



Minutes

MEETING of Bentley Parish Council

Monday 9th February 2026 at Bentley Memorial Hall at 7:30pm

Present:	Cllr John Fuller Cllr John Goodyear Cllr Chris Mace Cllr Gordon Tillet Cllr Jenny Turner Cllr Stephen Whowell
In attendance:	Ms Emma Wadey (Clerk) Dist. Cllr David Ashcroft X5 members of the public

Ref.	Comments
02/26/01	Apologies for absence. Apologies received from Cllr Lockey (work).
02/26/02	Minutes approved from the meeting held on Monday 12th January 2026. The Minutes from the Parish Council meeting on Monday 12 th January 2026 were formally agreed and signed by the Chairman.
02/26/03	To receive the declarations of interest from Members. <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> None declared.
02/26/04	Public Section. Robert Simpson thanked the council for supplying a Himalayan silver birch tree and planting kit for Eggars Field which Rob has now planted. He reported that Froyle had purchased disease-resistant Elm tree saplings from Hampshire County Council (HCC) who carry out forestry partnership programmes, perhaps along footpaths. This may be an idea for the autumn. Cllr Fuller stated that Mr Holmes & Mr Joy may be interested in planting them. Cllr Fuller to speak with Andrew Joy. There are some elderly cherry trees on Carters Meadow, possibly in need of replacement.
02/26/05	The Bentley Growers Co-Operative [Jade Bower] Jade Bower updated council on recent events. In the last meeting the council requested two actions regarding the new orchard initiative on the Old Rec: consult with the public to confirm local residents are in agreement; to find out what the site is useful for. The online survey is currently live and a pop-up consultation event at the Memorial Hall is on Saturday 14 th February. On 6 th March the online survey closes and Jade will return for our 9 th March meeting with findings and recommendations. So far there have been over 170 responses. Jade has spoken to adjoining land owners, Richard Leonard (west) and Chris Holmes (south). Also, people who have lead similar projects such as Blacknest Fields, the Tree Council, Hampshire Forest Partnership, the biodiversity manager at HCC, Hampshire & Isle of Wight (IOW) Amphibian Reptile Group, the wellness walk lead at Alice Holt. Cllr Fuller has agreed to be the lead councillor from the Parish Council. Preliminary reports received include: Hampshire & IOW Wildlife Trust; Head Gardener at the Harold Hillier Gardens; soil report from Bill Whitfield. Drainage has recently been improved (by Cllr Tillet).

Signed by Chairman dated 9th March 2026

The interested group will meet on 26th February to establish a constitution and formal roles. Jade requested approval to apply for a district councillor grant to purchase a community noticeboard for the project, which was agreed.

Cllr Tillett stated that the hedges and brambles need to be trimmed back.

Clerk to give notice to the current Old Rec licensee.

02/26/06 **Bentley Recreation Ground update**

No apologies received from Jim Hannon.

Robert Lanyon spoke on behalf of the Bentley Archers (BACSC) and summarised the current situation. In late June the contractor (Kestrel) laid contaminated top soil during renovation work on the Recreation Ground. In July, Kestrel took responsibility and committed to remediate the work on 29th September. However, this did not occur and progress was then stuck between the contractors', the soil suppliers' and agents to the soil suppliers' insurance companies. Kestrel then ceased communication with BACSC. A soil survey was then carried out by the GMA whereby only one small glass fragment was found and concluded that the risk to injury was very low. However, as the survey did not cover the entire Recreation Ground a full 'green light' was not given. The insurance company stated that BACSC may be liable for any injury occurred, a risk they are not prepared to take. The GMA have recommended to remove the top dressing and carry out the work again, or over 12 months carry out x4 top dressings every 3 months. A firm letter was sent to Kestrel. The English Cricket Board, Football Association and EHDC were engaged and EHDC have sent a letter to Kestrel which prompted them to re-engage. They are questioning whether the full work needs to be done and are proposing a meeting. We are keen to engage all parties as soon as possible for works to proceed. The Square is unaffected by the contamination.

Robert agreed to explore other insurance policies.

The Clerk suggested Kestrel paying for an indemnity at the point the current insurance policy fails to cover for the next five years.

A meeting with Chris Hyde (Kestrel) to be arranged, members of the Parish Council to attend.

Cllr Turner advised members of BACSC to seek legal advice to understand their position before embarking on the meeting.

02/26/07 **Insurance**

It was agreed to remove the sports equipment amount and increase the street furniture to £50,000.

All remaining amounts were agreed to keep as stated.

02/26/08 **Risk Assessments**

The following risk assessments were approved:

- Allotments
- Recreation Ground

02/26/09 **Tree, Planning & Development Applications:**

a) **Site:** Coldrey Farm House Froyle Road, Lower Froyle, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 4ND
Proposal: Listed building consent - proposal is to vary the consented scheme 50354/024 so that there will be a single staircase providing access to the first-floor accommodation, accessed via a new doorway cut into the west elevation.

Ref no: EHDC-26-0030-LBC

Comments: Bentley Parish Council have considered the application to vary the consented scheme 50354/024 at Coldrey Farm House and are supportive of this change.

b) **Site:** Pamplins Hill Farm Lane, Bentley, Alton, Hampshire, GU10 5JL
Proposal: Single storey rear extension, side porch and swimming pool
Ref no: EHDC-26-0016-HSE

Comments: Bentley Parish Council have considered the application for a single storey rear extension, side porch and swimming pool at Pamplins and are supportive. The application seems to be in accordance with CP19 by being in keeping with the rural character of this part of the village and it also seems to be compliant with the Bentley Neighbourhood Plan (2025) especially policies BEN2,3 and 4.

Notification of pre-decision amendment

c) **Site:** Land at Hole Lane, Bentley, Farnham. GU10 5LP
Proposal: Outline application of up to 21 houses with all matters reserved apart from access and layout
Ref: EHDC-25-0621-OUT

Comments: Bentley Parish Council have reviewed the amended plans for the land at Hole Lane and acknowledge a positive change as well as a number of concerns. We are pleased to see that the privacy of existing residents of Somerset Fields has been respected by altering the proposed layout of some of the dwellings to be further from their boundaries. We do have the following concerns: This proposed development is outside the Bentley SPB and therefore in contravention of our modified Bentley Neighbourhood Plan (2025), policy BEN1; The additional traffic entering and exiting from the 21 dwellings using the existing road onto Hole Lane will be unacceptable; There is inadequate provision for the additional drainage that will be generated from the proposed site. The diagram showing the ditches and watercourse is already overwhelmed at times from the existing 37 houses and the additional 21 will make flooding of the houses to the south inevitable as the small ditch and attenuation tanks cannot cope e.g. January 2025 when at least one house was flooded in their sitting room. For the above reasons we are not supportive of this development given the proposed layout and inadequate drainage provision.

02/26/10 **Report from Dist. Cllr David Ashcroft of EHDC:**
A statement has been released regarding how EDHC have prepared the District Plan. Care should be taken waiting for the new unitary authority.
Devolution progresses. EHDC will be winding up in about 18 months.
There is a national shortage of lorries so the food waste pick up will be delayed until the autumn.
Dist. Cllr Ashcroft encouraged us to submit an application for his councillor grant.

02/26/11 **Report from the Chairman of Bentley Parish Council:**
Firstly, the village litter pick on weekend of 17th/18th January: My thanks to Anna Woodfine for organising and for all residents who took part in the litter pick. A great initiative and the village certainly looks smarter. Mrs Fuller's comment.
On 20th January, with the help of Matt Luard the entrance barrier was straightened and repaired. Many thanks to Matt and his JCB.
On the same day Robin Welland Jones and I assessed the eaves and guttering on the pavilion for repair. As suspected the UPVC fascia board has been attached to the existing wood. This has reduced the overlap of the roof tiles and allowed moisture in behind the plastic. In places the plastic appears to have come away, allowing more water to infiltrate. Robin has offered to carry out the work.
As a result, the fascia on the front of the building needs replacing. Although in better condition, repairs are also needed to the rear of the building. Given the run between down pipes, the guttering on the front should be replaced with deep flow guttering to handle the volume of water likely to accumulate in this section. The shallow guttering presently installed has probably contributed to the problem.
On 3rd February I met with Jade Bower on the Old Rec to discuss broad plans for the Community Orchard. Inspected drainage around the field, was working very well after Gordon's intervention and I agree with him that the western ditch does not need deepening.
On 5th February I attended a meeting with the Scout leaders at the Pavilion to discuss immediate maintenance and their plans for the future.

02/26/12 **Report from the Clerk of Bentley Parish Council:**
Joe Hixon (tree surgeon) is booked to cut the trees outside the school and School House.
Jade has requested road signs to be cleaned. There are two enamel Bentley archer signs that need refreshing. The Clerk has applied for road signs to be cleaned to Hampshire County Council, but unsure if they are responsible for cleaning. A new bin has been replaced by the bus stop by the alpaca field.
Clerk to source a quote for refreshing (re-painting) the Bentley archer signs and purchasing a missing sign heading towards Crondall.
Clerk to contact EHDC regarding cleaning the road signs.

02/26/13 **Reports from Officers:**
Recreation Ground Officer: Cllr Whowell
The man hole is flooding over by the play park.
Cllr Fuller proposed installing an open ditch leaving the pipe in the ground to aid drainage, possibly from Greenfield Cottages along the boundary behind the cricket nets.
Green Frontiers are booked to cut back the greenery around the ditch to the Main Road.
Footpath Officer: Cllr Turner
Footpaths are very wet.
Cllr Tillet stated that Bruce Powell's manhole has been blocked for about 2 months.
Drainage Officer: Cllr Tillet

Cllr Fuller proposed installing an open ditch leaving the pipe in the ground to aid drainage, possibly from Greenfield Cottages along the boundary behind the cricket nets.
Green Frontiers are booked to cut back the greenery around the ditch to the Main Road.

02/26/14 **Financial and General Purposes Committee:**

a) *Community Account:*

- Opening Balance 1st January: £31,210.88
- Income for January: £11,323.00 (Old Rec rent £50; Bentley Fete Committee reimburse. £100; £11,173 EHDC bus shelter S106)
- Outgoings for January: £18,863.59
- Closing balance 31st January: £23,670.29

Commercial Instant Access Account:

- Opening balance 1st January: £18,826.98
- Income for January: £1589.63 (Interest £9.59; VAT refund £1580.04)
- Outgoings for January: £0
- Closing balance 31st January: £20,416.61

95 Day Notice Account:

- Opening balance 1st January: £50,101.06
- Closing balance 31st January: £50,212.24

The following documents to 31st January 2026 were approved:

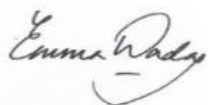
A1 – Cost centre report

A2 –Bank reconciliations: Community, Commercial IA accounts

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

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

The meeting closed at: 9.34pm. The next scheduled Parish Council meeting will be held on Mon 9th March 2026 at 7.30pm at Bentley Memorial Hall.



Emma Wadey

Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer

Payments authorised at the meeting held on:

Mon 9th February 2026

Payments authorised						
Nom code	For	Invoice No	Item/purpose	VAT (£)	Amount (£)	Method of Payment
4000	Clerk & RFO		Salaries (February)	0	2224.84	BACS 114
4050	Clerk & RFO		Expenses/mileage	0	212.58	BACS 115
4200			Home office allowance & mileage		56.73	
			BT-Internet		39.35	
			Himalayan birch tree for Eggars Field		93.96	
			Cllr J Wilson present & card		22.54	
4030	HMRC		Tax & NI	0	837.06	BACS 116
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
4181	Clements Family Carpentry	2602	Removal of fascia and guttering from Pavilion	49.50	297.00	BACS 117
4200	Microshade	2601004 18761	IT services	17.98	107.88	BACS 118
4920	R J Playground Services Ltd	2168	Replacement cableway seat/chain	54.00	324.00	BACS 119
4450	Castle Water	1000874 0152	Old Rec water	6.15	36.35	DD
4850	Source for Business	6092952 6092959 298	Allotment water 16 th Aug 2025-3 rd Feb 2026	0	46.99	BACS 120
4180	Protect CSM Ltd	43743	Installation of new bullet camera to view playing fields	92.99	557.94	BACS 121
4180	Protect CSM Ltd	43742	Replacement NVR	53.76	322.56	BACS 122
4440	East Hants Arborists Ltd	0067	Tree pruning around play area	160.00	960.00	BACS 123
Total				£434.38	£6171.54	

Payments made outside of meeting						
Nom. code	For	Inv. No	Item/purpose	VAT	Amount	Method of Payment

Signed by Chairman..... dated 9th March 2026

4663	Anna Woodfine		Litter picking equipment	0	194.50	BACS 113
------	---------------	--	--------------------------	---	--------	----------