

BENWICK PARISH ASSEMBLY

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly of Benwick, held on Monday 20th May 2019 in Benwick Village Hall, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs: M Chapman (Chair); A Cade; L Keppel-Spoor, R Emmitt, B Taylor, R Smith, B Wicks(FDC), J Richardson (Clerk) and seven members of the public

1. Chairperson's Address Cllr Chapman welcomed everyone to the meeting, including the newly elected Councillors, and thanked Lesley Robinson for her contribution to the Parish Council last year, and welcomed newly co-opted Councillor Richard Smith.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Annual Assembly Meeting held on 23rd April 2018 were correctly recorded and that they were signed as being a true record.

3. Benwick Parish Council Chairman's Report

Cllr Chapman stated that the financial audit showed the Parish Council to be in a healthy state and passed with no major or minor comments being made. The Parish Council has earmarked funds for various projects within the village.

The Pound grass is long, and last year there was a few problems with the contractors and the Clerk is to chase them up.

Started the year in dispute with FDC over the street lighting contract, which involved lots of discussion but unfortunately the street lights are now back under the Parish Council control which is why the precept has had to be raised for this year. This item will be on the next Parish Council Meeting.

Good year last year in securing grants for benches in Cemetery, and at War Memorial, from Ransonmoor and Burnthouse Drove Wind Farm Funding.

We have supported Benwick in Bloom throughout the year.

The 2017 Local Highway Improvements project of Gateways were installed during the year.

Allotments were closed and cleared of weeds, ploughed and remarked and some have now been re-let.

Children's burial area was created in the Cemetery.

Overall a successful year with definite improvements to the village.

4. Financial Report

The Clerk's financial report is at Appendix 1

5. Village Organisation Reports:

Benwick In Bloom

Another very successful year for Bloom despite the extreme heat.

The group obtained a Silver Gilt award in the Anglia in Bloom Competition, we are making our way towards GOLD.

We pride ourselves on our achievements with little to no cash flow and a small team of willing volunteers.

We are fortunate to have the support of our Parish Council who in 2018 gave a donation of £130 to help with plants otherwise we rely on just raffles for income.

We have gained support with funding from Ransonmoor Windfarm and Metalcraft Engineering allowing us to proceed with our History of Benwick, recognition for our efforts were rewarded when

Chair Jill Hindle was introduced to the Princess Royal in June this year. The wrought iron stands were made and donated by the Apprentices at Metalcraft.

We have been able to put Water Butts in various areas to help with watering, the School very kindly had one installed.

As a group we continue to add colour through tubs and planters throughout the village making Benwick a much pleasanter place to live. We decided to move the 3 tiered planter away from Lilyholt and place aside the shop so everyone can enjoy. The planter has been replaced with an ornamental Cherry Tree.

We have now got two of our displays sponsored, one by Delfland and one by Ramsey Rotary Club both on the Ramsey Road.

This is indeed a step in the right direction.

The group host an Exhibition of Photographs of Benwick past and present for the second time, the first was 2017 and was a great success, so had to be done again this year on May 19th 2.0pm till 5.0pm.

We still have projects for this coming year 2019 which we are working on, and have once again entered the Anglia in Bloom Competition.

The Front Garden Competition continues to run again this year

We are not just a gardening group, we meet socially and enjoy the hospitality of the Five Alls Public House.

Volunteers always wanted.

Forget Me Not Club

The club is for both male and females aged 55 and over. We meet at 6.30pm on the first Thursday of the month in the Village Hall.

In our constitution it states the aim of the club is to provide recreation and leisure time for the inhabitants of Benwick and the surrounding area. With this in mind we have had a varied programme over the past year. Speakers have included David Palmer, the TV auctioneer, Jacqui Huggins, mother of the Banjo Man, Stuart Limpus from Skylark garden centre and Maureen James about Fenland Story tellers.

We have more interesting speakers booked for this year including one about corsets, camisoles and crinolines, one about the natural history of the Whittlesey brick pits and another about the silver spoon and hallmarks.

Entertainment has included Upwood handbell ringers, Charlie Chaplin, The King and I and Dale Diamond.

We have held Sausage Suppers, a Cheese/Wine and quiz evening, a Beetle Drive, Bingo, Harvest Festival and a Christmas Party.

We cannot fill coaches anymore for outings but have enjoyed Ten Pin Bowling at Guyhirn followed by lunch at The Cobblestones in March and we have an afternoon tea booked at The Five Alls.

Our membership has decreased over recent years but those members who remain do enjoy the social aspect and the activities.

Burnthouse Drove Wind Farm & Ransonmoor Community Fund CCF

Burnt House Drove Wind Farm has been running for a few years now. To date they have awarded over a £110K in grants of that Benwick, Coates and Eastrea have received just shy of £37K. The fund serves the local area including Benwick, Doddington, and Coates. Several village projects have benefited, and there is still a healthy fund available. Next round of applications close on 1st August 2019

Ransonmoor (run by FDC)

Covers Benwick, Doddington and Wimblington and has a fund of £35K. Meet twice a year to review applications and give out funds. Closing date of next round on 18th August 2019

6. Open Forum

Asked about the gateways at entrance to village, they seem smaller than other villages, and believe they block visual splay of houses. No objections have been received by the Parish Council. It was explained that there is no standard size for these gateways, and they were installed by Cambridgeshire County Council Highways.

Street Light case was questioned, and it was explained that legal advice was sought from CAPALC, and they stated that the Parish Council had no legal grounds to take this matter further. It was questioned if the Parish Council gets any help from District Councillors, and asked why the Parish Council doesn't question those Councillors.

Street Lights on Old West Estate not working, the Parish Council are working towards getting them repaired.

Ransonmoor and Burnthouse Funds have been mentioned but there is also Tesco Plastic Bag Fund, and encourage organisations to apply for this.

Thank you for coming

Meeting Closed at 19.59 p.m

Appendix 1

BENWICK PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2019

The total income for 2018-19 was £ 19,190.80

(17-18 £24,295.37)

£

Maintenance Grants:	Precept	£11,037.00
Council Tax Support Grant	Council Tax Support Grant	£424.00
	Concurrent	£985.00
	Grass Cutting	£703.88
Rents:	Town	£500.00
	September Gardens	
Recycling Credits		£36.84
VAT Refund		£1,555.12
Burials		£1,373.00
Bank Interest		£152.10
	Windfarm Grant	£2,423.86
SUB TOTALS:		£19,190.80

Total Expenditure for the year was £16,313.92

(17-18 £31,768.49)

£

Rates		233.07
Room Hire		112.50

Subscriptions:	NALC LCR Magazine	17.00
	CAPALC	310.04
	Cambs Acre	47.50
	SLCC	84.00
	Clerks & Councils Magazine	12.00
Maintenance	Verges	466.16
	Cemetery	2,641.32
	Street Lights	
	Allotments	
Insurance		674.33
Energy		
Professional Charges	Internal Auditor	130.00
	External Auditor	200.00
	ICO	35.00
	Computer Security	25.00
Sundries		24.15
Telephone/Internet		78.91
Post & Stationery		324.30
Travel		58.50
Clerk's annual office expenses		150.00
Planting & Maintenance		24.17
Training		297.44
VAT Paid		1,518.99
Wages/PAYE-NI		4,602.89
SUB TOTALS:		12,067.27
Election		
Development Projects		2,684.67
Tourism (Cycle Races)		
Local Highways Improvement		
Play Park		
WW1 Commemoration		
Xmas Decorations		
S137 Payment	British Legion Poppy Wreath	30.00
Donations/Charity		190.00
TOTALS:		14,971.94
Parish Plan		
Verge Planting		
Cemetery Extension		663.33
Street Lighting		
The Pound		
War Memorial		
Mooring		
Allotments		678.65

Play Park		
TOTALS:		£16,313.92

This resulted in Underspend for year of £2,876.88

(17-18 £7,473.12)

Earmarked Reserves of

Parish Plan	£532.89
Verge Planting	£127.23
Cemetery Extension	£7,494.17
Street Lighting	£11,500.00
The Pound	£2,000.00
War Memorial	£2,000.00
Mooring	£3,133.66
Allotments	£1,191.35

Assets amount to £ 105,508.37