

BENTLEY PAUNCEFOOT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Bentley Pouncefoot Parish Council Held on Tuesday 19th January 2021 at 7.00pm via Zoom

Present : Cllr R Bewsher – Chair
 Cllr B Spence – Vice Chair
 Cllr A Boss
 Cllr R Cheape
 Cllr P Meads
 Cllr N Rands
 WCC Cllr K Taylor
 BDC Cllr P Whittaker joined the meeting at approx. 8.15pm
 A Dyson - Clerk

Visitors

3 visitors (as the meeting was held remotely, the Clerk entered all names into the signing in book)

Public Participation

Derek Taylor (resident) advised that he had sent a letter directly to the Police Commissioner expressing his concerns about the safety of traffic exiting onto Cur Lane from the proposed new development at Foxlydiat. The response was that the Police did not wish to get involved in what they believed to be a political issue, Mr Taylor asked who he should contact and is waiting for a response. Chair Bewsher asked Mr Taylor to send a copy of his correspondence to the Clerk for the records.

1	Apologies & Approval of Absence
	None
2	Minutes
	To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting which was held on 19 th November 2020
	The Minutes were accepted by all Councillors and signed by Chair Bewsher who will pass them on to the Clerk at a later date for the records. Actions arising from the last meeting – Councillors had completed all actions assigned to them arising from the meeting
3	Declarations of interest
a)	To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary interests in items on the agenda and their nature Nothing to declare
b)	To declare any other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature Nothing to declare
c)	The Clerk had not received any requests for a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011)
4	Report from County Councillor
	DCC Cllr K Taylor attended the meeting. Cllr Taylor advised that he wished to speak to BDC Planners as he believes they had not involved him in the processes attached to the Foxlydiat development. He is also going to speak to David Bridge of WCC Highways as he is unhappy with the way WCC Highways have conducted themselves over the development. A resident had complained about the surface on Copyholt Lane which was causing horses to slip. Although the matter had been reported, Cllr Taylor advised that it is not the right time of year for a new surface dressing to be laid but remedial work will take place once the weather improves. Cllr Boss raised an issue about raised ditches at the side of roads. At some points on the highway, it was becoming impossible for 2 cars to pass each other the road causing one to have to use the verge and thereby causing more problems. WCC Taylor said this was not a new problem and he was aware of it happening elsewhere, however he would speak to Richard Clewer of WCC Highways about the matter.

	<p>Cllr Taylor had advised at the start of the meeting that he would need to leave at 8.00pm so a decision was made to discuss the Road Safety Campaign issue – Agenda item 12 – at this point in order that Cllr Taylor could take part in the discussion. Cllr Meads has been corresponding with Gary Williams of WCC with regard to reducing speed limits within the Parish. The PC has said that it will accept WCCs proposal for a 30mph speed limit to be introduced on Banks Green, Manor Road and Bentley Lane and would like to discuss targeted measures to address safety concerns at the junction of Copyholt Lane, Cur Lane and Holyoakes Lane. Currently awaiting a response from Gary Williams. The PC would like to see signs outside the village hall and hazard warning signs – residents need to see evidence that the PC has been working on their behalf with regard to safety. Cllr Taylor said he would speak to Richard Clewer and Gary Williams to set up a Zoom meeting with the PC.</p>
5	<p>Report from District Council BDC Cllr Whittaker joined the meeting at approx. 8.15pm as he had been attending another meeting. Cllr Rands asked him if he had spoken to anyone in Planning with regard to Parish Councils not being consulted about applications under permitted development rights, as surely local knowledge would be useful before decisions were taken. Cllr Whittaker made a note to do this.</p>
6	<p>Progress Reports</p> <p>a) <u>Village Hall update & upcoming events</u> The hall is still closed as per Government guidelines on Covid 19</p> <p>b) <u>Footpaths</u> A resident had fallen at a stile and injured herself, it was originally thought that it was because the stile was damaged, however Cllr Rands confirmed that the stile was safe and unfortunately the resident had stumbled.</p> <p>c) <u>Tree Warden</u> – Cllr Rands had concerns that the trees that had been planted on Woodgate would impair on hedge cutting in the future, Cllr Cheape said this would not be the case.</p>
7	<p>Lengthsman</p> <p>Chris Cooke was unable to join the meeting but had advised if there were any queries raised, he could be contacted by telephone during the meeting. There were no concerns raised. However, a resident had contacted the Clerk to ask whether the PC would be willing to pay the Lengthsman to litter pick along Copyholt Lane. Cllr Spence said he would rather members of the PC carried this out amongst themselves rather than pay the Lengthsman. Cllr Taylor advised that there was a group of volunteers called Keep Bromsgrove Beautiful who are willing to undertake this work and have a Facebook page run by Jo Slade. The Clerk said she would make contact with the group.</p>
8	<p>CALC</p> <p>The Clerk had attended both the AGM and the recent area meetings. CALC's main focus appears to be on training for all Councillors and raising the level of PCs standing within the community.</p>
9	<p>Superfast Fibre</p> <p>Chair Bewsher advised that the last bid had finally “gone live” on Christmas Eve, however some residents were still experiencing problems with their broadband suppliers. Properties along Angel Street and Manor Road that are connected to green cabinet, have now been advised that they are eligible to partake in the voucher scheme to upgrade their Broadband offering, with WCC matching the amount involved. Chair Bewsher had received a quote from Open Reach which was expensive, the PC will contact residents again urging them to take part in the scheme with the hope of the reducing the monies required.</p>

10	Bentley Bugle
	<p>Chair Bewsher thanked Vice Chair Spence for the work he had put into getting the Bugle published on line and a number of hard copies for residents unable to access the Internet. Chair Spence in turn thanked all contributors for getting their articles to him in order that the Bugle was completed in November and asked if anyone had received feedback good or bad. There had been limited feedback but what there had been was good and it was felt a bonus had been that it could be forwarded on line to residents no longer living in the area. Vice Chair Spence said he would like to get the 2021 version out again in November and asked everyone to note anything during the year which may be of interest.</p>
11	Road safety campaign
	<p>This had been covered under Agenda item 4. However, Chair Bewsher asked if a note should be sent to residents keeping them abreast of what is going on. Cllr Meads said he would draft this.</p> <p>Cycling Cllr Rands has been in contact with the BHS in connection with their thoughts on the best way cyclists should make themselves known to horse riders and walkers. The Police Commissioner said cyclists should not make a noise which is opposite to the advice from the BHS. The BHS work with different authorities across the country and they advised Cllr Rands to contact Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue to discuss the issue, however WCC Cllr Taylor was unsure that this was the correct department to contact and said if Cllr Rands encountered any problems to contact him directly.</p>
12	Planning & Consultations
a)	<p><u>Foxlydiat Working Party</u> - Chair Bewsher, on behalf of the PC, has sought legal opinion on the proposed Foxlydiat development. Once an overview has been received, a decision can be made on the way to move forward.</p> <p><u>Barn House Farm</u> - An appeal for non-determination had been submitted in November 2020. Currently waiting for the Inspector to approve or otherwise.</p> <p><u>Foxlydiat Hotel</u> - This application is expected to go before the planning committee shortly.</p> <p><u>Small(er) scale planning applications in the Parish – new notifications / updates</u></p> <p>20/01089/FUL – Hunters Hill, Birchfield Road – formation of habitable roof space with front and rear dormers – no objection from PC</p> <p>20/01380/FUL – Britannia House, High Elms Lane, Lower Bentley – reconfiguration and replacement of existing buildings to provide garage and home gym – no objection from PC</p> <p>20/01631/FUL – Millfield Farm, Pumphouse Lane, Upper Bentley – removal of Condition 3 attached to B18303 – The PC had some concerns over this application. Cllr Cheape, on behalf of the PC, would put together a response for submission to BDC.</p> <p>20/01642/FUL – Rosewood House, Manor Road, Upper Bentley – demolition of swimming pool and construction of single storey extensions at the rear of the dwelling – no objection from PC</p>

13	Finance
a)	<p>To consider payments/receipts as per Clerks Correspondence list issued at meeting. Budget update</p> <p>Parish Council Account xxxx7848 balance as at 24.12.2020 £8123.89 Footpath Account xxxx8980 balance as at 04.06.2020 £138.70</p> <p>To consider payments / receipts as per Clerks correspondence list issued at meeting.</p> <p>A Dyson (December / January salary & exes) £646.87 SLCC (membership fee) £130.00 CALC Training £ 30.00 C Cooke £892.62</p> <p>Received monies</p> <p>a) Lengthsman payment from WCC £175.20</p> <p>Precept 2021/2022 Vice Chair Spence thanked the Clerk for her input to the proposed Precept request. Vice Chair Spence had previously sent a copy of current Cash Flow and proposed Budget to all members of the PC for their perusal and thoughts. Chair Spence recommended that the 2021/2022 Precept remain the same as the previous year based on 2 reasons – the PC could afford to do this and due to the extremely difficult year it had been for everyone it was the right thing to do for the community. All members of the PC agreed, and the Precept was set at £7129.00 per annum. The Clerk will complete the forms, Chair Bewsher will sign the documents and the Clerk will submit to BDC before the end of January 2021.</p> <p>With regard to Cash Flow, contact would be made with WCC to ask what their payment terms are when repaying the Lengthsman monies as lateness of payment could impact on cash flow.</p>
14	Councillors Reports & Items for Future Agenda
	<p>Chair Spence had been advised that a Census would be taking place in March 2021 and asked if the PC previously had any involvement with this. In the past the PC were not involved but are aware that in the current situation this may change.</p> <p>Cllr Boss advised that a number of residents had been in contact with WCC Regulatory Service regarding the noise from the Doggy Day Care Centre on Copyholt Lane. The number of dogs in attendance on a daily basis had increased from 16 to 25 and with dogs being dropped off at various times during the day this exacerbated the problem. Chair Bewsher said she thought a condition of the original application was that dogs would be collected from their homes and brought to the facility; the Clerk would check this.</p> <p>Chair Bewsher thanked Councillors and the Clerk for submitting photos of themselves which were now showing against their names on the My Parish website.</p>
15	Date of Next Meeting
	This is scheduled for Tuesday 16 th March 2021 at 19.00 via Zoom unless otherwise advised.

Meeting Closed at 20.25

Signed:*R Bewsher* **Chairperson**

Date: 16th March 2021