Keys Farm, High Elms Lane, Lower Bentley – Addition of a free-standing “Cabrio” retractable awning located near the rear elevation of the property in the private garden (expires 28/03/25) – No objection to be submitted by the Parish Council.**e) 25/00146/REM – Approval of Reserved Matters – Land at Foxlydiate Lane, Redditch - Reserved Matters (part Landscaping) application for the earthworks at the central phase of the site for development pursuant to the approved hybrid planning permission at land at Foxlydiate Lane and Pumphouse Lane, Webheath, Redditch (Foxlydiate) (Ref: 16/0263) (expires 05/04/25) – No comment to be submitted by the Parish Council.****11. Finance****a. Bank Reconciliation – Councillors were provided with bank statements and bank reconciliations for the periods 31 January 2025 and 28 February 2025.**

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).

Clerks Salary and expenses (Feb 25 / March 25)	
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Action: Clerk to add to payments using online banking, to be authorised by one Councillor.

The following payments were made with Councillor approval outside the full council meeting (included on the Agenda for retrospective council approval):

C Cooke Lengthsman invoice number 6649 January 2025	£530.10
2 nd class stamps for Bugle postage (24/01/25)	£158.95

The following payment was made by debit card from the Parish Council's current account, with Councillor approval outside the full council meeting (included on the Agenda for retrospective council approval):

Bugle Printing (16/01/25)	£174.00
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The following direct debit will be paid on 22nd April 2025:

HMRC (DD)	£162.00
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Received monies:

WCC (Lengthsman invoice 6601,6602)	£372.25
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Payments approved by all Councillors.

12. Parish Council Barclays Bank Account & Mandate Update

The Chair updated the council regarding the frustrations of adding / removing signatories from the Barclays Bank account. The Chair asked if any other free bank accounts would be more suitable for the Parish Council's requirements.

Action: Clerk to research regarding more suitable bank accounts.

13. BESS Battery Storage Facility, Feckenham

No update available.

Action: Chair to follow up with Feckenham Parish Council.

14. Bentley Bugle and Community Governance Review Response Update

- To date 120 signatories had been received.
- 20 residents have indicated they would sit on the council (out of the 20, 2 residents indicated they were willing to sit on the council if needed in order to remain quorate, one resident indicated becoming a member of the council in the future).
- No further action, unless responses from residents meet the threshold to trigger an opportunity to vote on the matter.

15. Contact Posters

Council approved displaying of the MP's contact information on the village hall noticeboard.

16. Lengthsman issues / updates

Flooding / drainage issues:

- Black Lake Lane
- Near Hatchetts Farm
- High Elms Lane / Woodgate Road
- Common Barn Farm
- Bentley Lane
- Junction of Banks Green and Copyholt Lane

Action: Cllr Boss taking up the above issues with Cllr K Taylor

17. Report from County Councillor

- No report provided.

18. Report from District Councillor

- No report provided.

19. Review of Parish Council's Risk Management Scheme

The Risk Review Log was reviewed and approved by the council.

Signed by the Chair and Clerk.

20. Review of Parish Council's Asset Register

Council approved the asset register.

Signed by the Chair and Clerk.

21. Councillors Reports & items for future Agenda

- Reported fly tipping Coalash / Lower Bentley Lane.

22. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Bentley Pauncefoot Parish Council will take place on Tuesday 20 May 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, preceded by the Annual Parish Council meeting at 7.00pm.

Meeting Closed at 7:50pm

Signed: *N R Rands*

20 May 2025

Chair, Bentley Pauncefoot Parish Council