



# Minutes

## MEETING of Bentley Parish Council

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at Bentley Memorial Hall at 7:30pm

<b>Present:</b>	Cllr John Fuller Cllr Alan Lockey Cllr Chris Mace Cllr Gordon Tillet Cllr Jenny Turner Cllr Stephen Whowell
<b>In attendance:</b>	Ms Emma Wadey (Clerk) Dist. Cllr David Ashcroft X6 members of the public

Ref.	Comments
01/26/01	<p><b>Apologies for absence.</b></p> <p>Apologies received from Cllr John Goodyear (holiday) and Cllr John Wilson (resigned).</p> <p>The Clerk received a formal resignation from Cllr John Wilson. In his absence, Cllr Fuller thanked Cllr Wilson for his service including his hard work involved arranging the new bus shelter.</p>
01/26/02	<p><b>Minutes approved from the meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025.</b></p> <p>The Minutes from the Parish Council meeting on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025 were formally agreed and signed by the Chairman.</p>
01/26/03	<p><b>To receive the declarations of interest from Members.</b></p> <p><i>Councillors were reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest which they may have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when that item is reached. Unless dispensation had been granted, they may not participate in any discussion of, or vote on, or discharge any function related to any matter in which they have a pecuniary interest as defined by regulations made by the Secretary of State under the Localism Act 2011. Councillors were reminded that they must withdraw from the room or chamber when the meeting discusses and votes on the matter.</i></p> <p>None declared.</p>
01/26/04	<p><b>Public Section.</b></p> <p>No comments made in this section.</p>
01/26/05	<p><b>The Bentley Growers Co-Operative [Jade Bower]</b></p> <p>Jade Bower gave a presentation proposing a community initiative on the Old Rec based on the Binsted Blacknest Fields project. This involves planting an orchard to improve wildlife habitat, bee housing and a green space for recreational use. Jade has contacted some neighbouring land owners, Hampshire &amp; IOW Wildlife Trust and Emily Roberts (Biodiversity Manager at Hampshire County Council) who has offered advice and will continue to do so. Cllr Alison Melvin (Binsted Parish Council) has also agreed to offer advice. The next step would be a public consultation to gain feedback from local residents. Jade would like to work with a nominated councillor and return with an initial plan in two months' time.</p> <p>Cllr Fuller stated that he thought it was a good idea. With the closing of the Gardening Club, this could be a new style gardening club. Cllr Turner and Cllr Lockey also supported the project. The Clerk asked how the project will be funded considering the potential loss of £600 income currently gained from renting the field. Jade is considering of grants from the district council and from HCC regarding biodiversity net gain opportunities locked in for 30 years. Dist. Cllr Ashcroft stated that there may be community grants available. The Council gave their approval to invite the Hampshire &amp; IOW Wildlife Trust to carry out a survey free of</p>

Signed by Chairman ..... dated 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026

charge. Cllr Turner requested Jade to contact Chris Holmes who owns the neighbouring land. Cllr Fuller requested a budget and time line for the project and suggested the public consultation take place on a Saturday morning at the Memorial Hall. Jade reassured the council that there will be enough volunteers to sustain the project.

01/26/06 **Pavilion Repairs [Ben Smith]**

Ben stated that after Christmas the guttering and fascia were hanging off the building over the emergency exit. Emergency works were carried out to remove the precarious parts. The contractor present at the time stated that there was a significant amount of rot in the fascia and at the end of the roofing joints which needs to be remediated before the fascia and guttering can be reinstated. Currently, run off rain water drains directly onto the path which is now roped off and the Scouts are using an alternative access temporarily. Ben will forward photos and details of the contractor's findings. Ben requested the council to seek additional advice. Cllr Fuller requested the Scouts to consider the long-term requirements for a scouting building. Ben stated that the present priority is making the fascia and guttering safe and will forward the contractor's report.

01/26/07 **Bentley Recreation Ground Update [John Fuller]**

The Grounds Management Association (GMA) carried out a survey in December 2025 and extracting a number of shallow cores, only finding one piece of rolled glass but not willing to declare it safe. Their view is that it was no different so other similar sites they see regularly. Bentley Archers' insurers stated that if it was a known problem, they are not prepared to insure the site. Jim Hannon has reverted back to Kestrel (the contractors) stated they must do something about it.

Cllr Fuller to meet with Jim Hannon and decide next steps.

Ben Smith requested viewing the GMA report.

Cllr Turner suggested investigating insurance to cover the Rec for public use.

01/26/08 **Biodiversity Policy**

Council RATIFIED the Biodiversity Policy which now includes specified action points.

01/26/09 **Risk Assessments**

Members to reviewed and approve the following risk assessments:

- Financial risk schedule
- Pond  
Clerk to order a new life buoy sign.
- Play park

Recreation ground committee to carry out a risk assessment of the Recreation Ground.

01/26/10 **Bentley Recreation Ground Update [John Fuller]**

Covered in 01/26/07.

01/26/11 **Tree, Planning & Development Applications:**

Comments stated on the agenda submitted outside of the meeting were RATIFIED for:

**Proposal:** T1. Ash - crown reduce by 25% T2. Beech - crown reduce by 25% T3. Apple - remove to ground level T4. Laurel hedge - reduce in height by up to 3m T5. Leylandii - reduce into hedge line T6. Yew - reduce in height by 2m and balance crown.

**Site:** Linden Cottage Hole Lane, Bentley, Farnham, Hampshire, GU10 5LW

**Ref no:** EHDC-25-1441-TCA

Cllr Mace stated that there is one edit of the Planning Status Report on the Bentley Garden Farm application which was called in. The site was apparently agreed for x6 houses to be treated as a windfall site, which is untrue, as on the latest LAA (Land Availability Assessment), it was listed as an allocated site. Also, in the report officers are still referencing the 2016 Neighbourhood Plan (not the most recent 2025 version). We asked for smaller infill sites, but part of an allocation rather than individual windfall sites.

01/26/12 **Report from Dist. Cllr David Ashcroft of EHDC:**

Presently, even though there are allocated sites, nothing has been ruled in or out. That decision will occur in 3-4 months' time when it goes to submission. Cllr Fuller stated that these allocations will occur without public

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consultation. Dist. Cllr Ashcroft stated that the allocation is valid until 2046. Cllr Fuller stated that in effect we will have blighted land in the village as there will be planning permission on the land. Simon Jenkins at EHDC has sadly passed away. Cllr Fuller stated that the correct Regulation 18 process needed to be followed with public comment.

01/26/13 **Report from the Chairman of Bentley Parish Council:**  
*On 11th Dec 2025, the parish council hosted a public meeting at the Memorial Hall for residents to be briefed on the EHDC draft Local Plan housing allocations for the northern part of the district. The meeting was well attended with between 80-100 residents, who listened to presentations by the A31 Alliance. Presentations were followed by a lively question and answers session. A reoccurring view was that the plan, needs proper consultation with the public. This is required before the plan proceeds to Regulation 19; the public consultation at that stage would be too late to take account of residents' suggestions and concerns. The meeting took the view that the district council should direct the planning authority to hold a full public consultation on the plan at the Regulation 18 stage.*

01/26/14 **Report from the Clerk of Bentley Parish Council:**  
There will be a Bentley litter picking session on the weekend of 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> January organised by Anna Woodfine. The Clerk has arranged with EHDC for the litter bags to be picked up outside the Pavilion on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January.  
The bee hotel was thrown into the pond, Ben Smith (Scouts) will arrange for it to be removed.  
The interim internal audit was carried out and will be summarised in the next section.  
The Police Commission has re-introduced grants of £20k for a speed camera. It was agreed that we don't require them.

01/26/15 **Reports from Officers:**  
**Recreation Ground Officer: Cllr Whowell**  
Cllr Fuller confirmed that the height restriction bar above the Recreation Ground car park will be repaired shortly.  
The Clerk confirmed that a request for two new bins to EHDC has been submitted (Recreation Ground and bus stop by the alpaca field).  
The Clerk confirmed that the CCTV company will return to fit a camera covering the Recreation Ground.  
**Highways & Transport Officer: Cllr Wilson**  
Not present.  
The bus shelter is now installed.  
**Footpath Officer: Cllr Turner**  
Footpaths are very muddy.  
**Drainage Officer: Cllr Tillet**  
Progress is being made with the ditches.  
Flooding is still occurring under the road by the pond and under Chestnut Cottage. School Lane was flooded.

01/26/16 **Financial and General Purposes Committee:**

- a) The East Hants Arborists estimate of £1200 + VAT for work outside School House was approved.
- b) The internal interim audit report was summarised by the Clerk:
1. Overall, the systems and procedures were fit for purpose, recommendations were merely pointers to an already well-ordered system.
  2. All supporting documents will now be included on the website with the agenda.
  3. Draft minutes will be added to the website in under 28 days.
  4. A sentence needs to be added to the Councillors Acceptance forms confirming consent to receive all council meeting papers by electronic method.
  5. All emails from councillors and Clerk should be made via the Parish Council email addresses.
  6. Standing Orders need to be updated with the Financial Regulations from March 2025.
  7. Expenditure on revenue items has now been increased to £1500.
  8. The Clerk is required to have a performance review annually.
  9. The rationale and methodology of the fixed assets should be recorded in the minutes.
  10. The bank reconciliations need to be signed and dated quarterly by a member other than the Chair (or cheque signatory).
  11. The high interest account needs to be in a separate bank from the current accounts.

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The Parish Council agreed to endorse an A31 Alliance flyer, to be circulated to councillors for approval, then printed and submitted to the Parish Magazine.

c)

*Community Account:*

- Opening Balance 1<sup>st</sup> December: ££42,658.40
- Income for December: £50 (Old Rec rent £50)
- Outgoings for December: £11,497.52
- Closing balance 31<sup>st</sup> December: £31,210.88

*Commercial Instant Access Account:*

- Opening balance 1<sup>st</sup> December: £68,798.53
- Income for December: £28.45 (Interest: £28.45)
- Outgoings for December: £50,000 (transfer to 95 Day Notice A/C)
- Closing balance 31<sup>st</sup> December: £18,826.98

*95 Day Notice Account:*

- Opening balance 1<sup>st</sup> December: £50,000
- Closing balance 31<sup>st</sup> December: £50,101.06

The following documents to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 were approved:

A1 – Cost centre report

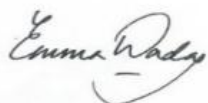
A2 – Bank reconciliations: Community, Commercial IA accounts

A3 – noted and approved by the Council. (Incorporated in document)

A4 - Clerk salary (January) & expenses record (December) were noted & approved by the Council.

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**The meeting closed at: 9.19pm. The next scheduled Parish Council meeting will be held on Mon 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 7.30pm at Bentley Memorial Hall.**



**Emma Wadey**

Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer

## Payments authorised at the meeting held on:

Mon 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Payments to be authorised						
Nom. code	For	Invoice No	Item/purpose	VAT £	Amount £	Method of Payment
4000	Clerk & RFO		Salaries (January)	0	2225.04	BACS 101
4050	Clerk & RFO		Expenses/mileage	0	139.35	BACS 102
4200			Home office allowance & mileage		60.51	
4170			BT-Internet		39.35	
4070			Stamps		13.60	
4210			Refreshments		8.00	
			Ink cartridge		17.89	
4030	HMRC		Tax & NI	0	1202.76	BACS 103
4040	Scottish Widows		Pension	0	205.35	DD
4171	Tesco		Mobile phone	0	28.99	DD
4171	Tesco phone insurance		Phone insurance	0	10.00	DD
4910	JRB Enterprise Ltd	29186	Dog gloves	19.87	119.22	BACS 104
4200	Microshade	251200409169	IT services	13.28	79.68	BACS 105
4120	Mulberry Local Authority Services Ltd	1802	Interim internal audit	52.50	315.00	BACS 106
4300	Grounds Management Assoc.	36482	Site visit and report of Recreation Ground	100.00	600.00	BACS 107
4210	Wildly Upbeat Printers	9476	Printing A31A flyers	0	65.00	BACS 108
4662	Littlethorpe	2670	Bus shelter	2234.60	13,407.60	BACS 109
4240	Bentley Memorial Hall	1820	Hall hire	0	185.50	BACS 110
4210	Wildly Upbeat Printers	9547	NP Policy reminder flyer	0	45.00	BACS 112

Signed by Chairman ..... dated 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026

4450	Castle Water	1000874015 2	Old Rec water	6.15	36.35	DD
<b>Total</b>				<b>£2426.40</b>	<b>£18,664.84</b>	

<b>Payments made outside of meeting</b>						
<b>Nom. code</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Invoice No</b>	<b>Item/purpose</b>	<b>VAT £</b>	<b>Amount £</b>	<b>Method of Payment</b>
4230	RBL Poppy Appeal	SBB01	Wreath	0	28.50	BACS 100
4180	Protect CSM Ltd	43582	Pavilion CCTV	119.64	717.84	BACS 111

<b>Invoices issued</b>						
<b>Nom. code</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Invoice No</b>	<b>Item/purpose</b>	<b>VAT £</b>	<b>Amount £</b>	<b>Method of Payment</b>
1140	EHDC	0115	Bus shelter	0	11,173.00	Invoice