



BENWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Benwick Parish Council meeting on Monday 7th August 2023 at the village hall

Present	Cllrs L Keppel-Spoor, R Few, R Emmitt, J Ablewhite, Clerk R Robinson and 15 members of the public	
076/23-24	Apologies for absence Cllrs R Taylor, M Chapman, S Lowry and FDC Cllr T Taylor	Accepted
077/23-24	Declarations of Interest Cllr Keppel-Spoor declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in item 084/2023-24 Village Hall and item 087/2023-24 Turf Fen Charity Cllr Ablewhite declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in item 084/2023-24 Village Hall	
078/23-24	PUBLIC TIME Could the Parish Council donate for a Christmas tree? Christmas lights committee have received £150 as a contribution towards a Christmas tree but have not spent it yet due to receiving free trees for a few years. Place on next month's agenda. Planting a tree was suggested as a more long-term solution. A site would be needed. Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) – are there orders on the tree on the Pound, the tree by the bus shelter (which needs trimming) and the tree at the beginning of the High Street with the Jubilee bench around it? Place on next month's agenda. The elder hedge along the right-hand side of the cemetery is overgrown. Conifer hedge on Doddington Rd outside 1 High Street is still overgrown, as is foliage from the Clarion bungalows on the High Street. These have already been reported to CCC Highways who have contacted the owners to require remedial action. Youths and parents of the Parish want a youth club. Perhaps to meet once a week with separate sessions for younger and older youths. May charge about £1 to attendees. Plan to raise funds and put notices in the pub and shop. They do not have a committee or structure yet. Cllrs advised to approach the District and County Councils. Local businesses might contribute. Some parents are willing to volunteer. Some have experience of Youth Work. Advised to contact ACRE who might help with advice on admin and fundraising. Money from the Section 106 may be available; ask Cllr Taylor to help with this. Put on agenda for next month. Benwick Village Hall Committee (BVHC) will also discuss. Parents and youths to attend next BVHC meeting.	Clerk Clerk Clerk Clerk Clerk
079/23-24	Confirmation of Minutes It was Proposed by Cllr Keppel-Spoor and AGREED to approve and sign the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 3 rd July 2023	Agreed
080/23-24	Matters Arising dealt with under specific agenda items below	
081/23-24	The Pound the Working Party is yet to meet and fully clear the overgrown shrubs, but Cllr Ablewhite has cleared them from the gutters and windows of the Church Room adjoining our land. Working group to meet when convenient. Clerk to get quotes to take all the shrubs away. A member of the Public has volunteered to receive the garden waste at his work-yard. Keep on the agenda for next month.	Cllr Keppel-Spoor Clerk Clerk
082/23-24	County & District Councillors Reports No CCC or FDC Cllrs attended	
083/23-24	Dog fouling Clerk to chase up installations with FDC in two weeks time	Clerk
084/23-24	Village Hall to discuss and agree any actions needed including a) report of Working Group on school use of the hall – await BVHC discussing this at their next meeting in one week b) budgeting for expenditure on any matters connected with the village hall – BVHC have received a £4,000 revenue grant from Ransonmoor Windfarm	
085/23-24	War memorial the Working Group is to meet onsite this month to discuss broad design of new fencing, to be followed by the Clerk obtaining three quotes	Cllr Keppel-Spoor Clerk
086/23-24	Training It was Proposed by Cllr Keppel-Spoor and AGREED to pay for Cllr Lowry to attend CAPALC councillor training perhaps on Saturday 16 th September for £75	Agreed Clerk Cllr Lowry
087/23-24	Turf Fen Land Charity Cllr Chapman has emailed the accounts of the Charity to all the Cllrs and asked if they have any further questions to put them to him. Cllr Ablewhite raised the point that as the Parish Council appoints the Trustees of the Charity, what responsibilities as to the governance of the Charity do we have? Clerk advised that the Charity's Trust Deeds might specify our responsibilities if any.	
088/23-24	Town Grounds rents generally in the agricultural sector have not increased, due to the ending of the single farm payment scheme. It was Proposed by Cllr Keppel-Spoor and AGREED to keep the rents the same for the coming rental year as this year at	Agreed

	£130 per acre per year payable in two instalments, plus the addition of the latest years drainage rates to the first instalment. Clerk to offer and prepare next year's rental agreements accordingly.			Clerk
089/23-24	Planning a) application F/YR23/0526/F Erect 1x dwelling (2-storey 2-bed), 1.2 metre high looped top railing to front boundary and extension to dropped kerb at Site Of Former Benwick Methodist Church High Street Benwick Cambridgeshire. It was Proposed by Cllr Keppel-Spoor and AGREED that we make no objection to the application and mention that not much archaeology is left. Clerk to inform FDC Planning.			Agreed Clerk
090/23-24	Income & Expenditure a) It was Proposed by Cllr Keppel-Spoor and AGREED to approve the following accounts for payment			Agreed
	Npower	Electricity June - DD paid 19/7/2023 (inc. VAT)	£80.81	
		Sub-total pre-authorised by Council, paid June	£80.81	
	Middle Level Commissioners March West & White Fen IDB HHA Grounds Maint. R Robinson	Drainage Rates	£139.38	
		Drainage Rates	£77.69	
		July Cemetery (inc. VAT)	£392.40	
		Expenses & salary	£580.56	
		Subtotal to authorise for payment now	£1190.03	
		TOTAL EXPENDITURE AUTHORISED	£1270.84	
	b) Clerk's report on the July Bank Balances and reconciliation is at appendix 1 c) It was Proposed by Cllr Keppel-Spoor and AGREED to authorise the cheques to ourselves (two of ten thousand pounds each totalling £20,000) to fulfil the resolution to move £20,000 into our savings account passed at the last council meeting item 067/23-24 (c).			Agreed
091/23-24	Correspondence a) Rural Services Network, Bulletin (email 4/7/2023, 18/7/2023, 11/7/2023, 25/7/2023, 1/8/2023) b) FDC Press release (email 12/7/2023, 13/7/2023, 14/7/2023, 26/7/2023, 27/7/2023) Member Services (email 11/7/2023) March Station (email 10/7/2023) Agendas (email 5/7/2023, 7/7/2023 x2) c) CAPALC Bulletin (email /6/2023) Conference (email 27/7/2023) Defibrillators (email 27/7/2023) d) NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin (email 29/6/2023, 6/7/2023, 20/7/2023, 13/7/2023, 27/7/2023) Newsletter (email 5/7/2023, 12/7/2023, 19/7/2023, 26/7/2023) Tickets (email 25/7/2023) e) Highways - TMC Incident Report June (email 4/7/2023) July (email 1/8/2023) Events (email 3/7/2023, 1/8/2023) Works (email 28/6/2023, 11/7/2023, 14/7/2023) Responses (email 14/7/2023 x3) f) QEH Kings Lynn – newsletter (email 21/7/2023) g) CCC – Newsletter (email 27/6/2023) Gritting volunteers (email 28/7/2023) h) NHS CAMBS – newsletter (email 5/7/2023) i) Royal British Legion – poppy shop (email 15/6/2023, 28/7/2023) j) IGPP – event (email 24/7/2023) k) CPRE – Campaigns (email 15/7/2023) l) Benwick in Bloom – Agenda (email 26/7/2023) m) ACRE – Newsletter (email 7/7/2023) Heating advice (email 26/7/2023) n) Greater Cambridge Partnership – Newsletter (email 30/6/2023) o) Balfour Beatty – Streetlights (email 30/6/2023) p) Cambs and Counties – interest rate raised (email 5/7/2023) q) Hedgehogs R Us – Hedgehog project (email 10/7/2023) no comments			
092/23-24	Speeding in Benwick and MVAS operation await Cllr Chapman to move the MVAS and install the solar panels			Cllr Chapman Cllr Few
093/23-24	Warm hubs to be discussed when the Parish Council Working Group meet with members of BVHC. To place on the agenda next month.			Clerk
094/23-24	Clock mechanism we do not have anywhere to store it. A container on the Pound would give us that capacity. A volunteer has offered to store; but needs to know dimensions. Cllrs feel the Clock is ours and not the Diocese's. Clerk has contacted the Diocese who are looking into the issue. The Diocese have access to a database connected to clocks, e.g. restorers, people who want clocks etc. Cllr Keppel-Spoor to inspect the clock in March museum. Question as to what the restoration costs would be. Keep on agenda for next month.			Cllr Keppel-Spoor Clerk
095/23-24	Police Report no report			

096/23-24	Youth Bus this was never paid by the Parish Council as it is beyond our means. The District or County Council may be able to help. Currently we will concentrate on supporting the Youth Club initiative.	
097/23-24	<p>Cemetery Push testing the headstones. Keep on the agenda for next month. Separation of graves – Clerk reported the issue with a funeral-directors: the gravedigger dug the grave further away from the adjacent grave than marked, distance had been set based on separations of the graves in the older row behind, the clerk was not trying to bring the graves back into line (one had been dug out of line before) but trying to prevent further over-spacing. Undertaker has given the reason that the space left was needed to safely dig a grave, however the graves in the older row behind are not so widely spaced. It was Proposed by Cllr Ablewhite, seconded by Cllr Keppel-Spoor and AGREED that the Council ratifies the Clerk's decision not to allow that gravedigger to work in our cemetery until he agrees to dig according to our directions. Clerk to make the regular funeral directors aware of our standard size of plot after measuring other plots in the cemetery. Hedge in the cemetery – native hedging is the preferred option. Clerk to obtain quotes for hedging and advice from the Woodland Trust, District Council arboriculturist and HHA</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Agreed</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
098/23-24	Biodiversity & habitat initiatives the Council support the idea of people leaving gaps under their fences for hedgehogs but do not wish to buy the hedgehog gates to distribute in the village	
099/23-24	Agenda Items/Next Meeting - next Parish Council meeting to be Monday 4 th September 2023. Items to be included on agenda should be with the Clerk by Monday 28 th August 2023	
100/23-24	Sitting around a table it was Proposed by Cllr Keppel-Spoor and AGREED to have more formal seating arrangements at meetings from now on. Place microphone for clerk on the agenda for next month	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Clerk</p>
101/23-24	Motion to exclude the Press and Public. A resolution 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 075/23-24 (Clerk) the public and press should be excluded for that item was Proposed by Cllr Keppel-Spoor and AGREED	Agreed
102/23-24	<p>Clerk Clerk gave a rundown of places to advertise and prices. Councillors identified some of these to use and some additional places to use/investigate. Cllr Ablewhite to post the advert onto relevant local Facebook pages. It was Proposed by Cllr Keppel-Spoor and AGREED to form a Working Group to agree a final design for the job advert, to meet when Cllr Chapman is available. Cllr Keppel-Spoor to speak to the chair of the SLCC and Cllr Ablewhite to speak to the CEO of the LGA for advice on pay levels</p>	<p>Cllr Ablewhite</p> <p>Agreed</p> <p>Clerk</p>

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Bank Reconciliation			Financial Year ending 31 March 2024		
Benwick Parish Council					
Prepared by Richard Robinson (Clerk & RFO)					
Date		04/08/2023			
Approved by		Chair			
Date		07/08/2023			
Balance per bank statements at end		31/07/2023		£	
Current Account				£	
NS&I					
				62,495.15	
Less: Unpresented Cheques					
Cheque Number		amount	2855	176.00	
					176.00
Add: Any unbanked cash in transit				0.00	
Net bank balances end 31/07/2023				62,319.15	
The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book, as follows:-					
Opening Balance				58,453.87	
Add: Receipts to date				11,949.46	
Less: Payments to date				8,084.18	
Closing Balance				62,319.15	

Earmarked Reserves:

Verge Planting	£1,067.13	
Cemetery Extension	£6,604.17	
Street Lighting	£9,426.58	
The Pound	£2,410.00	
Village Sign	£2,000.00	
War Memorial	£6,000.00	
Mooring	£7,961.16	
Allotments	£2,191.35	
General Reserve	£24,658.76	
E M TOTAL		£37,660.39