

BENTLEY PAUNCEFOOT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Bentley Pauncefoot Parish Council Held on Tuesday 15th November 2022 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, C Cooke, L Halls

Public Participation: No questions or issues were raised

1	<u>Apologies</u> : BDC Councillor Peter Whittaker, WCC Councillor Kit Taylor
2	<u>Minutes and Actions:</u> The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 19 th July 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 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)
4	<u>Village Hall Update:</u> Cllr Morgan advised that a Scottish themed Christmas party was being held on 3 rd December 2022, details and ticket information were available on the usual forms of media used by the Village Hall.
5	<u>Footpaths Update</u> Cllr Morgan advised that the Bridle Way at Upper Gambolds had been cleared and the gate into Wormingtons Farm is now in place. The stile (top post broken) at Tylers Farm has been reported but hasn't been repaired as yet. Cllr Morgan will also contract Patrick White, the footpath contact, at WCC. Cllr Cheape advised that he has erected a fence across a pathway but has put a gate in place for people to pass through.

6	<p><u>Police Update</u></p> <p>A new officer has been assigned to the Parish, Lloyd Stone, replacing Paul Downes who retired. Cllr Boss will make contact with him to introduce himself. Chair Bewsher asked where Officer Stone fitted in with our local SNT team, Cllr Boss said they worked alongside each other but would confirm this after making contact with Police Officer Stone. Vice Chair Spence would put Officer Stones details into this edition of the Bugle.</p>
7	<p><u>Commemorative Tree planting:</u></p> <p>The tree has now been planted and the plaque placed in front of it. Cllr Cheape will keep an eye on it to ensure it does not get damaged by wildlife (or people).</p>
8	<p><u>Bentley Bugle 2023</u></p> <p>Vice Chair Spence thanked everyone for their contributions. Vice Chair Spence proposed through the Chair that he send everyone a copy by e mail for final approval of their articles. He did ask that any “tweaks” be minor rather than major due to problems encountered realigning articles. Ideally he would like to distribute copies to residents by the end of November latest.</p> <p>Chair Bewsher thanked Vice Chair Spence for the amount of personal time he had spent on this year’s issue which everyone felt was the most varied and interesting that has been published.</p>
9	<p><u>PC Meeting dates 2023</u></p> <p>Everyone agreed to the dates for next year. The Clerk will now send a copy of these to June Brazier for the VH diary and a copy on the website.</p>
10	<p><u>Email addresses – should the format be changed on the web page</u></p> <p>Following further thought on the above from July’s meeting it is proposed that on all “front facing” media that the main @bentleypauncefoot.com be used for all Councillors. This will both ensure that all correspondence goes through the Clerk and also removes personal emails from the public domain to avoid the possibility of personal emails getting into the “wrong hands”. This does not preclude Councillors giving their personal email addresses to members of the public if they wish to do so.</p>
11	<p><u>CALC:</u></p> <p>The Clerk attended the latest meeting via Zoom. Chair Bewsher had asked if the Road Safety Team could attend a meeting so that a number of Parishes could communicate with them at the same time. This was scheduled for September but unfortunately the meeting was cancelled due to the death of the Queen and the team were unable to attend the rescheduled meeting. Chair Bewsher had also spoken to Sue Baxter of NALC saying she felt CALC should do more towards helping smaller parishes, Ms Baxter agreed and said she will raise it at the AGM on 28th November 2022 – Chair Bewsher will attend the AGM on behalf of the PC. A number of Parishes are struggling to recruit Councillors for their PCs, this is something which needs to be addressed.</p>
12	<p><u>Road Safety Campaign</u></p> <p>Cllr Mead advised we have 3 ongoing lines of enquiry at the moment – with the SNT, Paul Middlesbrough - the Assistant Police & Crime Commissioner and Mike Rouse, WCC’s portfolio holder for Transport & Highways. Despite several communications being sent to all 3 departments, only Mark (Reg) Hollingworth of the SNT has responded stating that a member of the Road Safety team and WCC were meeting on 10th November to discuss this, as of today Mr Hollingworth has not heard anything back from his colleagues, he assures us as soon as he does he will contact us. Cllr Meads and Chair Bewsher have a meeting on the 16th November 2022 with WCC Cllr Kit Taylor to ask if he can help with arranging a meeting. We are still awaiting responses from Sustrans.</p>

13	<u>Planning & Consultations</u>										
a)	<p>In September Chair Bewsher & Vice Chair Spence met with Tim Burton who is undertaking an independent review of the procedures and effectiveness of BDC's Planning Committee. Naturally they gave him plenty to think about. Whether we see the results of his findings is up to BDC. They did not discuss any details of the Judicial Review with him.</p> <p><u>Foxlydiat Working Party</u> Further documentation was submitted by all parties as required. We are still awaiting a date for the Hearing itself, which is likely to be in the new year. 22/ 00758/FUL – resubmission of 20/01568/FUL – REFUSED</p> <p>b) 220/00628/FUL – Springhill Farm, Foxlydiat lane – proposed demolition of existing farmhouse and outbuildings – erection of 8 no. 2 storey dwellings utilising existing highway access – Cllr Cheape had distributed a comprehensive response outlining why this application should be rejected by the PC prior to the meeting. All Councillors agreed with his finding and a decision made to refuse the application in its current form. The Clerk will send the response to BDC by 3rd December 2022.</p>										
14	<u>Finance</u>										
a)	<p>Vice Chair Spence put forward a finance spreadsheet to all Councillors showing the financial position of the PC and reiterated that all monies received towards the judicial review were being shown as a completely separate line to all other monies required for the day to day running of the PC. Vice Chair Spence confirmed that the PC is operating within the budget set in January 2022.</p> <table data-bbox="268 1057 1129 1196"> <tr> <td>Parish Council Account Bank Balance as at 27.10.2022 (Account Number xxxx7848)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£32,238.96</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Footpath Account Bank Balance as at 04.02.2022 (Account Number xxxx8980)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£138.70</td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Consider payments to be paid via BACS – approved by all Councillors</u></p> <table data-bbox="268 1308 1129 1379"> <tr> <td>b) A Dyson (Salary & exes)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£671.54</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C Cooke</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£238.50</td> </tr> </table> <p>Received monies</p> <table data-bbox="268 1451 1155 1487"> <tr> <td>BDC Second half precept</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£3560.50</td> </tr> </table>	Parish Council Account Bank Balance as at 27.10.2022 (Account Number xxxx7848)	£32,238.96	Footpath Account Bank Balance as at 04.02.2022 (Account Number xxxx8980)	£138.70	b) A Dyson (Salary & exes)	£671.54	C Cooke	£238.50	BDC Second half precept	£3560.50
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15	<p><u>Lengthsman – issues / updates</u></p> <p>Chris Cooke asked whether the PC was happy for him to continue with the gritting routes he has been covering over the last couple of years and if they wish him to purchase the salt from his supplier rather than BDC. Purchasing the salt when needed proved more economical especially if the Winter is mild. The PC agreed to this. Vice Chair Spence raised his concerns over the hole on Woodgate Road, Councillor Rands asked whether barriers could be placed around it. Mr Cooke advised that the hole had been reported to Severn Trent via his contacts at WCC and if the Parish did place barriers around the hole and someone were to injure themselves, the Parish would be liable. He will chase up WCC for a response to this problem. Mr Cooke always sends a copy of his incident reports to the Clerk he will also send a copy to Cllr Rands going forward.</p>										

16	<p><u>Report from County Councillor</u> No report received from the County Councillor, however as previously stated he has a meeting with Chair Bewsher & Cllr Meads 16th November 2022 regarding raising our speeding concerns within WCC.</p>
17	<p><u>Report from District Councillor</u> No report received from the District Councillor</p>
18	<p><u>Retirement & Succession</u> Chair Bewsher advised that the Clerk has stated her intention to resign her post on 31st March 2023. She expressed her thanks on behalf of herself and the PC for the assistance the Clerk has given them over the last 9 years. It is also the intention at next year's May elections that both the Chair and Vice Chair will not stand for re-election, which means the PC are looking for a new Clerk and 2 new Councillors and for 2 of the current Councillors to put themselves forward for the positions of Chair & Vice Chair. Vice Chair proposed that Cllrs Rands and Meads would be most suited to these roles and asked for thoughts as there are only 2 more meetings before May. No decisions were made but Councillors would need to reflect on this and bring their thoughts to the next meeting. Vice Chair Spence has written an article for the Bugle regarding the vacancies and the Clerks position will be advertised via CALC and the VH notice board. If anyone knows of someone who has an interest in the role, they can contact the Clerk direct. Vice Chair Spence said that both he and Clerk are prepared to continue their involvement with the Judicial Review funds if other Councillors were in agreement with this. The Councillors agreed to this.</p>
19	<p><u>Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agenda:</u> Cllr Cheape has cut the trees on his land which were overhanging the highway. Chair Bewsher said that Broadband fibre has now been rolled out across the Parish. Some providers are having trouble getting it to their customers but that problem lies with the provider not Openreach. Chair Bewsher asked that next year's Litter Pick be an agenda item in January as the PC do not wish to miss it next year. Cllr Morgan will liaise with the VH team on our behalf. Chair Bewsher said that she was conscious as a Parish we did not do anything for Remembrance Sunday – especially as residents had lost their lives for the war effort. Vice Chair Spence said this is something we could factor into next year's Budget and will be on the January agenda. Chair Bewsher said that she had been looking at some TWITTER accounts (especially the Police) and although there are downsides to social media, wondered if the PC should have an account so that the PC could comment on items as in some instances it seemed TWITTER was the only form of communication that some bodies responded to. Councillor Spence pointed out that Twitter allowed all residents to express their opinions which might not always be in line with the Parish Council. Councillors will consider this and again the item will be brought to the January meeting</p>
20	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting:</u> The next Ordinary Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 17th January 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall</p>

Meeting Closed at 20.25

Signed: Roz Bewsher

Chair, Bentley Pauncefoot Parish Council

Date: 17th January 2023