

BENTLEY PAUNCEFOOT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Bentley Pouncefoot Parish Council Held on Tuesday 21st January 2020 at 7.30pm in Bentley Village Hall

Present : Cllr A Boss – Chair
 Cllr R Bewsher – Vice Chair
 Cllr R Cheape
 Cllr P Meads
 Cllr N Rands
 Cllr B Spence
 Cllr G Teague

A Dyson - Clerk

Public Participation

5 members of the public were in attendance (please refer to signing in book). Mrs H Spence asked whether any residents had taken up the offer of the free trees that are available. Cllr Cheape said he had some response but could do with more!

1.	Apologies & Approval of Absence
	BDC Cllr P Whittaker, WCC Cllr K Taylor
2.	Declarations of Interest
	a) None b) None c) None d) None
3.	To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting was held on Tuesday 19th November 2019.
	The Minutes were accepted by all Councillors and signed by Cllr A Boss – Chair.
4.	Progress Reports
	a) <u>Village Hall update & upcoming events</u> The equipment for the playground has been ordered. The cost of which is slightly higher than the amount received by the Parish Council from the New Homes Bonus Committee. Due to the funds being sourced from a third party, the PC is unable to claim back the VAT on the equipment, therefore the Village Hall Committee has agreed to pay the extra monies out of their funds. On the 4 th February 2020 a once a month drop in coffee morning commences. On the 18 th April 2020 a musical evening with Fordante is taking place and the annual Bluebell walk is scheduled for 17 th May 2020.
	b) <u>Footpaths</u> Nothing new to report other than due to the recent weather the paths are very muddy.
	c) <u>Tree Warden</u> Cllr Cheape contacted Tardebigge School and they would like to take some of the trees available for planting.
	d) <u>Tardebigge Relief, in Need & Sickness Charity</u> The next meeting will be held in February 2020.

5.	Lengthsman
	Lengthsman Chris Cooke was in attendance. Rock salt needs to be purchased as last years supply has now been used. More salt had to be spread on the roads when gritting due to the water on the roads from recent heavy rains. Yet again issues that have been raised with Highways i.e. pothole on Black Lake Lane and ditches that require clearing, which were reported in December with a 4 week work order on them, have still had not been repaired / cleared. Mr Cooke asked the PC if they would pay for him to clear some of the ditches. The contract between Ringway and WCC expires in April 2020 and it appears that nothing is being done by them unless it is of an emergency issue. It is not known who the new contractors will be. The standing water on Bentley Lane which causes difficulties is actually within the Feckenham boundary – the Clerk will ask Feckenham PC to look at this. Ditches on Banks Green are to be cleared on Friday 24 th January 2020. Crowns have been raised on a number of trees.
6.	CALC
	Vice Chair Bewsher an Cllr Spence attended the last meeting and delivered a presentation on the PCs experiences with BDC over the proposed Foxlydiate development. This was very well received by attendees and appears to have made an impression on some Parishes as Dodford PC have it as an agenda item at their next meeting. Chair Boss thanked them for bringing our experiences to the attention of the wider public. Cllr Teague, our CALC representative, was unable to attend tonight’s CALC meeting as she is attending the PC meeting. Cllr Teague delivered a list of what CALC would like to do over the next few years. The Clerk will send the list to other Councillors.
7.	Bentley Bugle 2020
	The first draft was delivered to the printers on the 20 th January 2020. Vice Chair Bewsher thanked Cllr Spence for his contributions.
8.	Superfast Fibre
	The newly installed cabinet on Angel Street is now fully operational and many residents have thanked Vice Chair Bewsher for her efforts in making this happen. Chair Boss also added his thanks. A meeting has been arranged for 30 th January 2020 with Superfast Worcester for an update. Vice Chair Bewsher had also written to the Rt Hon Sajid Javid, his reply did not commit to anything the PC were not already aware of.
9.	2020 going forward
	It is the intention of Chair Boss to step down from the position at the May elections where it is expected that Vice Chair Bewsher will take over the role. In preparation for this it was decided that Councillors should prepare themselves for roles / projects within the Council that they are able to commit to working on going forward in order to spread the workload. Cllr Spence agreed to commit to overseeing financial matters within the Council, securing outside financial support and ensuring the PC does not overspend. He will also retain his involvement with securing Broadband for the residents of Lower Bentley. He will also assist the Clerk in the publication of the 2021 Bentley Bugle – an offer that was much appreciated by the Clerk. Cllr Meads asked whether there was merit in continuing with the Bugle, it was agreed that as we no longer publish a regular newsletter that it is an excellent medium of letting residents know what the PC has been trying to achieve over the previous year. Cllr Cheape will continue with his work on the FTWP along with Cllr Rands and Vice Chair Bewsher and also maintain his efforts with the tree planting scheme which due to inclement weather has not yet started. Chair Boss will continue his work with endeavouring to get the speed limit reduced within the Parish and maintain his contact with WCC Cllr Kit Taylor and BDC Cllr Peter Whittaker on these issues. He will also work in close contact with the Lengthsman Chris Cooke on road issues. Cllr Meads will also be involved with the speeding issues and Broadband. Cllr Teague will maintain her roles representing the PC with CALC and the Tardebigge Relief, in Need & Sickness Charity. At the March meeting Councillors will confirm their positions and bring forward any ideas they may have to develop their role.

10.	Foxlydiat Temporary Working Party																											
	<p>Cllr Spence has stood down from his role on the FTWP and Cllr Rands has replaced him. Vice Chair Bewsher thanked Cllr Spence for his contribution since the FTWP was formed. The PC has retained the services of The Transportation Consultancy Ltd, whose advice has already proved beneficial. The next meeting will take place on 24th January 2020. The lawyer employed by the PC will send a letter on our behalf to Bromsgrove planners, in order to keep costs reasonable, the FTWP will draft the letter and the Lawyer will “top and tail” it. Vice Chair Bewsher will ask for an estimate of what costs we could expect. Following the survey sent to residents regarding the closure of Cur Lane – it appeared that 83% of respondents supported the closure. Discussions took place as to where the traffic might go should this happen – would it bring more traffic to other roads within the Parish etc? Vice Chair Bewsher would raise this at the meeting with TTC on the 24th January 2020.</p>																											
11.	Finance																											
a)	<p>Precept 2020/2021 - Detailed discussions were held regarding this years Precept request as expenditure for consultants and lawyers for their assistance with the proposed Foxlydiat development was unprecedented. Cllr Spence agreed to look at monies currently held within the current account and to project what would be required over the next 12 months. A decision was made to transfer £500.00 from the Footpath account to the current account to help with cash flow. A request for a Precept of £7129.00 was agreed and authorised by Chair Boss.</p>																											
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12.	Planning																											
	<p>Small(er) scale planning applications in the Parish – new notifications / updates:</p>																											
a)	<p>19/01356/FUL –full planning application for the demolition of existing buildings and the development of 63 dwellings with associated public open space and infrastructure – Barn House Farm, Foxlydiat Lane, Redditch.</p> <p>BDC planning department anticipate that this application will be put before the planning committee again towards the end of January 2020.</p>																											
13.	Clerks update																											
a)	Nothing to report.																											

<p>14.</p>	<p>Councillors Reports & Items for Future Agenda Cllr Spence asked if it were possible to erect a sign in Fosters Green advising motorists to slow down on a blind bend. Chair Boss said he would look at the possibility of cutting the hedge back to try and improve visibility. Chair Bewsher said that there were a number of road issues that were not receiving attention from Highways department. Cllr Spence and Chair Bewsher would request a meeting with WCC Cllr Kit Taylor asking for his assistance.</p>
	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p>
	<p>This is scheduled for Tuesday 17th March 2020 at 19.30 in Bentley Village Hall.</p>

Meeting Closed at 21.15

Signed:Chairperson

Date:

DRAFT