

BENWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Benwick Parish Council held on Tuesday 2 February 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; P Tickner; H Langford; T Richardson; R Few; G Thomas; T R Butcher (FDC) and one member of the public

Apologies for Absence: Cllr J Clark (FDC) – holiday
Rob Bridge (FDC)

172/09 **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 Richardson declared an interest in items 178/09 Planning - F/YR07/1306/F. Cllrs Tickner and Thomas declared an interest in item 185/09 Friends of the Benwick Church
- b) prejudicial and personal) Cllr Langford – 181/09 Allotments

7.35-7.50 **Public Time**

A resident complained about the state of the roads in respect of the numerous pot holes at the junction of Doddington Road and Whittlesey Road. He was informed that the Highways Department were contacted last month.

Cllr Butcher stated that all pot holes will be filled as the FDC had allocated more money for this work. He also suggested that the Clerk inform the Contact Centre and Rod Marshall (CCC).

Clerk

Cllr Tickner stated that she thought the mobile library would not visit Benwick or that the services would be reduced. Cllr Butcher stated that CCC will be making changes to this service and information would be circulated.

Cllr Richardson said that a parishioner had queried the report in the Bugle newsletter from the Parish Council in respect of the reference to open spaces being sold – he explained that this open space was in the Poppyfields development.

Cllr Few reported that the street light outside 13 Old West Estate was not working.

Clerk

Cllr Keppel-Spoor reported that a resident was upset as they had been reported for dog fouling when they never let their dogs roam outside their own garden.

Contact the dog fouling officer.

Clerk

173/09 **Confirmation of Minutes**

The Minutes of the meetings held on 5 January 2010 and 18 January 2010 were **APPROVED**.

174/09 **Matters Arising (Information only)**

a) The Lilyholt Road street name plate-notification has been received from the Engineers of FDC that due to the damage to the new sign erected they would not consider replacing this until the next financial year. They are to be contacted and asked if they could reconsider their decision.

Clerk

b) The three new street lights have been ordered by the contractor who expects delivery at the end of February. These new lights will then be erected as soon as possible.

1 of 4

175/09

Police Matters

Two crimes were reported during the month of January. These being the theft of a caravan from a driveway and criminal damage to a vehicle causing denting.

176/09

County Councillors Report(s)/Communications

Cllrs Butcher reported that Alan Melton had been made Leader of FDC with Mack Cotterell as his Deputy. Chris Seaton was appointed to the Cabinet. The Council were trying to save about two million pounds next year so it was possible that the rates would increase by 3%.

177/09

Income & Expenditure

- a) Response from FDC regarding their invoice for the by-election-that the price increase was due to a formula that the Returning Officer has created to cover all costs which they presumed was not applicable three years ago. The work required to complete a parish by-election is over and above that of the general office duties – the Councillors could not accept this explanation and wish to make this known to the electoral services department with copies to Rob Bridge and Cllr Butcher – who will speak to them on behalf of the parish council. Send copies of the invoice and breakdown to Cllr Butcher. Clerk
- b) Members to consider a request by Clerk to a return fee to the SLCC of £5 for the CiLCA portfolio-**APPROVED**.
- c) Members considered and **APPROVED** the following accounts for payment Clerk/ with the exception of the FDC invoice for the By-Election and the invoice Cllr for J O Cutteridge who will be contacted in respect of his invoice: Richardson

	Description	Amount
Fenland District Council	By-Election held on 06.08.09	1,734.81
K Poole	Admin – Jan 10	238.80
Inland Revenue	PAYE – mth 10	67.35
J O Cutteridge	Cemetery 19 th /20 th /21 st cut	352.50
Fenland District Council	Bulbs	169.66
HB Services	Street Light Contractor	70.83
SLCC	Return of portfolio fee	5.00
E on Energy – dd	Energy Charge – Dec 09	99.40
Anglian Water – dd	Water Rates	<u>8.00</u>
	TOTAL	£2,746.35

There will also be a check on the number of street lights paid for on the electricity invoice. Clerk

- d) The Clerk reported the current balances at 31.01.10 as follows:

Alliance & Leicester	15,394.33
National Savings	11,069.83
Verge Planting	486.34
Parish Plan	<u>450.95</u>
	£27,401.45
- e) The Clerk reports that £93.67 has been received in respect of recycling credits.
- f) The Clerk still awaits a receipt for the poppy wreath-will chase. Cllr Keppel-Spoor

178/09

Planning/Development

F/YR09/812/F The following plans have now been received. A decision of ‘no objections’ was approved at last month’s meeting. For information only:
J Hoffman – change of use of agricultural land to garden

incorporating greenhouse; garage; shed; bird coop; goal posts (Retrospective) – land east 25a Lilyholt Road Benwick.

Appeal:

F/YR07/1306/F Taylor Wimpey – erection of 8 affordable houses with associated parking involving demolition of existing dwelling - 3 Doddington Road Benwick-it was **AGREED** that a letter would be drafted in respect of previous objections Cllr and would be circulated before being sent. Keppel-Spoor

Approved:

F/YR09/0807/NONMAT R Payne (agent) – formation of pitched roof over single storey extension – removal of French doors and Juliet balcony – Keyworth House Farm Chase Road Benwick.
F/YR10/0013/NONMTL K Fountain – addition of 4 windows and door north side and to remove a door – 31 Doddington Road, Benwick

Refused:

F/YR09/0272/F Scottish Power – erection of 9 x 67 metre high wind turbines – land north of Floods Ferry Farm Floods Ferry Road March

179/09

Highway Matters/Street Lighting/Transport

Highway Matters

- a) Update on Street Pride Event/verge project-the Chair reported that the verge bulb planting had now been completed with the help of Councillors and the Community Payback Scheme.
- b) Discussion on applications deferred from last month to the CCC in respect of Parish Paths Partnership 2010/11-it was **AGREED** that there were no applications would be made.
- c) Update on litter bins-still no news-will chase. Cllr Keppel-Spoor
- d) Discussion on Consultation on Cambridgeshire’s Third Local Transport Plan from CCC-it was **AGREED** that Cllrs would endeavour to attend one of the meetings. Cllrs Keppel-Spoor/ Richardson

Transport

- e) Drafted letter from Chair in respect of HCV Issues discussed in December-it was suggested that the Chair speak with other Chairs in the area and collectively try to get a TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) to be implemented and this was **AGREED**. Cllr Keppel-Spoor

Street Lighting

- f) Update from Chair on street light at junction of Lilyholt Road/High Street opposite the war memorial and Doddington Road outside the Poppyfields site-it was **AGREED** to contact the CCC again as they permitted the decommissioning of these street lights and the Councillors feel they should recompense the P.C. Clerk

180/09

Cemetery

181/09

Allotments

Some concerns have been raised regarding the dumping of compost at the end of the allotments (close to tap) which include broken tiles and rubble. Permission apparently has been given to residents by a Councillor-it was **AGREED** to investigate the matter and clear the debris if necessary. Cllr Langford

182/09 Funding
Update on Play Pathfinder-the Chair met with Hetty Thornton Senior Community Development Officer at FDC who has agreed to attend a meeting to discuss various issues. The Chair will also ascertain if the £1,000 allocated to Benwick a few years ago is still available. Cllr Keppel-Spoor

183/09 Correspondence

- a) Letter and survey from Clerk of Somersham Parish Council-**AGREED** it was not relevant to Benwick.
- b) E-mail from Hetty Thornton of FDC circulated regarding Development plans for 2010-the Chair spoke to Hetty Thornton on learning skills that maybe needed for the village-she will also speak about these issues when she attends one of the monthly meeting.
- c) Letter from War Memorials Trust offering a place at a conference to be held on 4 March 2010 and Shire Hall Cambridge entitled 'Looking after War Memorials'. The cost of the conference is free-two Councillors will attend. Cllrs Keppel-Spoor/ Langford

184/09 Agenda Items/Next Meeting
The next meeting is to be held on 2 March 2010. Items to be included in the agenda to be with the Clerk by Monday 22 February 2010.
Plunkett Foundation - Joint Funding Scheme - Village Core Programme - Community owned shop

Motion to exclude Public & Press – AGREED and it was further **AGREED** to invite Cllr Butcher to remain.

Cllr Richardson had received apologies from J Hoffman.

185/09 Friends of Benwick Church
Update on the proposed lease circulated from Serjeant & Son-it was **AGREED** to inform Serjeant & Son not to proceed on the matter of the lease as far as the Parish Council were concerned but to continue to forward copy mail received by him from the Churches and to send his responses to the Parish Council prior to replying to any mail for approval. Clerk
To also contact J Hoffman to update him of this decision and ask him to inform the Parish Council who is dealing with this matter from the the Churches position and what their Terms of Engagement are. Cllr Richardson

186/09 Facebook Comments
After discussion of the comments placed on Facebook it was **AGREED** not to reply to any particular comment/resident but to invite them to attend a meeting of the Parish Council and their comments would be answered.

Meeting closed 21.33.

After the meeting the Chair carryout an assessment of the Clerk.