



# BENWICK PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Benwick Parish Council on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018 in the Church room of the Village Hall in High Street, Benwick PE15 0XA

**Present:** Cllrs M Chapman (Chair); L Keppel-Spoor; R Few; R Emmitt; L Robinson; A Cade; A Miscandlon (FDC); J Richardson (Clerk), PCSO M Froment and eighteen members of the public

**200/17-18 Apologies for Absence:** Cllr R Butcher; Cllr D Connor

**201/17-18 Declarations of Interest**

a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests declared

210/17-18 a) Cllr L Keppel-Spoor & 212/17-18 Cllr Few

**202/17-18 Public Time**

Lot of angry people here re Planning Application on agenda. Residents in that area believed when they bought their property there was a covenant to prevent building, and has not been put in by land owner. Application states that short of 42 properties in the village is incorrect. No sewage to East side of Doddington Road so septic tanks needed which would contaminate land. Ask Parish Council to look forward and give support to get this application dismissed.

People moved into that area for the rural aspect of open fields at back of properties, and do not want properties overlooking their properties.

It was felt that if planning application went ahead it may set a precedent for that side of Doddington Road.

Chairman explained Parish Councils role re planning applications, which is to make objective comments and not to approve planning applications.

It was asked if planning applications should be granted when they cannot be connected to a main sewer. What is to stop more houses being built. It is agricultural land and concerns about soakaways into the ditch which is near adjoining properties. There are reportedly bats in the barn.

Cllr Miscandlon (Chairman of Planning Committee FDC) confirmed that a full planning application will come back to the Parish Council. Six or more letters of objection are required to trigger a planning committee hearing.

Believes that a Cllr is speaking when an interest has been declared. Chairman stated that as this is public time this is allowed.

Residents close to the land are very concerned about the proposed development.

Concerned about houses being built behind bungalows. Infrastructure of village cannot cope with more houses.

Chairman was asked if planning application could be brought forward on agenda.

Light at back of bungalows on High Street raised. Light was taken down, with no notice. Chairman replied that the responsibility for the lighting of properties lay with Roddens. The light was condemned and was replaced, by Roddens, with solar powered lights at the back of the properties. It was asked who owns the car park and it was stated that it is believed to be FDC.

Cars parking in front of the shop on the footpath is causing problems. PCSO asked what sort of time this happens? And it was stated that it is all the time during the day, and it would be good if this could be covered in patrols. Area covered by PCSO includes Whittlesey and has found that working with children has helped make parents more aware and will work with the school re parking and the dangers of it in the village.

Benwick In Bloom informed that they are entering the Anglia in Bloom and are encouraging "yarn bombing" to raise cancer awareness.

Storage container on The Pound was raised and it was questioned as to whether this would really be of benefit to the village.

It would be nice to have more trees in the village.

Defibrillator which failed to work was questioned and the Parish Council believe this is still under investigation. The sole contribution that the Parish Council had in this matter was to donate money to purchase the box to keep the defibrillator in, when asked for by another organisation.

PUBLIC TIME CLOSED AT 20.05

**203/17-18 Confirmation of Minutes**

- It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman, and AGREED, to sign and approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018 **Agreed**
- 204/17-18 Matters Arising (for information only)**  
 10/01/18 FDC will contact the owner of the site and ask them to attend to the site (Old Butchers Shop, High Street)  
 17/01/18 Net Tax-Base calculation sent from FDC  
 23/01/18 Fallen branches blocking footpath down to Cemetery reported to Highways. Mr Langford was thanked for his help in this matter
- 205/17-18 Police Report**  
 PCSO Mike Froment introduced himself. Email address is:- michael.froment@cambs.pnn.police.uk  
 2 Burglaries this month. Two missing people were reported but they have been found safe. A couple of traffic collisions have taken place. Police have to prioritise their workload. 3 reports of hare coursing, one of which was attended on time. School is being worked closely with especially regarding speeding and parking. Litter was also raised. Chat is now available on line for reporting minor issues to the Police.
- 210/17-18 Item moved forward on agenda by Chairman**  
**Planning Applications**  
 Cllr Keppel-Spoor left the meeting  
 a) F/YR18/0025/O Erection of up to 10 no dwellings (outline application with all matters reserved) Land South Of 16A Doddington Road Benwick Cambridgeshire. There are already 2 large areas identified for planning which are currently eyesores (11 off Lilyholt Road). The land off Doddington Road on opposite side of the road to this application (15 houses) has also been recently cleared. Land that is brownfield that has not been used, and this is a greenfield site. Problems with sewers down Doddington Road raises concern about the infrastructure in that area. Develop brownfield sites before greenfield. Cann't comment on drainage as there is nothing in application regarding this. Lack of social housing in the village was raised. Do not want to potentially open up the door to significant developments on that side of Doddington Road.  
 FDC do not have a 5 year housing stock plan, and central government do require this to be planned for.  
 There could be a smaller development just on the front of the property. Feels as if it may open up other greenfield development in the village when the infrastructure cannot take it. Concern over school places. There was also a mention of bats in the barn.  
 It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman, and AGREED, that Benwick Parish Council are vehemently opposed to the development of a greenfield site with such a large development when there are already identified brownfield sites earmarked for development for decades, that have not been developed and have turned into eyesores, it would be the Parish Council aim to develop these sites first. There are concerns over possibilities of bats in the barn. Cannot comment on drainage and sewage but would express concerns and request a survey of the facilities and infrastructure along Doddington Road, in particular, with so many sites that would feed into an area that has had to be pumped out regularly over the last few years. **Agreed**  
 Cllr Keppel-Spoor returned to the meeting.  
 b) F/YR18/0064/F Erection of a single storey rear extension to existing dwelling involving demolition of existing conservatory 24 Doddington Road Benwick March Cambridgeshire PE15 0UT. **Clerk**  
 It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman, and AGREED, that Benwick Parish Council has no observations to make **Agreed Clerk**
- 206/17-18 Village Benches**  
 Burnt House Drove Wind Farm application for grant, for bench at War Memorial, has been sent in but panel does not meet until March.  
 Cllr Connor has met with Highways and the area will be tarmacked once the new bench is in place.  
 Ransonmoor grant application to be completed, for benches in Cemetery. **Clerk**  
 Cllr Cade left the meeting.
- 207/17-18 County & District Councillors Reports**  
 Report from Cllrs Miscandlon reported that the dragon pot hole filler is coming to this area. Any potholes locally to be notified to Cllr Connor.  
 Meeting this week regarding speeding within the villages with Police & Crime Commissioner, and raise Benwick too.

- Government has asked all Councils to list their brownfield sites by end March 2018. There could be clear up costs with some of these, before they can be developed.
- 208/17-18 Street Lights**  
Letter received from FDC regarding Parish Street Lights.
- 209/17-18 Tour of Cambridgeshire Cycle Race**  
Still waiting for proposal from FDC re maintenance of Street Lights  
The race will be coming through Benwick on 3rd June 2018 and there will be road closures in and around the village on that day.  
No further actions have taken place but it has been confirmed that the Public House will be putting on some activities.
- 211/17-18 The Pound:** A storage container on The Pound has progressed as another village group would like some storage and they may also be able to assist with the provision of a container at a reduced price. It is noted that it cannot exceed a 20ft container. Still pursuing 2 potential quotes.
- 212/17-18 Unadopted Right of Way:**  
Request re writing to landowner to have the gate moved over slightly to allow access for pedestrians, horses and cyclists.  
This was raised by a member of the Public last month. It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman, and AGREED, that a letter be sent to the tenant farmer urging both parties to come to a compromise solution over access which would meet needs whilst wider issues are investigated. **Agreed Clerk**
- 213/17-18 Benwick In Bloom :** Request made for a donation for 2018 and it is believed that Benwick In Bloom make a valuable contribution to the village. It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman, and AGREED, that £130 be donated to Benwick In Bloom **Agreed Clerk**
- 214/17-18 Income & Expenditure**  
Income Rec'd £98.37 NS&I Interest  
a) It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman, and AGREED, that members approve the following accounts for payment **Agreed**
- |                       |                        |                |
|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| ISS Facility Services | Cemetery Maintenance   | £253.92        |
| CGM Landscapes        | Verge Cutting          | £70.08         |
| CGM Landscapes        | Allotment Spraying     | £96.00         |
| Anglian Water (dd)    | Water Rates            | £19.00         |
| J Richardson          | Admin – 28/01/18       | £323.17        |
| J Richardson          | Reimbursement-Expenses | £55.84         |
| Benwick Village Hall  | Room Hire              | £80.00         |
|                       | <b>TOTAL</b>           | <b>£898.01</b> |
- b) Clerks report on the January Bank Balances and reconciliation statement is at Appendix A
- 215/17-18 Cemetery & Verge Cutting**  
a) The tender and process for the Cemetery and Verge Cutting contract renewals in April 2018. Documents inviting tenders have been sent out to six companies. Tenders to be returned by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018.  
b) Hedge cutting in Cemetery is required especially on far side as conifers are now encroaching into Cemetery. It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman, and AGREED, that the owners of the bungalow be written to regarding the trimming back of their trees, to the boundary, and would like to have a meeting to discuss this due to the special nature of the area. **Agreed Clerk**
- 216/17-18 Allotments**  
Report on allotment clearance project for September Gardens, and actions required was circulated to Cllrs.  
1a) It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman, and AGREED, that Clerk be authorised to continue to get Payback in to clear the allotment and authorise organising a skip up to £300 budget. **Agreed Clerk**  
2a) Cllr Few is to speak to a local contractor re a cost to plough the allotments once cleared **Cllr Few**  
Clerk and Cllr Chapman to go and measure the Plots ready for the marking out of the allotment plots. **Clerk & Cllr Chapman**
- 217/17-18 Local Highways Improvement Opportunity 2018**  
Update on the panel meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and attended by Cllr Chapman was given.
- 218/17-18 GDPR Update:**  
a) It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman, and AGREED, that the clerk partake in a Webinar provided by SLCC, on GDPR, at a cost of £30+VAT, and attend CAPALC training course, on GDPR, in March 2018, provisional dates 15th & 16th March 2018 @ £40 per attendee. **Agreed Clerk**

- b) To discuss and agree to register an interest in belonging to a County wide DPO provided by CAPALC. It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman, and AGREED, to register an interest, in principle. **Agreed Clerk**
- 219/17-18 Tree Planting**  
Request from Ramsey Rotary Club to plant some trees in Benwick that are available until March from the Woodland Trust.  
It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman, and AGREED, to forward the email to Bob Ollier re trees in Cemetery. To reply to Rotary Club that Benwick has no public land suitable but have passed email onto FDC. Link to Woodland Trust to be put on web site. **Agreed Clerk**
- 220/17-18 Correspondence**  
a) Rural Services Network Bulletins (emailed 03/01/18, 10/01/18, 15/01/18, 17/01/18, 22/01/18, 24/01/18, 29/01/18, 31/01/18)  
b) NALC Newsletter – 21 December 2017 (emailed 03/01/18)  
c) Policing precept consultation (emailed 05/01/18)  
d) External Auditor Update - details of a training webinar on 23 January (emailed 05/01/18)  
e) War Memorial News - (emailed 10/01/18, 24/01/18)  
f) FDC Press Releases (emailed 10/01/18)  
g) Highways Event Diary - January 2018 (emailed 10/01/18) Roadworks & Events Bulletin 16th - 31st January 2018 (emailed 15/01/18) 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> Feb (emailed 29/01/18)  
h) Knights End Road, March - Carriageway Maintenance, Road Closure (emailed 10/01/18)  
i) Message From The Chief Constable 12/01/2018 (emailed 15/01/18)  
j) CPRE Campaigns (emailed 15/01/18)  
k) Cambridgeshire Matters Newsletter January 2018 (emailed 15/01/18)  
l) CAPALC AGM Extra Ordinary Meeting (EOM) - 22nd March 2018 (emailed 22/01/18)  
m) Police and Crime Commissioner Public Surgery (emailed 24/01/18)  
n) CAPALC Bulletin (emailed 24/01/18)  
o) News From The Police And Crime Commissioner (emailed 24/01/18)  
p) Reporting non-emergencies to police (emailed 29/01/18)
- 221/17-18 Agenda Items/Next Meeting**  
The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Items to be included on Agenda should be with the Clerk by Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Meeting Closed at:- 21.15

Appendix 1

<b>Bank Reconciliation</b>				<b>Financial Year ending 31 March 2018</b>	
Benwick Parish Council					
Prepared by Jacquie Richardson (Clerk & RFO)					
Date	29/01/2018				
Approved by		Chair			
Date	05/02/2018				
<b>Balance per bank statements as at</b>	<b>29/01/2018</b>			<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Current Account				27734.97	
NS&I				20973.08	
					48,708.05
Less: Unpresented Cheques					
Cheque Number					
Add: Any unbanked cash in transit					
					0.00
<b>Net bank balances as at</b>				<b>48,708.05</b>	
The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book, as follows:-					
Opening Balance				54,994.67	
Add: Receipts to date				24,295.37	
Less: Payments to date				30,581.99	
<b>Closing Balance</b>				<b>48,708.05</b>	
<b>Earmarked Reserves:</b>					
<b>Parish Plan</b>	<b>£532.89</b>				
<b>Verge Planting</b>	<b>£151.40</b>				
<b>Cemetery Extension</b>	<b>£8,157.50</b>				
<b>Street Lighting</b>	<b>£11,500.00</b>				
<b>The Pound</b>	<b>£2,000.00</b>				
<b>War Memorial</b>	<b>£2,000.00</b>				
<b>Mooring</b>	<b>£1,633.66</b>	<b>E M TOTAL</b>		<b>£26,345.45</b>	
<b>Allotments</b>	<b>£370.00</b>				
<b>General Reserve</b>	<b>£22,362.60</b>				