



Minutes

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of Bentley Parish Council

Monday 11th May 2026 at Bentley Memorial Hall at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr John Fuller (Chairman)
Cllr John Goodyear (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Chris Mace
Cllr Gordon Tillett
Cllr Jenny Turner
Cllr Stephen Whowell
Cllr John Wilson

In attendance: Ms Emma Wadey (Clerk)
Dist. Cllr. David Ashcroft
County Cllr Antonia Cox
x4 members of the public

Ref.	Comments
05/26/01	Election of Chairman and signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Cllr John Fuller signed the Declaration of Office in the presence of the Clerk.
05/26/02	Election of Vice-Chairman and signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Cllr John Goodyear signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk. All remaining councillors signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
05/26/03	Apologies for absence. No apologies received.
05/26/04	Co-option of new councillor After voting it was RESOLVED that Dominique Lucas be co-opted to become a member of Bentley Parish Council. The Declaration of Office and Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests forms will be signed before the next meeting. Eliza Bell was nominated as role of Communications Officer.
05/26/05	Election of Officers. The following officers were agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planning: Cllr Chris Mace ▪ Recreation Ground: Cllr Stephen Whowell ▪ Footpaths: Cllr Jenny Turner ▪ Highways & Transport: Dominique Lucas ▪ Drainage: Cllr Gordon Tillett
05/26/06	Election of Finance & General Purposes Committee. The following appointments were agreed: Cllr Turner; Cllr Goodyear; Cllr Lockey; Cllr Whowell

Signed by Chairman..... dated 8th June 2026

05/26/07 **Election of Staffing Committee.**

The following appointments were agreed:
Cllr John Goodyear; Cllr Jenny Turner; Cllr Fuller

05/26/08 **Election of Recreation Ground & Pavilion Committee.**

The following appointments were agreed:
Cllr Stephen Whowell; Cllr Gordon Tillett; Cllr John Goodyear

05/26/09 **Minutes approved from the meeting on Monday 13th April 2026.**

The Minutes from the Parish Council meeting on Monday 13th April 2026 were formally agreed and signed by the Chairman.

05/26/10 **To receive the declarations of interest from Members.**

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.

None declared.

05/26/11 **Public Session.**

No comments made.

05/26/12 **Trees on the corner of Babs Field/Longcroft**

Jane Woodyer contacted the Parish Council and proposed to plant some cherry trees, funded by her and her husband, on the corner of Babs Field and Longcroft. Some existing cherry trees are currently not in a good state. The trees would be gifted to the Parish Council and planted on Parish Council land. Cllr Lockey suggested he would engage with the residents first and agreed to approach them to seek approval.

05/26/13 **Bentley Green**

Jade Bower sought advice from Binsted Parish Council regarding whether to take out a lease or licence with the Parish Council for Bentley Green (for community and agricultural use). Binsted have licenced their land. Cllr Turner stated that due to the long term nature of the project, an acknowledgement should be made to the length of tenure. Obligations of parties should be clear.

Clerk to forward the Binsted PC and Bentley Archers lease to Cllr Turner and Cllr Lockey once received. Both to draft an agreement. Insurance will be considered once the lease/licence is agreed.

It was agreed for Bentley Parish Council to write a letter to the proposed bank explaining that we are the umbrella organisation for Bentley Green Community Group, in order for a bank account to be opened.

To be ratified at the next Parish Council meeting.

05/26/14 **BPC Policies, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations**

Members reviewed the following documents and agreed to adopt them as council policy:

- Standing Orders (March 2025 NALC version)
- Financial Regulations
- Protocol for Reporting at Meetings
- Risk Schedule
- Planning Code
- Complaints Procedure
- Equality & Diversity Policy
- Lone Working Policy
- Grant Awarding Policy
- Training Development Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Code of Conduct

05/26/15 **Tree, Planning & Development Applications [Cllr Mace]:**

None received.

We are currently more than 95% correlation with comments the Parish Council makes and EHDC.

Applications to be decided are currently at 11, including 38 houses (including Broadacre). These include: Bentley Gardens Farm (6); Land at Hole Lane (21); Rectory Lane (3). There currently appears to be no building progressing.

05/26/16 **Report from Dist. Cllr David Ashcroft of EHDC:**
The District Plan will be going to District Council for ratification and agreement in July, then on to Regulation 19. Dist.Cllr Ashcroft thanked the councillors for working hard on behalf of Bentley.

05/26/17 **Report from the Chairman of Bentley Parish Council:**
Cllr Fuller attended the school garden opening last Friday.
Residents of Broadlands have an issue regarding people parking on pavements. There is an emergency access point at the business park, and people are parking on the Broadlands side.
On the Recreation Ground the inspection cover is to be bolted down.
The ditch will be cleared at the end of the month.
Clerk to pursue EHDC for a Traveller Site Management Plan at Vickery Lane.
The Recreation Ground works are complete.
Clerk to check with BPC insurance broker that they are happy with the current state of the ground.

05/26/18 **Report from the Clerk of Bentley Parish Council:**
The internal audit went well. For 2025-26 we were holding Neighbourhood CIL funds that, if unspent, needed to be returned to EHDC in addition the Supporting Community Fund was kept in BPC's bank account for the cricket renovation work. Therefore, we are depleted by approximately £20k, as well as the Old Rec rental income no longer received and interest reduced. A finance meeting was arranged for Thursday 28th May at 7pm.
The Lengthsman has strimmed the play area and cleared the ditch by the Rec to regularly maintain it. BACSC has bought a new mower.
The new bin at the Rec has been installed by EHDC, but we're still waiting for the one at the bus shelter.
Bentley Lodge Nursing Home fair is on Saturday 13th June, 2-4pm, all councillors invited.

05/26/19 **Reports from Officers:**
Recreation Ground Officer: Cllr Whowell
The bins are getting old on the Rec.
Footpaths Officer: Cllr Turner
The stinging nettles are quite bad.
Drainage Officer: Cllr Tillet
No water in the ditches at the moment as we have had no rain.
The ditch down from Somerset Fields needs attention as residents are still concerned.

05/26/20 **Financial and General Purposes Committee:**
Community Account:

- Opening Balance 1st April: £7,239.79
- Income for April: £68,000 (Precept £66,000: Transfer from CIA £2000)
- Outgoings for April: £6101.41
- Closing balance 30th April: £69,138.38

Commercial Instant Access Account:

- Opening balance 1st April: £20,433.44
- Income for April: £3878.40 (VAT re-imburement £3869.72; interest £8.68)
- Outgoings for April: £2000.00 (Transfer to Community AC)
- Closing balance 30th April: £22,311.84

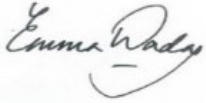
High Interest Account:

- Opening balance 1st April: £50,429.77
- Closing balance 30th April: £50,531.62

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

Paper A4 - Clerk salary (May) & expenses record (April) were noted & approved by the Council.

The meeting closed at: 9.20pm. The next scheduled Parish Council meeting will be held on Mon 8th June at 7.30pm at Bentley Memorial Hall.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emma Wadey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'E' and a long, sweeping underline.

Emma Wadey
Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer

Payments authorised at the meeting held on:

Mon 11th May 2026

Payments to be authorised						
Nom. code	For	Invoice No	Item/purpose	VAT £	Amount £	Method of Payment
4000	Staff salaries		Salaries (May)	0	2310.74	BACS 13
4050	Staff expenses		Expenses/mileage	0	273.74	BACS 14
4200			Home office allowance & mileage		65.10	
4070			BT-Internet		44.87 n	
4170			APA refreshments		142.70	
4070			Stamps		14.40	
			Water & cups for meeting		6.67	
4030	HMRC		Tax & NI	0	890.23	BACS 15
4040	Scottish Widows		Pension	0	214.49	DD
4171	Tesco		Mobile phone	0	28.99	DD
4171	Tesco phone insurance		Phone insurance	0	10.00	DD
4931	Kestrel	1494	Repairing irrigation trench	0	2064.00	BACS 16
4450	Premier Grounds	3517	Grass cutting – other	104.00	624.00	BACS 17
4430			Strimming	60.00	360.00	
				44.00	264.00	
115	Bentley Archers Cricket & Sports Club		VAT reimbursement:	0	627.18	BACS 18
			Pre-design Kestrel inv Metal garage		304.00 323.18	
4200	Microshade	260400 454502	IT services	17.98	107.88	BACS 19
4610	GFT Fencing	1012	Gate on the Rec	114.00	570.00	BACS 20
4140	HALC	8153	Affiliation fees 2026-27	0	479.00	BACS 21
4181	Cllr Fuller		Re-imburement thank you present for repairing Pavilion	0	81.00	BACS 22

Signed by Chairman..... dated 8th June 2026

4931	Bentley Archers Cricket & Sports Club		Grass mower Van hire Fuel	0	2624.38 2450.00 101.45 72.93	BACS 23
Total				£235.98	£10,905.63	

Invoices have been examined, verified and certified by the RFO

Invoices issued						
Nom. code	For	Invoice No	Item/purpose	VAT £	Amount £	Method of Payment
1130	EHDC	0116/CIL	Repair irrigation trench	0	2064.00	Invoice
1130	EHDC	0117/CIL	Wicket mower	0	2450.00	Invoice
1130	EHDC	0118/CIL	Wicket mower van hire & fuel	0	174.38	Invoice
Total				£0	£4688.38	