

LITTLE BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk : Mrs Karen Fiddes
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MINUTES OF MEETING

Held at the Village Hall on **Wednesday 06 January 2016 at 7.00pm**

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01.16.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Given by Alan Coley – Cllr

01.16.2 PREVIOUS MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM

Signed and dated as a true record. No matters arising.

01.16.3 VILLAGE “EVENTS” UPDATE

i. COUNTY BROADBAND

- a. 17 residents now signed up. Issue yesterday morning in the village with broadband service. Ravens Green soon to be online, Paul Evans is proving difficult to reach. Awaiting permission to erect at Brampton Hall and Hall Farm. Progressing well and others promising to sign up as service is available/time allows.

ii. CINEMA EVENINGS

- a. Attended by some parish councilors and is generally well attended by villagers. Kelvin advises booking. Evenings held on first Thursday of each month. If demand increases then 2 evenings a month will be held.

01.16.4 IDEAS FOR VILLAGE INVESTMENT FROM FUNDS

i. DOG BINS – ESTIMATE

- a. Given by clerk as £50.00 per bin + £25.00 per post for attaching. Annual cost to empty each bin twice weekly is £61.84. Council agreed to fund this service. 3 bins required. Locations: 1 at St Mary’s Church, 1 by Polo Pitch, Rectory Road, 1 in Ravens Green by Parish Noticeboard. Cllr King confirmed he would erect these. **Clerk to contact Council and organize to be delivered to Maltings Farm, Tendring Rd.**

ii. NEW IDEAS REC'D

- a. Fingerpost sign at junction Tendring Road (£1,500?) and Bench on green outside Bricklayers with base and engraved (£600?) – Chairman – to source and report on current costs of both. Council would install these – chairman advised there may be a charge for this. **Clerk to contact Laura Robinson and see if she can recall cost or find invoice in council paperwork.**
- b. Jenny Willson suggested a grant to the Church hall to repair roof on Church Hall which is used as a Village Hall. Councillors willing to consider the possibility and councilors requested quotation to repair.

01.16.5 PLANNING

- i. **ST MARY’S** – Church Car Park works now approved – work to commence as weather improves – realistically April 2016.

- ii. **APPLICATIONS/NOTICES REC’D AND DECISIONS MADE**

None

01.16.5 TREE WARDEN

We have been given permission to clear Little Bentley Copse in Rectory Road by the owner, working party to be formed on one Wednesday of each month from outside. Villagers welcome to help on dates given to clear although teams of volunteers from out of area are assisting with the work. In the future it is thought this area would be able to be accessed by the Public along with the nearby pond belonging to the Chairman. Dates as follows.

- 1) 20th January
- 2) 17th February
- 3) 23rd March
- 4) 27th April
- 5) 25th May
- 6) 15th June

01.16.7 HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS

- i. **A120 UPDATE** – No news, nothing heard from Highways and no apparent signs of work commencing. Average speed cameras along on A120 seem to be improving things – no fatalities recorded since installation and drivers continue to be caught although no latest figures are available. **Chairman & Cllr Guglielmi to contact Highways England about commencement of works for roundabout.**
- ii. **MONKEY STREET UPDATE** – The possible disruption along this road by those avoiding the works on A120 was concern raised by Lesley Hunt Cllr – at least a temp limit while works are on was requested. The Council have already requested a Speed limit on this road which is now been used as a ‘rat run’ since the A120 speed cameras were installed. **Cllr Carlo Guglielmi advised he would chase this application as per point iv.**
- iii. **A133 SPEED RESTRICTION APPLICATION** – see point iv
- iv. **SIGNAGE FOR LITTLE BENTLEY “BRIDGE”** – Cllr Guglielmi reports that there has been a problem with staffing on small schemes projects but this has now been resolved. Chairman and and Cllr Guglielmi also discussed the extension of 30mph speed limit in village and stop signs on A120 junctions as outstanding applications that have been applied for by the Council and had no response from County Highways. **Clerk to write Cllr Guglielmi outlining outstanding applications and dates of application where possible..**

01.16.8 COUNCILLORS/CLERK - ACTIONS TAKEN or MEETINGS ATTENDED

None to report.

- 01.16.9 FINANCIAL UPDATE – BANK, SIGNATORIES & PAYMENTS IN/OUT**
- i. **PRECEPT 2015/16** – Received
 - ii. **PRECEPT 2016/17** – Applied for reduced requirement of £1,500.00
 - iii. **CHARGE FOR ELECTION EXPENSES** - Has now been paid.

Clerk to arrange transfer of money to savings account.

01.16.10 REPORT FROM PCSO – SUMMARY OF NWF REPORT RELEVANT ITEMS

Verbally reported to council. Clerk to upload to website and place on council notice boards.

01.16.11 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT/COUNTY

In full and as attached. Cllr Guglielmi reports:-

- New Years Honours – awarded to a TDC councillor.
- Energy Switch – save £263.00 per household switching to alternative power sources. Grants available until 1st Feb. Please apply via the council website.
- Primary school places – deadline 15th January for intake 2016/2017. Applications through council website.
- Syrian Refugees – Essex charged with not committing to welcome refugees – 1000 to be welcomed to Essex by end of 2016.
- Street lights were left on Xmas Day and New Years Day
- Summit for special needs schools in Essex a success – workshop and ideas sharing to improve services.
- Carers in Essex – 180,000 unpaid carers in the region – save £145,000 for council this year, The state saves £234 billion a year nationally in unpaid care work.
- Council tax poised to be raised by 2%
- Social care budgets increase by 2% - social care act in force from 1st April 2015. Not clear on where costs would be filled with changes to thresholds to claims.
- Housing, transport, education and skills, employment – key areas for budgets and focus at County.
- Devolution is progressing and county has been assigned a transition manager for this process – details are unclear. 2 million people live in Essex and diversity of county means very different ideas from the 13 different authorities in the area. Authorities do try and work together although speculatively this eventually may cause a split and North Essex may consider working as a single entity.
- Carlo reported the Chairman had received a Pride of Tendring Award and congratulations were given. Awards to be held on 5th Feb. Chairman to report back at next meeting.
- Bin bag funding withdrawn in Tendring (costs £150,000 per year), savings of £2 million to be found this year. TDC may be relocating Weeley Offices to Town Hall for savings to council. Staff and budgets have been cut as far as they can be – savings have to be found elsewhere.
- Chairman raised concerns about withdrawal of bin bags – especially in light of the fact that many do not have wheelie bins. Cllr Guglielmi responded as above. Also advised that Essex is trying to make waste collection unitary across the 13 authorities.

Cllr Guglielmi to forward full notes for circulation.

01.16.12 CORRESPONDENCE

Email from Essex Fire and Police recruiting volunteers for Parish Safety Schemes. Requesting two volunteers from Parish. No volunteers forthcoming from council or public attending meeting. Discussion held around budget cuts and effects on services for both Fire and Police service.

Letter from Citizens advice - located at Morrisons, request received to advertise services on Noticeboards. **Clerk to put supplied notice on both council boards.**

01.16.13 PUBLIC FORUM :

Members of the public are invited to address the Council max 3 minutes.

Request for date for a litter pick – Agreed to be held on Saturday 12th March. Pickers to meet at Bricklayers at 11.00am for coffee and biscuits, with the rubbish collected. Chairman to agree date with Liz and Will at the Bricklayers.

Cllr Guglielmi to ask for litter pickers and bags, etc which can be supplied by Council – Clerk to email Cllr Guglielmi and remind to book. Clerk to request ad from Village Mag Editor, Graham Newell for event. Clerk to organize 1 bin liner for each house which could be distributed with the free March Village Magazine with a note for everyone to try and join the Big Village Litter Pick. Speak to Sue Evans.

Monkey Street rubbish has reduced, flytipping does continue and is reported when occurring.

01.16.14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Phil Suarez requested final figures for fireworks, Chairman advised per last minutes. No costs yet received from Cllr. King for meat supply. It was confirmed that the event would go ahead this year with same team to organize it.

Council agreed to move meetings to the new start time of 7.00pm.

01.16.15 NEXT MEETING & CLOSE

Thanks for attendance given and meeting closed at 8.15pm

Next Meeting: March 2nd at 7.00pm