

BENWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Benwick Parish Council held on Tuesday 4 May 2010 in the side room of the Village Hall at 64 High Street Benwick commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs: T Richardson; L Keppel-Spoor; M Chapman; P Tickner; R Few; H Langford; G Thomas; T R Butcher (FDC); J Clark (CCC) and two members of the public

Apologies for Absence: None

019/10 Election of Chair

Two nominations were proposed and seconded:

- a) Cllr Chapman proposed Cllr Richardson who thanked the Chair for two excellent years and Cllr Thomas seconded.
- b) Cllr Langford thanked the Chair for her commitment in helping the status of Benwick grow in Fenland and proposed Cllr Keppel-Spoor. Cllr Tickner seconded.
- c) A secret ballot took place with four votes for Cllr Richardson and three votes for Cllr Keppel-Spoor.
- d) Cllr Richardson was duly accepted.

The Chairperson duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Election of Vice Chair

Cllr Langford proposed Cllr Keppel-Spoor and was seconded by Cllr Richardson. A vote was taken with all in favour. Cllr Keppel-Spoor was duly elected.

The Vice Chair duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Election of Officers – Members are reminded that individuals are not allowed to make decisions or take actions on behalf of the Council. Any action or decision must be brought before the Council for prior sanction.

The following decisions were all **AGREED**:

- a) Clerk (non elected)
- b) Proper Officer (non elected)
- c) Responsible Financial Officer (non elected)
- d) Cemetery Caretaker - Contracted
- e) Village Hall Representative - not applicable
- f) Planning - All Councillors
- g) Planning Committee - All Councillors
- h) Finance Overview Committee - All Councillors
- i) Burial - All Councillors
- j) Land - All Councillors
- k) Bank Signatories - Cllrs Richardson; Chapman; Keppel-Spoor and Langford
- l) Internal Auditor – L C Denzey

Banks - Alliance & Leicester and National Savings Investments

possible for the police to attend a couple of times per year but he felt that it would be better to approach the Police at the Neighbourhood forums. It was **AGREED** that PC Luis Tadman be contacted by sending him the last crime figures received and appreciate that his colleague is off sick but hope that these can be continued.

Clerk

024/10 County Councillors Report(s)/Communications

Cllr Butcher reported that the FDC AGM would be held on 13 May and he was not expecting too many changes.

Cllr Clark reported that he had nothing further to report.

025/10 Income & Expenditure

a) Members to consider renewal subscription to LCR magazine at £13.50 (09-10 £13.50) – **AGREED**.

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

| | Description | Amount |
|--------------------|--|------------------|
| K Poole | Admin – April 2010 | 238.80 |
| Inland Revenue | PAYE – mth 01 | 67.35 |
| J O Cutteridge | Cemetery 26 th cut+1/Verges | 528.76 |
| LCR | Magazine | 13.50 |
| MHB Services | Street Light Contractor | 70.83 |
| E on Energy – dd | Energy Charge | 99.40 |
| Anglian Water – dd | Water Rates | <u>8.00</u> |
| | TOTAL | £1,026.64 |

c) The Clerk to report on the current balances at 30.04.10:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Alliance & Leicester | 16,862.50 |
| NSI | <u>11,101.90</u> |
| | 27,964.40 |
| Parish Plan | 532.89 |
| Verge Planting | <u>370.59</u> |
| | £28,867.88 |

d) The Clerk confirms that recycling credits of £23.68 have been received.

e) A copy of the unpaid invoice to be sent and a visit will be made. Cllr Langford/
Clerk

f) The Clerk informed the meeting that the Bio-Diversity Course due to be held on Friday had been postponed and will be re-scheduled later in the year. On receipt of her cheque which was re-imbursed through expenses she will forward a cheque to the bank. Clerk

026/10 Planning/Development

No planning applications were submitted this month.

Withdrawn: Planning Permission not required.

F/YR10/0219/F K Harness – formation of vehicular access to existing dwelling – 28a Doddington Road Benwick

Approved:

F/YR10/3028/Cond A Smith - details of reserve by condition 3 of planning application F/YR09/0699/F – retrospective – change of use of land to travellers site (siting 2 no touring caravans) and formation of access track – Crazy Acres Chase Road Benwick

Granted:

F/YR10/0189/F Greenvale – 60’ high mast – Floods Ferry Road Benwick

027/10

Highway Matters/Street Lighting/Transport

Highway Matters

- a) The Lilyholt Road street name plate – an order is pending with Highways and when received a site meeting will be arranged. Cllr Richardson
- b) Update on small traffic works – lines have been painted on one side of the sign but they should be on both sides. Will contact CCC. Cllr Richardson
- c) Update on verge planting – Cllr Keppel-Spoor replanted the tub personally and Streetscene will give more bulbs later in the year. The grass contractor will be contacted to resume cutting the verges but will be asked to try to miss bulbs that are still flowering. Cllr Richardson
The meeting was asked if anyone had a contact to obtain an old boat in order that this could be planted and placed at the Lilyholt Road/High Street junction. Residents would be spoken to and Middle Level will also be approached. Cllr Richardson/
Cllr Tickner

Street Lighting

- d) Update on street lights at junction of Lilyholt Road/High Street opposite the war memorial and Doddington Road outside the Poppyfields. CCC have contacted Cllr Richardson stating that the Highway Development Control Manager is to contact the Developers on behalf of the Parish Council and report their findings. Cllr Richardson
- e) Update regarding meeting with CCC and street light contractors on the incorrect positions of the new street lights. The street light contractor will reposition the street lights FOC. Cllr Richardson

Transport:

- f) HGV issues. Cllrs are preparing a petition for a 7.5t weight limit within the village and will call on all residents. Cllr Butcher stated that the Fenland Area Joint Committee’s next meeting will be 9 July. It is expected to have this petition completed by this date. Cllrs Keppel-Spoor/
Thomas/
Chapman

028/10

Cemetery

The Clerk has received a request from Kimbolton & Stonely Parish Council for a copy of our current burial fees for comparisons and a question from St Ives town council regarding how many ashes caskets we allow in a single depth full body plot? It was **AGREED** to forward our current fees but to compare their fees with ours and forward to Cllrs. With regard to the ashes caskets allowed the Parish Council have no rules on this matter at this time. Clerk

029/10

Allotments

An allotment holder is requesting extra time to remove the conifers around their plot. It was **AGREED** to allow extra time but the conifers must be out of the ground by the end of the year when it was hoped that the allotment holder would be able to find a buyer for these conifers. Clerk

030/10

Village Hall

The Clerk has been in contact with CCC in respect of visit made in February and subsequent letter sent which will be discussed with colleagues at their next meeting.

031/10

Benwick Residents’ Association

Cllr Tickner reported that they had raised enough money to build the mooring

they also have permission and Middle Level will build but they need a corporate body to maintain this mooring once built. It was **AGREED** to ask the Benwick Resident's Association to formally write to the Parish Council to request this.

Cllr
Tickner

032/10

Funding

Discussion on Plunkett Foundation – Joint Funding Scheme – Village Core Programme – Cllr Richardson reported he had spoken with new owners of the old village shop and their plans did not include reopening and were not interested in renting the space. The Parish Plan indicated that the residents would like a village shop and it was thought that funding could be available if suitable premises could be found but volunteers would possibly be needed. It was also reported that the owners of the shop in Doddington would be prepared to staff and run a shop if premises could be found. A further proposition was put forward in that someone with land would be prepared to build and shop with a flat above.

It was **AGREED** to investigate all suggestions and to canvas the residents to ascertain what they required and if volunteers could be found to possibly run a shop.

Cllrs
Langford/
Richardson

033/10

Correspondence

- a) Update from Cllrs Keppel-Spoor and Langford on 'Looking after War Memorials' Conference – were unable to attend due to work commitments.
- b) Letter from CCC regarding the introduction of electronic consultation for planning applications – it was felt that this was not applicable as County Council planning applications were not forwarded to Benwick.
- c) Update regarding the £1,000 allocated to Benwick by the FDC. No definite answer has been received. The Benwick Liaison Officer Rob Bridge has been contacted and he is looking into the matter.
- d) E-mail from Mark Shelton of Donarbon Ltd inviting Councillors to a site visit – it was **AGREED** that Councillors would contact the Clerk if they were interested with possible dates.
- e) E-mail from Thomas Pugh regarding the digital switchover help scheme circulated – it was **AGREED** to circulate the e-mail to the Benwick Bugle; the websites; the BRA's and the Forget-me-Nots.

Cllr
Keppel-Spoor

Clerk

Clerk

034/10

Agenda Items/Next Meeting

The date of the next Parish Meeting will be 1 June 2010. Items to be included on the agenda should be with the Clerk by Monday 24 May 2010.

Motion to exclude Public & Press

035/10

Assessment

Report and discussion on the assessment carried out by the Chair in respect of the Clerk. Various points were raised and it was **AGREED** to discuss these at a later date.

Meeting Attendance

The Clerk seeks permission to attend the AGM of the SLCC Cambs Branch at The Priory Centre, St Neots on Friday 14 May 2010. It is expected the meeting will last no longer than 2.5 hours. The last attended AGM was September 2007 – permission **APPROVED**.