

BENWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Benwick Parish Council on Monday 3rd February 2014 in the side room of the Village Hall in High Street Benwick PE15 0XA.

Present Cllrs: A Richardson (Chair); R Emmitt; R Few; L Keppel-Spoor; J Richardson (Clerk); A Miscandlon (FDC); PCSO Sally Mitchell; and one member of the public

Apologies for Absence: Cllr M Chapman (Holiday); Cllr Sutton (Work); Cllr P Tickner; Cllr T R Butcher (FDC); Cllr John Clark (CCC);

Declarations of Interest Councillors to declare any interests under the Local Code of Conduct in respect of any item to be discussed at this meeting:-

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interest) 162/13b & 166/13 Cllr Richardson
162/13d Cllr Keppel-Spoor
162/13c Cllr Emmitt
- b) Non-Pecuniary Interest)
- c) Sensitive Pecuniary Interest)

7.31-7.38 Public Time

Concern was raised with regard to young drivers speeding on Doddington Road. PCSO Sally Mitchell advised the meeting that there had been a Speedwatch in this area on 29/01/14 and none of the 26 vehicles logged were exceeding the speed limit. It was also noted that Speedwatch can only take place during daylight hours.

Concern was also raised about the parking on both sides of the High Street following a recent fishing match, this caused problems for vehicles getting through. PCSO Sally Mitchell agreed to look into this matter.

PCSO Sally Mitchell

Public Time Closed at 7.38

153/13 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th January 2014 were AGREED and signed.

Agreed

154/13 Matters Arising (for information only)

Email to Fenland District Council re Planning Application F/YR13/0898/F to report that Benwick Parish Council had no objections to this application.

Fenland Tourism site entry for Benwick, was sent on 20/01/2014.

Precept upon Charging Authority sent to Fenland District Council on 27/01/2014.

155/13 Play Park

The draft publicity leaflet was discussed and it was AGREED to highlight that grant funding could be available, headline the leaflet re Play Park rather than Parish Assembly, and make the pictures larger.

Agreed

It was also AGREED that the leaflet needs to be ready for end

Agreed

February to meet the Benwick Bugle timescales. It was also AGREED that a leaflet drop is needed at beginning of April, posters to be placed around the village, and the leaflet sent to the School and ask for it to be distributed to parents.

Agreed

Quotes for the printing of the leaflet are to be obtained by the Clerk for the next meeting.

Clerk

156/13 Benwick In Bloom

Benwick In Bloom carried out a litter pick on 08/01/2014 and concerns were raised about the amount of offensive matter collected particularly at the front of the Play Park.

157/13 Police Matters

An incident of road rage occurred and this has been dealt with by restorative justice.

Telegraph lines were brought down along Doddington Road on 14/01/2014.

3 youths seen climbing on the Bus Shelter, officers attended and youths dealt with.

Report of a quad bike being ridden with a small child on it, parents visited.

PCSO Sally Mitchell is to undertake trainers training in Speedwatch in February.

158/13 Cycle Race 2014

Process has commenced and discussions already in hand with 5 All's. Now looking for more information re the use of the shop land. It was proposed and AGREED that Cllrs Emmitt and Keppel Spoor be authorised to hire the village hall for monthly meetings to engage with other groups in the village.

159/13 County & District Councillors Reports

Cllr Miscandlon gave an update on Copalder Corner, White Hart Drive, Heron Way and Fields View that were covered in other areas of the agenda

**160/13 Highways/Street Lighting
Highways**

a) Highways have reported that no further remedial work will be undertaken on the road, unless it is life threatening, until the bond money has been released by the Bank. CCC lawyers are dealing with this matter and Cllr Miscandlon is to attempt to find out what the resistance is to the Bank handing over the monies.

Cllr Miscandlon

b) Cllr Richardson attended the panel meeting for the Local Highway Improvement Bids and the submission appeared to be well received and the Parish Council should be advised of the outcome after 11 February 2014

Street Lights

a) Street light at rear of 27b High Street was discussed and Roddens have been contacted on numerous occasions and Cllr Richardson will continue to chase.

Cllr Richardson

161/13 WW1 Commemorations

A 4m flagpole can be erected at the War Memorial without any planning permission, as long as Union flag is flown.

It was AGREED that the Clerk will obtain costs for a 4m and 6m flag pole, fixed and removable ones, make enquiries with regard to the possibility of a Church Service on 3rd August and also the cost of a wreath.

Agreed

**Clerk
Cllr Miscandlon**

Cllr Miscandlon is to look into the planning costs and timescales involved if a 6m flagpole is required

162/13

Income & Expenditure

a) Members considered and **APPROVED** the following accounts for payment:

APPROVED

C Owen	Cemetery – Jan 14	£200.00
CGM Landscapes	Verge Cutting	£63.56
Anglian Water – dd	Water Rates – Jan 14	£8.00
E-On (dd)	Energy – Jan 14	£119.45
	SUB TOTAL	£391.01

Cllr Richardson left the room and Cllr Keppel- Spoor took over as Chair

b) Members considered and **APPROVED** the following accounts for payment:

APPROVED

J Richardson	Admin 30/12-26/01	£337.12
J Richardson	Telephone Expenses	£37.08
	SUB TOTAL	£374.20

Cllr Richardson returned and took over as Chair
Cllr Emmitt left the room

c) Members considered and **APPROVED** the following accounts for payment:

APPROVED

Benwick Village Hall	Room Rental 2013	£85.00
P Tickner	Reimbursement of Land Registry Charge	£40.00
	SUB TOTAL	£125.00

Cllr Emmitt returned
Cllr Keppel-Spoor left the room

d) Members considered and **APPROVED** the following accounts for payment:

APPROVED

L Keppel-Spoor	Verge Planting (reimbursement)	£31.20
	SUB TOTAL	£31.20

GRAND TOTAL **£921.41**

e) Clerk reported on the current bank balances at end January 2014:-
Santander 20,620.81
Parish Plan 532.89
Verge Planting 247.63

	Sub Total	£21,401.33
NSI		20,290.07
	TOTALS:	£41,691.40

The bank reconciliation balanced except for an uncashed cheque of £20

163/13

Concurrent Functions Grant

An update on attendance at Fenland District Council Cabinet Meeting, and the progress made to challenge FDC with regard to their removal,

	<p>in stages, of the Concurrent Functions Grant was given by Cllr Richardson. In light of the support received in this matter from other Parish Councils and MP it was AGREED that Cllr Richardson and the Clerk raise a formal complaint to the Monitoring Officer regarding the process used by FDC, and if unsuccessful take the matter to the Ombudsman and possibly Judicial Review.</p> <p>It was also AGREED that Cllr Richardson and the Clerk can continue to liaise with other Parish Councils on this matter, request to speak at the FDC full council meeting on 27th February, contact the Press, and enlist support from Parishioners to attend the FDC Meeting.</p> <p>If required Cllr Richardson and the Clerk were given authority to hire the village hall for a joint meeting with other Parish Councils.</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Agreed</p> <p>Agreed</p>
164/13	<p>Planning/Development</p> <p>a) Planning Granted</p> <p>F/YR13/0863/F erection of a 2-bed, 2-storey dwelling on land West of 23 Doddington Road, Benwick.</p> <p>F/YR13/0898/F erection of a 2-storey 3-bed dwelling with detached single garage on land NW of former 62 High Street, Benwick.</p> <p>b) Copalder Corner</p> <p>This is still ongoing and concern was expressed about the time this issue is taking to resolve. It was AGREED that the Clerk will write to Alison Callaby and Bill Tilley, copied to Cllr Miscandlon, with reference to how long this has taken so far and to request that this does not end up out of the time limit of lawful use.</p> <p>c) 106 Agreements</p> <p>Heron Way</p> <p>The developers have acquiesced and have been asked to submit a variance to the planning conditions, which they have agreed to do.</p> <p>Fields View</p> <p>This is still ongoing and Bob Ollier (FDC) is dealing with this.</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Clerk</p>
165/13	<p>Cemetery/Verges</p> <p>Cemetery</p> <p>Still awaiting the levelling of the land in the Cemetery</p>	
166/13	<p>Clerks Training</p> <p>Cllr Richardson left the room</p> <p>It was AGREED that the Clerk is to commence CiLCA training in February at a cost of £420, 6 days training courses at 5 hours per day and study time.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>
167/13	<p>Internal Auditor</p> <p>It was AGREED to appoint Ivan Cooper as the Internal Auditor for 2013/14 Accounts and the Clerk is to contact him</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Clerk</p>
168/13	<p>Annual Parish Meeting</p> <p>It was AGREED to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday 13th April 2014. The Clerk is to book the hall and also discuss requirements of speakers etc. with Cllr Chapman (Chair).</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Clerk</p>
169/13	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>a) Cambridgeshire Police Commissioner & Crime Commissioner re £1.95m extra funding (emailed 20/01/14)</p> <p>b) Connections Bus Project re term report (emailed 20/01/14)</p>	

- c) Fenland Council re Core Strategy Consultation (emailed 20/01/14)
- d) Letter from resident re Zebra Crossing proposal on High Street (emailed 20/01/14) This had arisen due to an incorrect article written in the Benwick Bugle
- e) Magpas update and request for funding (emailed 20/01/14)

170/13

Agenda Items/Next Meeting

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Monday 3 March 2014. Items to be included on the agenda should be with the Clerk by Thursday 20th February 2014.

**ALL
COUNCILLORS**

Meeting Closed at 8.58pm