

BENWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Benwick Parish Council on Monday 6th January 2014 in the side room of the Village Hall in High Street Benwick PE15 0XA.

Present Cllrs: M Chapman (Chair); R Emmitt; R Few; L Keppel-Spoor; A Richardson; K Sutton; J Richardson (Clerk); A Miscandlon (FDC); and two members of the public

Apologies for Absence: 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) 145/13 c) Cllr Richardson
- b) Non-Pecuniary Interest) 147/13 Cllr Keppel-Spoor
- c) Sensitive Pecuniary Interest)

7.31-7.41 Public Time

Member of the public commented on the fact that the Cemetery area is now looking smart but it is spoilt by the state of the mooring plants. Concern was also raised with regard to the other Parish Council planter tubs. The Parish Council replied that all these area would be tidied up as soon as weather conditions allowed.

A cycle accident in White Hart Drive was raised and this will be highlighted to Cllr Butcher and Highways by Cllr Miscandlon.

Cllr Miscandlon

Concerns have also been raised by residents that there is an issue, being caused by the resolution of the adoption of the road, regarding buyers being unable to obtain mortgages on properties in White Hart Drive.

Public Time Closed at 7.41

136/13 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2013 were AGREED and signed.

Agreed

137/13 Matters Arising (for information only)

Email to Fenland District Council re Planning Application F/YR13/0863/F that Benwick Parish Council had no objections.

138/13 Play Park

The Chairman deferred this item until after item 145/13.

139/13 Benwick In Bloom

The theme for the Anglia In Bloom Competition is "Growing for Gold" and this will tie in with our planting plan. We propose to plant up the tubs and boxes with Red, White and Blue to commemorate the Centenary of WW1 and add a touch of Gold in keeping with the theme.

Skeifs Row is now planted with sustainable plants and will have a Gold Feature.

The hanging baskets at the pub will be Gold and Red trailing Nasturtiums creating a mass of colour.

The Play Park borders are now planted with Spring bulbs, mixed Polyanthus and Begonias and will be planted for the Summer as a Cottage Garden in the style of Gertrude Jekyll, featuring Hollyhocks, Delphiniums, mixed Lupin, mixed Irises, Lavender and many more. Some of these are being grown for us by residents so hopefully we will have a good show especially as it will be mirrored so that both sides look the same.

The St Mary's Cemetery is now being tidied up, and we shall be planting in the footprint of the old church Blue and White Cornflowers with Flanders Poppies which will look amazing. Then we will add a Victorian flavor with a scattering of Ferns and White Roses, also adding Forget-Me-Knots, Blue Bells and Snow Drops.

Donations have been received from individuals and also a large number of bulbs from Sainsbury's.

Boons are building the Information Stand for the St Mary's Cemetery. It was discussed to follow the theme with regard to the Parish Council tubs and mooring plants.

A copy of the update from Benwick In Bloom is to be sent to all Councillors.

Clerk

140/13

Police Matters

There were no crimes of note in Benwick during December 2013. The only reported crime was of threats to kill made by persons known to each other and in a terminated relationship.

Incidents of note were 2 calls to police re hare coursing at Floods Ferry and a silver Mondeo was seen on both occasions.

Call re suspicious male going door to door selling items.

Road traffic accident in Floods Ferry, vehicle upside down in ditch.

Reports of nuisance parking in High Street, possibly following a fishing match and parking on pavements.

19th December a speed enforcement was carried out between 11am-12pm and 1 driver was reported for travelling at 42mph in a 30mph limit.

Santa Special event went off with no problems.

Discussions took place regarding the timings of the Speedwatch. The Parish Council are re-iterate their previous requests to ask if these can be done to coincide with shift change times at Greenvale.

Clerk

141/13

Cycle Race 2014

The cycle race is on 27th July 2014 and the Clerk is to investigate the possibility of grant funding.

Kate Strong has agreed to help with the painting competition again.

The photograph competition was successful last year.

The proposed budget is £300 which will be ratified at item 145/13.

Cllrs Emmitt and Keppel-Spoor volunteered to be involved with the working party and it was AGREED that they would be the focal point for the Parish Council.

Agreed

The issue of Insurance re events taking place in the Play Park is to be investigated.

Clerk

- 142/13 County & District Councillors Reports**
 Cllr Miscandlon reported that the developers of Heron Way have been contacted last week in relation to the 106 payment. Fields View is more difficult as the owner of the land needs to be established. There may be restrictions on use of the land in line with the original planning application.
- 143/13 Highways/Street Lighting**
Highways
 a) There is no further update on White Hart Drive
 b) A request had been received from Highways with regard to Benwick Parish Council confirming that they are prepared to fund the Local Highways Improvement Bid 2014/15 for the amount over £10K needed for the scheme. It is anticipated that this could be between £3 and £5K. This was discussed and it was proposed and AGREED that in principle the Parish Council supports making a contribution but until further details of the scheme and costs are received they cannot commit to unknown expenditure. **Agreed**
 Cllr Richardson is to contact Matthew Pickering to establish further details of the proposed scheme. **Cllr Richardson**
 The panel attendance for the scheme was AGREED for Cllr Richardson to attend on behalf of Benwick Parish Council **Cllr Richardson**
 c) The works down Nene Parade are continuing. The litter Bins are not back in yet, and this is to be chased by the Clerk. Changes have been made with regard to the footpath from the Whittlesey Road bridge. **Clerk**
Street Lights
 a) Street light at rear of 27b High Street was discussed. This light appears to be permanently on at the moment. Roddens have been contacted on numerous occasions and Cllr Richardson will continue to chase. **Cllr Richardson**
- 144/13 WW1 Commemorations**
 It was AGREED that the WW1 Centenary logo will be used on all Parish Council paperwork during 2014. **Agreed**
 The date of the start of WW1 was 2nd August, and it was AGREED that the War Memorial would be cleaned and a wreath laid. **Clerk**
 The Clerk is to look into the cost to fit a permanent flagpole. **Clerk**
 Cllr Miscandlon is to look into whether planning permission is needed for a flag pole. **Cllr Miscandlon**
- 145/13 Income & Expenditure**
 a) Rec'd £7.44 Recycling credit
 b) Members considered and **APPROVED** the following accounts for payment: **APPROVED**
- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| C Owen | Cemetery – Dec 13 | £200.00 |
| CGM Landscapes | Verge Cutting | £127.12 |
| Anglian Water – dd | Water Rates – Dec 13 | £8.00 |
| E-On (dd) | Energy (Dec 13) | £119.45 |
| Cambs Acre | Membership Renewal | £48.00 |
| CLA Fabrications | Cemetery Railings | £3024.06 |
| | SUB TOTAL | £3526.63 |
- Cllr Richardson left the room
 c) Members considered and **APPROVED** the following accounts for payment: **APPROVED**

J Richardson	Admin 02/12-29/12/13	£242.31
T Richardson	Reimbursement of Xmas Tree Decoration Expenses	£55.34
	SUB TOTAL	£297.65
Cllr Richardson returned		
	GRAND TOTAL	£3824.28
d) Clerk reported on the current bank balances at end Dec 2013:-		
Santander		22,417.59
Parish Plan		532.89
Verge Planting		247.63
	Sub Total	£23,198.11
NSI		20,290.07
	TOTALS:	£43,488.18

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

e) The forecast for 2013/14 and budgets for 2014/15 were discussed.
The reduction by Fenland District to the Concurrent Function Grant was discussed at length and it was felt that this was unfair on Council Tax payers in the village. It was proposed and AGREED that the Clerk contacts all other Parish Councils in the district to put forward Benwick's views and canvas their opinions to try to gain their support for a combined response. Contact will also be made with our MP with regard to this to explain the impact on the Parish Council.

**Agreed
Clerk**

The budgets were discussed and it was AGREED that the precept will remain at £10,609 for 2014/15. This is to be advised to Fenland District Council by the Clerk.

Agreed

The budgets were AGREED as amended and will be recirculated by the Clerk.

**Clerk
Agreed
Clerk**

146/13

Planning/Development

a) Planning Applications

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 was discussed and the Parish Council have no objection to this application.

No Objection

b) Planning granted

F/YR13/0776/F erection of a 2-storey rear extension and part 2-storey part single storey side extension to existing dwelling involving demolition of existing rear extension and removal of chimney at 27 Doddington Road, Benwick has been granted

c) Copalder Corner

This is still being dealt with and the Clerk will be kept updated on any actions taken

138/13

Play Park

The budget of £1000 was agreed for 2014/15 in order to fund the consultations needed for the Play Park.

A 3rd scheme has now been received. Trim trail equipment types have been received.

It was proposed that a publicity leaflet is to be drawn up by Cllr Keppel-Spoor and the Clerk ready for approval at the next meeting. This will be used as a leaflet drop to highlight that the options will be on display and discussed at the Parish Assembly. This was AGREED. Further plans will be discussed at the next meeting.

**Cllr Keppel-
Spoor
Clerk
Agreed**

- 147/13 Cemetery/Verges**
a) A quote of £120 has been received from Mark Wilbraham to level the area and to include grass seed a budget of £200 was AGREED. Following on from that the Clerk will map out the available burial plots. **Agreed Clerk**
- 148/13 Allotments**
a) No update, awaiting better weather conditions
b) One plot has been vacated and Ruth Kerse will be taking up the vacant plot of 3A. Some of the other plots appear a little neglected and the tenants will be chased **Clerk**
- 149/13 The Pound**
Letter received from Land Registry and they are awaiting the expiry of the notices served on the proprietors of the adjoining titles to expire, which will take place on 6th January 2014.
- 150/13 Fenland Tourism Board**
The words supplied by Cllr Chapman were AGREED to be used with the change of faculties to facilities. **Agreed**
It was also AGREED that Photo 1 would be used. **Agreed**
- 151/13 Correspondence**
a) Cambridgeshire Police Commissioner email relating to plans to share resources (emailed 13/12/2013)
b) Community Safety Partnership Newsletter (emailed 13/12/2013)
c) RSPB Winter Events (emailed 02/12/2013)
d) Invitation to Twinning Tea Party (emailed 28/12/2013)
e) Letter from Norfolk Green re Bus Service (emailed 28/12/2013)
f) Cambridgeshire Police Commissioner re council tax increase (emailed 28/12/2013)
g) Fenland Council re Corporate Plan Consultation (emailed 28/12/2013)
h) Post Office (emailed 28/12/2013)
i) Volunteer Centre Fenland request for funding (circulated 13/12/2013)
- 152/13 Agenda Items/Next Meeting**
The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Monday 3 February 2014. Items to be included on the agenda should be with the Clerk by Thursday 23rd January 2014. **ALL COUNCILLORS**

Meeting Closed at 9.26