

# BENWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Benwick Parish Council held on Tuesday 5 February 2008 in the side room of the village hall at High Street Benwick commencing at 7.30 p.m.

**Present:** Cllrs H Langford; P Tickner; R Few; L P Keppel-Spoor; E Paice; M K Ogden (CCC) and 8 members of the public.

## 7.30–7.45 PUBLIC TIME

A member of the public asked if there was any news on the repair of the street light outside the school. He was informed that it had already been reported to Ringway and the Clerk would ring them. He also asked what could be done about the speeding lorries overtaking along Ramsey Road. Cllr Paice stated she would attend the next Neighbourhood Meeting to complain.

Another resident was also concerned about the speeding traffic along Ramsey Road. Cllr Langford assured him that the matter had been reported to the Police in the past and that he would contact them again.

Another resident reported that he had telephoned the Police in the early hours of the morning to come and witness the speeding vehicles through the village.

A resident stated that he was concerned of the danger to children on the pavements faced with this problem. One resident asked if temporary traffic lights would be possible. Another suggested a chicane could possibly slow traffic. A request for lines across the road to monitor volume and speed was made. The Clerk was instructed to write to the Police and the Highways Department at FDC.

### **Corrections to last month's minutes:**

The Headmistress of the village school requested a copy of the proposal by one of the Parish Councillors as they had not yet received the report. The Chairman stated he would chase for the report to be sent.

A resident asked Cllr Keppel-Spoor to name the four members on the Village Hall Committee that voted and had an interest in the school and school governing body (para 313/08). Cllr Keppel-Spoor stated that when she made that comment that was her belief but has since been informed that this was incorrect and therefore she had made a mistake.

Cllr Keppel-Spoor was also asked about the report given to her by a member of the Village Hall Committee (para 313/08) and why this had not been circulated to all members of the Village Hall Committee, Parish Council and Clerk. Cllr Keppel-Spoor stated that at that time only two copies had been available. It was then asked if copies could be circulated to all concerned. It was stated that it was not a public document as it had not been discussed in public.

**Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs R Butcher and P Potts both have a previous meeting to attend. PCSO M Smart who will not be on duty but has sent on a report.

Motion to exclude Public & Press at end after item 327/07 on agenda for discussion of staff issues and Bad Debts.

### **315/07 Confirmation of Minutes**

The Minutes of meeting held on 8 January 2008 were approved and signed. The vote showed that 3 members were in favour with one abstention.

### **316 /07 Matters Arising**

- a) No further news from Ringway regarding breakdown of their fees.
- b) No update on possible compensation from Biffa. The Chairman reported that Biffa had now removed their bin and that he would place a bin in the Cemetery for waste.

317/07

**Police Matters**

The Police were unable to attend but a report was read by the Chairman. PCSO Smart reported that a mini moto was seized; 2 RTC's; 1 vehicle nuisance; 1 drink driver and 1 domestic incident.

Contact PCSO Smart for details of person(s) concerned in accident on Doddington Road in order to claim for damage to street light.

The next Neighbourhood Meeting is scheduled for 12 February.

Clerk  
Cllr Paice

318/07

**County Councillors Report(s)/Communications**

a) Cllr Ogden apologised for being late as he had an earlier meeting; he gave his report later in the meeting. He reported that the Forty Foot river has been closed for repairs but would try to obtain a date for completion of this work and contact the Clerk. The Chairman stated that the Parish Council had no information either but the residents were concerned over the excessive traffic through the village due to this problem.

The Parish Council had asked for restrictions and could Cllr Ogden possibly help in this matter. Cllr Ogden will contact Highways and report back at the next meeting.

The Government are trying to bring in a policy to close down parish schools that were under two-thirds full. He was informed that the Benwick school was full.

Regarding Goosetree Corner it had been agreed to install traffic lights and that the new Isle College will need a roundabout on the by-pass.

He was asked if he could help in getting a weight restriction through the village. Cllr Ogden stated he would investigate and also look at possible alternative routes to those through the village.

b) Cllrs Butcher & Potts had nothing further to report at this time.

c) Letter from FDC stating that the Planning Awareness Session on 7 February 2008 has been cancelled due to lack of support.

d) Letter from FDC on Consultation on proposed local validation checklist circulated- no comments to be forwarded.

319/07

**Income & Expenditure**

a) To consider Cambridgeshire Acre membership-AGREED to renew.

b) To consider Clerk's expenses previously circulated-AGREED.

c) The members to consider and approve the following accounts for payment

	Description	Amount
K Poole	Admin – January 2008	224.68
Inland Revenue	PAYE – mth 10	63.37
Cambridgeshire Acre	Annual subscription	25.00
K Poole	Expenses Aug-Dec'07	265.31
Anglian Water	Water Rates	9.00
E on Energy DD	Energy Charge – September 07	88.06
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£675.42</b>

d) The Clerk to report on the current balances at NSI	10,291.00
Alliance & Leicester	<u>7,951.44</u>
	18,242.44

Youth Reserves in Alliance & Leics	5,034.00
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e) Letter from Audit Commission regarding appointment of external auditor- circulated today for further information.

320/07

**Planning/Development**

**Observations required:**

F/UR07/1290/F Mr & Mrs Knott

Erection of a 4-bed bungalow with 2-bed granny annexe attached involving demolition of existing dwelling-it was reported that these plans have already been passed.

321/07

**Highway Matters/Street Lighting/Transport**

- a) Reported pot holes at the junction of River Close/Whittlesey Road. The Chairman stated he would be meeting Rod Marshall from Highways on site. Cllr Keppel-Spoor stated she had received a note from a nearby resident that heavy traffic was now causing cracks in her house due to this problem. Cllr Langford
- b) Traffic volume due to diversions through the village-AGREED that Cllr Langford will speak with Rod Marshall to see what safety measures can be installed and who to contact. Cllr Langford
- c) Street Lighting Contractor. The Clerk has received a letter from an interested contractor. It was agreed that Cllr Keppel-Spoor will copy the map from the Clerk and that Cllr Paice will report on the number of street lights for which the Parish Council are responsible. Cllrs Keppel-Spoor Paice Clerk

322/07

**Cemetery**

- a) A requested has been received from Wm Kent Memorials to add a further inscription in respect of Mrs F Clarke to the existing memorial-AGREED Clerk
- b) A requested from T Pearce to inter the ashes of his mother, Carol Pearce in the graves of her parents, Mr Reginald and Mrs Kathleen Vidence Brand. Numbers 514 and 515-AGREED no objection. Clerk
- c) Consideration of burial fees increase-AGREED with 4 in favour and one against.
- d) Cllr Langford declared an interest and left the room:  
A discussion took place on a new quotation received but further discussions on cemetery tenders would be DEFERED until next month .

323/07

**Grass Cutting**

Discussion on grass cutting tenders-DEFER decision until next month when a revised quotation will be received.

Clerk

324/07

**Allotments**

- a) Mrs Dring has written regarding the rubbish on the empty allotments in September Gardens-AGREED the weeds will be cut and sprayed. Cllr Langford
- b) The Clerk requests permission to attend an Allotment workshop on 8 March run by CALC costing £45-AGREED not to allow.

325/07

**Parish Council Solicitor**

Discussion to confirm solicitor-AGREED to retain Sergeant & Son of Ramsey. This information was passed to John Hoffman, Friends of Benwick Church. who was invited to speak to the meeting. He stated that the Archdeacon had instructed their solicitors to contact Sergeant & Son with a view to progressing matters. He also informed the meeting that they were going to apply for planning permission.

**326/07**

**Correspondence**

- a) CareNetwork are asking for a grant towards the Doddington & Benwick Community Car Scheme. They also would like more volunteer drivers- AGREED that no funds were available in the current budget but they would try to help in finding volunteer drivers.
- b) CALC workshops for Councillor's Professional Development-Cllrs Langford Keppel-Spoor and Tickner will be attending.
- c) Communities and Local Government are seeking views on the Consultation on Orders and Regulations relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members in England-DEFER until next meeting when all Councillors have had an opportunity to read the paperwork.

All Cllrs

It was AGREED that an additional planning item could be discussed due to the fact that there was a time limit for any objections:

F/YR08/0101/0 M Wilson

Erection of a dwelling and detached garage – land nth of 18 Ramsey Road fronting Old West Estate Benwick-AGREED (with two abstentions) to object on the grounds of overdevelopment and possibly not enough parking facilities.

**327/07**

**Agenda Items / Next meeting**

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 4 March 2008.

Top End of High Street

Meeting Dates

Staff Issues

The Meeting was closed to Public and Press at 9.45 p.m.

**328/07**

**Staff Issues**

It was AGREED (with one against and one abstention) to accept the new hourly rate of the Clerk and to defer discussion on the possible increase in hours until next meeting.

**329/07**

**Bad Debts**

It was AGREED that the Clerk personally speak with the debtor but if no payment was forthcoming then the Councillors would take action.

Clerk

The Chairman passed to the Clerk a cheque for £1,500 for the Parish Plan which was to be deposited in the Alliance & Leicester bank account

Clerk

The Meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.