



BENWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Benwick Parish Council meeting on Monday 6th March 2023 at the village hall

Present	Cllrs M Chapman (Chairman), L Keppel-Spoor, A Cade, R Taylor, R Few, R Emmitt, R Wicks (FDC), A Miscandlon (FDC) Clerk R Robinson and six members of the public	
237/22-23	Apologies for absence none received	
238/22-23	Declarations of Interest Cllrs Chapman and Keppel-Spoor declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in item 250/22-23 - Turf Fen charity	
239/22-23	<p>PUBLIC TIME</p> <p>Referring to a statement at the last Council meeting that flowers don't belong on war memorials the member of the public has researched this and says there is no legislation or guidance regarding flowers. Also, there are many war memorials around the area which are planted e.g. Chatteris, March, Huntingdon, Duxford etc. It would be good to check facts and compromise. Another pointed out that the discussion about flowers on the war memorial had been tagged onto the Benwick in Bloom competition discussion. The clerk pointed out that there are guidelines on the War Memorials Trust (WMT) and the Historic England websites, but these do not prohibit all flowers.</p> <p>A district councillor pointed out that in March dead flowers are removed as soon as they appear by the parks and gardens staff.</p> <p>It was noted that there is damage or crumbling around the base of the war memorial. Councillor Chapman to inspect.</p> <p>The village gate is still down at the exit of the village on the way to Doddington.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Chapman Clerk</p>
240/22-23	<p>Confirmation of Minutes</p> <p>It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED to approve and sign the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 6th February 2023</p>	Agreed
241/22-23	Matters Arising none	
242/22-23	Cemetery It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED to join the ICCM for £95 per annum. Cllrs affirmed that interment is to be carried out by qualified people.	Agreed
243/22-23	<p>County & District Councillors Reports</p> <p>Council and Miscandlon of FDC:- FDC R organising elections. The district Council rates are being lowered by 2%</p> <p>Councillor Wicks of FDC:- voters will need photo ID if voting at the polling station this could be passport or driving license or bus pass. Full list is on FDC election site.</p> <p>Regarding the blockages in the sewers, he has had feedback from Anglian Water to ask residents not to put unsuitable items in the sewer. The sewer is for bodily waste and toilet paper only.</p> <p>For both FDC councillors this is the last meeting of Benwick Parish Council that they will attend due to changes in ward boundaries. He hopes the new councillors will have empathy for village issues.</p> <p>Parish councillors thanked the outgoing district councillors, they have always got back to us on the issues we raised with them.</p> <p>Regarding the elections there is an election section on the FDC website where there is a timetable for all dates relevant to the elections. The election will be declared on the 20th of March.</p>	
244/22-23	<p>The Pound and the War memorial</p> <p>Fabricator is proceeding with the animal fence on the Pound.</p> <p>It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED for Cllrs to have a discussion with FDC planning. Cllr Chapman to email other councillors to arrange. Any other group in the village can email the clerk to be included. Cllr Miscandlon advises that FDC are without a conservation officer at the moment and are borrowing the services of the CCC conservation department. He suggests writing to Dave Rowan.</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Cllr Chapman</p>
245/22-23	Annual Parish Meeting Dates no changes from last month's resolution	
246/22-23	<p>Village Hall The meeting was suspended for public comments.</p> <p>BENWICK Village Hall committee (BVHC) chairman:- the BVHC are working on governance. We are working with ACRE on new policies.</p> <p>A firm in Kings Lynn R to service and certify the solar panels for £600. Quotes have been obtained for increasing capacity and putting in batteries.</p> <p>£5800 as an annual payment from the school has been agreed this is an increase from £4500 previously. This will continue until any new fee has been negotiated. The BVHC wishes the Parish Council on our behalf to renegotiate the fees paid by the school and its usage of the hall as per the trust deed and to ensure a reasonable charge.</p>	

	<p>The charge for community use of the hall is £12 per hour.</p> <p>He wants to work with the school office to be part of the negotiations on new fees and hours.</p> <p>Cllr Chapman believes that there should be a mix of school use and others over weekdays as well. BVHC chairman stated that the school is the solution to the village hall's problems. Councillor Chapman believes the school is a part of the solution. Councillor Wicks reminded us of the Jubilee Village Hall fund.</p> <p>The meeting was reopened.</p> <p>Clerk advised that as custodian trustees we act to implement their wishes of the charity trustees it as much as is lawful and in accordance with the trust deed and objects of the charity.</p> <p>It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED to form a Working Group to discuss a common negotiating position on school use and payments for the hall which will report back to the Parish Council. BVHC members to be invited to this working group's discussions.</p>			Agreed
247/22-23	<p>Coronation</p> <p>It is reported that Boon's are not too happy with the idea that any party on the Pound could spill over onto their land next door. Also, not many of the BVHC are available to staff the coronation event.</p> <p>It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED to fund a scarecrow competition and a best decorated house competition with £50 of prizes for each, to fund £500 in principle for the village hall's proposals and to fund up to £500 for medals to be chosen by a Working Group.</p> <p>Clerk to check how many mugs were distributed for the jubilee.</p>			Agreed Cllr Chapman Clerk
248/22-23	Biodiversity & habitat initiatives to FACT are expanding from transport to other types of community activity such as community gardens. They are holding a meeting on 14 th March in the Five Alls pub. They have funds.			
249/22-23	Police Report there is a new sergeant. The process is too one way and participants are not allowed to feed back to parishioners.			
250/22-23	<p>Turf Fen charity</p> <p>Trustees reported that the trustees are now Cllr Chapman, Cllr Keppel-Spoor, Mr H Langford and Mrs J Fountain. Request that the Parish Council re-appoint the trustees. £2,400 in the bank and no applications recently. Some tenants are in arrears. Perhaps remit needs to be changed as hard to define poverty due to people receiving benefits. Cllrs Chapman and Keppel-Spoor left the room.</p> <p>It was Proposed by Cllr Taylor and seconded by Cllr Few and AGREED that Cllr Cade act as Chairman in the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.</p> <p>It was Proposed by Cllr Cade and AGREED to re-appoint the existing trustees for 2 years and then to reconsider the appointments. And to await the trustee's proposals regarding the vacant fifth trustee.</p>			Agreed Agreed
251/22-23	Defibrillators 26 Doddington Rd is up and running, 2 High St. is awaiting a power lead. No installation expenses needed. Clerk to place on the insurance and publicise on the Parish Council website			
252/22-23	<p>Income & Expenditure</p> <p>a) It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED to approve the following accounts for payment. Cllrs noted that since employing HHA we have not had any complaints about the cemetery. The repair of streetlight 15 had been a replacement of the bracket and rewiring co-ordinated with UKPN.</p>			Agreed
	Npower	Electricity January DD paid 17/2/2023 (inc. VAT)	£74.00	
	Chess ICT	Website hosting pro-rata increase as of 1 Feb (inc. VAT) (paid 27/2/2023)	£3.67	
		Sub-total pre-authorised by Council, paid in February	£77.67	
	HHA Grounds	February Cemetery (inc. VAT)	£365.16	
	Maint.	Expenses & salary	£354.38	
	R Robinson	Council ACRE membership (inc. VAT)	£60.00	
	ACRE	Streetlight 15 repair	£538.85	
	Cable Test Ltd	Subtotal to authorise for payment now	£1318.39	
		TOTAL	£1396.06	
	<p>b) Clerk's report on the February Bank balances and reconciliation is at appendix 1</p> <p>c) Clerk advises that Cambridge and Counties bank is now offering notice accounts again so he will go ahead and open an account as previously mandated by Council.</p>			Clerk
253/22-23	Planning no comments			
254/22-23	Anglia in bloom competition no date fixed yet but 5 th -25 th July. We will try to co-ordinate a verge cut.			Clerk
255/22-23	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>a) Rural Services Network, Bulletin (email 7/2/2023, 21/2/2023, 14/2/2023, 28/2/2023)</p>			

	<p>survey (email 22/2/2023)</p> <p>b) FDC Press release (email 2/2/2023, 7/2/2023 x2, 9/2/2023 x2, 13/2/2023 x2, 17/2/2023, 21/2/2023 x2, 23/2/2023, 1/3/2023) Member Services (email 17/2/2023, 22/2/2023, 27/2/2023 x2, 28/2/2023) Agendas (email 10/2/2023 x2, 17/2/2023) dog bin (email 20/2/2023)</p> <p>c) CAPALC Bulletin (email 8/2/2023) Panning training (1/3/2023)</p> <p>d) NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin (email 3/2/2023, 10/2/2023, 17/2/2023, 27/2/2023, 1/3/2023) Newsletter (email 8/2/2023, 22/2/2023) Events (email 21/2/2023)</p> <p>e) Highways - TMC Incident Report January (email 3/2/2023)</p> <p>f) Anglian Water – Blocked drains (email 3/2/2023)</p> <p>g) Benwick in Bloom – FACT (email 27/2/2023)</p> <p>h) CCC – Cambridgeshire matters (27/2/2023) Planning consultation (email 2/2/2023)</p> <p>i) Combined authority – Multiply (email 16/2/2023)</p> <p>j) NHS CAMBS – feel brighter campaign (email 9/2/2023)</p> <p>k) FACT – volunteer recruitment day (email 14/2/2023), mobile hub (email 14/2/2023)</p> <p>l) MAGPAS (email 14/2/2023)</p> <p>m) ACRE – Parks online event (email 9/2/2023) Watercare (10/2/2023) Home Energy (17/2/2023) Affordable Homes (email 22/2/2023)</p> <p>no additional comments but see FACT under 248/22-23</p>	
256/22-23	Dog fouling Second bin is placed but is being upgraded to a standalone dual purpose	
257/22-23	Village sign no further progress	
258/22-23	<p>Cemetery It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED to accept the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's request to place signs on our cemetery indicating the presence of War Graves. One to be by the first gate and if a second one that to be by the second gate, both on the railings.</p> <p>Clerk to write to the Middle Level Commissioners to point out that the fascia of the flood defence wall of the cemetery is damaged.</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Clerk</p>
259/22-23	Agenda Items/Next Meeting - next Parish Council to be Monday 3 rd April 2023. Items to be included on agenda should be with the Clerk by Monday 27 th March 2023	
260/22-23	Motion to exclude the Press and Public It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and seconded by Cllr Keppel-Spoor and AGREED that in under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the special confidential nature of the business to be transacted under item 261/22-23 the public and press be excluded from the meeting	Agreed,
261/22-23	Clerk It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED that he will gather the comments of the councillors and put together the Clerk's annual appraisal to be agreed at the full Council meeting in April.	Agreed

Meeting ended 21.06

Appendix 1

Bank Reconciliation			Financial Year ending 31 March 2023		
Benwick Parish Council					
Prepared by Richard Robinson (Clerk & RFO)					
Date		01/03/2023			
Approved by		Chair			
Date		06/03/2023			
Balance per bank statements as at		28/02/2023		£	£
Current Account			60,202.97		
NS&I			0.00		
					60,202.97
Less: Unpresented Cheques					
Cheque Number		amount	2830	366.37	
					366.37
Add: Any unbanked cash in transit					0.00
Net bank balances as at 28/02/2023					59,836.60
The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book, as follows:-					
Opening Balance			58,386.51		
Add: Receipts to date			21,507.73		
Less: Payments to date			20,057.64		
Closing Balance			59,836.60		

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
The Pound	£1,550.00
Village Sign	£1,000.00
War Memorial	£6,000.00
Mooring	£7,961.16
Allotments	£2,191.35
General Reserve	£23,054.28

E M TOTAL £36,782.32