



BENWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Benwick Parish Council on Monday 4th January 2016 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; J Hindle; V Gobie; J Clark (CCC); R Butcher (FDC); J Richardson (Clerk) and 1 member of the public
- 204/15-16** **Apologies for Absence:** T Liano(PCSO); A Miscandlon(FDC); Cllr R Emmitt
- 205/15-16** **Declarations of Interest**
Disclosable Pecuniary Interest
Item 217/15-16 Cllrs V Gobie and J Hindle
- 206/15-16** **Public Time**
7.35p.m- Apologies from Mr Richards for not attending
7.37p.m Cycle Race to be placed on next month's agenda
Lots of opinions voiced about no Xmas tree in the village
Nothing has been done about the end of High Street shrubbery, Cllr Chapman to remind the residents
Hedge outside the bungalows on High Street to be reported by Clerk
Traffic sign light not working outside 36 High Street to be reported by Clerk
- 207/15-16** **Confirmation of Minutes**
It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman, and AGREED, to approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th December 2015
- 208/15-16** **Matters Arising (for information only)**
Highways faults of drains on High Street, Hedges on Doddington Road and Willow tree on Nene Parade reported
- 209/15-16** **Police Matters:** During the month of December 2015 – 14 incidents were called into the Police, of these 7 had an impact on the community:-
30/12/2015 - Land just outside Benwick. Five male's hare coursing Police Officers arrested males on scene. They will be reported for summons to attend Court for this offence
16/12/2015 – Males reported to be Hare Coursing on Ramsey Road officers attended but group had left
15/12/2015 – Vehicle seen on farm land coursing at location. Made off from officers on attendance enquiries on going at this time
17/12/2015 Number plates stolen from High Street further vehicles also targeted
17/12/2015 Number plates stolen from High Street further vehicles also targeted but not all reported
1 x call with further information received regarding the number plate thefts. Enquiries carried out and advice given to the victims
08/12/2015 A lorry broken down on the Benwick Road, no major problems caused that we were aware of
The main problem for Benwick has been the theft of number plates, Whittlesey were experiencing similar a couple of months ago. If your number plates are stolen from your car/vehicle you need to report it straight away. Approximately 40,000 cases of number plate thefts were reported across England last year.
- 210/15-16** **County & District Councillors Reports**
Cllr Butcher reported that Fenland District Council will now have to save £2.2 million over next 4 years. Areas that can be cut back will now be looked into. Cllr Clark reported that CCC also has to make significant savings. CCC will increase wages from the minimum wage to the living wage. Services to the

Clerk

Cllr Chapman

Clerk

Clerk

Agreed

	villages could be reduced.	
211/15-16	Dog Fouling: No update received on actions taken to tackle increase in dog fouling. Posters received from Fenland District Council have been put up.	
212/15-16	The Pound: No update on current situation	
213/15-16	Income & Expenditure	
	a) It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman, and AGREED, that members approve the following accounts for payment	Agreed
	C Owen Cemetery & Pound Maintenance	£288.75
	CGM Landscapes Verge Cutting	£70.08
	Anglian Water (dd) Water Rates	£7.00
	J Richardson Admin – 27/12/15	£220.97
	Cambs Acre Membership Renewal	£54.00
	TOTAL	£640.80
	b) Clerks report on the December Bank Balances and reconciliation statement is at Appendix 1	
	c) Working Party meeting held and proposed budget figures had been sent to Cllrs. Cllr Chapman Proposed, and it was AGREED, that a 1% increase in Precept for 2016/17 (£10,715) be applied for, the Clerk is to send relevant paperwork to FDC	Agreed Clerk
	2016/17 development expenditure budget will be reduced by £1000.	
	Earmarked reserves to be discussed at February meeting, Clerk to place on agenda	Clerk
214/15-16	Play Park: Two bids have been sent in for funding and work is ongoing for a third bid. Rural Capital Grant bid is being held up awaiting a letter of support from the Police Commissioner. It was asked if the previous agreed plan had been changed and it was confirmed that the plan has not changed, but items that can be saved may be refurbished. Funding bids made are for Rural Capital Grant and AmeyWren . Sport England can be looked at a later date. Earmarking of reserves will be discussed at the next meeting for further funding of the Play Park	
215/15-16	Planning/Development Development	
	a) Copalder Corner: No update received. Cllr Keppel-Spoor will attempt to acquire further historical information relating to this, if possible	Cllr Keppel-Spoor
216/15-16	Street Lighting	
	Report on street lights has been provided by the Clerk to all Councillors. The Clerk is to email Cllr Clark regarding the Concurrent Function Grant loss relating to street lights, as it appears that maintenance and replacement street lighting grants have been taken away.	Clerk
	Proposed by Cllr Chapman, and AGREED, to approach Balfour Beatty for a firm quote to replace all 7 CAT2 lights.	Agreed Clerk
	Cllrs Hindle and Gobie left the room	
217/15-16	Benwick in Bloom	
	It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman, and AGREED, that £100 be donated to Benwick in Bloom.	Agreed
	Cllrs Gobie and Hindle returned to the room	
218/15-16	Correspondence	
	a) Rural Services Network Bulletins (emailed 10/12/15, 17/12/15, 28/12/15)	
	b) Cambs Acre Newsletter (emailed 10/12/15)	
	c) CCC Budget Press Release (emailed 10/12/15)	
	d) CPRE Bulletin (emailed 10/12/15)	
	e) SLCC News (emailed 11/12/15)	
	f) NALC bulletin (emailed 11/12/15)	
	g) Police and Crime Commissioners Bulletin (emailed 14/12/15)	
	h) Referendum principles for the Parish sector 2016/17 (emailed 21/12/15)	
219/15-16	Motion to exclude Press and Public Proposed by Cllr Chapman, and AGREED	Agreed
	War Memorial:	
	a) Email printed and posted, no response, so item now closed	
220/15-16	Cemetery:	

Cllr Keppel-Spoor is to provide the Clerk with a list of other companies in the area that could undertake the work. The Clerk is then to seek quotes for an extension to the tarmac path

**Cllr Keppel-Spoor
Clerk**

221/15-16

Clerks Training:

It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman, and AGREED, that the Clerk attend a course relating to public nuisance and byelaws (including Dog Fouling) on 05/02/16

**Agreed
Clerk**

It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman, and AGREED, that the Clerk attend a course relating to Finance on 12/02/16

**Agreed
Clerk**

222/15-16

Agenda Items/Next Meeting

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Monday 1st February 2016. Items to be included on Agenda should be with the Clerk by Monday 25th January 2016

Meeting Closed at:- 8.36p.m

Appendix 1

Bank Reconciliation				Financial Year ending 31 March 2016			
Benwick Parish Council							
Prepared by Jacquie Richardson (Clerk & RFO)							
Date		31/12/2015					
Approved by				Chair			
Date		04/01/2016					
Balance per bank statements as at				31/12/2015			
				£		£	
Current Account				32017.07			
NS&I				20595.57		52612.64	
Less: Unpresented Cheques							
Cheque Number		2360		195.00			
						195.00	
Add: Any unbanked cash in transit							
Net bank balances as at						52,417.64	
The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book, as follows:-							
Opening Balance				45,781.90			
Add: Receipts to date				17,869.78			
Less: Payments to date				11,234.04			
Closing Balance				52,417.64			
Earmarked Reserves:							
Parish Plan		£532.89					
Verge Planting		£1.40					
Cemetery Extension		£7,357.50					
Street Lighting		£8,000.00					
The Pound		£2,000.00					
War Memorial		£2,000.00					
Mooring		£1,000.00		TOTAL		£20,891.79	
General Reserve		£31,525.85					