

BENTLEY PAUNCEFOOT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Bentley Pouncefoot Parish Council Held on Tuesday 19 November 2024 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr N Rands (Chair) C Wood – Clerk & RFO
Cllr M Morgan (Vice Chair)
Cllr B Coleman

Visitors: SNT / Police – PC Hollingsworth and PCSO Edwards
5 members of the public – names entered in the signing in book

Public Participation:

Member of the public indicated they wished to participate in relation to item number 13(c) on the Agenda.

1. Apologies

Chris Cooke (Lengthsman), Cllr A Boss, District Councillor P Whittaker

2. Minutes and Actions

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 17 September 2024 (and adjourned and held on Wednesday 25 September 2024) were reviewed.

Approved by all Councillors. The Minutes were signed by Cllr Rands.

3. Declarations of Interest

- a. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda
Nothing to declare
- b. Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda
Cllr Rands declared a disclosable interest in Item 13(c) Perrymill on the basis that it could be perceived that he could have a biased view because he is a neighbour.
- c. Written requests to the clerk to grant a dispensation
The Clerk received a request for a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) from Cllr Rands in relation to Item Number 13(c) - Perrymill Farm, on the Agenda. The Clerk exercised her duty to grant dispensation to Cllr Rands on Item No. 13(c) on this Agenda due to it being a parish concern raised by the residents of Bentley Pouncefoot seeking the Parish Council's assistance with this neighbourhood concern.

Following a request to the Chair, the following item was brought forward on the Agenda and discussed:

17. SNT / Police Update

The Parish Council raised the following issues:

- Stock & Bradley – Hare Coursing / thought to be hunting with dogs
- Car(s) stolen from Holyoakes Lane
- Break in Upper Gambolds Lane

SNT advised to note any suspicious activity (car registration numbers) and report it in the usual way on the online form and if necessary follow it up with an email to the SNT team bsr.snt@westmercia.police.uk.

4. Village Hall Update

- Craft Fair - 16th November, very successful.

- Christmas Meal and walk - 15th December (raffle prizes needed, contact the Bentley Village Hall team if you wish to donate) and to book tickets bentleyvillagehall@gmail.com. This event is very popular and books up very quickly.
- Panto – 4th January 2025 – further details to follow from the Bentley Village Hall team

5. Footpaths Update

- Bridleway off Manor Road – still waiting for an update from Worcestershire County Council.
- Two styles need replacement coming off Copyholt Lane heading towards the thrift and Lower Bentley.

6. CALC Issues / Updates

- Other Councils have problems recruiting new Councillors.

7. Road Safety Campaign

- Pumphouse Lane loose gravel on road precarious for cyclists – to be reported to Worcestershire County Council Highways to request a road sweep.

8. Speeding on Cur Lane / Copyholt Lane

- Speed analysis carried out at different times of today to provide up to date analysis after the previous traffic monitoring survey taken out in 2018/2019.
- Liaise with Stoke Parish Councillor who previously made contact with Bentley Parish Council regarding increased traffic on Copyholt Lane into Stoke parish.
- Traffic monitoring equipment has been installed near to the Foxlydiate / Webheath Development. Parish Council to request information on why this has been installed
Action: Cllr Coleman to investigate

9. Social Media

- No update, the usual information is posted on Upper / Lower Bentley Facebook page.

10. Parish Council Budget & Precept 2025/2026

Additional spend in the budget for 2025/2026 to be considered by the Parish Council. To be worked on and emailed to the Councillors, for full approval at the January Parish Council meeting.

11. Parish Council owned Laptop and Printer

Purchase approved by Councillors and costs to be considered by the Parish Council and a discussion around the budget for the 2025/2026 financial year.

12. Bentley Bugle

Drafting and editing of the Bentley Bugle 2024 is being worked on at present, to be distributed in the coming weeks. Councillors reminded to submit outstanding paragraphs for inclusion in the Bugle as soon as possible.

13. Planning & Consultations

a) Foxlydiate Working Party & Foxlydiate Community Governance Review

- Following the September meeting, District Cllr Whittaker indicated he would investigate TPO tree felling, advised that planning permission does not override a TPO order – update awaited from Cllr Whittaker.
- Seeking Cllr Karen May response to put forward the point of view from Bromsgrove District Council in relation to the Foxlydiate Community Governance review– update awaited.

b) 24/00097/FUL and Appeal Ref: APP/P1805/W/24/3352451

Berries View, Banks Green, Upper Bentley, Worcestershire

Appeal – Conversion of brick built garage / workshop into a 2 bedroom dwelling. Change of use from outbuilding to residential unit.

Parish Council broadly in support of the application.

Action: Clerk to submit Parish Council’s response once prepared by the Chair.

c) 24/01043/FUL - Perrymill Farm, Lower Bentley Lane, Lower Bentley, Worcestershire

- Residents made representation asking for their views to be heard in relation to the planning application and siting of various structures at the location.
- Councillors asked to put their weight behind a refusal of the application.
- The Parish Council to work on a response for submission to the Planning Department.

d) Wythall Neighbourhood Plan

- The Parish Council to contact Wythall Parish Council regarding their neighbourhood plan.
- Residents suggested contacting members of the Bentley Pauncefoot working group who were working on a Parish plan a number of years ago.

Action: Cllr Coleman to follow up with Wythall Parish Council

14. Temporary Event Notices

At the September Parish Council meeting, District Cllr Whittaker indicated he would liaise with County Cllr Taylor to progress. Update to be provided by District Cllr Whittaker.

15. Finance

a. **Bank Reconciliation** – Councillors were provided with bank statements and bank reconciliations for the periods 30 September 2024 and 31 October 2024.

Bank statements and bank reconciliations approved by the Parish Council.

b. The following invoices were approved for payment by the Parish Council. Once approved the Clerk would add payments using online banking, to be authorised by one Councillor (Clerk payments are not published and are confidential to the Parish Council).

| Invoice | Number | Amount |
|---|------------------|---------------|
| Clerks Salary (October and November 2024) | | |
| Clerks Expenses (October and November 2024) | | |
| HMRC (direct debit 22/10/2024) | | £217.20 |
| Lengthsman Invoices | 6517, 6518, 6519 | £364.50 |

Action: Clerk to add to payments using online banking, to be authorised by one Councillor.

- c. The following monies were received by the Parish Council (into the Barclays Bank current account ending xxxx7848):

| Invoice | Number | Amount |
|--|--------|-----------|
| Bromsgrove District Council (2 nd half precept) | | £4,202.50 |
| HMRC (VAT Return) | | £275.05 |

16. Parish Councillor Vacancy

A resident came forward to apply for the co-option vacancy. The co-option process will take place at the January 2025 full Parish Council meeting.

17. Dates of Parish Council Meetings 2025

The dates of the Parish Council meetings were confirmed as the 3rd Tuesday bi-monthly, as in previous years.

18. Lengthsman

- Gritting confirmed to the Lengthsman as in previous years.
- Copyholt Lane / opposite Coalash – broken road sign – tree works had recently been undertaken, missing sign may have been taken by tree surgeons
- Bentley Lane, Feckenham (falling into Feckenham Parish Council) – update required from County Councillor K Taylor on progress in dealing with this issue.
- Banks Green flooding still occurring.

Police / SNT

Please see item number 17 at top of Agenda.

20. Report from County Councillor

- No report provided.

21. Report from District Councillor

- No report provided.

22. Councillors Reports & items for future Agenda

Survey forwarded from Worcestershire County Council on biodiversity management in the Parish.

Action: Clerk to submit response to survey report.

23. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Bentley Pauncefoot Parish Council will take place on Tuesday 21 January 2025 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

24. Confidential Item

The Parish Council discussed this item with no members of the press or public present.

Meeting Closed at 8:35pm

Signed: *N R Rards*

21.01.2025

Chair, Bentley Pauncefoot Parish Council