

BENWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Benwick Parish Council
Held On **TUESDAY 8th January 2008 at 7.30 p.m**

Present

Cllr Langford Chairman, Cllr Richardson Vice Chair, Cllr Tickner, Cllr Paice, Cllr Keppel-Spoor, Cllr Chapman, Cllr Few, County Cllr Ogden, District Cllr Butcher andMembers of the Public.

Public Time

During public time the following issues were raised:

- Street lights out from 20 Doddington Road 2 lights out., 1 outside Play park, 1 by Baptist cemetery /Chapel gardens, still 1 outside school and 1 by River Close. Contractor to be looked at next meeting.
- Mr Thorpe stated he was keeping an eye on the devastation site. Cllr Chapman suggested it could be due to lack of solar activity.
- Dumping of newspapers

Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Potts.

299/08 Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting held 6 November 2007

These minutes were agreed after amendment at the previous meeting.

300/08 Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting held 4th December 2007

It was proposed by P Tickner and seconded by E Paice that the minutes were a true record of the meeting held 4th December 2007 All agreed.

301/08 Matters arising from the minutes.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

302/08 Police Matters.

Police representative was not in attendance

303/08 County Councillor & Fenland District Councillor Reports

a) Report from Councillor Ogden

Councillor Ogden reported that the County Council Tax would be capped to 5% and that from the 1st April there is to be a new policy where by between 50% to 100% rates will be imposed on empty properties, open yards and derelict properties. Properties would need to be maintained to a liveable standard or knocked down. Also that any land the Parish Council owns could be liable to Council Tax.

b) Report from Councillors Butcher & Potts

More good news a comprehensive council report has moved Fenland District Council from fair to good.

Council Tax increase is expected to be below 4%.

There is to be a consultation with the public soon. ¾ day giving forms for public to fill, not sure how it will work in the villages. Council doing well. Lots of Business in Wisbech. Need more local infrastructure from County.

It was commented that if Fenland keeps winning badges it will lead to cuts in money from the government, as it will be deemed Fenland doesn't need it. Yet there is a lack of infrastructure in the area.

Money from section 106 doesn't appear to be being directed to the areas supposed to benefit from it. A proposal before us offering £10,000 for infrastructure should if it goes ahead be spent in Benwick.

It was commented that there is clearly a distinct difference between projected growth and that actually happening when planning is passed at a rate of 10-15 properties a year, but the properties are not built at the time but all at once, as is happening in Benwick this will create a major impact on the areas infrastructure as it is an accumulative effect of five years. Planning indicates 10 – 15 properties a year where as Benwick is seeing 150 + at once.

304/08 Expenditure

a) To consider and approve the following cheques for payment

Description	Amount
K Poole Admin-December mth 9	224.68
Inland Revenue PAYE/NI mth 9	63.37
Clerks & Council Direct Magazine Subscription	9.50
Anglian Water dd Water rates	9.00
E on Energy dd Energy charge December 07	<u>88.06</u>
TOTAL	£394.61

It was proposed by M Chapman and seconded by T Richardson that the above payments be made. All Agreed.

b) **Items of expenditure to consider for next month are**

Renewal of Cambridgeshire Acre membership	25.00
Clerks expenses	265.31

305/08 Income

Second Instalment of Concurrent Functions Grant has been received £1,595.00

The clerk has reported that the balances at 31st December 2007 are:-

NSB	£10,291.00
Alliance and Leicester	<u>£ 6,992.55</u>
Total	<u>£17,283.55</u>

(Alliance & Leicester (Youth Reserves) £ 5,034.00)

306/08 Planning & Development

Observations are required on the following development proposals.

a) F/YR07/1290/F Mr & Mrs Knott

Erection of 4 bed bungalow with 2 bed granny annex attached involving demolition of existing dwelling 28 Doddington Road Benwick.

Plans were circulated Chair to find out who has plans and pass on comments once received

b) F/YR07/1306/F Taylor Wimpey Developments Ltd

Erection of 8 houses comprising of:-

1x2 bed detached house 2 x2 bed semi-detached houses 2x 3 bed semi-detached houses and 3 x 4 bed detached houses with associated garages and parking involving demolition of existing dwelling 13 Doddington Road Benwick.

It was proposed to Object on the grounds of over development. All Agreed.

307/08 Highway Matters

a) No further news from Ringway regarding details of application for payment

b) The Clerk has reported Pot Holes for repair at the junction of River Close / Whittlesey Road but Rod Marshall from Cambs Highways has inspected the area and can find no pot holes for repair – please verify the correct location reported at the last meeting Chairman would speak to Rod Marshall.

308/08 Cemetery

a) The Clerk has reported that Biffa waste have confirmed that the contract has been cancelled regarding the emptying of the bin. Credit notes have been received for the August and November invoices but no compensation has yet been received. Continue seeking compensation of payments made where no service has been received.

b) Maintenance and Cemetery Grass Cutting contracts received: – Update from Cllr Langford, K H Services had previously tendered but to keep grass cut as specified by the council is an impossibility because of weather conditions etc. Another tender has been received but was too late for the agenda.

309/08 Grass Cutting

Update on grass cutting contracts from Cllr Langford. K H Services will send out a new tender it has been suggested six cuts per year instead of eight to keep within the budget.

310/08 Allotments

a) Allotment holders have been informed of information received from Allianz regarding public liability.

b) The six monthly invoices for allotment rents due have been posted. It was commented that these invoices should have been sent out in September.

311/08 Correspondence

- a) A request has been received for the Clerk to circulate the Agenda & Minutes to the lilyholtroad.co.uk website.
It was proposed by M Chapman to accept the request with the addition of also providing the information to the Benwick Bugle seconded T Richardson voted 6 in favour with 1 abstention. (Cllr Keppel-Spoor took no part in the discussion)
- b) Letter from Cambs County Council regarding Consultation on Proposed Local Validation checklist. To circulate for review.
- c) Letter from Cambs County Council informing that there is to be an evening briefing on 30th January 2008.regarding Tackling Congestion in Cambridgeshire.

Mr Ogden explained that the government had approached County Council to see if they would agree to congestion charging this would put a lot of money into Cambridgeshire. The money would be available for roads etc. but the public will make the decision. The government want congestion charging in every city. Consultation figures will decide It would mean a lot of money up front for Cambridgeshire to be used as far as Chatteris, park and rides, more buses, more transport.

312/08 The Pound

It was suggested that this is redundant land and it may possible to sell it especially if it is rated. Need to maximise benefit to village. Cllr Few suggested that it had been previously agreed not to build on this land so as not to upset the people living at the rear of the pound. Ownership needs to be verified. The chairman commented that he is in possession of council deeds which should help verify this and added that they so far have proven that planning permission was not needed for the cemetery as the land used has been registered as a cemetery since 1927 when purchased for the purpose.

313/08 The Village Hall

To Discuss Proposals forwarded by Benwick County Primary School amend the lease to have increased the use of the Village Hall.

Cllr Tickner declared and interest and took no part in the discussion.

Chair commented that personally he didn't think the village hall could afford to accept the proposal as it stands. Cllr Few stated that the Village hall committee had accepted the proposal 1 and a vote was taken to accept it and that the Parish Council should go along with the village hall decision.

Cllr Keppel-Spoor pointed out that only four members of the Village Hall committee had been allowed to vote all of which she felt had an interest in the school and school governing body that she felt the vote was not legal as only four of the seventeen committee members voted. Cllr Keppel-Spoor also asked Councillors to read a report she had been given by a member of the Village Hall committee with his comments on the proposal before making a decision as he felt his comments needed to be taken into account in order to make a more informed decision.

It was commented that cleaning of the hall should not be part of the proposal as the rental agreement states users should leave the hall in a clean and tidy state.

Although in principle in favour of the school having further use. It was questioned whether the hall could afford to subsidise the school. The money could only be used

on maintenance not running costs. It was commented Mr Bussingham had stated at the meeting with the Parish Council representatives and the village hall committee and school governors that all correspondence would be between him and the Parish Council this is not what has happened the proposal was put forward by school governors.

Cllr Richardson in principal agreed the proposition but wished to make a proposal.

Cllr Richardson Proposed that the Parish Council agree a counter proposition to be put back to the school after questions have been answered. Seconded by Cllr Chapman. All Agreed.

314/08 Friends of Benwick Church

To Discuss the proposed plans from Friends of Benwick Church with regard to building on the side of the Village Hall.

Mr Hoffman requested the Name of the Parish Council Solicitor.

The Chairman explained that it used to be Sergeant's of Ramsey but last time a solicitor was used it was Bowser. Need to change back to Sergeants as they possibly hold records for the Parish Council. The Parish Council has to be assured that no costs will be incurred by either the Village Hall or the Parish Council.

Cllr Few commented that Bowser was brought in to do a specific job.

Cllr Keppel-Spoor asked if she could enquire as to why Mr Hoffman wanted to contact the Parish Council solicitors at this stage when no decisions had yet been reached. Mr Hoffman said to get any issues out of the way with the 3 parties involved before looking at building and that he needed a copy of the deeds to write to the Methodist-Anglican solicitors from legal prospective.

Items for Next Agenda

Street Lighting Contractor
Traffic Volume due to diversions
Parish Council Solicitor

Meeting Closed at 8.45 p.m.