

BENWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Benwick Parish Council held on Tuesday 1 June 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; R Few; T R Butcher (FDC); J Clark (CCC); Speakers – K Freya (FDC); C Shilton (Cambs Acre) and four members of the public.

Apologies for Absence: Cllrs. T Richardson – illness
P Potts – another meeting

036/10 **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 |) | Cllrs Tickner and Keppel-Spoor
in item 047/10 BRA - Mooring |
| b) | Prejudicial and Personal |) | None |

7.35-7.50 **Public Time**

Two concerned residents were requesting support from the Parish Council in respect of the business they run from their home. The FDC wish to evict them and their buses from their current home so that they can operate elsewhere. They cannot afford to move and have complied with all the FDC's conditions and stipulations to enable them to carry on their business at their home address. They have upgraded their buses in view of the FDC contracts they had – which the FDC have now cancelled. They are currently waiting for an Enforcement Order to be served on them.

They have in the past stepped in when other local bus companies have not been able to fulfil their own duties. They also state they are prepared to run a local service for residents of Benwick. Cllr Butcher had spoken to them today and has advised them that they can appeal against this decision.

Discussions took place and it was **AGREED** that Cllr Keppel-Spoor would visit them to ascertain all the facts and compose a letter for approval at the next Parish meeting.

A complaint has been received regarding tree branches behind the bus shelter and the condition of the grass around the Village Hall and the Pound. Cllr Langford has offered to lop these branches and tidy the grass at the side of the Pound and in front of the Village Hall.

It was requested that a 'No Through Road – Cul-de-Sac' sign be erected at the entrance to Chapel Gardens – it was **AGREED** that the Clerk will contact the Highways Department.

A resident has asked if the Parish Council have received the Terms of Reference from the Friends of Benwick Church. He was informed that the meeting between the FBC and the Village Hall was this coming Friday and it was hoped the information would be available for discussion next month.

037/10 **Confirmation of Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 May 2010 were **APPROVED** and signed.

038/10 **Building local homes for local people**

Talk to be given by Catherine Shilton of Cambs Acre and Karen Freya of FDC. Unfortunately the information they had did not apply to Benwick but they are prepared to carry out a survey and return at a later date with the correct statistics. They did give information regarding the Rural Exception Site Policy.

Cambridgeshire Acre works in partnership with FDC and Registered Social Landlords to support small affordable housing developments through this Policy. This policy allows for the building of affordable house for local people where normal private housing development would not have been allowed. These houses are protected as affordable housing ‘in perpetuity’ and are sold/let out on condition that people with a strong connection to the parish get first refusal.

039/10 Matters Arising (Information only)

- a) Update from FDC on investigation of change of use from agricultural land to garden at Copalder Corner – no update has been received – matter has been chased by the Clerk.
- b) Update on village signs is that these should be in place by the end of this week.

040/10 Police Matters

Police representative report shows that there were 3 crimes reported during May. These related to one dwelling burglary; one garage burglary and one theft of a motor vehicle.

041/10 County Councillors Report(s)/Communications

Reports from:

Cllr Butcher – reported that building will be going ahead for the following schools – Thomas Clarkson, Wisbech; Sir Harry Smith, Whittlesey and Neale Wade, March. The Thomas Clarkson building work will be starting later this year. The FDC have introduced an ‘Out of Reach Service’ which is Citizen’s Advice but this service is able to travel to local villages whenever needed at a cost of £15 per hour. He thinks it is worth considering for the future by the Parish Council with perhaps a mention in the Benwick Bugle.

Cllr Clark – reported that the carriageway surface dressing will be carried out this season on Doddington Road from High Street to the 30mph speed limit sign and Whittlesey Road from Doddington Road to the Old Football Ground.

042/10 Income & Expenditure

- a) Members considered the renewal of insurance policy (09-10 £1225.66)- **AGREED.**
- b) Members considered the extra costs and payment of EDF Energy for connection of electricity to new street lights-**AGREED.**
- c) Members considered and **APPROVED** the following accounts for payment:

	Description	Amount
K Poole	Admin – May 2010	238.80
AON Ltd	Insurance 01.06.10-31.05.11	1,306.99
J O Cutteridge	Cemetery/Verges for May 2010	411.25
MHB Services	Street Light Contractor	70.83
Middle Level Comm.	Water Rates 2010-11	114.25
White Fen Drainage Comm.	Water Rates 2010-11	66.27
CPALC	Annual Subscription 01.04.10-31.03.11	287.41
MHB Services Ltd	New Street Lights	2,599.59
EDF Energy	Electricity Connection to new St. Lights	2,453.40
E on Energy – dd	Energy Charge	99.40
Anglian Water – dd	Water Rates	<u>8.00</u>
	TOTAL	£7,656.19

It was **AGREED** to contact the Highways Dept regarding the removal by MHB of the old street light and in respect of of the sign attached to this street light which will need to be re-sited by FDC. MHB will invoice for the removal when completed.

Cllr
Richardson

d) The Clerk reported the current balances as at 31 May 2010:

Alliance & Leicester	16,526.50
National Savings	<u>11,101.90</u>
	27,628.40
Parish Plan	532.89
Verge Planting	<u>370.59</u>
TOTAL:	£28,531.88

e) The Clerk confirms that a VAT refund of £631.96 has been received.

f) The Clerk confirms that no payment to Inland Revenue for tax deducted is due this month as an on-line incentive of £75.00 for filing the year end returns on line has been received.

043/10

Planning/Development

Pending Consideration:

F/YR10/0341/F Mr & Mrs L Davis – erect single and 2-storey extensions inc dormers and veranda – The Elms 5 Nene Parade Benwick-**AGREED** no objections.

Clerk

044/10

Highway Matters/Street Lighting/Transport

Highway Matters

a) The Lilyholt Road street name plate – update next month. Cllr Richardson

b) Update on small traffic works-new kerbing is down in Whittlesey Road and ready for further works. Cllr Richardson

c) Update on verge planting- plants will be ready in June and contact will be made then. Cllr Keppel-Spoor

Street Lighting

d) Update on street lights at junction of Lilyholt Road/High Street opposite the war memorial and Doddington Road outside the Poppyfields. Sue Reynolds of CCC has informed the Clerk that it is really a matter between the owners of the lamps (BPC) and the Contractors but she will contact them again asking they contact the Parish Council as a matter of urgency-after further discussion it was **AGREED** that as the Parish Council were not informed of these removals and that the CCC organised the de-commissioning they should reimburse the Parish Council and then seek compensation from the Contractor.
Cllr Clark offered to speak with Sue Reynolds of CCC.

Transport:

e) Update on HGV issues-a petition was presented to the meeting and has asked the Bugle to inform Residents about the petition and what it is about and that she and Cllr Thomas will be visiting them. Cllrs Keppel-Spoor/Thomas
The Clerk informed the meeting that she had attended the CPALC AGM at Fenland Hall and was informed that a Councillor of another Parish had produced a document with facts and figures about lorries sizes/weight with road measurements and relevant information when they had a problem with heavy lorries – the firm they were having trouble with agreed to avoid their village. Waiting information regarding this Councillor to contact.

Clerk
3 of 4

Cllr Butcher informed the meeting that the proposed extraction plan had been refused by the FDC. Other plans for the reservoir - a contract has been agreed to use main roads when delivering aggregate.

045/10 Allotments

Update on conifers growing on an allotment – the tenant will try to find a buyer for these conifers by the end of the year.

046/10 Village Hall

Update regarding visit to CCC in February and letter subsequently sent-no update received-chase again.

Clerk

047/10 Benwick Residents' Association

Discussion on Mooring funding and letter received regarding the future upkeep of the mooring. Cllr Tickner informed the meeting that funding had been received from several sources but they were £600 short. The letter received included a revised estimate from the Middle Level Commissions to erect the landing stage and a letter of a grant provisionally approved of £9,500. They were also asking that the BPC take over the project in order to claim back the VAT which would cover the shortfall. It is hoped that the construction will take place this Autumn-**DEFER** until next month.

Clerk

048/10 Funding

Discussion on Plunkett Foundation – Joint Funding Scheme – Village Core Programme – no update at the moment – it was **AGREED** to defer until the Clerk was notified.

049/10 Correspondence

a) The meeting was informed that Rob Bridge of FDC investigated this matter but was unable to find any information regarding this matter.

Cllr Butcher stated that about 7-8 years ago this £1,000 was allocated to Benwick. There is a meeting with Bob Ollier of FDC at 10.00 a.m. on 21 June regarding the possibility of a hard surface in the playpark.
Cllr Butcher stated he would also attend.

Cllr

Keppel-Spoor

b) E-mail from Mark Shelton of Donarbon Ltd inviting Councillors to a site visit – as no-one has contacted the Clerk this invitation has been declined. The Clerk informed the meeting that the invitation is open for at least another four years and would be included in the next issue of the Bugle.

c) A letter has been received from FDC regarding free training in respect of 'Developing Effective Play Spaces' – if work permits will attend.

Cllr

Keppel-Spoor

050/10 Agenda Items/Next Meeting

The date of the next Parish Meeting will be Tuesday 6 July 2010. Items to be included on the agenda should be with the Clerk by Monday 28 June 2010.

Jointly Funded Minor Highways Improvements 2011/12 Bidding Round.

BRA's – Mooring

Friends of Benwick Church/Village Hall – Terms of Reference. Minutes of meeting on 10 May 2010.

Please note that the Clerk will be away on holiday from Thursday 3 June until Sunday 20 June.

Meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.