



BENWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Benwick Parish Council meeting on Monday 5th September 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 nine members of the public	
101/22-23	Apologies for absence None	
102/22-23	Declarations of Interest None	
103/22-23	<p>PUBLIC TIME</p> <p>Cllr Chapman noted that elections for the Parish Council are due in 2023. As Cllr Smith is leaving, we would like to invite people to stand for election.</p> <p>A member of the public stated that he had heard one person stating how attractive the wooden chalet was at 1, High Street and that he hoped our discussions on agenda item 115/22-23 would be positive and approved by the owners and occupiers of that property. He himself says the building is attractive and modern.</p> <p>Cllr Chapman replied that the Parish Council objected to that development on many grounds including multi-occupancy because of the massive log cabin, the two static caravans and the conversion of a swimming pool and possibly a gym into living accommodation and that this was all done without planning permission in the first instance and that this could set a precedent for the village where almost anyone with a good-sized plot could suddenly put four or five families on it. It is also unfair for tax purposes because they will not be paying full council tax on all these units.</p> <p>The member of the public said that these points were reasonable but that he hoped that we would not have the cabin pulled down.</p> <p>Cllr Chapman made the point that the log cabin is a separate house and that there are five dwellings on the site now; and that it was planning at FDC who were responsible for planning enforcement but that they were not listening to the Parish Council on this issue.</p> <p>A member of the public asked if councillors could sit facing the public due to some of them having hearing difficulties.</p> <p>Cllr Chapman said that we had sat like this for a long time, that he was facing the public himself and that he would leave it up to individual councillors as to whether they turned round. Several councillors turned their chairs sideways and Cllr Chapman explained that, if at any particular point a member of the public could not hear a councillor they could ask and that councillor would stand and face them, to repeat the point.</p> <p>Dog fouling is all over the village. The Clerk asked for specific locations and explained that in the public consultation for the siting of dog litter bins one of the consultees had claimed that there had never been a dog fouling problem on his part of Ramsey Road. No specific locations were given.</p>	
104/22-23	<p>Confirmation of Minutes</p> <p>It was Proposed by Cllr Keppel-Spoor seconded by Cllr Emmitt and AGREED to approve and sign the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8th August 2022</p>	Agreed
105/22-23	Matters Arising None	
106/22-23	<p>The Pound</p> <p>Clerk has circulated the map of the land registry entry which does not agree with the current fencing. The correspondence including a drawing from Benwick in Bloom referring to their proposals for the Pound e.g. the animals in a metal grid (referred to as a fence in the correspondence) was mentioned.</p> <p>It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED that a working group of Cllrs Chapman, Keppel-Spoor, Smith and Cade be formed to go to the Pound and investigate the situation and clear any excess shrubbery and report back to Council next month. Cllr Keppel-Spoor to arrange within the next two weeks.</p> <p>Discussion of Benwick in Blooms proposal to be deferred until the boundary issue is resolved. Pound to be on the agenda until further notice.</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Cllr Keppel-Spoor</p> <p>Clerk</p>
107/22-23	<p>County & District Councillors Reports</p> <p>Cllr Miscandlon reports that the new boundaries of District Council wards will come out tomorrow. Benwick may be affected. Changes are to make wards of equal population.</p> <p>Cllr Wicks reports that the Draft Local Plan is open to Public Consultation.</p> <p>For passing to Cllr Connor, the Forty Foot Road is in very bad condition. There is a massive dip on Puddock Road towards the Warboys end.</p>	Clerk

	Doddington Road has new white lines. Cllr Connor to find out if they are coming back to do the junctions. Cllr Keppel-Spoor made the point that the roads leading into the village were more important but that they had not been touched. Cllr Miscandlon reminded us of the Cambridgeshire County Council website Highways section where there is an interactive map where anyone can report any fault affecting the roads.			Cllr Miscandlon
108/22-23	British Legion Poppy Wreath It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED to purchase a Poppy Wreath from the Royal British Legion (RBL) in time for the remembrance event in November; giving a donation of the remainder of our £30 budget to the RBL.			Agreed Clerk
109/22-23	Defibrillators Clerk has applied for a grant to cover the cost of the defibrillators which cannot be retrospective so we would be ineligible to receive the grant if we purchased the defibrillators before we were awarded the grant. Notification is late October – early November. It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED to await the outcome before going ahead. Keep on agenda.			Agreed Clerk
110/22-23	LHI bids and traffic calming Clerk advised that we had not been notified of the LHI bidding round yet but that last year the deadline was the end of September. Clerk drew Council's attention to a member of the public who had written proposing speed bumps on Lilyholt Road. Councillors noted that due to the soil structure speedbumps would cause the houses nearby to be violently shaken. Cllr Cade spoke about the idea of putting traffic calming infrastructure at the junction of Lilyholt and Doddington Road to make the traffic use the corner as a junction rather than as a high-speed corner. Idea of safety measures near the school was discussed. Cllr Chapman invited the public to submit ideas that might improve road or pedestrian safety. Solar panel is ready to install on the speed camera. Idea of a lower weight limit for the village for the LHI was suggested. Daryl Preston the Police and Crime Commissioner has authority to purchase speed cameras on behalf of councils. Clerk to apply to CCC Highways department for a survey of speeds on Lilyholt road, justifying it by road safety. The local Highways office in March should assist.			Clerk
111/22-23	Biodiversity & habitat initiatives Cllr Keppel-Spoor is considering a site on the right-hand side of Whittlesey Road just before the bridge and will look into the details and costs			Cllr Keppel-Spoor
112/22-23	Police Report no comments			
113/22-23	Dog fouling Clerk reported on the response to the residents consultation for the siting of the dog litter bins. Await response of FDC Streetscene.			Clerk
114/22-23	Income & Expenditure a) It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED to approve the following accounts for payment			
	HHA Grounds Maint.	August Cemetery (inc. VAT)	£365.16	
	R Robinson	Expenses, salary, annual homeworking allowance	£706.64	
	SLCC Enterprises	Arnold-Baker Local Council Administration	£141.80	
		TOTAL	£1,213.60	
	b) Clerk's report on the August Bank Balances and reconciliation statement is at appendix 1 Clerk to place the remainder of the Jubilee budget on the agenda for re-allocation			Clerk
115/22-23	Planning 1 High Street – In relation to the response from Nick Harding it was noted that the District Council in considering our broad objections to the site had cherry picked the log cabin, as that was the only building where permission had been applied for. His statement that only developments of more than one property needed to go to the planning committee was challenged and a question was raised as to whether the requirement in relation to the drainage facilities/survey on the site had been fulfilled by the resident. Also previously we wrote to planning enforcement concerning a multi-occupancy site, and we have not received a response to that except for this single piece-meal application for the log-cabin. It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED to continue to object to the development of the site, Cllr Chapman to respond to the letter from Nick Harding, copying Paul Medd the chief executive and D Laws the portfolio holder for planning as well as Nick Harding the head of planning			Agreed Cllr Chapman
116/22-23	Town Grounds It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED to keep the rentals and terms of the contracts for the Town Grounds the same as last year that is £130 per acre plus drainage rates			Agreed Clerk
117/22-23	Correspondence a) Rural Services Network, Bulletin (emailed 9/8/2022, 16/8/2022, 23/8/2022, 31/8/2022)			

	<p>b) FDC Press releases (emailed 10/8/2022, 11/8/2022, 25/8/2022 x2) Member services (emailed 11/8/2022) Agendas (emailed 25/08/2022)</p> <p>c) CAPALC Conference (emailed 15/8/2022) August bulletin (emailed 9/8/2022) Dementia friendly survey (emailed 31/8/2022)</p> <p>d) NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin (emailed 5/8/2022, 12/8/2022, 15/8/2022, 19/8/2022, 26/8/2022) Newsletter (emailed 10/8/2022, 17/8/2022) Events (emailed 23/8/2022)</p> <p>e) Highways - TMC Incident Report July (email 4/8/2022) Works programmes (emailed 8/8/2022, 10/8/2022, 18/8/2022) Events (emailed 16/8/2022) TTRO Old West Estate (emailed 16/8/2022, 30/8/2022) Road safety (emailed 10/8/2022)</p> <p>f) CAPASP newsletter (emailed 4/8/2022) warning (emailed 12/8/2022, 26/8/2022, 29/8/2022)</p> <p>g) Public Sector Executive – Electric vehicle infrastructure (emailed 25/8/2022)</p> <p>h) CCC – Cambridgeshire matters (emailed 31/8/2022) Energy efficiency (emailed 11/8/22) Library presents (emailed 16/8/2022)</p> <p>i) QEH King's Lynn – (emailed 19/8/2022)</p> <p>j) ANGLIAN WATER – NEW RESERVOIR (emailed 17/8/2022, 23/8/2022) Two large reservoirs are to be built one is in this area and a pipeline to bring water from North Lincolnshire to Cambridgeshire; consultation on position of the reservoirs will start soon.</p> <p>k) CPRE – hedgerows – (emailed 17/8/2022)</p> <p>l) ACRE – AGM (emailed 12/8/2022 x2) Staying in touch (31/8/2022)</p> <p>m) Cambs Constabulary – invitation to online meeting (emailed 13/8/2022)</p>	
118/22-23	<p>Draft local plan Benwick is a medium village, Wimblington will have a lot of development, 1530 homes to be built spread between the medium villages by 2040. Cllr Chapman objected to the prospect of piecemeal development as it would lead to infilling of gardens. Only Whittlesey is supporting Fenland's obligation to have a land supply for development for five years ahead.</p> <p>Public are invited to make their views known by responding to the consultation online. Cllr Cade reminded us of the undeveloped brownfield (not garden) sites in the village that should be developed; and objected to the idea of estates being built. Cllr Chapman said that a larger development might bring facilities to the village.</p> <p>To place on the October agenda. Cllr Chapman to advertise the consultation on Facebook.</p>	Clerk Cllr Chapman
119/22-23	<p>Jubilee mugs Cllr Chapman has 13 mugs, and Cllr Keppel-Spoor has some left from the 18 that were brought to the village hall for collection by parents on the list at the last meeting. Clerk to contact the remaining parents on the list to invite them to collect their mugs. Three or so mugs left over to be given to the school for the staff room. Some to be distributed to grandparents for their grandchildren. One to be gifted to the Benwick Archives. Attendees at the next parish council meeting to be offered a mug. We will try to give them to nice homes. The village hall could have any unwanted mugs. It was Proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Chapman and AGREED that the remaining mugs be brought to the next council meeting and that we attempted to distribute them broadly as outlined above</p>	Clerk Agreed
120/22-23	<p>Agenda Items/Next Meeting - to discuss and agree the format and date of the next Parish Council Meeting proposed to be Monday 3rd October 2022. Items to be included on Agenda should be with the Clerk by Monday 26th September 2022</p>	

Meeting closed 20.33

Appendix 1

Bank Reconciliation			Financial Year ending 31 March 2023		
Benwick Parish Council					
Prepared by Richard Robinson (Clerk & RFO)					
Date	03/09/2022				
Approved by	Chair				
Date	05/09/2022				
Balance per bank statements as at		31/08/2022	£		£
Current Account			37,604.33		
NS&I			21,449.64		
				59,053.97	
Less: Unpresented Cheques					
Cheque Number	amount				
					0.00
Add: Any unbanked cash in transit			invoice 2022-23-13	£314.00	
				£189.00	503.00
Net bank balances as at 31/08/2022				59,556.97	
The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book, as follows:-					
Opening Balance			58,386.51		
Add: Receipts to date			11,338.13		
Less: Payments to date			10,167.67		
Closing Balance			59,556.97		

Earmarked Reserves:

Parish Plan	£532.89	
Verge Planting	£1,067.13	
Cemetery Extension	£6,604.17	
Street Lighting	£9,875.62	
Jubilee Celebrations	£227.69	
The Pound	£1,550.00	
Village Sign	£1,000.00	
War Memorial	£6,000.00	
Mooring	£7,961.16	E M TOTAL £37,010.01
Allotments	£2,191.35	
General Reserve	£22,546.96	