



BENWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Benwick Parish Council meeting on Monday 6th September 2021 at the village hall

Present	Cllrs M Chapman (Chairman), L Keppel-Spoor, R Smith, A Cade, R Emmett, R Taylor, A Miscandlon (FDC), B Wicks (FDC), Clerk R Robinson and five members of the public	
077/21-22	Apologies for Absence Received and accepted from Cllr R Few	
078/21-22	Declarations of Interest No declarations of interest were made	
079/21-22	<p>PUBLIC TIME</p> <p>a) Work has stopped on the development without planning permission at 1 High Street. Two static caravans are occupied but the owners give the excuse that they are occupying them temporarily while they renovate the main house on the plot. Cllr Chapman has asked for an update from Planning at Fenland District Council (FDC) and Cllr Miscandlon will chase them to provide this. Cllr Miscandlon explained that as an unpermitted development they would have been ordered to stop construction but they will now be invited to apply for planning permission.</p> <p>b) The pathway next to the electricity substation on Doddington Road is overgrown. Clerk to report to Highways at Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC).</p> <p>c) The trees outside the Old Vicarage are overgrown and are blocking the footpath. Highways (CCC) already aware, Clerk to write to Highways.</p> <p>d) Brambles are growing into the path outside the school. Cllr Chapman to contact the headmaster.</p> <p>e) Obstructions to the road continue on High Street outside Skeifs Row and the shop. A member of the public mentioned the Local Highways Improvement in relation to yellow lines. The point was made that the lines would not be enforced in Benwick. Cllr Chapman to draft the words for a letter to the employer as it is a work van that is causing much of the problem. Cllr Miscandlon mentioned the FDC parking enforcement plan which is being discussed by CCC Highways committee.</p> <p>f) An oil lorry is parking badly regularly at the top of Doddington Road. It is hoped that Fenlands parking enforcement officers will be able to deal with this if it becomes active.</p> <p>g) A tall sign with two posts on Doddington Road is damaged. Cllr Taylor to take a closer look and email Clerk with details including location for the Clerk to report to Highways if necessary.</p> <p>h) Enforcement sign for giving way to oncoming traffic at the traffic calming measures on High Street by the bus stop is obscured by part of a tree. Cllr Chapman to inspect it and email Clerk with details to inform Highways.</p> <p>i) METAL ANIMALS ON THE POUND:- Cllr Chapman likes the idea of the animals but cannot support them on an open pound due to the possibility (as shown by us being sued successfully for something where we not at fault recently). A member of the public stated that this has been done in Halstead and has received an award. Cllr Chapman supports almost all of Benwick in Blooms initiatives. Cllr Chapman states that fencing the pound has been considered for a while. A member of the public stated that permission to place metal animals on the pound was given in 2019. Cllrs Smith and Keppel-Spoor stated that there was still to be a meeting to agree the placing of the metal animals and that they had requested Benwick in Bloom not to make any purchases until after that meeting which never happened. Concerns about fencing the pound were raised i.e. access for the grasscutters and liability if someone fell off the fence. A member of the public stated that the animals would be set in concrete and surrounded by gravel. Cllr Smith noted that this would make them a permanent structure in the pound. Cllr Keppel-Spoor noted that as Parish Council land it should ideally be accessible to the community and not fenced off. A member of the public noted the history of the pound as being used to impound real animals. Cllr Smith supports Cllr Chapmans opinions on this issue. Cllr Taylor suggests installing benches and turning the Pound into an amenity area. A member of the public showed a metal chicken. Cllr Chapman likes the metal sheep. The point was made that this piece of land was unlikely to be used for anything. Cllr Chapman suggested that it might be possible to have a</p>	<p>Cllr Miscandlon</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk Cllr Chapman Cllr Chapman</p> <p>Cllr Taylor Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Chapman Clerk</p>

	project to turn the Pound into community garden with shrubs, paths and benches, and the metal animals. Cllr Miscandlon mentioned the Memorial Garden in Whittlesey. The possibility of getting grants for this from Mick George, Burnt House and Ransonmoor was raised. Grass cutting, security and access control would have to be considered Cllr Chapman noted. This would be an amenity that the village currently lacks. Cllr Emmett noted that the metal chicken was a bit small and could be a trip hazard and also that it seemed to have spiky bits that a small child could injure themselves on by running up to it. Raised beds were raised as a solution to that. Councillors agreed that nothing could be done about putting metal animals on the pound as the Pound stands but that the animals could be part of a future project to make an amenity area on the Pound.			
080/21-22	Confirmation of Minutes It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED to sign and approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 nd August 2021			Agreed
081/21-22	Matters Arising None			
082/21-22	County & District Councillors Reports HGV routes are going to be increased in weight to 50 tonnes. Cllr Keppel-Spoor noted that that would be very damaging to the infrastructure of houses in Benwick and supports seeking a 7.5 tonne limit in Benwick. Cllr Miscandlon believes that would not be successful. Not to be on the agenda next month but we will discuss it when it arises.			
083/21-22	Street Lighting Advice from the Clerk that the Council did not need to go to tender on this was noted. Clerk reported that he has discussed the contract with Cable Test and sought information from UK Power Networks on the basis of which he advises to sign up to Cable Test's schedule of rates contract It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED that we sign up with Cable Test Ltd for the repair and maintenance of our streetlights. This is lawful for the Council to do under the Parish Councils Act 1957 s3 (1)(a)and(d). Clerk raised the issue of the periodic testing of the streetlights electrically and inspection of the columns. It was noted that the whole system had been inspected and tested about 18 months ago as part of the process of installation of new LED bulbs.			Agreed Clerk
084/21-22	Highways matters a) Clerk reported that Fenland Electrical could attend to the speed sign e.g. changing batteries and moving sign for a £60 call out fee. Fenland Electrical are also thought to know a way of extending the battery time between charges involving the software. They are also able to download data but the charge for that would have to be calculated after a discussion on the details of what is needed. It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED that the Parish Council authorise Fenland Electrical to do a survey of the camera with respect to extending the battery life and other matters as above for up to £100. Cllr Chapman to discuss our requirements with Fenland Electrical. b) No actions are to be taken for the next round of LHI applications c) Clerk to continue to liase with Highways at CCC regarding overgrowth on Skiefs Row footpath. d) Cllr Miscandlon to chase Cllr Connor regarding Highways CCC action on rocks on verges on Doddington Road.			Agreed Clerk Cllr Chapman Clerk Cllr Miscandlon
085/21-22	Village Sign Clerk to obtain a quote for repair. It may be possible to get a grant for a new sign. To be placed on the agenda for next month.			Clerk
086/21-22	Metal Sculptures It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED to reject metal animals being placed on the pound at present. It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED to start planning for a project on the Pound as discussed in Public Time. To place on the agenda for next month.			Agreed Agreed Clerk
087/21-22	Income & Expenditure a) It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED to approve the following accounts for payment			Agreed
	E.On	Electricity	£66.49	
	HHA Grounds Maintenance	August Cemetery etc	£365.16	
	R Robinson	Expenses Reimbursement	£170.00	
	R Robinson	Salary	£401.60	
		TOTALS	£1003.25	
	b) Clerk's report on the August Bank Balances and reconciliation statement is attached as Appendix 1			

088/21-22	<p>Planning Withdrawn F/YR21/0737/RM - Reserved Matters application relating to detailed matters of Access, Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale pursuant to Outline planning permission F/YR20/0422/O, to erect 1 x dwelling (3-storey 5-bed) and detached garage with office/store above, involving the demolition of existing buildings at Land South Of 16A Doddington Road Benwick Cambridgeshire</p> <p>Approved a) F/YR21/0267/F Farm Building Bank Farm, Whittlesey Road, Benwick Change of use of agricultural building to 5 x 2-storey dwellings with detached shed and bin stores comprising of 2 x 3-bed and 3 x 2-bed and formation of a new access road – this was approved on 20th August b) F/YR21/0651/F Erect a single-storey side extension to existing dwelling at 14 Whittlesey Road Benwick March Cambridgeshire PE15 0XT All above noted with no action required</p>	
089/21-22	<p>Utilising road verges for biodiversity & habitat The possibility of incorporating biodiversity on the Pound was raised.</p>	
090/21-22	<p>Town Grounds Contracts It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED that the contracts would be the same terms as last year and offered to the same tenants.</p>	Agreed
091/21-22	<p>Risk Register Cllr Chapman to prepare the wording for the risk assessment for the operation and maintenance of the MVAS (speed signs)</p>	Cllr Chapman
092/21-22	<p>Meeting Dates It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED that the following would be the dates of the scheduled Council meetings next year:- Mondays 10th January, 7th February, 7th March, 4th April, 9th May, 6th June, 4th July, 1st August, 5th September, 3rd October, 7th November and 5th December.</p>	
093/21-22	<p>Correspondence a) Jill Hindle – WEEDING AND TIDYING OF VILLAGE SIGN AND WAR MEMORIAL (emailed 28/08/2021) b) Rural Services Network, Bulletin (emailed 03/08/2021, 10/08/2021, 17/08/2021, 24/08/2021), Funding Digest (emailed 04/08/2021) c) FDC Press releases (emailed 21/07/2021, 29/07/2021, 03/08/2021, 09/08/2021, 16/08/2021, 25/08/2021) Citizens Advice (emailed 06/08/2021) d) CAPALC Bulletin (emailed 04/08/2021) CAPALC awards (emailed 17/08/2021) Natural Cambridgeshire Funding (emailed 19/08/2021) e) NALC Chief Executive Bulletin (emailed 30/07/2021, 06/08/2021, 13/08/2021, 20/08/2021, 27/08/2021) Newsletter (emailed 04/08/2021) Online Events (emailed 03/08/2021) f) Highways - Highway Events Diary – (emailed 02/08/2021) IHMC Incident Report – July (emailed 04/08/2021) g) C&P Combined Authority update (emailed 02/08/2021, 27/08/2021) Ox-Cam Arc survey (emailed 10/08/2021) h) CAPASP Scam Warnings (emailed 10/08/2021, 18/08/2021), Newsletter (emailed 06/08/2021) i) CPRE Campaigns Update (emailed 14/08/2021) Hedgerow quiz (emailed 11/08/2021) j) Highways Micro Asphalt/Gripfibre Update (emailed 16/08/2021) UPDATE ON POTHOLE REPORT (emailed 10/08/2021) k) Cambridgeshire ACRE - CHESS (emailed 03/08/2021) Events (emailed 09/08/2021, 17/08/2021) members area – funding (emailed 24/08/2021) l) Peterborough City Council – Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan (emailed 02/08/2021) m) Citizens Advice Rural Cambs (emailed 25/08/2021) No observations</p>	
094/21-22	<p>Police Report Nothing to note. To keep on the agenda for next month.</p>	Clerk
095/21-22	<p>Community Gritting Scheme Cllr Chapman to publicise the gritting scheme on the Benwick community facebook page.</p>	Cllr Chapman
096/21-22	<p>Poppy Wreath It was Proposed and AGREED that the Council spend £30 for the purchase of a poppy wreath from the British Legion and a donation to them.</p>	Clerk
097/21-22	<p>Agenda Items/Next Meeting Next Parish Council Meeting to be Monday 4th October 2021. Items to be included on Agenda should be with the Clerk by Tuesday 28th September 2021</p>	

Meeting ended at 20.48

Appendix 1

Bank Reconciliation		Financial Year ending 31 March 2022	
Benwick Parish Council			
Prepared by Richard Robinson (Clerk & RFO)			
Date	03/09/2021		
Approved by		Chair	
Date	06/09/2021		
Balance per bank statements as at	31/08/2021	£	£
Current Account		34,895.92	
NS&I		21,447.49	
			56,343.41
Less: Unpresented Cheques			
Cheque Number			
	2741	48.45	
	2740	321.28	
		18.00	
			387.73
Add: Any unbanked cash in transit			
			0.00
Net bank balances as at 31/08/2021			55,955.68
The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book, as follows:-			
Opening Balance		54,198.55	
Add: Receipts to date		10,677.45	
Less: Payments to date		8,920.32	
Closing Balance		55,955.68	

Earmarked Reserves:

Parish Plan	£532.89	
Verge Planting	£67.13	
Cemetery Extension	£6,604.17	
Street Lighting	£7,875.62	
The Pound	£2,000.00	
War Memorial	£4,000.00	
Mooring	£4,133.66	
Allotments	£2,191.35	
General Reserve	£28,550.86	
E M TOTAL		£27,404.82