



# BENWICK PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

**Apologies for Absence:** Cllr P Tickner; Cllr T R Butcher (Holiday); PCSO Sally Mitchell;

**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) 181/13c & 189/13 Cllr Richardson
- b) Non-Pecuniary Interest )
- c) Sensitive Pecuniary Interest )

## 7.31-7.42 Public Time

A member of the public commented on how nice the Parish Council Tubs and mooring are looking.

There was a report of a white pit bull type dog roaming loose in the village. The Clerk is to look into the laws regarding dogs and Cllr Miscandlon will get more information from the Monitoring Officer on the powers of the Parish Council regarding dog laws.

**Clerk**  
**Cllr Miscandlon**

The paint is peeling off the new footbridge and the Clerk is to contact the company who installed it to see if anything can be done.

**Clerk**

Heating oil has been stolen recently from a tank on Doddington Road and the Clerk is arrange for a warning to be put on the Benwick Facebook page.

**Clerk**

## Public Time Closed at 7.42

### 171/13 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014 were Proposed for approval by Cllr Richardson, AGREED and signed.

**Agreed**

### 172/13 Matters Arising (for information only)

Email from PCSO Sally Mitchell regarding actions taken in relation to parking problems on High Street  
Updated Electoral Roll received 20/02/2014

### 173/13 Annual Parish Assembly

The Annual Parish Assembly will be held on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2014. The Clerk has booked the hall and also invited Bob Ollier (FDC) and Jane Darlington (Burnt House Wind Farm) to attend as speakers. An advance notice has been placed in the Bugle. The Clerk is to write to all the village groups to invite them and also produce and post the Agenda. It was AGREED that Teas & Coffee will be provided from 5pm.

**Clerk**  
**Agreed**

### 174/13 Play Park

The publicity leaflet and printing costs were discussed and it was



Proposed by Cllr Chapman that a budget of £84.50 be allocated for the printing of a double sided, glossy A5 leaflet which was AGREED. The Clerk is to arrange for the printing to be completed ready for distribution on 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> April.

**Agreed  
Clerk**

Cllr Keppel-Spoor will produce some posters to put up around the village, and also some stickers, post-it-notes, white board and markers for the public to use to comment on the schemes displayed in the Village Hall prior to the Annual Assembly on 13<sup>th</sup> April.

**Cllr Keppel-  
Spoor**

**175/13**

### **Benwick In Bloom**

The Parish Council are not aware who owns the "Pill Box". Discussion took place regarding a "Street Scene" initiative to tackle dog fouling with spray paint and would any area in Benwick benefit from this initiative. It was felt that at present there are no issues in the Play Park.

**176/13**

### **Police Matters**

No recorded crimes for February. There was a report of a driver urinating up the side of lorry on Doddington Road but no officers were available to deal. There was also a report of 2 quad bikes being ridden in Fields View but when officers attended there was no sign of them. Speedwatch training was arranged for Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March but no volunteers turned up.

Speedwatch was undertaken on Doddington Road on 1<sup>st</sup> March between 3.45 & 4.30pm. 23 vehicles logged but none over 30mph. Horizons Bus will be in High Street from 08.30 to 11.30 on 25<sup>th</sup> March and the Rural Forum will be held in the Side Room of the Village Hall on 7<sup>th</sup> April at 19.00-19.30.

**177/13**

### **Cycle Race 2014**

Organisers have been contacted and we are awaiting a date for the first meeting from them. Once the date has been agreed then other groups will be contacted.

**178/13**

### **County & District Councillors Reports**

Cllr Clark informed the meeting that the last CCC Meeting was about Council Tax for 2014/15 which was agreed at an increase of 1.99%. The next meeting will be about Cambridge being shortlisted for the City Deal and moving to committee system in May. The grass cutting grant from CCC was discussed and Cllr Clark offered to find out further information.

**Cllr Clark**

Cllr Miscandlon reported that FDC have gone for a 0% increase in Council Tax and also indicating the same for next year

**179/13**

### **Highways/Street Lighting Highways**

a) No further update received from Cllr Butcher

b) Local Highway Improvement Bids have been decided and Benwick has been successful in their bid. Not sure of the scheme to be adopted yet as further discussions will take place with Highways once CCC approve the budgets on 15<sup>th</sup> April.

c) Walk around the village is scheduled with Highways for 5<sup>th</sup> March at 3pm. Clerk and Cllr Keppel-Spoor will attend and any items for discussion to be provided to the Clerk prior to the meeting.

**Clerk  
Cllr Keppel-  
Spoor**

### **Street Lights**

a) Street light at rear of 27b High Street was discussed and Roddens have indicated that they are looking to provide each of the houses

**Cllr Richardson**



with a light at the rear which will be PIR activated. Further information will be provided by Roddens

180/13

**WW1 Commemorations**

A commemorative wreath from British Legion will be available and this has a gold poppy and the dates on it. The Clerk is to contact them regarding cost.

Clerk

It was proposed by Cllr Chapman that a Church Service will take place on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August at 9.30 and laying of wreath and hoisting of flag to take place after service. A Parish Councillor will read out the names of the soldiers at the War Memorial and also read a lesson at the service. The village groups and the school to be advised of plans, by the Clerk, and encouraged to attend. This was AGREED.

Clerk  
Agreed

Costs for a 4m and 6m flag pole, fixed and removable ones, have been circulated. The war memorial will not be able to take a wall mounted flagpole. Discussions took place around the siting of the flagpole, and identifying the area for it to be placed. It was proposed by Cllr Chapman to erect a 6m pole inserted into the ground, and for the Clerk to discuss with Highways the siting of the flagpole and put in a Planning Application this was AGREED.

Clerk  
Agreed  
Cllr Richardson

Cllr Richardson will undertake further work on the type of flagpole and requirements and associated costs

181/13

**Income & Expenditure**

a) VAT refund of £895.07 has been received

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

**APPROVED**

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

Cllr Richardson left the room

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

**APPROVED**

J Richardson	Admin 27/01-23/02/14	£396.12
J Richardson	Travel Expenses	£10.80
	<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>£406.92</b>

Cllr Richardson returned

**GRAND TOTAL** £797.93

d) Clerk reported on the current bank balances at end February 2014:-

Santander	20,749.37
Parish Plan	532.89
Verge Planting	216.43
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£21,498.69</b>

NSI 20,290.07

**TOTALS: £41,788.76**

The bank reconciliation balanced except for 3 uncashed cheques totaling £136.20

182/13

**Concurrent Functions Grant**

An update on the progress made to challenge FDC with regard to their removal, in stages, of the Concurrent Functions Grant was given by Cllr Richardson. Cllr Richardson was thanked for his efforts and also Cllr Clark for his support. FDC have apologised for their handling of



this matter and it has been agreed that they will meet with all the Parishes (Chairman and Clerk) to find a fair and satisfactory resolution to this matter and this will be undertaken before their next meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> May.

A meeting with the supporting Parishes will still be held in Benwick on 5<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm to identify collective outcomes and how we move forward together. It was proposed by Cllr Chapman that refreshments be provided, and this was AGREED

**Agreed**

**183/13**

### **Planning/Development**

#### **a) Planning Granted**

F/YR14/0084/TRTPO works to 1no Sycamore Tree, 16 High Street, Benwick. It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman that as long as the works are approved and directed by the Tree Officer there are no objections, and this was AGREED

**Agreed**

#### **b) Copalder Corner**

The Clerk has written 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. No reply has been received yet due to Annual Leave. Cllr Miscandlon informed the Parish Council that Bill Tilley would email the Clerk shortly with regard to this issue.

#### **c) 106 Agreements**

##### **Heron Way**

The developers have acquiesced and have been asked to submit a variance to the planning conditions, which they have agreed to do. This has not been submitted yet and Graham Norse is to chase this up. Cllr Miscandlon will update the Clerk.

##### **Fields View**

This is still ongoing and Bob Ollier (FDC). The ownership of the land has been determined and the matter will be referred to the Parish Council to agree the way forward.

**184/13**

### **Cemetery/Verges**

#### **Cemetery**

**a)** Still awaiting the levelling of the land in the Cemetery. Cllr Chapman to chase this up.

**Cllr Chapman**

**b)** Cemetery charges discussed and it was Proposed by Cllr Chapman that the charges remain the same and this was AGREED

**Agreed**

**c)** The tenders for the Verge Cutting and Cemetery Maintenance were discussed as the contracts end on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2014. It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman that the Clerk asks the current contractors for a price to extend the Contracts for 3 months and 1 year and then a decision to be made at next meeting.

**Clerk**

**185/13**

### **Allotments**

Discussion took place regarding the rents payable for the allotment plots and it was Proposed by Cllr Richardson that September Gardens Plot 1a & 1b be charged at £10 per plot and all the other plots at £15 each irrespective of the number of plots rented, this was AGREED. The Clerk is to advise the allotment holders when issuing Tenancy Agreements in April 2014.

**Agreed  
Clerk**

It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman that Town Ground rent remains at £125 per acre.

Application to erect a shed on allotment plots 4a & 4b has been received from Colin Stevens. Permission for the shed was Proposed by Cllr Chapman and this was AGREED. The Clerk is to write to the

**Agreed**



allotment holder with the same conditions as previously granted to another allotment holder.

**Clerk**

**186/13**

**The Pound**

It was Proposed by Cllr Chapman to write to Land Registry to change the address on the registration document to that of the current Clerk and this was AGREED

**Agreed**

**187/13**

**Correspondence**

- a) Member briefing from Housing Related Support for Older People (emailed 26/01/14)
- b) Notification of Fenland Rural Safety Network AGM on 19<sup>th</sup> March (emailed 30/01/14)
- c) ACRE News Digest (emailed 09/02/14)
- d) Renaissance and Conservation Briefing Note (emailed 09/02/14)
- e) Launch of Youth Fund from Police and Crime Commissioner (emailed 10/02/14)
- f) Invite to attend Commonwealth Flag Raising (emailed 13/02/14)
- g) A47 Briefing Note (emailed 17/02/14)
- h) Invite and notification of Horizons Bus in Benwick on 25/03/14 (emailed 17/02/14)
- i) Invite to FREE Grounds Event (emailed 17/02/14)
- j) Police and Crime Commissioner welcomes mental health concordat (emailed 20/02/14)
- k) AES Europe letter (emailed 20/02/14)

**188/13**

**Extra Meeting**

It was AGREED that an Extra-Ordinary Meeting will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> March to look at Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Risk Assessments and update on Concurrent Functions Grant Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> March.

**189/13**

**Motion to exclude Press and Public was AGREED**

Clerks appraisal to be done by Cllr Chapman w/c 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014. Cllrs comments to be with Chairman by Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2014. It was Proposed by Cllr Sutton that the Clerk be permitted to claim Annual Leave as extra hours during March and this was AGREED. Clerks extra employment was Proposed by Cllr Sutton and this was AGREED

**Agreed**

**Agreed**

**190/13**

**Agenda Items/Next Meeting**

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Monday 7 April 2014. Items to be included on the agenda should be with the Clerk by Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

**ALL  
COUNCILLORS**

Meeting Closed at 9.32pm