



BENWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Benwick Parish Council meeting on Monday 8th August 2022 at the village hall

Present	Cllrs L Keppel-Spoor (Vice-Chairman and acting Chairman of the meeting in the absence of the Chairman), A Cade, R Emmitt, A Miscandlon (FDC), R Wicks (FDC), Clerk R Robinson and six members of the public	
079/22-23	Apologies for absence Cllrs R Taylor, M Chapman (Chairman), R Smith, R Few	Accepted
080/22-23	Declarations of Interest Councillors to declare any interests in respect of any item to be discussed at this meeting:- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interest b) Non-Pecuniary Interest c) Sensitive Pecuniary Interest	
081/22-23	PUBLIC TIME A member of Benwick in bloom stated that it had been almost three years since the idea of putting metal animals on the Pound had been first mentioned and nothing has been done yet and claimed that the council had given permission for the metal animals to be placed on the Pound. Animals could be incorporated in a fence and a two-foot-wide strip of wildflowers planted in front of it. Three picnic seats or a memorial seat could be placed on the Pound. She stated that the animals had been already paid for by Benwick in Bloom. Cllr Keppel-Spoor reminded us that absolutely no permission for the animals has ever been given, [refers to the Councils last policy resolution on the idea 123/20-21]; and said that Benwick in Bloom were 'categorically' told not to purchase anything until Council had the full details of what was being proposed. Cllr Keppel-Spoor added that the delay in progressing the development of the Pound was due to the Covid Pandemic. A Councillor stated that any decision should be taken by the full Council. Cllr Keppel-Spoor reminded us that the Council was legally obliged to take account of safety aspects when allowing anything to be placed on our property. Councillors also stated that we as a Council must be very careful about any trip or sharps hazards. A member of the public proposed that CCC Highways be asked to extend the fencing near the footbridge right along the riverbank. Cllr Wicks has already raised this with Highways along with the issue of flaking paint on the footbridge. There was a lifebelt on the riverbank which disappeared about twelve years ago. Clerk to approach the Middle level Commissioners to ask them to provide another one.	Cllr Wicks Clerk
082/22-23	Confirmation of Minutes It was Proposed by Cllr Keppel-Spoor and AGREED to approve and sign the Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 4 th July 2022	Agreed
083/22-23	Matters Arising None	
084/22-23	The Pound It was Proposed by Cllr Keppel-Spoor and AGREED to postpone this item until at least six of the councillors out of seven were present.	Agreed
085/22-23	County & District Councillors Reports Cllr Miscandlon reports that the Local Plan is out for public consultation. Comments on development areas are welcome from anyone with an interest in Fenland. Also the planning department at FDC is under great pressure due to staff holidays so delays can be expected. He will soon install a Jubilee bench in March. This is one of four in the District.	
086/22-23	Council property It was Proposed by Cllr Keppel-Spoor and AGREED that we require permission to be sought before any objects are placed on our property and that where permission is given with time limits these should be enforced.	Agreed Clerk
087/22-23	Defibrillators It was Proposed by Cllr Keppel-Spoor and AGREED to continue with the grant application to the Burnt House Farm Fund initiated by the Clerk to fund the two defibrillators that the Council has discussed installing in Benwick. Cllr Cade stated that he was obtaining a quote for the installation of the electrical supply to the defibrillator planned to be placed outside his property and that there would be no cost to the council for that.	Agreed
088/22-23	Verges contract It was Proposed by Cllr Cade and seconded by Cllr Emmitt and AGREED to pay Mr Oliver an additional £10 per quarter to cover increased fuel costs, this rise to be reviewed when setting the next annual budget. Clerk to inform	Agreed Clerk
089/22-23	Biodiversity & habitat initiatives to Cllr Keppel-Spoor has started looking for potential	Cllr

	sites and will also look at costs.			Keppel-Spoor
090/22-23	Police Report no comments			
091/22-23	Dog fouling It was Proposed by Cllr Keppel-Spoor and AGREED to accept the revised proposed sitings for dog litter bins, which are proposed by FDC to be one free-standing dual-purpose bin and one bin attached to a traffic sign at the same cost as agreed last month of £166.40 x2 = £332.80			Agreed Clerk
092/22-23	Jubilee Mugs It was Proposed by Cllr Keppel-Spoor and AGREED to accept a refund offered by Hotline due to the shortfall of 6 mugs discovered by Cllr Chapman on taking delivery, and them saying that they cannot send 6 mugs.			Agreed Clerk
093/22-23	Old pictures and key – The chairman permitted members of the public to speak as having expert knowledge of this. Two members of the Village Hall Committee informed the Council that the Old Key and the pictures of Benwick and the Village Hall from the past were in the Village Hall Committee Room behind the door.			
094/22-23	Income & Expenditure a) It was Proposed by Cllr Keppel-Spoor and AGREED to approve the following accounts for payment			Agreed
	Anglian Water	Water bill (allotment/cemetery tap)	£31.64	
		Sub-total authorised by Clerk under financial regulation 4.5 and paid during July	£31.64	
	Npower	Electricity June by DD (inc. VAT)	£80.56	
		Sub-total pre-authorised by Council and paid during July	£80.56	
	Npower	Electricity July DD due 17/8/2022 (inc. VAT)	£81.30	
	Five Alls (Payee Anne White)	Jubilee ice creams (inc. VAT)	£89.45	
	HHA Grounds Maintenance	July Cemetery (inc. VAT)	£365.16	
	R Robinson	Expenses and Salary	£334.37	
	Middle Level Commissioners	Drainage Rates	£127.96	
	March West & White Fen	Drainage Rates	£66.26	
	Internal	Subtotal to authorise for payment now	£983.20	
		TOTAL	£1095.40	
	b) Clerk's report on the July Bank Balances and reconciliation statement at appendix 1			
095/22-23	Planning a) application F/YR22/0797/F Demolition of existing two storey dwelling and retention and extension of existing single storey living unit on site to form principal dwelling at 28 Doddington Road Benwick March Cambridgeshire PE15 0UT It was noted that this was essentially the same application that was approved in 2007. No objections. b) 1, High Street - It was Proposed by Cllr Keppel-Spoor and AGREED to write to the people responsible for planning at FDC pointing out that we as a statutory consultee had objected to this development and therefore it should have been considered by the planning committee. Clerk to write to Nick Harding, Dave Rowan, Carole Pilsen and copy to Cllr Connor.			Clerk Agreed Clerk
096/22-23	Arnold-Baker/Clerk's training It was Proposed by Cllr Keppel-Spoor and AGREED to purchase the upcoming edition of Arnold-Baker at the price of £137. We did not purchase the last edition and using a current edition is recommended for the CiLCA qualification that the Clerk is doing.			Agreed Clerk
097/22-23	Correspondence a) Rural Services Network, Bulletin (emailed 5/7/2022, 19/7/2022, 26/7/2022, 2/8/2022) b) FDC Press releases (emailed 30/6/2022, 14/7/2022, 25/7/2022, 26/7/2022) Member services (emailed 1/8/2022) Whittlesey neighbourhood plan (emailed 8/7/2022) Training (emailed 14/7/2022) c) CAPALC Training schedule (emailed 20/7/2022) Conference (emailed /6/2022) July bulletin (emailed 14/7/2022) d) NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin (emailed 8/7/2022, 15/7/2022, 22/7/2022, 29/7/2022) Newsletter (emailed 6/7/2022, 27/7/2022, 3/8/2022) Events (emailed 12/7/2022, 2/8/2022) e) Highways - TMC Incident Report June (email 7/7/2022) Works programmes (emailed 12/7/2022, 26/7/2022, 29/7/2022) Events (emailed 6/7/2022, 1/8/2022) Road safety (emailed 12/7/2022) f) CAPASP newsletter (emailed 7/7/2022) warning (emailed 12/7/2022, 18/7/2022, 20/7/2022, 25/7/2022, 2/8/2022) g) Public Sector Executive – Electric vehicle infrastructure (emailed 29/7/2022) h) CCC – Cambridgeshire matters (emailed 28/7/2022)			

	i) 2020 productions – arts award festival (emailed 4/7/2022) j) A local resident – speeding on Lilyholt Rd (emailed 20/7/2022) Traffic calming to be placed on the agenda for next month. Speed bumps are not appropriate for the area as the nature of the soil causes houses to be shaken by vehicles passing over them k) Cambs & P'bro Combined Authority – update (emailed 1/8/2022) l) CPRE – flood risk to farmland (emailed 20/7/2022)	Clerk
098/22-23	Agenda Items/Next Meeting - Next Parish Council Meeting to be Monday 5 th September 2022. Items to be included on Agenda to be with the Clerk by Monday 29 th August 2022	
099/22-23	Motion to exclude the Press and Public It was Proposed by Cllr Keppel-Spoor and AGREED that under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the special confidential nature of the business to be transacted item 100/22-23 should be discussed in Committee.	Agreed
100/22-23	Clerk's Appraisal It was Proposed by Cllr Keppel-Spoor and AGREED to accept the Clerk's Annual Appraisal as circulated. It was Proposed by Cllr Keppel-Spoor and AGREED that the Clerk's homeworking allowance should be £270 this year, and that it should be reviewed for future years when the annual budget is produced.	Agreed Agreed

Meeting ended at

Appendix 1

Bank Reconciliation		Financial Year ending 31 March 2023	
Benwick Parish Council			
Prepared by Richard Robinson (Clerk & RFO)			
Date	02/08/2022		
Approved by	Chair		
Date	08/08/2022		
Balance per bank statements as at		31/07/2022	£
			£
Current Account		39,075.43	
NS&I		21,449.64	
			60,525.07
Less: Unpresented Cheques			
Cheque Number	2802	342.02	
	2805	150.00	
			492.02
Add: Any unbanked cash in transit			0.00
Net bank balances as at 31/07/2022		60,033.05	
The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book, as follows:-			
Opening Balance		58,386.51	
Add: Receipts to date		10,775.13	
Less: Payments to date		9,128.59	
Closing Balance		60,033.05	

Earmarked Reserves:

Parish Plan	£532.89	
Verge Planting	£1,067.13	
Cemetery Extension	£6,604.17	
Street Lighting	£9,875.62	
Jubilee Celebrations	£281.06	
The Pound	£1,550.00	
Village Sign	£1,000.00	
War Memorial	£6,000.00	
Mooring	£7,961.16	E M TOTAL
Allotments	£2,191.35	£37,063.38
General Reserve	£22,969.67	