

BENWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Benwick Parish Council held on Tuesday 2 June 2009 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; T. Richardson; M Chapman; R Few; P Tickner; T Butcher (FDC); J Clark (FDC); Susan Last and John Lesley (Cambridgeshire NHS) and four members of the public.

Apologies for Absence: Cllr P Potts – previous meeting

040/09 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)
- b) prejudicial and personal) None declared

7.35–7.50 PUBLIC TIME

The Grass Contractor apologised for the first cut of the season throughout the village. He explained that the grass was exceptionally long so he skipped some areas that he thought were not too bad but cut the rough areas twice which took double the allocated time to cut.

He also explained that his machines cannot get over the ridge in the cemetery because it would damage them. He reported that he noticed considerable damage to some grave stones. He stood the larger stones back up but left the smaller ones where they lay.

Cllr Langford stated that the mound of earth was going to be levelled.

He made the Councillors aware that other Parish's where he maintains the verges have an intermediate cut every two weeks in the spring and autumn but not during the summer when there are drought conditions. If this was required the additional charge would be £40 plus VAT for each of 6 extra cuts.

Cllr Langford stated that budgets for this year had already been set but the extra cut would be considered for next year.

Cllr Langford complained that he had left the grass clippings in the cemetery. The Contractor stated that they will be continuing the cutting again the next day as this month's work had not yet been completed.

Cllr Richardson asked if he was collecting all spent flowers and wreaths. The Contractor stated he was organising this.

Cllr Richardson stated that the cemetery is expected to be of a high standard of neatness. The Contractor states he will comply.

Cllr Langford reported that the hedge in Nene Parade from Whittlesey Road (down to bridge) needs cutting back as it was intruding onto the footpath. The Chairman of Friends of Benwick Church stated he would get back to the Councillors as this was the responsibility of the Church.

A resident complained that youngsters are using the play park as a camp site and at the lower end of the park for toilet facilities. He was concerned for the small children using the park.

Cllr Langford stated we would contact the police regarding this matter.

Clerk

Cllr Tickner stated she would contact the Head at the school.

Cllr Tickner

Cllr Keppel-Spoor asked if camping was allowed and if not could they provide a sign.

Clerk

Cllr Richardson followed up a complaint from Parishioners regarding the hedge over the path in the alleyway from Doddington Road/Cricketers Way. The Clerk stated no reply had been received from FDC.

Clerk

041/09

Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 May 2009 were signed and **APPROVED** with an alteration to item 022/09 (k) – Chair was altered to read Chairs.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2009 were signed and **APPROVED**.

042/09

NHS Cambridgeshire

Talk by Susan Last Head of Public Engagement and PALS and John Leslie Director of Finance.

Susan Last explained to the meeting the background and the future of health services for south Fenland residents. There is a public consultation period from 27 April 2009 to 31 July 2009 based on the South Fenland Review Business Case and initiates the long-term review of the four community hospitals and associated community services within the boundaries; in particular the services provided by Doddington Community Hospital. There was extensive local engagement (Listening Exercises) which have helped shape the consultation document. From these 4 options have been proposed. They went on to explain the benefits and challenges within each option together with the impact they would have and the financial assessment. They also explained that NHS Cambridgeshire preferred option was Option 3 which entailed 10 beds with an alternative facility on the Doddington site. The service and clinical specification would be the same as Option 2 and the benefits would be that care would be provided closer to home; make the best use of the site; more services available; improved access to services locally; increased local employment opportunities; greater workforce opportunities and environmental benefits (e.g. reduced travelling).

Several questions were asked by the Councillors and satisfactory explanations were given.

The Chair thanked both Susan Last and John Leslie for their informative talk.

After which they both left the meeting but left documents for all Councillors.

043/09

Matters Arising

- a) The chevrons and flashing speed sign – e-mails have been received stating that the flashing speed sign maybe installed this week. The chevrons were being discussed this week and the traffic engineer at CCC was confident that the cost of repairs would be approved and installation would be within a few weeks.
- b) The painting of the footbridge – no further news at present.
- c) Discussion on bridleways and access paths moved to 049/09 (c).
- d) Update on street signs – Clerk has sent copies of e-mails to Martin Collins of FDC as he has now replaced John Knott – no news at present.

044/09

Friends of Benwick Church

The Chair of Friends of Benwick Church reported that the Parish Council have received a letter regarding the lease and was awaiting a reply. He also stated that they were waiting for the results of a bore hole that had been carried out.

The Chair reported that she had instructed the solicitor to go ahead in the matter of the lease.

045/09

Police Matters

Seven recorded crimes were reported during May. These were three burglaries to dwellings; one burglary to a non-dwelling; one theft of a motor vehicle; one of criminal damage and one assault by a known offender.

046/09

County Councillors Report(s)/Communications

Report from Cllrs Butcher other than going to consultations in respect of the talk as outlined in item 042/09 and Option 3 does seem to be the preferred choice.

047/09

Income & Expenditure

- a) Members to consider renewal of CPALC membership subscription for 2009-10 of £272.90 (2008-9 £248.81) deferred from last month-**AGREED**.
- b) The members considered and **APPROVED** the following accounts for payment

	Description	Amount
CPALC	Subscription 2009-10	272.90
K Poole	Admin – May 09	308.13
Inland Revenue	PAYE – mth 02	86.92
J O Cutteridge	Verges/Cemetery	460.00
Derek Tibbs	Village Hall windows/doors	4,910.00
E on Energy-DD	Energy Charge – May 09	99.40
Anglian Water-DD	Water Rates	<u>4.00</u>
	TOTAL	£6,141.35

- c) The Clerk reported the current balances at 31.05.09 as:

Alliance & Leicester	21,140.17
NSI	<u>11,069.83</u>
	32,210.00
Parish Plan	<u>531.81</u>
	£32,741.81

- d) Banking interest and rates were discussed and it was **AGREED** that further information was needed. Cllr Richardson
- e) The Clerk confirms that the invoice from CCC for the damaged street (January 2008) light in Doddington Road has been forwarded to Direct Line Insurance for payment

048/09

Planning/Development

No planning applications have been submitted for the Benwick area this month.

Granted:

- F/YR09/0239/0 Mrs EC Rosenthal-residential development involving demolition of existing dwelling – 62 High Street Benwick.
- F/YR09/240/F A Strong – erect single storey rear extension to existing dwelling – 23 Lilyholt Road Benwick.

049/09

Highway Matters/Street Lighting/Transport

Street Lighting

- a) Street lights in and around Poppyfields not working - the Chair reported that these were now working.
- b) To decide where to position new street lights deferred from last month – it was **AGREED** that Cllrs will investigate where needed during darkness and report next month when the Parish Plan has been read by all Councillors. All Cllrs
- c) A letter was sent to CCC in respect of Countryside Access Issues to request new and clearer signs on all bridleways and access paths within the Benwick area- after discussion of e-mail it was **AGREED** to list missing signs and send to Clerk. Cllrs
Langford/
Richardson

- 050/09 Allotments**
a) Update on letter sent to Strutt & Parker – the Chair reported that she has some amendments to make and will forward the letter shortly. Cllr Keppel-Spoor
b) The Clerk gave the Councillors a draft letter to September Garden allotment holders. The draft was amended and will be posted as soon as possible. Clerk
- 051/09 Cambs Play Pathfinder**
Discussion – e-mail circulated 6 April 2009 from FDC – it was **AGREED** to register the Parish Council’s interest as existing equipments needs refurbishing and new facilities are needed. Clerk
- 052/09 Village Sign**
Village sign repair – after discussion it was **AGREED** that the sign would be repaired. Cllr Langford
- 053/09 Declaration of Acceptance of Office**
To be signed by Vice-Chair – this was duly signed by Cllr Richardson.
- 054/09 Election**
An election has been requested for the vacancy of Parish Councillor and this will take place on Thursday 6 August.
- 055/09 Correspondence**
Cambs Acre e-mail circulated 17 March 2009 regarding entry to Calor Village of the Year 2009 entry-Chair has no further information but now too late to enter.
- 056/09 Agenda Items / Next meeting**
The next meeting is to be held on 7 July. Items to be included in the agenda to be with the Clerk by Monday 29 June 2009. Items for inclusion:
Parish Plan
Banking recommendations
Risk Assessment
New Street lights sites
Budgets – (extra grass cut spring/autumn £40 + vat per cut for 6 cuts)

Meeting closed at 21.19