



## BENWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Benwick Parish Council on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015 in the side room of the Village Hall in High Street, Benwick PE15 0XA.

- Present:-** Cllrs; M Chapman (Chair); L Keppel-Spoor; R Few; J Chandler; V Gobie; J Hindle; J Clark (CCC); PCSO T Liano, Clerk J Richardson and 1 member of the public
- 150/15-16** **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr R Butcher (FDC), Cllr R Emmitt, Cllr A Miscandlon (FDC)
- 151/15-16** **Declarations of Interest**  
None Declared
- 152/15-16** **Public Time**  
**7.35p.m-** Mrs Richards would like to know when the Parish Council will be collecting the Xmas Tree. Concerns were raised regarding the Health & Safety issues surrounding this.  
**7.45p.m** Weeping willow tree on footpath has been cut back but not enough.  
 Conifer trees on High Street/Doddington Road have been reported last week.  
 Dog Fouling is again becoming an issue due to dog owners taking advantage of the dark mornings and evenings.
- 153/15-16** **Confirmation of Minutes**  
 It was Proposed by Cllr L Keppel-Spoor, and AGREED, to sign and approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015 **Agreed**
- 154/15-16** **Matters Arising (for information only)**  
None
- 155/15-16** **Police Matters:** During the month of October 2015 – 11 crimes were reported with only 4 of the crimes having an impact on local residents, these are:-
1. 27.10.2015 – Lorry in a ditch along the B1093 from Benwick to Whittlesey, No other vehicles involved no injuries.
  2. 25.10.2015 – Youths have caused criminal damage to a vehicle in the village, enquiries still ongoing.
  3. 17.10.2015 – Vehicle has swerved and hit an on-coming car, no injuries.
  4. 15.10.2015 – A vehicle has been stolen from an address in Benwick enquiries are still on-going at this time.
- The following message was received from the Police Rep “Concerns about the amount of crimes that are being reported for cars being stolen without the use of car keys. Whittlesey and the villages have all been targeted and alarmingly tens of thousands of cars are being stolen or broken into every year by thieves using electronic hacking equipment. Whittlesey alone had a spate of vans being targeted, no keys were ever taken to break in. Hi-tech devices which were originally intended for locksmiths to gain access to vehicles have been reported on occasions to have been used. Some thieves are using equipment that intercepts the signals from key fobs!  
 It can take someone experienced just 10 seconds to break in to a vehicle!!!  
 This coincides with an increase in popularity of keyless systems especially in new vehicles. Keyless entry works by the driver having a fob instead of a key which automatically opens the car and activates it so it can be driven, equipment can be bought online which is able to re-programme the fob! It is difficult to keep anything safe but there is information available and sometimes it is worth talking to your insurance companies for their guidance.  
 On a more positive note we are conducting more school patrols targeting those who do not park appropriately when taking and picking up children to and from school. Although as a team Whittlesey do cover a large area and a fair few schools we have had positive results and targeted many parents as a result with tickets being issued and drivers being spoken too. We are lucky to have the support of the schools, Benwick being one of them. Sadly what seem to get over looked is the fact that we are at the schools ticketing patrolling etc., for the safety of children the pupils, parents and even

- teachers.”
- 156/15-16 WW2 US Plane Crash Memorial:** Nothing to report.
- 157/15-16 High Street:** The land at the end of the High Street (Footbridge end) is overgrown again, this land is maintained by the residents in the area. Cllr's Chapman and Few are to discuss with a local resident.
- 158/15-16 County & District Councillors Reports**  
Cllr Clark reported that everyone is now aware of the publicity of CCC budget cuts. Copies of slides to be emailed to the Clerk.  
FDC public consultation has taken place and over 6000 replies have been received, and this will be a great help in identifying where savings can be made.  
The question of business rates being kept by local council's was raised and it was explained that this matter will probably not benefit local councils.
- 159/15-16 Dog Fouling:** It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman, and AGREED, to accept the offer of new signs by FDC, Clerk to notify FDC. It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman, and AGREED, to ask FDC to work with Benwick School regarding dog fouling, the Clerk to notify FDC. There is to be an entry in the Benwick Bugle regarding dog fouling.
- 160/15-16 Play Park:** Four grant applications have been identified, two have been filled in. Cllr Chapman is to draft some words for the grant applications and forward to Cllrs Gobie and Hindle for them to complete applications and arrange a meeting with B Ollier (FDC). The matter of contributions for some of the funding applications were discussed.
- 161/15-16 The Pound:** No update received
- 162/15-16 Bus Shelter:** The bus shelter woodwork has been fixed and Howard Langford is to fix the two loose roof tiles. It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman, and AGREED, that the bus shelter be stained and anti-graffiti painted, inside, for a budget of £80. Cllrs Gobie and Hindle to arrange.
- 163/15-16 Road Closure:** Notification of Road Closure 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> December re Santa Special 2015 has been received. The area affected is from the school to top of Cambridge Row
- 164/15-16 Income & Expenditure**  
a) 2<sup>nd</sup> Instalment 2015/16 Precept and Council Tax Support Grant Rec'd £5,948.50, VAT Refund of £246.66  
b) It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman, and AGREED, that members approve the following accounts for payment
- |   |                              |                |
|---|------------------------------|----------------|
| C Owen  | Cemetery & Pound Maintenance | £288.75        |
| CGM Landscapes  | Verge Cutting                | £70.08         |
| Anglian Water (dd)  | Water Rates                  | £7.00          |
| Eon (dd)  | Electricity Costs            | £122.90        |
| J Richardson  | Admin – 25/10/15             | £273.91        |
| J Richardson  | Expenses                     | £8.01          |
| DDP   | Cemetery Planning App        | £112.50        |
| ICO   | Data Protection Registration | £35.00         |
| c) It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman, and AGREED, that members approve the following accounts for payment |                              |                |
| Benwick Village Hall  | Village Hall usage           | £33.75         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  |                              | <b>£951.90</b> |
- d) Clerks report on the October Bank Balances and reconciliation statement is attached at Appendix 1
- 165/15-16 Planning/Development**  
**Planning Granted**  
a) F/YR15/0411/F Change of use of allotment gardens to burial ground as an extension to existing cemetery, Land West Of The Old Rectory Whittlesey Road Benwick Cambridgeshire PE15 0XL
- Development**  
a) An update on Copalder Corner has been received from FDC. Cllr Chapman commented that this started in 2009. It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman, and AGREED, that he writes to FDC (Planning) in a robust manner, expressing the unhappiness of the way that this complaint has been handled, and pointing out that unauthorised change of use is 10 years, this may also include FOI requests.  
b) Fields View, nothing to report
- 166/15-16 Cemetery/Mooring**  
**Cemetery**

Cllrs Chapman &amp; Few

Cllr Clark

Agreed  
Clerk  
Agreed  
Clerk

Cllr Chapman

Agreed  
Cllrs Gobie & HindleAgreed  
Cllr Chapman

	a) Cllr Few is to take a look at the damaged bench, near the Cremation Plots. Cllr Keppel-Spoor to research the address of the family that donated the bench	<b>Cllr Few</b> <b>Cllr Keppel-Spoor</b>
<b>167/15-16</b>	b) A new memorial is to be installed in the Cemetery at Plot 664 <b>Allotments:</b> a) A response was not positive from the allotment holders re the formation of an association. Discussion took place on the future of the allotments. Cllr Hindle proposed, and it was AGREED, that Notice to Quit be served upon allotments to spray for the weeds etc. This will take effect from April 2017. b) There are 2 applications by new tenants. It was Proposed by, Cllr Keppel-Spoor, and AGREED, to let for 18 months, up to April 2017 at a cost of £22.50.	<b>Agreed</b> <b>Clerk</b>  <b>Agreed</b> <b>Clerk</b>
<b>168/15-16</b>	<b>Highways</b> a) <b>2016-17 Local Highways Improvement Bid:</b> The Bid has been completed and sent in. It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman, and AGREED, that Cllr Keppel-Spoor will invite Derek Cosby (Local Area Traffic Officer) to one of the Parish Council Meetings. <b>b) Community Gritting Scheme:</b> There is an opportunity to register as volunteers for the gritting volunteering scheme. It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman, and AGREED, that the Clerk is to place this on the website to seek volunteers.	<b>Agreed</b> <b>Cllr Keppel-Spoor</b>  <b>Agreed</b> <b>Clerk</b>
<b>169/15-16</b>	<b>Planning Training</b> Attendance at training event on 26/11/15 7p.m to 9p.m at Fenland Hall will include Cllrs Keppel-Spoor, Chapman and Chandler. The Clerk to advise FDC.	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>170/15-16</b>	<b>Donations</b> A request from East Anglian Air Ambulance for a donation has been received. It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman, and AGREED, that no donation be given. The Clerk to advise the Air Ambulance.	<b>Agreed</b> <b>Clerk</b>
<b>171/15-16</b>	<b>Street Lighting</b> a) The transfer of lighting maintenance and power to FDC is now ready to complete. It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman, and AGREED, that the Clerk cancels the electricity contract for the street lighting as requested by FDC.	<b>Agreed</b> <b>Clerk</b>
<b>172/15-16</b>	<b>Christmas:</b> It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman, and AGREED, that the Parish Council will not be involved in the Xmas Tree for the village this year. Proposed, by Cllr Chapman, and AGREED, that if a tree on private land is identified the decorations held by the Parish Council could be donated for use.	<b>Agreed</b>  <b>Agreed</b>
<b>173/15-16</b>	<b>Transparency Code:</b> It was felt that there are no items that the Parish Council could apply for funding under the Transparency Code for.	
<b>174/15-16</b>	<b>Correspondence</b> a) Rural Services Network Bulletins (emailed 05/10/15, 06/10/15,12/10/15, 14/10/15, 28/10/15) b) Police & Crime Commissioner update (emailed 05/10/15) c) Notes for Councillors re Planning Committees (emailed 05/10/15) d) Fenland Community Safety Partnership Newsletter (emailed 06/10/15) e) Invite to CAPALC AGM on 10/12/2015 at (Histon/Impington Village Hall) from 7pm to 9pm (emailed 06/10/15) f) Wings for Life World run (emailed 28/10/15) g) CAPLC bulletins (emailed 28/10/15) h) Cambridgeshire County Council Budget briefing (emailed 28/10/15)	
<b>175/15-16</b>	<b>Motion to exclude Press and Public was Proposed by Cllr Chapman, and AGREED</b> <b>War Memorial:</b> a) Memorial Service to be held on Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> November at 10.00, to include flag raising (Cllr Chandler), wreath laying (Cllr Chapman). The War Memorial and surrounding area has been cleaned by Cllr Gobie and the flower tub planted by Cllr Keppel-Spoor. b) An email has been received regarding an incident at the War Memorial. It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman, and AGREED, that he, and the Clerk, offers to meet the person at the War Memorial to discuss the situation.	<b>Agreed</b>          <b>Agreed</b> <b>Cllr Chapman</b>
<b>176/15-16</b>	<b>Agenda Items/Next Meeting</b> The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2015. Items to be included on Agenda should be with the Clerk by Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2015	

Meeting Closed at 9.30p.m

## Appendix 1

Bank Reconciliation				Financial Year ending 31 March 2016			
Benwick Parish Council							
Prepared by Jacquie Richardson (Clerk & RFO)							
Date	30/10/2015						
Approved by				Chair			
Date							
<b>Balance per bank statements as at</b>		<b>30/10/2015</b>		<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>	
Current Account				32082.13			
NS&I				20595.57			
						52677.7	
Less: Unpresented Cheques							
Cheque Number			2360	195.00			
						195.00	
Add: Any unbanked cash in transit							
<b>Net bank balances as at</b>						<b>52,482.70</b>	
The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book, as follows:-							
Opening Balance				45,781.90			
Add: Receipts to date				16,142.53			
Less: Payments to date				9,441.73			
<b>Closing Balance</b>				<b>52,482.70</b>			
<b>Earmarked Reserves:</b>							
Parish Plan	£532.89						
Verge Planting	£1.40						
Cemetery Extension	£7,470.00						
Street Lighting	£8,000.00						
The Pound	£2,000.00						
War Memorial	£2,000.00						
Mooring	£1,000.00						
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£21,004.29</b>			
<b>General Reserve</b>	<b>£31,478.41</b>						