



BENWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Benwick Parish Council meeting on Monday 5th June 2023 at the village hall

Present	Cllrs M Chapman, L Keppel-Spoor, R Taylor, J Ablewhite, Cllr T Taylor (FDC), Clerk R Robinson and seven members of the public	
034/23-24	Apologies for absence it was explained that FDC Cllr Woollard had to go to March Town Council meetings on the usual day of our meetings and that he and FDC Cllr Tim Taylor had agreed to split attendance at the two councils of Benwick and March between them	
035/23-24	Declarations of Interest Councillors to declare any interests in respect of any item to be discussed at this meeting:- a) A Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in item 042/23-24 was declared by Cllr Keppel-Spoor b) A Non-Pecuniary Interest in item 042/23-24 was declared by Cllr Ablewhite	
036/23-24	PUBLIC TIME There is lots of dog poo around the village. The FDC consultation on the dog control order is to extend the order for three years. What resources are in place to enforce it? The order makes it easier to issue a fixed penalty for dog fouling. Nene Parade – part has been mown and some left growing, it is difficult to pass through to Little London. Clerk to contact Mr Oliver. FDC Cllr Tim Taylor to contact landholders. Doddington Rd village entry sign still damaged, Clerk to check if repair has been done or planned by CCC Highways.	Clerk Cllr Tim Taylor Clerk
037/23-24	Confirmation of Minutes It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED to approve and sign the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11 th May 2023	Agreed
038/23-24	Matters Arising none	
039/23-24	The Pound the bolts have been changed to galvanised	
040/23-24	County & District Councillors Reports Enforcement on 1 High Street was closed in December. The file says two dwellings are being converted into one, but that is untrue as it was always one building. Re: other people living on the site in the portacabins, that is legal if they are family members or helping with the building works. FDC Cllr Tim Taylor to go back to planning enforcement. Regarding the Crazy Acres appeal the wall, bases and gates have already been constructed. See agenda item 045/23-24, Clerk to copy FDC Cllr Tim Taylor into our submission to the appeal. FDC Cllr Tim Taylor to contact the traveller's enforcement section.	FDC Cllr Tim Taylor FDC Cllr Tim Taylor
041/23-24	Dog fouling We are awaiting response from FDC regarding bin for Caton's bridge. The spray paint can be delivered to Mark. It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED that the Parish Council supports the FDC dog control order and that we would like to know how they intend to enforce the order i.e. what resources have they or will they allocate to it. Clerk to respond online.	Clerk Clerk
042/23-24	Village Hall Working Group on school use of the hall to meet jointly with interested members of the Benwick Village Hall committee after the BVHC's AGM on 19 th June. To inform the clerk of the date of the working group meeting.	Cllr Ablewhite Cllr Chapman
043/23-24	Biodiversity & habitat initiatives add cemetery hedge to agenda next month	Clerk
044/23-24	Insurance It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED to provisionally authorise the payment of £1636.63 to Gallagher for the annual insurance premium. It was Proposed by Cllr Ablewhite and seconded by Cllr Chapman and AGREED to delegate to the Clerk to make an alternative contract for insurance and pay the required premium with the advice of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman if a significantly better quote than the Gallagher quote, within budget, was received	Agreed Agreed Clerk
045/23-24	Planning to discuss and agree any actions needed regarding a) Planning Appeal APP/D0515/W/23/3320053 F/YR21/1520/F Crazy Acres Chase Road Benwick March The siting of 6 x gypsy caravans, erection of a day room block, gates and fencing, and the formation of associated hardstanding (part retrospective) It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED to submit the same comments to the appeal as were submitted to the previous appeal taking into account if any of the	Clerk

	comments are no longer relevant and to look to whether the sequential test and the exemption test apply.			
046/23-24	Income & Expenditure a) It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED approve the following accounts for payment			Agreed
	Npower	Electricity April - DD paid 25/5/2023 (inc. VAT)	£97.67	
		Sub-total pre-authorised by Council, paid in April	£97.67	
	HHA Grnds Maint.	May Cemetery (inc. VAT)	£392.40	
	R Robinson	Expenses & salary	£389.26	
	Ivan Cooper	Internal Audit Fee	£145	
	DJ&MO Jackson&Son	Pound decorative railings (inc. VAT)	£768.00	
	Margaret Moore	2 nd prize scarecrow	£20	
	Helen Currie	1 st prize house decoration	£30	
	Mrs Crossan	1 st prize scarecrow	£30	
	SLCC	Clerk's annual membership	£112	
	Arthur J. Gallagher Insurance Brokers Ltd	Subtotal to authorise for payment now	£1,886.66	
		Insurance Premium	£1,636.63	
		Subtotal pre-authorised for Clerk to spend	£1,636.36	
		TOTAL EXPENDITURE AUTHORISED	£3,620.96	
	b) Clerk's report on the May Bank Balances and reconciliation statement at appendix 1 Cllrs noted that streetlighting and mooring reserves are contingency plans c) to discuss and agreed any actions relating to bank accounts Clerk to progress application for Cambs and Counties Savings account d) It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED to accept the Internal Auditors report for the financial year 2022-23. Clerk to publish documents required on the internet.			Clerk Agreed Clerk
047/23-24	Correspondence a) Rural Services Network, Bulletin (email 3/5/2023, 10/5/2023, 16/5/2023, 23/5/2023) b) FDC Press release (email 10/5/2023 x2, 19/5/2023, 22/5/2023, 23/5/2023 x2, 26/5/2023) Member Services (email 17/5/2023, 24/5/2023, 30/5/2023 x2) elections (email 22/5/2023) c) CAPALC Bulletin (email 18/5/2023) d) NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin (email 5/5/2023, 18/5/2023, 25/5/2023) Newsletter (email 10/5/2023, 24/5/2023) Events (email 16/5/2023) e) Highways - TMC Incident Report February (email /3/2023) Events (email 2/5/2023) Works (email 16/5/2023, 19/5/2023, 23/5/2023) f) Middle Level – Bank raising (email 3/5/2023) g) CCC – Easter Holiday Programme (email /3/2023) newsletter (email 30/5/2023) h) NHS CAMBS – Integrated care (email 16/5/2023) i) Middle Level commissioners – unregistered and abandoned boats (email /3/2023) j) QEH – newsletter (email 25/5/2023) k) CPRE – Hedgerows (email 8/5/2023) – Solar panels (email 10/5/2023, 17/5/2023) l) Cambs Community Foundation (email 23/5/2023) m) ACRE – Cancer support discussion (email 24/5/2023) n) Greater Cambridge Partnership – Sustainable Travel Zone consultation (email 26/5/2023) no comments			
048/23-24	Speeding in Benwick and MVAS operation Cllrs Chapman and Few to move the speed detector and install the solar panels on Saturday. Cllr Taylor suggests we have more speed detectors. Await to see how solar panel works. Lilyholt position is to gather data to support an LHI bid. A group of speeding enthusiasts is needed to help with operating the MVAS.			Cllr Chapman Cllr Few
049/23-24	Village sign keep on the agenda			Clerk
050/23-24	Police Report There have been a mass of break-ins to cars recently. Several houses were tried as well. Cllr Chapman to attend the meeting with police next time. Police have asked us to encourage people to report these crimes and attempts as it helps them to deal more significantly with the offenders.			Cllr Chapman
051/23-24	War memorial It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED to form a Working Group to discuss ideas for the War Memorial fence, Boon's could advise and might be able to make a fence.			Cllr Chapman
052/23-24	Agenda Items/Next Meeting - next Parish Council meeting to be Monday 3 rd July 2023 in the village hall. Items to be included on agenda should be with the Clerk by Monday 26 th June 2023			

053/23-24	Motion to exclude the Press and Public It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED that in accordance with 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 confidential nature of the business about to be transacted under item:- 054/23-24 Vacant seat, the press and public are to be excluded from the meeting for that item. FDC Cllr Tim Taylor and members of the public Mr Few and Mr Emmitt were invited to remain to make comments.	Agreed
054/23-24	Vacant seat Mr Lowry attended this Parish Council meeting as a member of the public and is resident in Benwick. It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and AGREED to co-opt Mr Sean Lowry as a co-opted member of the Council. Clerk to complete paperwork	Agreed Clerk

Meeting closed 20.53

Appendix 1

Bank Reconciliation		Financial Year ending 31 March 2024	
Benwick Parish Council			
Prepared by Richard Robinson (Clerk & RFO)			
Date	01/06/2023		
Approved by		Chair	
Date	05/06/2023		
Balance per bank statements as at		31/05/2023	£
Current Account			63,798.71
NS&I			0.00
			63,798.71
Less: Unpresented Cheques			
Cheque Number	amount		
			0.00
Add: Any unbanked cash in transit			0.00
Net bank balances as at 31/05/2023			63,798.71
The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book, as follows:-			
Opening Balance			58,453.87
Add: Receipts to date			8,213.37
Less: Payments to date			2,868.53
Closing Balance			63,798.71

Earmarked Reserves:

Verge Planting	£1,067.13	
Cemetery Extension	£6,604.17	
Street Lighting	£9,426.58	
The Pound	£3,050.00	
Village Sign	£2,000.00	
War Memorial	£6,000.00	
Mooring	£7,961.16	
Allotments	£2,191.35	
General Reserve	£25,498.32	
E M TOTAL		£38,300.39