

BENTLEY PAUNCEFOOT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Bentley Pauncefoot Parish Council Held on Tuesday 19th September 2023 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr R Cheape Chair C Wood – Clerk & RFO
 Cllr N Rands Vice Chair
 Cllr M Morgan

Visitors: C Cooke, L Hancock, G Bewsher

Public Participation:

G Bewsher asked for an update on responses from Paul Meads / Paul Green (this was dealt with as part of the main meeting under Item No. 8).

L Hancock explained that some Bentley residents were not receiving emails from the Parish Council. The Clerk would look to resolve the issue.

1	<u>Apologies</u> : WCC Cllr K Taylor, Cllr, P Whittaker, Cllr A Boss, Cllr B Coleman, SNT Team.
2	<u>Minutes and Actions:</u> The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting & the Annual meeting held on 18 th July 2023 were accepted and approved by Councillors. They were signed by Chair Cheape. All outstanding actions had been completed. Unfortunately, there was no update from Paul Meads or Paul Green regarding traffic / speeding issues, despite the Parish Council seeking an update.
3	<u>Declarations of Interest:</u>
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 a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011)
5	<u>Village Hall Update</u> The Hall had recently been freshly painted, and the wiring on the roof repaired. The Ukraine fundraiser event has been cancelled due to both speakers having been asked to sing at prestigious events over that date. The village hall and bar will be open.
6	<u>Footpaths:</u> Cllr Morgan reported as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Green had received an offer from someone volunteering to help to clear footpaths. Cllr Morgan highlighted that anyone volunteering may need to attend the course for H&S and insurance purposes. • Dusthouse Bridleway – the barbed wire had been sorted. The winter clear back work will be carried out. Volunteers have offered a couple of hours of clearing. • Chair Cheape asked if Councillors would be happy to prune back specific areas allocated to them. However, this would raise the issue of H&S for insurance purposes.

7	CALC Update from the Chair Cheape who attended the CALC meeting on 13 th September 2023. Parish Councils are eligible to apply to the Government's Community Ownership Fund. Cllrs were asked to feed back to Chair Cheape if there is anything they wish to put forward.
8	Road Safety Campaign Background to this is that former Chair Bewsher and Cllr Meads met with Bob Haines, Paul Green and Paul Waterhouse on Wednesday 25 th January 2023. The take away from the meeting was that the police confirmed they would enforce a 40ph speed limit, contrary to the statement by WCC. Following the meeting, former Chair Bewsher sent a document justifying why the lane should be 40mph to Paul Green of WCC on 30th January 2023. We still await a response. Action: Clerk to follow up Paul Green response.
9	Social Media Nothing to report.
10	Planning and Consultations:
a)	Foxlydiat Working Party Chair Cheape had written a letter to BDC Planning Department asking for mitigations around the badgers sets which had been published on the Council's website on the Public Access site. Eco / Self Build Chair Cheape will carry out some research after Cllr Boss noted some eco builds being carried out in Hereford. Chair Cheape invited anyone else with experience to input.
b)	23/00917/FUL – Proposed single storey and first floor extensions – Sling Cottage, Angel Street, Upper Bentley, Worcestershire “no objection from Bentley Pauncefoot Parish Council” lodged on Thursday 21 st September 2023.
c)	Neighbourhood Planning Chair Cheape explained that a lot of parishes found effectiveness in strengthening their position in an area of significant development, and sought approval from the Parish Council to attend training in this area. Cllrs Morgan and Rands approved. Chair Cheape asked Cllr Rands to research grant funding bodies. Action: Cllr Rands to provide information on grant funding bodies and report back at the next meeting.
11	Finance
a)	Parish Council Account Bank Balance as at 28.08.2023 £4,513.66 (Account Number xxxx7848) Footpath Account Bank Balance as at 03.02.2023 £138.70 (Account Number xxxx8980) <u>Consider payments to be paid via BACS – approved by all Councillors</u> C Wood (Salary & exes) (August 2023) £291.40 C Wood (Salary) (September 2023) £290.30 C Cooke invoice 5898 £389.10 C Cooke invoice 5944 £567.30 Gill Lungley invoice 24/040 (Whistle Stop Training Chair Cheape (14/08/2023)) £ 12.72 Received monies WCC Lengthsman remittance £235.25

12	Lengthsman Gritting - to be used on the parish roads, and will be charged back to the Parish Council on monthly invoices. Councillors approved. The Lengthsman went through the roads / areas he covers when gritting is necessary. Ditch digging (Banks Green) - included on September invoice. Gulley's – keep on clearing, but not too bad in the parish.
13	Police / SNT Update No report / update received. SNT arrived at the Village Hall after the meeting had closed, to apologise as they had been called away on another matter.
14	Report from County Councillor County Councillor Kit Taylor arrived at the Village Hall after the meeting had closed, and due to attending an earlier meeting was unable to get there sooner.
15	Report from District Councillor: District Councillor Peter Whittaker arrived at the Village Hall after the meeting had closed.
16	Bentley Bugle Chair Cheape asked for consensus from those present in the VH to consider whether a digital or printed version of the Bugle should be published. It was considered a digital copy would be most cost effective. Chair Cheape asked Cllrs Morgan and Rands to produce an item to be included in the Bugle. It was suggested by Chris Cooke to include an item about the history of the name "Bentley Pauncefoot" following the recent passing of Mrs Underhill of High House Lane, whose late husband Reginald Underhill was a Vicar at St Bartholomew's Church, Tardebigge.
17	Grant Aid Request Chair Cheape asked anyone if they had any previous recollection or knowledge of any grant funding being provided. Chair Cheape intended to contact former Chair R Bewsher and Vice Chair B Spence to check.
16	Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agenda: Complaint from Bentley Resident Chair Cheape had provisionally agreed to a marquee going up in one of his fields for the Worcestershire Hunt Ball, however the hunt came and erected it in a field not of his choosing and without consulting neighbours as requested. Chair Cheape received a number of complaints and would like to apologise to residents for this. Going forward it was agreed that a notice be put on the VH noticeboard of any such events and a consultation email be sent to the Parish email list.
17	Date of Next Meeting: The next Ordinary Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 21 st November 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting Closed at 19.40

Signed: *R. Cheape*

Chair, Bentley Pauncefoot Parish Council

Date: 21st November 2023