

FENNY BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Brenda Kirkham

Tel: 07916 298107 - Email: clerk@fennybentley.org.uk - Website: fennybentley.org.uk

Unapproved Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 12 October 2023 at 7.00 pm in Fenny Bentley Church

Present: Cllrs: C Miller (Chair); K Croft (Vice Chair); A Everitt; S Wright and D Stone. Cllr Simon Spencer (DCC) Cllr Nigel Edwards-Walker (DDDC) 2 Members of the Public. Clerk: Mrs B Kirkham.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Cllr Miller welcomed everyone to the meeting, there were no apologies.

2. Declaration of Interests

The Chair declared an interest as a relative of the Clerk.

3. Invited comments from County & District Councillors and members of the public

Cllr Spencer reported that the County Council were facing challenging financial pressures, caused by unprecedented demand on services, inflation and increases in staff salaries; the County Council were facing a 46m deficit in their budget.

4. Approval of Minutes of meeting held on the 22 May 2023

The Council resolved to accept the minutes of the last meeting held on the 22 May 2023 as a true record of that meeting.

5. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on the 6 June 2023

The Council resolved to accept the minutes of the last meeting held on the 6 June 2023 as a true record of that meeting.

6. Matters Arising from the last meeting

No decision had yet been received on the Firs Wood planning application, although the applicant had removed plans for the public to visit the site and the Highways Department had consequently removed their objection to the application.

7. Progress on the pedestrian bridge over the river adjacent to the A515

Cllr Spencer explained that he was very frustrated over the slow progress on the bridge, there had been various discussions with the owner's agent, it was understood that legal documents were now waiting to be signed. It was hoped that work could start before the planning permission runs out. Cllr Spencer stated he would do everything in his power to get the project done and acknowledged the importance of the bridge for residents and highway safety. The Chair thanked Cllr Spencer for all his efforts in trying to get this project completed.

8. Highway matters – flooding/potholes/traffic/bridge

The Pot holes on Ashes Lane had been repaired. Further work on the A515 road surface was anticipated. The verges on the pavement from Bentley Corner towards Ashbourne were very overgrown. The Chair agreed to report this matter to Derbyshire County Council. **Action: Chair**

9. Housing Needs Survey Report & Update

Some Councillors had attended a zoom meeting. The next step would be to find a suitable location in one of the parishes.

10. Speed indicator device delivery and training

The speed indicator device had been ordered and delivery should be made in the next few weeks. There was some concern about whether the best location had been chosen, however the site was preferred by the County Council and met the requirements for being a certain distance from the highway.

11. Defibrillator at Bentley Corner & Training

The new defibrillator had now been installed at the Bentley Brook. Clerk to organise training at the Bentley Brook. **Action: Clerk**

12. Purchase of Bulbs and locations around the village for planting

The Council resolved to order 2 new planters at a cost of £100 each and to purchase bulbs up to a cost of £50. Planting of bulbs to be done on the triangle of grass below the church, this to be a community event to be done before the October Coffee Morning on Saturday 21 October. **Action: Cllr Everett & Clerk**

13. Financial Report & Administration:

a) Appointment of Internal Auditor for 23/24 – DALC quote £180

The Council resolved to accept the quotation. **Action: Clerk**

b) Bank Signatories

The Council resolved to add Cllr Wright to the bank signatories. **Action: Chair**

c) Financial Statement

The balance in the current account was £11,169.19.

d) Items for approval and payment at this meeting

The Council resolved to approve payment of the following items:

DDDC Paid	113.00
Community Heartbeat Trust	3,102.00
Community Heartbeat Trust	198.00
DALC - Audit	160.00
Landscape Maintenance Services	138.00
J S Marriott	60.00
Swarco	5,252.50
HMRC - Due in June	77.40
HMRC - Due now	52.60
Clerk's Salary - May 23	69.90
Clerk's Salary - June 23	105.00
Clerk's Salary - July 24	69.90
Clerk's Salary - August 24	70.10
Clerk's Salary - Sept 25	94.90
Clerk's Expenses	65.16

14. Clerk’s Report & Correspondence

Most correspondence had been sent to Councillors by email. The Clerk explained that it was now recommended as best practice that Parish Councils had a .gov.uk domain name and email addresses, the Clerk would update the Council with more information and costs in due course. The Clerk had received a complaint from a resident regarding the recent Woodcock Delph Planning application.

14. Councillors Comments & Observations

Councillors and residents were concerned about some dogs being allowed to run lose around the village, there had been several instances of the dogs fighting with other dogs and some residents were concerned about their personal safety. Chair agreed to speak to the resident concerned. There was also some concern about children’s bikes/scooters/skate boards being left out on pavements, particularly during the evening. **Action: Chair**

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held in January 2024, date to be finalised in due course.

Signed.....

Dated.....