

BENTLEY PAUNCEFOOT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Bentley Pauncefoot Parish Council Held on Tuesday 17th January 2023 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr R Bewsher Chair A Dyson – Clerk & RFO
 Cllr B Spence Vice Chair
 Cllr A Boss
 Cllr R Cheape
 Cllr P Meads
 Cllr M Morgan
 Cllr N Rands

Visitors: G Bewsher, L Hancock, L Winterbourn

Public Participation: No questions or issues were raised.

Chair Bewsher expressed the PCs condolences to the family of Cllr Boss, whose father Roger had recently passed away. Before his retirement, Roger had been a member of the PC for almost 47 years and Chairman for 25 years.

1	<u>Apologies:</u> BDC Councillor Peter Whittaker, WCC Councillor Kit Taylor, C Cooke Lengthsman
2	<u>Minutes and Actions:</u> The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 15 th November 2022 were accepted and approved by Councillors. They were signed by Chair Bewsher. All outstanding actions had been completed
3	<u>Declarations of Interest:</u>
a	Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda Cllr Boss declared that he would not be passing a vote on the planning application for Hunters Hill as he is a close friend of the applicant.
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 a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011)
4	<u>Village Hall Update:</u> The litter pick is taking place on Sunday 19 th February 2023. This will be followed by lunch. Vice Chair Spence advised Councillors to wear their hi vis Parish Councillor vests so that attendees are aware of who their Parish Councillors are. The Bluebell walk will take place on the morning of the 7 th May 2023 as part of the King's Coronation celebrations. This will be followed by lunch and afternoon entertainment with a BBQ organised by the Young Farmers on the evening.

5	<p><u>Footpaths Update</u> Cllr Morgan has chased WCC regarding the repair of the stile (top post broken) at Tyrells Farm, he will try to contact Patrick White, the footpath contact, at WCC.</p>
6	<p><u>Bentley Bugle feedback</u> Chair Bewsher reported that she had received very positive comments regarding this year's Bugle and thanked Vice Chair Spence for the effort he put into producing it. Vice Chair Spence thanked all contributors and asked for thoughts on the ongoing future of the publication as he will not be involved with its production this year. Initial thoughts are to continue with the Bugle but perhaps in a less labour-intensive format. This will be raised again at the July meeting.</p>
7	<p><u>CALC</u> Chair Bewsher attended the AGM on 28th November 2022 as she was expecting an agenda item regarding what CALC could do for smaller Councils. She had raised this with Sue Baxter, President of the CALC, however there was nothing on the agenda referring to this item. Once again CALC seem to be focussing on larger Councils where issues of behaviour can be problematic. CALC will be providing Clerk / Councillor training for the forthcoming May elections. The Bromsgrove area CALC meeting was held on the 14th December 2022 via Zoom, the Road Safety team attended this meeting and answered questions raised by Chair Bewsher however no information came from the discussions that the PC were not already aware of.</p>
8	<p><u>Road Safety Campaign</u> Mark (Reg) Hollingworth of the SNT has arranged a meeting with Bob Haines, Paul Green and Paul Waterhouse for Wednesday 25th January 2023. The Parish Council thanked Mr Hollingworth for his help in arranging this meeting. Chair Bewsher will report of the outcome at the next PC meeting. There has been no response from WCC Cllr Kit Taylor since last November regarding arranging a meeting with Mike Rouse and Mark Bayliss.</p>
9	<p><u>Social Media</u> A decision has been made not to join social media as a Parish Council. Cllr Mead in a personal capacity has joined Twitter and will update the PC if he feels any relevant information is posted.</p>
10	<p><u>Planning & Consultations</u></p>
a)	<p><u>Foxlydiat Working Party</u> Chair Bewsher attended the Judicial Review hearing in London on the 5th & 6th December 2022. The PC had been told that it was likely that the Hearing would be held in February 2023, so the date in early December involved a lot of last minute work to ensure the Judge received the hearing bundle (1000 pages of evidence) on the Friday before the meeting. The Judge advised that his decision will be made in chronological order with his other cases but could not be more specific as to when this might be.</p>
b)	<p><u>22/91493/FUL</u> – Erection of new dwelling and garage and associated works including demolition – Hunters Hill, Birchfield Road. The PC objected to this application on principle, believing it should be looked at as part and parcel of the overall Foxlydiat development. Following our meeting, BDC have granted permission subject to conditions for the application to go ahead on the 26th January 2023.</p>

11	<u>Finance</u>																						
a)	<p><u>2023 / 2024 Budget & Precept sign off</u> Vice Chair Spence distributed a spreadsheet showing YTD spend against forecast and explained the expected spend for next year. He proposed that this years Precept be set at £7488.00. All Councillors agreed to this and Chair Bewsher signed the form for this amount which the Clerk will send to BDC prior to the deadline of 31st January 2023.</p>																						
b)	<table> <tr> <td>Parish Council Account Bank Balance as at 23.12.2022</td> <td>£31,627.92</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(Account Number xxxx7848)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Footpath Account Bank Balance as at 04.02.2022</td> <td>£138.70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(Account Number xxxx8980)</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Consider payments to be paid via BACS – approved by all Councillors.</u></p> <p>Before the payments were considered, Vice Chair Spence, explained the payment to Chair Bewsher covering expenses for her attendance at the Judicial Hearing. Chair Bewsher was an integral part of the legal process, supplying witness statements and pointing out relevant paragraphs to our Barrister on the day, without her input the JR would not have taken place – all Councillors were in agreement that this payment should be made.</p> <table> <tr> <td>A Dyson (Salary & exes)</td> <td>£552.66</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C Cooke x 2 invoices</td> <td>£471.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Village Hall Hire 2023</td> <td>£216.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Village Hall Hire 25.01.2023 speeding meeting</td> <td>£ 36.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R Bewsher</td> <td>£532.87</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Received monies</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lengthsman payent</td> <td>£299.00</td> </tr> </table>	Parish Council Account Bank Balance as at 23.12.2022	£31,627.92	(Account Number xxxx7848)		Footpath Account Bank Balance as at 04.02.2022	£138.70	(Account Number xxxx8980)		A Dyson (Salary & exes)	£552.66	C Cooke x 2 invoices	£471.30	Village Hall Hire 2023	£216.00	Village Hall Hire 25.01.2023 speeding meeting	£ 36.00	R Bewsher	£532.87	Received monies		Lengthsman payent	£299.00
Parish Council Account Bank Balance as at 23.12.2022	£31,627.92																						
(Account Number xxxx7848)																							
Footpath Account Bank Balance as at 04.02.2022	£138.70																						
(Account Number xxxx8980)																							
A Dyson (Salary & exes)	£552.66																						
C Cooke x 2 invoices	£471.30																						
Village Hall Hire 2023	£216.00																						
Village Hall Hire 25.01.2023 speeding meeting	£ 36.00																						
R Bewsher	£532.87																						
Received monies																							
Lengthsman payent	£299.00																						
c)	<p><u>Bank signatories</u> With the upcoming Councillor and Clerk changes, the Clerk asked for another Councillor to put themselves forward as a signatory on the bank account – Cllr Rands said he was willing to do this.</p>																						
12	<p><u>Lengthsman – issues / updates</u> An issue had arisen where WCC said they would not pay the full amount submitted on an invoice from the Lengthsman. This apparently was due to the filling and maintaining of a green grit bin (owned by the Parish as opposed to BDC) which WCC say they are not prepared to fund. The position of the green bin is necessary in Winter months and if this was a yellow bin supplied by BDC they would fund the maintenance of it. Cllr Rands will contact WCC to ask them to supply a yellow bin at this location.</p>																						
13	<p><u>Police / SNT update</u> Cllr Boss said the Neighbourhood Matters emails / messages he receives can be useful. The Clerk will ask the local SNT team to add the PC to its mailing list.</p>																						
14	<p><u>Report from County Councillor</u> No report received</p>																						
15	<p><u>Report from District Councillor</u> No report received</p>																						

16	<p><u>Recruitment & Succession</u></p> <p>Lisa Winterbourn was in attendance at the meeting as a potential candidate for the role of Clerk. Lisa stepped out of the meeting whilst this was discussed. Another candidate has also applied for the role, it was therefore decided it was only fair that the 2 candidates should be interviewed at a later date for the role.</p> <p>Councillors had given thought to the May elections and their roles on the Council. Cllr Mead said he would be stepping down in May but was prepared to carry on with this work regarding the speeding issue. Cllr Cheape advised he would put his name forward for the role of Chair and Cllr Rands agreed to be Vice Chair if they get the necessary votes in May.</p>
17	<p><u>Councillors reports & Items for future Agendas</u></p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>
18	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>The next Ordinary Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 21st March 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall</p>

Meeting Closed at 20.30

Signed:

Chair, Bentley Pouncefoot Parish Council

Date:

DRAFT