



BENWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Benwick Parish Council meeting on Monday 7th November 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), Clerk R Robinson and six members of the public	
142/22-23	Apologies for absence None received	
143/22-23	Declarations of Interest Councillors to declare any interests in respect of any item to be discussed at this meeting:- Cllrs Chapman, Keppel-Spoor and Taylor declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in item 157/22-23 Village Hall	
144/22-23	PUBLIC TIME The flood barrier near the cemetery is breaking up. Cllr Few to inspect it and if bad report to the clerk for reporting to the Middle Level Commissioners. The speed sign on Doddington Road is not working any more. Cllr Chapman has confirmed that he does not always have time to change the batteries. Cllr Chapman to change the battery. Also the flashing indicator on Ramsey Road has been taken away. Cllr Chapman confirmed that this was taken away about a year ago, but without informing the Parish Council. Doddington Road is splitting up from the entrance to the village to the Whittlesey Road junction. Report to Highways. Ramsey Road is splitting near the entrance sign towards Ibbotson's Drove. Apart from the exceptionally dry summer this is caused by heavy lorries going to Greenbelt, which should be using alternative routes. Report to Highways. Benwick in Bloom had a good year despite the drought and have some certificates to show the Council, from Anglia in Bloom and from Fenland District Council (FDC) People are parking on the grass off the byway between the Whittlesey Road Bridge and the footbridge, could the sign saying no parking be made more conspicuous. 1 High Street are using it as parking. A double garage has been built and a garage conversion undertaken at 3 Bakehouse Close without a planning application. Clerk to write to Planning Enforcement at FDC	Cllr Few Clerk Cllr Chapman Clerk Clerk
145/22-23	Confirmation of Minutes It was Proposed by Cllr Keppel-Spoor, seconded by Cllr Taylor and AGREED to approve and sign the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 3 rd October 2022	Agreed
146/22-23	Matters Arising None	
147/22-23	The Pound Cllr Chapman has taken a look at the Pound and believes that the boundaries match the Land Registry map in the Clerk's possession. Benwick in Bloom's proposal now is an artefact consisting of a fence/frame of about 4 meters in length with flat cut outs of animals either bolted or welded to it (the Artefact). All edges to be smooth. Members of the Public wishing to comment should attend the next Parish Council meeting in December or contact the Clerk (details on website). Issues to resolve:- whether a container is to be placed on the Pound, and if that would obscure the Artefact; how access would be gained to install a container; Cllr Keppel-Spoor stated that as per previous minuted decisions of the Council that the Working Group on the Pound should still meet and measure the Pound; whether the proposed design would fit in with the existing fenceline.	Cllr Keppel-Spoor (working group to measure)
148/22-23	County & District Councillors Reports Cllr Miscandlon:- Regarding Highways please send an email to Cllr Connor at the same time as highlighting problems on the interactive map. Regarding planning enforcement, the email is planningenforcement@fenland.gov.uk , mark the report on unauthorised construction "urgent". The food bank at Whittlesey has moved to Manor Leisure Centre.	
149/22-23	Jubilee budget no action needed as this was resolved last month	
150/22-23	Defibrillators Cllr Chapman to sign the grant recipient agreement that the Clerk has printed out, Clerk to return to Burnt House Farm via Cambs Community Forum.	Cllr Chapman Clerk
151/22-23	LHI bids and traffic calming to keep on the agenda for next month	
152/22-23	Biodiversity & habitat initiatives to keep on the agenda for next month	
153/22-23	Police Report nothing to report	

154/22-23	Dog fouling FDC have scheduled to install one more bin on Doddington Road			
155/22-23	Income & Expenditure a) It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED to approve the following accounts for payment			Agreed
	Npower	Electricity September DD due 19/10/2022 (inc. VAT)	£84.83	
	N Oliver	Sub-total pre-authorised by Council and paid during October	£84.83	
		Verges cutting	£185.00	
		Sub-total authorised by Clerk and paid during October	£185.00	
	HHA Grounds Maintenance	October Cemetery (inc. VAT)	£365.16	
	R Robinson	Expenses & salary	£364.82	
		Subtotal to authorise for payment now	£729.98	
		TOTAL	£999.81	
	b) Clerk's to report on the October Bank Balances and reconciliation statement is at appendix 1			
156/22-23	Planning - 1 High Street: Cllr Chapman is carrying on an email correspondence with Nick Harding expressing that we are very disappointed that his department has not addressed the issue of multiple separate developments on the site and has rather just cherry picked the Chalet bungalow with its retrospective planning permission being granted and treated as ancillary to the original dwelling on the site. Cllr Chapman to continue to protest about the development of the whole site.			Cllr Chapman
157/22-23	Village Hall As per the declarations of interest at 143/22-23 Cllrs Chapman, Keppel-Spoor and Taylor will not vote on this item. Cllr Chapman will resign as a School Governor and will attend the Village Hall Committee (VHC) meeting tomorrow a) Financial and organisational situation of the village hall charity:- the VHC will all issues tomorrow. VHC expressed concerns about the County Council (CCC) insisting on the school having the use of the Village Hall throughout the school day. Cllr Keppel-Spoor is concerned that the last meeting of the VHC was unlawful as no agenda was issued and the VHC have not complied with the Trust Deed. This was explained as they had asked the School for more money and the CCC had said that the only way they could pay more is if they had a lot more time in the Hall. However this means that from paying £7.60 per hour they are now paying £4.17 per hour. Councillors made the points that the financial difficulties of the VHC are due to the unusual times we have gone through with the covid crisis and that if we lose the Hall now, then it will be gone for a long time and we may well regret it in the future if the need for a Hall is felt in the village. Cllr Chapman made the point that handing back the lease was not a good solution to the situation given the value of the leasehold which still has about 100 years to run. Grants may be available from Burnthouse Farm Windfarm. A warm-hub might be an option. If a majority of the village does not want a village hall then that would have to be respected. It may be that it should be put to the village that they pay extra on the precept to keep a village hall. The amount of time CCC are proposing to use the hall for the school compromises the long-term viability of the hall as a village hall. Clerk raised the issue of quantifying the costs of the Hall. b) Poor condition of the paved area at the entrance to the village hall – Cllr Chapman will mention it tomorrow to the VHC and is prepared to repair it himself with help from his plasterer if possible. Grants may be available from the windfarms.			Cllr Chapman
158/22-23	Correspondence a) Rural Services Network, Bulletin (emailed 4/10/2022, 11/10/2022, 18/10/2022, 25/10/2022, 1/11/2022) b) FDC Press releases (email 28/9/2022, 10/10/2022, 17/10/2022 x3, 21/10/2022, 24/10/2022 x3, 31/10/2022, 1/11/2022) Member services (email 7/10/2022, 17/10/2022) Polling districts and places (email 29/9/2022) c) CAPALC AGM (email 7/10/2022) Bulletin (email /9/2022) Courses (email 14/10/2022, 18/10/2022) d) NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin (email 30/9/2022, 7/10/2022, 14/10/2022, 21/10/2022, 28/10/2022) Newsletter (emailed 5/10/2022, /9/2022) Events (emailed 18/10/2022, 19/10/2022) Report (email 27/10/2022) e) Highways - TMC Incident Report September (email 5/10/2022, 14/10/2022) Works programmes Community gritting (email /9/2022) Events (emailed 4/10/2022) LHI (email 7/10/2022, 14/10/2022) f) CAPASP newsletter (emailed 12/10/2022) warnings (email 4/10/2022, 18/10/2022)			

Appendix 1

Bank Reconciliation		Financial Year ending 31 March 2023	
Benwick Parish Council			
Prepared by Richard Robinson (Clerk & RFO)			
Date	03/11/2022		
Approved by	Chair		
Date	07/11/2022		
Balance per bank statements as at 31/10/2022			
		£	£
Current Account		63,992.22	
NS&I		0.00	
			63,992.22
Less: Unpresented Cheques			
Cheque Number	amount	2818	159.00
			159.00
Add: Any unbanked cash in transit	invoice 2022-23-13		0.00
Net bank balances as at 31/10/2022		63,833.22	
The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book, as follows:-			
Opening Balance		58,386.51	
Add: Receipts to date		18,025.73	
Less: Payments to date		12,579.02	
Closing Balance		63,833.22	

Earmarked Reserves:			
Parish Plan	£532.89		
Verge Planting	£1,067.13		
Cemetery Extension	£6,604.17		
Street Lighting	£9,875.62		
Jubilee Celebrations	£0.00	as per 128/22-23	
The Pound	£1,550.00		
Village Sign	£1,000.00		
War Memorial	£6,000.00		
Mooring	£7,961.16		
		E M TOTAL	£36,782.32
Allotments	£2,191.35		
General Reserve	£27,050.90		