

BENINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

e-mail: clerk.beningtonpc@yahoo.co.uk

Benington Parish Council Meeting

09 January, 2013 8.00 pm

Benington School

Minutes

Present:

H E L Jones (Chair)	K Grundy
R Bott	K Mays
C Brown	M Spicer

In attendance: P C Harrison (Clerk), Ken Crofton, East Herts District Councillor and 46 members of the public.

54. Apologies for Absence: None

55. Declaration of Interests : None.

56. Ken Crofton, East Herts District Councillor

The Chairman welcomed Ken Crofton and invited him to speak to the meeting about his role as District Councillor. Cllr Crofton talked about East Herts District Council and his particular wards of Ardeley, Walkern and Benington. Cllr Crofton serves on the Business Scrutiny Committee, The Licensing Committee, LAMS (Local Authority Mortgage Scheme) and the Health and Well Being Panel. Cllr Crofton also mentioned the 'points based housing system' which he has a particular interest in, and the Localism Act which will enable Parish Councils to have more control over their own communities. Cllr Crofton then took questions from the floor.

57. Minutes of the last meeting

a) Acceptance

- The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 07 November, 2012 were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

b) Review of Actions

- **Flooding in Walkern Road.** The Clerk read out an email received from Ms Rosemary Chatindo, Highway Locality Officer regarding the results of the drainage report on the Walkern Road.
- **Jubilee Seat.** The Chairman stated that the Jubilee seat will be ready in six weeks. As no suggestions for the plaque have been received, the Council will decide the wording.
- **Clerk to establish new contact at Highways.** (See item 59.1 Roads)
- **Cllr Spicer to investigate the possibility of a School Crossing Patrol Officer.** Cllr Spicer reported that his investigations are ongoing. Cllr Grundy stated that this item is not in the school's budget.

58. Eleemosynary Trust

The Chairman explained the Eleemosynary Trust to the meeting. It was resolved to nominate Harry Bott to serve as trustee for a further 4 year term.

59. Roads

59.1 The Clerk explained the new system for fault reporting as instructed by Ms Rosemary Chatindo the new Highway Locality Officer. Ringway is the new Highway Service Team and Mr Raj Goutam has been appointed as District Service Agent.

59.2 Cllr Bott drew attention to the fact that East Herts Council quoted £1,000.00 for a road closure so that he could carry out tree work. Cllr Bott suggested that the Village Fair Committee be advised of this fact.

60. Planning

60.1 Decisions

LPA Ref: 3/12/1592/FP

156 Town Lane, Benington, Stevenage, Herts SG2 7BT
Addition of first floor extension to porch to form en-suite.

BPC no objection.

EHC permission granted.

LPA Ref: 3/12/1560/LB

Pound Cottage, 1 Town Lane, Benington, Stevenage, Herts SG2 7LA
Replacement of windows to central, left and right dormer.

BPC no objection.

EHC permission granted.

LPA Ref: 3/12/1544/LB

Pound Cottage, 1 Town Lane, Benington, Stevenage, Herts SG2 7LA
Replacement of cement render with lime render and lime wash and external repairs to frame and sole plates.

BPC no objection.

EHC permission granted.

LPA Ref: 3/12/1465/FP

7 Three Stiles, Benington, Stevenage, Hertfordshire SG2 7LD
Rear conservatory.

BPC no objection.

EHC permission granted.

LPA Ref: 3/12/1769/FN

Avis Bungalow, Old School Green, Benington, Herts SG2 7LU
Renewal of planning permission 3/09/1397/FP for a single storey side extension and remodelling of roof.

BPC no objection.

EHC permission granted.

LPA Ref: 3/12/1716/FP

Land between 13-19 and 21-27 Blacksmiths Hill, Benington, Herts SG2 7LQ
Demolition of the existing garage blocks and erection of two storey detached block comprising 2no. 3-bedroom houses together with private amenity space and car parking.

BPC Objection.

EHC permission granted.

LPA Ref: 3/12/1862/FP

Garage site adjacent 39-41 Blacksmiths Hill, Benington, Herts SG2 7LQ
Demolition of existing two garage blocks and erection of two storey detached block comprising 2no. 2-bedroom houses, together with private amenity space and car parking.

BPC Objection.

EHC permission granted.

60.2 Planning applications received since the last Parish Council Meeting, but not discussed at the meeting.

LPA Ref: 3/12/1905/FP

5 Town Lane, Benington, Stevenage, Herts SG2 7LA
Single storey side and rear extensions.

BPC no objection.

LPA Ref: 3/12/1877/LB

5 Town Lane, Benington Stevenage, Herts SG2 7LA
Listed Building Consent for demolition of existing side extension and the erection of a single storey rear and side extension.

BPC no objection.

LPA Ref: 3/12/2009/LB

The Bell P.H., 4 Town Lane, Benington, Herts SG2 7LA
Listed Building Consent for up-grading 3 doors internally.

BPC no objection.

60.3 Current Planning Applications

LPA Ref: 3/12/2119/LB

The Bell P. H. 4 Town Lane, Benington, Herts SG2 7LA
Listed Building Consent to put in Fire Alarm detectors.

BPC no objection.

LPA Ref: 3/12/2063/FP

Garage site to the North of 9 Three Stiles, Benington, Herts SG2 7LD
Demolition of the existing 3 no. garage blocks and erection of 4 no. two storey semi-detached houses with three bedrooms, private amenity space and car parking.

The Chairman asked for the above planning application to be open for discussion under item **68. Public Participation** so that residents could give their views.

61. Recreational Facilities

61.1 Recreation Ground

The Chairman asked Peter Warren, Chairman of the Benington Recreation Ground Charity Trust to speak on this subject. Peter Warren stated that the BRGCT had held their AGM and, subject to Parish Council approval, would like to nominate David Warren as Treasurer. The Chairman proposed that the nomination of Treasurer to the BRGCT be put on the agenda for discussion at the next Parish Council Meeting.

61.2 **Playground**

Cllr Spicer reported that quotes for new playground equipment should be finalised within the next two to three months.

62. **School**

Cllr Grundy reported that the School Governors Meeting is due to be held on Monday, 14 January 2013.

63. **Finance**

63.1 **Expenditure and Income from 08.11.12 to 09.01.13**

Date Paid	Name	Details	Total
30.11.12	Mr Stuart Dudley	Litter Picking	£ 120.00
30.11.12	The SLCC	Membership Subscription	£ 86.00
12.12.12	Andrew Welch	Annual Payment for emptying village bins.	£ 360.00
31.12.12	Mr Stuart Dudley	Litter Picking	£ 120.00

63.2 The accounts for the 3rd Quarter of 2012/13 were presented to the meeting.

63.3 The budget for 2013/14 was approved.

63.4 The official precept form was approved and signed at the meeting.

64. **Correspondence Received**

(a) **Benington Art Group – Request for Grant.**

It was resolved to refuse the Benington Art Group's request for a grant.

(b) **Hertfordshire County Council – LTP3 Active Travel Strategy Consultation.**

The Chairman summarised the above letter previously circulated to Councillors. Cllr Spicer raised concerns regarding transport to the Lister Hospital.

(c) **East Herts Council – Tax Base 13-14**

The Chairman summarised the above letter previously circulated to Councillors.

(d) **East Herts Council – 2013/14 Corporate Strategic Plan and 2011/12 Annual Report.**

The Clerk circulated the above booklets to Councillors for their perusal.

65. **Proposed Village Shop**

Cllr Brown reported that 31 people attended a meeting in the Village Hall regarding a proposed village shop. Issues that need to be resolved are the identification of a suitable site and funding. Cllr Brown asked for volunteers to set up a Committee. Cllr Spicer asked for a show of hands in favour of a village shop, and the majority of people attending the meeting were in favour.

66. **Members' Points of Information** – Nothing to report.

67. **Date of next meeting:** The date of the next meeting is 13 March, 2013.

68. Public Participation

LPA Ref: 3/12/2063/FP

Garage site to the North of 9 Three Stiles, Benington, Herts SG2 7LD

Demolition of the existing 3 no. garage blocks and erection of 4 no. two storey semi-detached houses with three bedrooms, private amenity space and car parking.

The Chairman explained the events that led to the Parish Council's letter being sent to East Herts Council, regarding the above planning application. An extension has now been granted, and the Parish Council will write again after hearing residents' views. The Chairman read out a list of items that he felt should be included in the letter and then invited comments from the floor.

The following points were made to be included in the letter to East Herts Council:-

- Vehicular access to 10a Three Stiles removed.
- Access road inadequate.
- Primary School walking bus uses access, therefore pavement required.
- Ownership of a section of the site in dispute.
- Concerns over difference in ground levels between site and adjacent rear gardens.
- Exacerbation of flooding problems to rear of Three Stiles houses.
- Additional parking problems.
- Residents will need to place refuse bins on the highway.
- Inadequate access for emergency fire equipment.
- Breach of building regulations.

It was reported that an extension has been granted for this application for 21 days from the 9th January, 2013.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 pm