

## BENTLEY PAUNCEFOOT PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Bentley Pauncefoot Parish Council Held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

**Present:** Cllr R Cheape                      Chair    C Wood – Clerk & RFO  
 Cllr N Rands                              Vice Chair  
 Cllr M Morgan  
 Cllr B Coleman  
 Cllr A Boss

**Visitors:** B, Dyson, L Hancock, G Bewsher, District Cllr P Whittaker

#### **Public Participation:**

A resident requested an update following District Cllr P Whittaker's involvement with Bromsgrove District Council to remove potential fly tipping and unauthorised waste bins from a resident's address in Bentley. The Chair explained that the Parish Council had supported District Cllr P Whittaker's involvement.

1	<b>Apologies:</b> Worcestershire County Councillor K Taylor (email update received under Item No. 13).
2	<b>Minutes and Actions:</b> The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2023 were accepted and approved by Councillors. The Minutes were signed by Chair Cheape.
3	<b>Declarations of Interest:</b>
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)
<b>The following item was brought forward as the Lengthsman requested Chair and Councillor approval to cover this item at the beginning of the meeting as he needed to work on gritting the roads and lanes in the Parish due to the current cold weather being experienced. The Chair and Councillors approved this item to be brought forward.</b>	
11	<b>Lengthsman:</b> <b>Banks Green</b> – The Lengthsman and Cllr Boss had been out to Banks Green where the road was flooded and the drains couldn't be rodded due to willow tree roots completely blocking the drains. <b>Action: Reported to Highways and root cutter requested. Action: Chair Cheape asked Cllr Morgan to follow this up with the contact at WCC provided by Cllr Boss.</b> <b>Feckenham / Bentley Pauncefoot border</b> - Affects Bentley residents (see County Councillor K Taylor's email update at Item No. 13). <b>Banks Green (nearly Bradley Cottage)</b> – Two gulleys cleared. <b>Footbridge between Copyholt Lane and Tardebigge Farm</b> – Understood from Patrick White, Senior Public Rights of Way Officer, WCC to be part of a planned programme of works, not yet commenced (related to Item No. 5). <b>Fly tipping</b> – Three instances of fly tipping in Bentley had been reported to Bromsgrove District Council and had been cleared.

4	<p><b><u>Village Hall Update:</u></b>  <i>This item was covered by L Hancock as Cllr Morgan was unable to attend the last Village Hall meeting.</i>  <b>18<sup>th</sup> February 2024</b> – Village Litter Pick, followed by lunch afterwards.  Residents were asked to discuss where they would litter pick and organise (via Barry Spence).  Equipment to be collected and returned to the Village Hall.</p>
5	<p><b><u>Footpaths Update:</u></b>  Cllr Morgan reported the following are outstanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repair of gates/bridges at the rear of Tardebigge Farm to Copyholt Lane across to Sheltwood Lane and back towards Pikes Pool Lane.</li> <li>• Handrail – Coalash Lane, steps down towards Lower Bentley, and shutting post opposite.</li> </ul> <p>L Hancock reported the footpath in the woods on The Thrift needed clearing as it is overgrown and muddy.  <b>Action: Cllr Morgan to clear.</b></p>
6	<p><b><u>CALC:</u></b>  No issues / updates.</p>
7	<p><b><u>Road Safety Campaign:</u></b>  Cllr Coleman updated regarding Copyholt Lane. Has met with previous Chair Bewsher for an update on the history. Cllr Coleman contacted Paul Green via phone and email and awaiting a response. County Councillor K Taylor also trying to progress (see County Councillor K Taylor’s email update at Item No. 13).</p>
8	<p><b><u>Social Media:</u></b>  Nothing to report.</p>
9	<p><b><u>Planning &amp; Consultations:</u></b></p> <p>a) <b>Foxlydiate Working Party</b> – Chair Cheape asked Councillors to review the Lichfields consultation letter and provide feedback.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District Cllr P Whittaker suggested following up with the Planning Case Officer at Bromsgrove District Council to ensure there would be no breach of reserved matters regarding plant machinery to the site (and times of day allowed to operate).</li> <li>• Cllr Boss commented that on the Webheath FB group residents had been posting that they were unaware of the development, despite leaflets being dropped through houses previously when the Parish Council were notifying residents of the impact of the proposed development.</li> </ul> <p>b) <b>Foxlydiate First School Consultation</b>  Cllr Ben Coleman seeking views from parents of school age children. Linked to the Copyholt Lane / Curr Lane speed issue, as people would not currently be able to walk / cycle their children to a school in the area along these lanes as they are too dangerous due to speeding issues. Chair Cheape felt this was a good issue to put forward to Cllr Karen May, who he hoped he would be able to make contact with in the near future.</p> <p>c) <b>Planning Application – 23/01211/OUT</b> – Further detail provided on the planning application from the Planning Officer at Bromsgrove District Council. Councillors to review and feedback to the Chair. Response due by 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024.</p>

10	<b>Finance:</b>																
a)	<p><b><u>2024/2025 Budget &amp; precept</u></b></p> <p>Cllr Rands requested approval from the Councillors in relation to the spreadsheet and rationale emailed prior to the meeting. Cllr Rands explained he had made an adjustment to the figures in relation to grit provided and supplied by the Lengthsman for the roads in the Parish during cold spells of weather. Also an adjustment on reviewing the NALC estimated Clerk salary increase for the 2024/2025 period. Councillors approved the precept figure of £8,405 (tax base for Band D properties totalling 229.2) which represents £36.67 per household.</p> <p>By way of comparison the precept for 2023/2024 of £7,488 (tax base for Band D properties totalled 203.2) represented £36.85 per household.</p> <p>Approved by all Parish Councillors.</p>																
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11	<p><b><u>Lengthsman:</u></b></p> <p>This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting due to the Lengthsman needing to grit the roads around the Parish due to the cold weather.</p>																
12	<p><b><u>Police/SNT Update:</u></b></p> <p>No representative from the SNT team was present.</p>																
13	<p><b><u>Report from County Councillor:</u></b></p> <p>County Cllr K Taylor sent his apologies, he was unable to attend due to illness. The following was emailed from the County Cllr by way of update:</p> <p><i>“Dealing with the considerable amount of flooding that Worcestershire has experienced, this has put a lot of strain on the resources at hand and works that I would like to have seen happen might be delayed.</i></p> <p><i>Copyholt Lane discussions are at a standstill but a new officer has taken over and I am aiming to reopen discussions with County going forward, my neighbouring County Councillor Kyle</i></p>																

	<p><i>Daisley is supportive of a speed curtailment but we could be back to the starting point again.</i></p> <p><i>I have had long discussions with the highways portfolio holder for minor highway works with regard to Bentley Lane which as our lengthsman will agree is a swimming pool. This bit is just outside our area but affects Bentley residents rather than Feckenham residents and I am trying to put pressure on the try to get a resolution and did in fact have a meeting with them on Thursday and it is now in the programme for works.</i></p> <p><i>There is a resource review consultation alive at the moment for the fire service with opinions being sought on the removal of under-utilised appliances at our local stations with the monies saved being reinvested into the service, please could the Parish councillors take a look and perhaps it could be added to next month's meeting?"</i></p> <p><b>The link to the consultation is here: <a href="#">Home   Hereford &amp; Worcester Fire and Rescue Service (hwfire.org.uk)</a>. The consultation closes on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024.</b></p>
14	<p><b>Report from District Councillor:</b></p> <p><b>Bromsgrove District Council Budget</b> - The Government subsidy came through before Christmas, there is still a shortfall but looking more promising. Change in Management at the Council made a big difference to the budget. The budget will need to be set by February 2024.</p>
15	<p><b>Bentley Bugle Review:</b></p> <p>Chair Cheape thanked everyone for their input into articles for last year's Bugle, and asked Councillors to consider any items of interest which could be included in this year's Bugle as we go through the year.</p>
16	<p><b>Biodiversity:</b></p> <p>Chair Cheape asked Councillors for any areas where they consider the Parish Council could apply for a grant. However, as the Parish Council do not own any buildings or have assets it was considered it may be difficult to qualify for grant funding.</p>
17	<p><b>Councillors Reports and Items for future Agenda:</b></p> <p>Cllr Boss had been out helping the Lengthsman on New Years Eve to try to unblock the drains in Banks Green, where the willow tree was blocking the drains. This item covered under Item No. 11.</p> <p><b>High Elms Lane</b> – The Lengthsman dealt with the blocked culvert.</p>
18	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>The next Ordinary Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall.</p>

**Meeting Closed at 19.42**

Signed: R Cheape

**Chair, Bentley Pouncefoot Parish Council**

**Date: 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024**