

BENWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Benwick Parish Council held on Tuesday 6 April 2010 in the side room of the Village Hall at 64 High Street Benwick commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs: L Keppel-Spoor; H Langford; P Tickner; M Chapman; T Richardson; T R Butcher (FDC); J Clark (CCC); H. Thornton and R McGivern – Community Officers (FDC) and one member of the public

Apologies for Absence: Cllrs R Few – work commitments
G Thomas – family commitments
P Potts (FDC) – previous engagement

001/10 **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) personal) Cllr Tickner - 008/10 Planning and 011/10 Village Hall
Cllr Keppel-Spoor – 007/10 Payments and 008/10 Planning
Cllr Langford – 10/10 Allotments
- b) prejudicial and personal) None declared

7.35-7.50 **Public Time**

John Hoffman (Friends of Benwick Church) informed the meeting that he is getting feedback from the different denominations regarding the leasing and the land and would like to arrange a meeting with the Archdeacon; the Methodist Church; the Parish Council Solicitor and Parish Councillors to clarify the position. Several dates were mentioned and the Clerk will contact John to agree a date.

Clerk

He was asked who the Parish Council are actually dealing with? John replied that the contracts would be with The Shared Churches of Ely and The Friends of Benwick Church.

Cllr Richardson has received complaints regarding the mobile Fish & Chip van regarding obstruction of the highway and that oil and water was being flushed down the road drains. Cllr Tickner has spoken to FDC who have been to Benwick to check the situation. It was **AGREED** that checks would be made in respect of registration and roadside licences.

Cllr
Tickner

002/10 **Confirmation of Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2010 were **APPROVED** and signed.

003/10 **Hetty Thornton Senior Community Development Officer and Ross McGivern Community Development Officer of Fenland District Council**

Both Hetty and Ross introduced themselves to the meeting and explained their various roles. Hetty mainly covers Doddington and Manea with Ross covering Benwick. Their roles are to help develop communities that need support or guidance and if they cannot help they will know who can. They are also particularly good at obtaining funding.

They went on to speak about Benwick moorings but Cllr Tickner stated that this was not the province of the Parish Council and they promised to keep in touch with her.

In respect of outside partnerships – mapping activities for young children and

young adults to the age of 18 years are sent to primary and secondary schools within the area. In Benwick during the holidays there were two sessions these being Arts & Crafts where 12 young children attended and Community Cinema Screening where 40 attended.

Their services also cover literacy; learning and confidence skills.

They were questioned about youngsters and travel services which they were told were practically non-existent in Benwick. Hetty Thornton replied that they were looking at getting transport for young people at low cost.

The Chair thanked them both for attending the meeting and their comments.

004/10 **Matters Arising (Information only)**

- a) The Clerk has been informed by FDC that planning permission is required for change of use from agricultural land to garden. They will investigate the enquiry further and get back to us.
- b) Update on village signs. The Clerk has been informed that these are still awaiting inspection by CCC.
- c) The Clerk has been informed that the shafts have been installed in respect of the new street lights ordered and the lanterns will be installed within the next few weeks. The Clerk has received a telephone call from the Contractor stating that EDF will need to install the new services/transfer of services before they can continue. EDF need payment for their work prior to carrying out their work – the Clerk will place this on the next agenda.
- d) The Clerk has been informed by CCC that patching has been carried out on pot holes along the High Street; the junction of Doddington Road/ Whittlesey Road. Doddington Road has been programmed for 31 March weather permitting.

005/10 **Police Matters**

No police representative report were received. The CrimeBuster letter and posters arrived too late for the noticeboard as they visited the village today.

006/10 **County Councillors Report(s)/Communications**

Report from Cllr Butcher confirmed again that pot hole repairs were from monies received from the government.

Cllr Clark reported that Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) will go ahead but will take sometime to affect locally.

007/10 **Income & Expenditure**

Cllr Keppel-Spoor declared an interest and did not vote.

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

	Description	Amount
K Poole	Admin – Mar 2010	191.04
Inland Revenue	PAYE – mth 12	53.88
Abbots Ripton Farming	Land rent from 12.10.09	1,300.00
J O Cutteridge	Cemetery 24 th /25 th cut	235.00
Fenland District Council	Cemetery/allotments rates	32.93
MHB Services	Street Light Contractor	70.83
L Keppel-Spoor	Travelling expenses	38.16
K Poole	Re-imbursement of Bio Diversity Course	35.00
K Poole	Expenses Jan – Mar 10	159.23
E on Energy – dd	Energy Charge	99.40
Anglian Water – dd	Water Rates	8.00
	TOTAL	£2,223.47

b) The Clerk reported the current balances at 31.03.10		
	Alliance & Leicester	13,935.97
	NSI	<u>11,101.90</u>
		25,037.87
	Parish Plan	532.89
	Verge Planting	<u>370.59</u>
		£25,941.35

It was **AGREED** that the Chair would contact Streetscene at FDC and the Grass Contractor to ascertain if further planting could be obtained FOC or to purchase if necessary.

- c) Discuss and approve the 2009/10 Accounts circulated-**DEFER** until the next meeting. Clerk
- d) The External Auditor's fee for the accounts 2009/10 will be £285.00 plus VAT. The date of announcement will be no later than 15 April with the accounts being submitted by 28 May.
- e) The Clerk has now received a receipt for the poppy wreath.

008/10

**Planning/Development
Pending Consideration**

- F/YR10/0189/F Greenvale Produce Ltd – erection of a 60m high anemometry mast – land north west of Greenvale-**AGREED** no objections. Clerk
- ** F/YR100231/SCOP Lavenham Fen Farms Ltd – erect 1xWind turbine – land north of White Fen Farm Floods Ferry Road Benwick-**AGREED** no objections. Clerk
- F/YR10/0219/F K Harness – formation of vehicular access to existing dwelling – 28a Doddington Road Benwick-**AGREED** no objections. Clerk
- Cllrs Tickner and Keppel-Spoor both declared an interest.
- F/YR10/0086/F Mrs P Tickner – formation of concrete mooring and associated steps – riverbank south of Benwick Cemetery Nene Parade Benwick-Mrs Tickner informed the meeting that this has already been approved.

Approved:

- ** F/YR10/0135/NONMAT J Hoffman – additional windows to existing building – 25a Lilyholt Road Benwick.

** These plans have not been forwarded to the Parish Council by FDC.

009/10

**Highway Matters/Street Lighting/Transport
Highway Matters**

- a) Update on Consultation on Cambridgeshire's Third Local Transport Plan from Cllr Richardson - apologies unable to attend.
- b) The Lilyholt Road street name plate – update from Cllr Richardson – will meet with FDC when the signs are ordered to agree siting of sign.
- c) Update on small traffic works - Cllr Richardson spoke with Peter Vail and Matt Pickering of CCC who are waiting for the weather to change to resurface and paint lines.

Street Lighting

- d) Update on street lights at junction of Lilyholt Road/High Street opposite the war memorial and Doddington Road outside the Poppyfields site – no further news at present – will chase. Cllr Richardson

- 010/10 Allotments**
 Cllr Langford declared an interest and left the room.
 Discussion on e-mail received from allotment holder in respect of trees planted as a boundary. After discussion it was **AGREED** to ask the allotment holder to remove the trees due to the effect the roots may have on neighbouring allotments. Clerk
- 011/10 Village Hall**
 a) Cllr Tickner declared an interest but was asked to outline the details of the Audit Report on the Village Hall.
 b) No update at present in respect of letter sent to CCC. Copies have been sent to Councillors and Clerk by the Chair.
- 012/10 Funding**
 Discussion on Plunkett Foundation – Joint Funding Scheme – Village Core Programme. It is noted that the Parish Plan shows the residents want a village shop. It was **AGREED** that this would be investigated initially by speaking to the new owners of the old village shop. Cllr Richardson
- 013/10 Correspondence**
 a) Update on outreach training sessions by CPALC – it was **AGREED** to contact local Parish Council Clerks to ascertain if there would be sufficient interest. Clerk
 b) Letter from Norfolk Green regarding their bus services and asking for suggestions to improving them. The Clerk has forwarded a copy to The Forget-Me-Not Club for their members’ comments – get new timetables. Clerk
- 014/10 Agenda Items/Next Meeting**
 The Parish Assembly will be held on Tuesday 20 April 2010 commencing at 7.30 p.m. There will be an Extra Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 20 April at 7.00 p.m. prior to the Parish Assembly.
 The date of the Annual General Meeting will be 4 May 2010. Items to be included on the agenda should be with the Clerk by Monday 26 April 2010.
 Transport – HGV Issues
- Motion to exclude Public & Press**
- 015/10 Assessment – Deferred until next month**
 Report on the assessment carried out by the Chair in respect of the Clerk.

Meeting Closed at 9.35 p.m.