



BENWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Benwick Parish Council meeting on Monday 4th July 2022 at the village hall

Present	Cllrs M Chapman (Chairman), L Keppel-Spoor, A Cade, R Taylor, R Few, R Emmitt, R Smith, A Miscandlon (FDC), R Wicks (FDC), Clerk R Robinson and three members of the public	
058/22-23	Apologies for absence none	
059/22-23	Declarations of Interest Cllr Keppel-Spoor declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 073/22-23 specifically expenditure on Mooring maintenance which is to a member of her household.	
060/22-23	<p>PUBLIC TIME</p> <p>2b Doddington Rd has ivy overgrown all over the wall which is from the 1700s and ought to be preserved. Clerk to inform Highways at CCC and the conservation officer Clare Fiddler at FDC.</p> <p>Benwick in Bloom are pleased to be able to liase with the Council about the Pound. The metal animals that they propose for the Pound are able to be incorporated into a metal fence. They also propose a memorial seat and tree. Cllr Chapman asked that they put all their ideas together in a vision and presented it in one go to the council. Cllr Keppel-Spoor made the point that the whole council would have to agree anything that was to be done. The "in Bloom" judging day is 25th July. Benwick in Bloom have received support from numerous local organisations including FDC but are "disappointed that the [Parish] Council agreed to spend £250 on one small section [the Mooring; see 073/22-23 below] and donated £150 to the village Hall [see 073/22-23 Nibbles and bunting for the jubilee] and Benwick in Bloom received £100 which incidentally had to be applied for. As a point of interest Chatteris [in Bloom] received £4,000 from their [town] Council."</p> <p>Cllrs made the points that £4,000 would be a very large percentage of our precept revenue and that Benwick in Bloom receive money nearly every year whereas the village Hall receives support very rarely and the mooring work was also the repair of existing structures that we are responsible for. Cllrs also stated that the Parish Council did not want to increase the precept charged to households and tried to spread the resources they have around the various groups that apply for them and also fulfil our legal responsibilities such as the war memorial which is grade two listed and the mooring which we have undertaken to maintain. Cllrs pointed out that there has to be an application process for donations so as to be fair to all the organisations which could ask for money on the basis that they benefit the village.</p> <p>Cllr Chapman made the point that the Council has over the years been very supportive of Benwick in Bloom. Cllr Keppel-Spoor reported that a lot of villagers are astounded that we give a donation to Benwick in Bloom every year which comes out of their taxes. Benwick in Bloom report receiving many good comments.</p> <p>Another member of the public said that she has recently moved to the village and that it looks very nice.</p> <p>Council members are invited by Benwick in Bloom to the Five Alls after the judging of the "in Bloom" competition at about 2pm on 25th July.</p> <p>Weeds are still overgrown at 1 Doddington Rd; trees are overgrown on the corner of Lilyholt opposite Boon's; Clerk to report both of these to CCC Highways.</p> <p>The B1093 to Doddington was closed for their carnival but the signs for the road closure were turned towards fences and hedges so people did not see them and drove to Doddington but had to turn around. Clerk to report to CCC Highways.</p> <p>There is a large pothole with a cone over it on the Clarion estate (Chapel Gardens) which has been reported at least six months ago. Clerk to write to Clarion reminding them about this and copy Dan Horn, reminding Clarion of the accident at the other end of the footpath where an elderly pensioner fell over a defect in the footpath which was their responsibility.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
061/22-23	<p>Confirmation of Minutes</p> <p>It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED to sign and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th June 2022 after they had been amended removing the words "Any actions following from Cllr Chapman's meeting with Benwick in Bloom – a shared goal of a space to be used by the villagers has been agreed with Benwick in Bloom." and just noting that Cllr Chapman met with Benwick in Bloom to discuss the project on the Pound.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Chapman</p>
062/22-23	Matters Arising Regarding 035/22-23 Clerk asked if the school had been asked about the	Clerk

	pictures. To be placed on the agenda next month, including reference to an old key.	
063/22-23	<p>Benwick In Bloom Any actions relating to the “in Bloom” competition:- Benwick in Bloom have sent an email requesting permission to do certain things on the day of the judging on the “in Bloom” competition.</p> <p>It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED that the low troughs planted with flowers could be placed in the War Memorial enclosure on the day of judging and must be removed on that day.</p> <p>It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED that hanging baskets could be placed on the pre-existing brackets on the bus shelter and fabric bunting hung on the bus shelter on the day of judging and must be removed on that day and must cause no damage to the bus shelter.</p> <p>It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED that the Council refused permission to place cardboard animals on the Pound.</p> <p>Clerk to respond to Benwick in Bloom informing them.</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Agreed</p> <p>Agreed</p> <p>Clerk</p>
064/22-23	<p>County & District Councillors Reports</p> <p>Cllr Connors (CCC) cannot attend our meetings as he is a member of March town council and they meet on the same day as us. Cllr Miscandlon (FDC) reports to him any issues we have that relate to Cllr Connors position as a Cambridge county councillor.</p> <p>All the towns and villages of Fenland do their best to dress their places up for the “in bloom” competition which is to be applauded. Cllr Keppel-Spoor stated that Benwick Parish Council started participating in the “in bloom” competition more than 15 years ago, before the Benwick in Bloom group.</p> <p>Cllr Wicks (FDC) reported that the Audit and Risk committee was going to have an independent member to provide non-political views on the validity of the committee’s work and continuity form before to after elections.</p>	
065/22-23	<p>The Pound Any actions re The Pound</p> <p>The email and texts from Mr Cornwell were referred to proposing a community hub and café on an empty plot or in a disused building. The Clerk has suggested he contact the village hall and several councillors supported this. Clerk to reply to him stating that the Parish council is always open to supporting new initiatives in the village and we are happy to discuss any proposals and suggesting he contacts the owners of disused plots and makes contact with the village hall; also to suggest that he writes all his proposals in one email to be circulated to councillors. Several councillors expressed opposition to the idea of building on the Pound.</p>	Clerk
066/22-23	<p>Banking arrangements</p> <p>Clerk reported that any deposit we might put in the Cambridge and Counties Bank would be covered by the governments deposit guarantee scheme. Interest rates at Cambridge and Counties Bank are currently 1.55% and we receive 0.01% at NS&I.</p> <p>It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED to close the NS&I account and to place that money in a savings account with Cambridge and Counties Bank.</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Signatories</p>
067/22-23	<p>Highways and verges</p> <p>a) Next steps supporting the operation of speed signs:- Cllr Chapman is working on downloading the data. Solar panel to be installed with the help of Cllr Few</p> <p>b) Any other matters such as obstructions or dangers:- see Public Time</p>	<p>Cllr Chapman</p> <p>Cllr Few</p>
068/22-23	<p>Playpark to discuss and agree any actions relating to this including the proposed skatepark.</p> <p>Cllrs stated that a skatepark might cost £80,000. The Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) provides facility for older children/teenagers to exercise. Nuisance noise might be an issue, and it has been pointed out that for safety reasons wide margins are needed around a skatepark for which there is no room at the playpark. Previously when children were asked what they wanted there was no support for a skatepark.</p> <p>Wimlington skatepark cost £100,000. On the first day of the operation of the Chatteris skatepark six people had to go to hospital.</p> <p>It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED that the Parish Council does not support the idea of having a skatepark at the playpark but we are prepared to engage with any initiatives to bring extra activities for the older children of the village, or any other residents, including a skatepark if a suitable location could be found.</p>	Agreed
069/22-23	<p>Chess ICT</p> <p>It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED to authorise the continuation of our contract for website hosting at an increased cost of £66.51 plus VAT per annum which they are taking by direct debit.</p> <p>It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED that future increases in this expense are acceptable provided they fall within the amount set in the annual budget for telephone and internet.</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Agreed</p>
070/22-23	<p>Defibrillators Electrician has visited Cllr Taylor’s house and is due to visit Cllr Cade’s house to give a quote. Clerk to inquire of London Hearts what the power requirements are</p>	Cllr Cade Clerk

	for the cabinets.			
071/22-23	Allotments Cllr Keppel-Spoor and a volunteer have repaired the tap, installing a new post, which is further back than before to avoid the risk of being damaged by a vehicle. Clerk reports that most of the allotments are now taken and that some of the allotment holders are mowing one of the plots to provide access to the rear plots.			
072/22-23	Dog fouling It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED to purchase of dual purpose bins from FDC for 2 x £166.40 (£332.80) for two bins. Clerk to arrange with FDC. It was also pointed out that the location map provided by FDC for one of the proposed bin sites was incorrect, but that the photo of that site on waste ground next to Heron Way is correct. Clerk to inform FDC.			Clerk Clerk
073/22-23	Income & Expenditure – Cllr Keppel-Spoor took no part in this item a) It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED and approve the following accounts for payment.			Agreed
	Ben Fryer Chess ICT	Pruning of tree on the Pound (inc. VAT) Website hosting by DD paid (inc. VAT) Sub-total pre-authorised by Council and paid during June	£540.00 £79.81 £619.81	
	Npower HHA Grounds Maintenance R Robinson N Oliver Five Alls Benwick Village Hall Howard A Langford	Electricity May by DD due (inc. VAT) June Cemetery (inc. VAT) Expenses and Salary Verges April May & June Jubilee ice creams (inc. VAT) Nibbles and bunting for jubilee (inc. VAT) Expenditure on Mooring maintenance Subtotal to authorise for payment now	£91.11 £365.16 £342.02 £175.00 £89.45 £150.00 £172.50 £1385.24	
		TOTAL	£2005.05	
	b) Clerk's report on the June Bank Balances and reconciliation statement is at Appendix 1 c) Clerk's report on quarterly performance against budget to end of June is at Appendix 2			
074/22-23	Planning – granted F/YR22/0242/F Erect a 2-bed log cabin annexe ancillary to existing dwelling with associated decking (retrospective) at 1 High Street Benwick March Cambridgeshire PE15 0XA We objected to this application on several grounds. Cllr Chapman had planned to attend the planning committee to object to it. This application did not go to committee. The point was made that it should have gone to committee because there was a conflict between the planning officers decision and our objection. Cllr Connor will try to find out why they have gone against the Parish council's objection, and why it did not go to committee.			Cllr Connor
075/22-23	Biodiversity & habitat initiatives Cllr Smith suggested putting wild flower seeds on the Pound. Cllr Keppel-Spoor noted that wild flowers that will not exceed one foot in height are available. Cllr Smith suggested the piece of ground on the left hand side going out of the village on Whittlesey Rd before the bridge and after Cricketers Way. It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED that we look at doing an experiment in biodiversity and habitat Cllr Keppel-Spoor picks a piece of verge which we will consider at the next meeting.			Agreed Cllr Keppel-Spoor
076/22-23	Police Report The police sergeant is now here till September			
077/22-23	Correspondence a) Rural Services Network, Bulletin (emailed 7/6/2022, 14/6/2022, 21/6/2022, 28/6/2022) b) FDC Press releases (emailed 23/6/2022 x2) Member services (emailed 21/6/2022) c) CAPALC Training schedule (emailed 8/6/2022) Drop in sessions for councillors (emailed 13/6/2022) June bulletin (emailed 8/6/2022) London Bridge (emailed 20/6/2022) d) NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin (emailed 10/6/2022, 17/6/2022, 24/6/2022) Newsletter (emailed 15/6/2022) Events (emailed 14/6/2022, 28/6/2022) Dementia survey (emailed 17/6/2022) e) Highways - TMC Incident Report May (email 8/6/2022) Surface dressing (emailed 6/6/2022) Grip Fibre (emailed 10/6/2022, 20/6/2022) f) CAPASP Training (emailed 3/6/2022, 10/6/2022) campaign (emailed 12/6/2022) g) Cambs ACRE – photos of village halls needed (emailed 7/6/2022) h) CCC – Cambridgeshire matters (emailed 29/6/2022) HAF (emailed 8/6/2022) i) QEH Kings Lynn (emailed 24/6/2022) j) Jill Hindle – Competition (emailed 8/6/2022, 14/6/2022) Jubilee trees (emailed 9/6/2022) k) Cambs & Pbro Combined Authority – link to transport survey (emailed 15/6/2022) l) Bella Bailey, Jayne Fleet – Skatepark (emailed 11/6/2022 x2) m) Lee Cornwell – café (emailed 10/6/2022)			
078/22-23	Agenda Items/Next Meeting The next Parish Council Meeting to be Monday 8 th August 2022. Items to be included on Agenda should be with the Clerk by Monday 1 st August 2022			

Meeting ended at 21.07

APPENDIX 1

Bank Reconciliation		Financial Year ending 31 March 2023	
Benwick Parish Council			
Prepared by Richard Robinson (Clerk & RFO)			
Date	01/07/2022		
Approved by	Chair		
Date	04/07/2022		
Balance per bank statements as at		30/06/2022	£
Current Account		37,047.72	£
NS&I		21,449.64	
			58,497.36
Less: Unpresented Cheques			
Cheque Number			
			0.00
Add: Any unbanked cash in transit			
			0.00
Net bank balances as at 30/06/2022		58,497.36	
The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book, as follows:-			
Opening Balance		58,386.51	
Add: Receipts to date		7,831.45	
Less: Payments to date		7,720.60	
Closing Balance		58,497.36	

Earmarked Reserves:

Parish Plan	£532.89	
Verge Planting	£1,067.13	
Cemetery Extension	£6,604.17	
Street Lighting	£9,875.62	
Jubilee Celebrations	£431.06	
The Pound	£1,550.00	
Village Sign	£1,000.00	
War Memorial	£6,000.00	
Mooring	£8,133.66	E M TOTAL £37,385.88
Allotments	£2,191.35	
General Reserve	£21,111.48	

APPENDIX 2

BENWICK PARISH COUNCIL		BUDGET	CURRENT	percentage on quarterly	CURRENT
		2022-23	End JUNE 2022	amount	End SEPT 2022
INCOME:				but note some items are one off or twice yearly so percentages will be near 400% or 200%	
Maintenance Grants:	Precept	£12,852.00	£6,426.00	200%	
	Council Tax Support Grant	£0.00			
	Concurrent	£2,593.00	£0.00	0%	
Grass cutting		£703.88	£703.88	400%	
Rents:	Town	£1,143.07	£407.57	143%	
	September Gardens		£105.00		
Recycling Credits					
VAT Refund		£1,000.00	£0.00	0%	
Burials		£250.00	£189.00	302%	
Bank Interest					
Windfarm Grant	Windfarm grant				
SUB TOTALS:		£18,541.95	£7,831.45	169%	
Sundries					
TOTAL INCOME:		£18,541.95	£7,831.45	169%	
EXPENDITURE					
Rates		£400.00	£0.00	0%	
Room Hire		£200.00	£0.00	0%	
Subscriptions:	NALC LCR Magazine	£17.00	£0.00	0%	
	CAPALC	£470.00	£441.50	376%	
	Cambs Acre	£65.00		0%	
	SLCC	£120.00	£112.00	373%	
	Clerks & Councils Magazine	£12.00		0%	
Maintenance	Verges	£696.00	£174.00	100%	
	Cemetery	£3,651.60	£912.90	100%	
	Street Lights	£1,000.00	£78.28	31%	
	Allotments				
Insurance		£790.00	£1,111.21	563%	
Energy		£1,000.00	£406.15	162%	
Professional Charges	Internal Auditor	£135.00	£145.00	430%	
	External Auditor	£200.00	£0.00	0%	
	ICO	£35.00	£0.00	0%	
	Computer Security	£25.00	£0.00	0%	
Sundries		£200.00	£38.60	77%	
Telephone/Internet		£70.00	£66.51	380%	
Post & Stationery		£150.00	£22.80	61%	
Travel		£200.00	£79.20	158%	
Clerk's annual office expenses		£270.00	£0.00	0%	
Planting & Maintenance		£50.00	£0.00	0%	
Training		£1,000.00	£550.00	220%	
VAT Paid		£1,200.00	£562.30	187%	
Wages/PAYE-NI		£4,500.00	£1,284.88	114%	
SUB TOTALS:		£16,456.60	£5,985.33	145%	
Election		£1,260.05	£0.00	0%	
Development Projects		£1,500.00	£0.00	0%	
Tourism (Cycle Races)					
Local Highways Improvement		£500.00	£370.93	297%	
Play Park					
Xmas Decorations					
S137 Payment		£30.00	£75.40	1005%	flags
Donations/Charity		£200.00	£0.00	0%	
TOTALS:		£19,946.65	£6,431.66	129%	
Parish Plan		£532.89	£0.00	0%	
Verge Planting		£1,067.13	£0.00	0%	
Cemetery Extension		£6,604.17	£0.00	0%	
Street Lighting		£9,875.62	£0.00	0%	
The Pound		£2,000.00	£450.00	90%	
War Memorial		£6,000.00	£0.00	0%	
Mooring		£8,133.66	£0.00	0%	
Allotments		£2,191.35	£0.00	0%	
Village sign		£1,000.00	£0.00	0%	
Jubilee celebrations		£1,270.00	£838.94	264%	
subtotal earmarked		£38,674.82	£1,288.94	13%	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE:		£58,621.47	£7,720.60	53%	