

BENTLEY PAUNCEFOOT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Bentley Pauncefoot Parish Council Held on Tuesday 20th July 2021 at 7.00pm in the village hall

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

A Dyson - Clerk

Visitors : G Bewsher
 J Milles

BDC Councillor P Whittaker joined the meeting at 8.05

Public Participation

Mr Bewsher reported that he noticed a sewage smell outside a property on Manor Road and was concerned that waste was illegally filtering into ditches. Cllr Boss said he would speak to the property owner and if necessary, the PC would pursue the matter through Environmental Services.

1	Apologies & Approval of Absence
	WCC Cllr K Taylor – no acknowledgement had been received by the Clerk to Mr Taylors invitation to attend
2	Minutes
	To approve the Minutes of the Annual & Ordinary meetings which were held on 5 th May 2021
	Cllr Boss advised that his name had been missed off the list of attendees at the Annual meeting. Chair Bewsher added his name to the hard copy and initialled the alteration. All other items were accepted by all Councillors and signed by Chair Bewsher. Actions arising from the last meeting – All outstanding items had been completed.
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 No report received
5	Report from District Council BDC Cllr P Whittaker joined the meeting at 8.05pm. Chair Bewsher advised BDC Cllr Whittaker of Mrs Bamford's comments that her department does not respond to emails. As this comment appeared to be against BDCs own Customer Care Charter, Chair Bewsher asked Mr Whittaker if he would take the matter up with Planning on our behalf. He agreed to do so.

6	Progress Reports
a)	<p><u>Village Hall update & upcoming events</u> The hall is now fully open and a list of upcoming events had been circulated. The Clerk had not received a copy of this, Chair Bewsher will forward a copy to her.</p>
b)	<p><u>Footpaths</u> Following the last meeting, the Clerk had contacted WCC requesting a stile be put in place below the Thrift to give access to walkers, this is not yet in place, the Clerk will follow up. John Milles, Footpath Officer, attended the meeting. A resident had contacted the Clerk with a number of footpath issues. Bridle paths continue to be an issue. Mr Milles has contacted Patrick White of WCC on several occasions, Mr White says that WCC have been inundated with calls from farmers during the lock down due to people walking (or even driving) over their land and causing damage. This has led to Farmers locking gates. Vice Chair Spence proposed that the PC should try and ensure that paths are kept clear thereby encouraging ramblers to use them and keep away from farmland. Mr Milles suggested that perhaps a group of volunteers could be assembled with each person looking after a certain section of paths local to them i.e. keeping vegetation around stiles and gates strimmed. Vice Chair Spence he would be happy to do this in his locality but is unsure of how the farmers would react to such actions, he would not want to be responsible for repairs to stiles etc. – this is the responsibility of WCC. Vice Chair Spence asked Cllr Boss if he would speak to the local farmers advising them of the intention to do this. If WCC cannot carry out the repairs, the PC will ask WCC Cllr Kit Taylor to intervene on its behalf. An article will be placed in this year’s Bugle asking for volunteers.</p>
7	Lengthsman
	<p>Chris Cooke was unable to attend the meeting. The Clerk had contacted Feckenham PC asking them to look at the hedge on Bentley Lane which is causing serious visibility issues. The Feckenham Lengthsman had cut back some growth and the matter has been reported to WCC as it appears to be the responsibility of the home owner on the corner. Cllr Boss advised that some 15 years ago BP PC had cut back foliage and paid for fencing on the opposite side of the road to the property to help with visibility.</p>
8	CALC
	<p>The Clerk attended a meeting via Zoom where Ruth Bamford, Head of Planning BDC was in attendance and spoke to the meeting about retrospective planning applications. At the meeting Feckenham PC raised concerns that the BDC planning department were very difficult to contact and did not respond to emails. Mrs Bamford stated that her department did not have the resource to respond to every email query which seems counter productive as PCs would keep sending them queries until they received a response.</p>
9	Road Safety
	<p>Cllr Meads advised that the plans for speed restrictions were progressing. A copy of the request to the Police had been forwarded to the PC and no queries had been raised. WCC Cllr Kit Taylor had authorised the request. An approx. date for the restrictions to be in place by October 2021 is still anticipated. Following an accident that occurred on the bad corner on Curr Lane, a resident had written to WCC Highways expressing their concerns. Highways have responded that they will look to put some signage in place advising drivers of the danger. Cllr Meads had investigated the cost of cameras that records all vehicle data however the costs are prohibitive, £10K for a camera and £3K each year for a software update.</p>

10	Local Police Charter & Smartwater event
	ClIr Boss will contact Mick Simpson, Rural Crime Officer, with a view to organising an event at the end of September. Other local PCs will be asked if they want to join in with the event.
11	Bentley Bugle 2021
	Vice Chair Spence advised that his intention would be to publish this in November 2021 - as last year, online with a limited number of hard copies for residents who do not have on line access. He asked Councillors and the Clerk to advise him at the September meeting what articles they will prepare for publication and any additional suggestions they may have for articles.
12	Planning & Consultations
a)	<p><u>The PCs general approach to development within the Parish</u> The final wording of this document of this was agreed by all Councillors and a copy published in the Bentley Bugle.</p>
b)	<p><u>Foxlydiat Working Party update</u> What next? A copy of all correspondence sent to and received from BDC has now been placed on the PCs website and an email sent to residents advising them where they can access these documents. The PC had asked for a meeting with Karen Hanchett of Highways to discuss the inconsistencies between WCC Highways submissions to Foxlydiat vs other planning applications in the areas. However, Mrs Bamford of BDC Planning who also attended the meeting appeared to be unaware that this was the purpose of the meeting and believed it was to discuss the planning issues still surrounding the Foxlydiat development. The meeting took place on 17th June 2021 and Mrs Bamford asked that the PC confirm in writing, promptly, the primary issues raised at the meeting, this letter was sent to Mrs Bamford on 21st June 2021. Mrs Bamford responded on the 28th June 2021 (following a chase up e mail) that she was not in a position to respond to the PC and was waiting for information from Claire Felton also of BDC.</p> <p>A letter has also been sent to Sajid Javid MP for Bromsgrove asking him to consider the original decision to take prime agricultural land out of the green belt and advising him of our concerns about how the planning application has been dealt with. As of the todays date our letter has been acknowledged but no response has been received.</p> <p>The PC has also submitted Freedom of information requests to both BDC and WCC as of todays date, no responses have been received.</p> <p>Chair Bewsher asked members of the PC, based on the information we have, whether they would be in favour of the PC instigating a first phase towards asking for a judicial review of the Foxlydiat application. This will involve costs of approx. £5K plus VAT that the PC does not have spare in its accounts. All Councillors agreed they were in favour of the PC pursuing this initially and ClIr Rands said he would be prepared to contact local residents to try and raise monies.</p>
c)	<p><u>Foxlydiat Hotel</u> No further information on this application at present.</p>
d)	<p><u>Small(er) scale planning applications in the Parish</u> No new notifications have been received since the last meeting. 20/01642/FUL – Rosewood House, Manor Road, Upper Bentley – An Appeal has been made against the decision to refuse this application.</p>

11	Finance
a)	Vice Chair Spence advised that the PCs spending is in line with budget. The Clerk has submitted a VAT claim which should be paid within 3-4 weeks. Parish Council Account xxxx7848 balance as at 25.06.2021 £5421.11 Footpath Account xxxx8980 balance as at 04.02.2021 £138.70
b)	<u>Payments to Be authorised and paid via BACS -</u> The Wilkes Partnership (20/06/2021) £323.40 A Dyson (June / July salary & exes) £667.67 ICO (Data protection fee) £ 40.00 C Cooke £253.68 Received monies) WCC – Lengthsman payment £163.85
12	Councillors Reports & Items for Future Agenda
	<p>CLlr Cheape asked if anyone has any self-seeded oaks on their property they do not want, he would be grateful if they could be dug up them up and given to him. Vice Chair Spence said that the trees which himself and other Councillors had planted earlier in the year in Lower Bentley have not taken for one reason or another and will be removed.</p> <p>CLlr Boss thanked Chair Bewsher for all the work she has been doing on the Foxlydiat application.</p>
15	Date of Next Meeting
	This is scheduled for Tuesday 21 st September 2021 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting Closed at 20.30

Signed:*Roz Bewsher*..... **Chairperson**

Date:21st September 2021.....