

BENINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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The Annual Parish Council Meeting

08 May, 2013 7.30 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), and 7 members of the public.

01. Apologies: Cllr Ken Grundy apologised for late arrival.

02. Election of Chairman

Lloyd Jones asked for nominations for the election of Chairman.

Cllr Richard Bott nominated Lloyd Jones.

Cllr Karen Mays seconded the motion. Lloyd Jones was duly elected and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

03. Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr Karen Mays nominated Richard Bott for the office of Vice-Chairman.

Cllr Christine Brown seconded the motion, and Richard Bott was duly elected and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

04. Declaration of Interests : Cllr Bott declared an interest in planning applications: LPA Ref: 3/13/0646/FP and LPA Ref: 3/13/0647/FP under item **07.2 Current Planning Applications.**

05. Minutes of the last meeting

a) Acceptance

- The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13 March, 2013 were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

b) Review of Actions

- **Jubilee Seat – Approval of wording on plaque.**
The Chairman read out the proposed wording for the above plaque, which was agreed by the Council.
- **Pot Holes in Shummary Lane, Walkern Road - Completed.**

06. Roads

Highways to be informed of the general bad state of repair of the roads in Benington, particularly the temporary filling of pot holes.

07. Planning

07.1 Decisions: No decisions.

07.2 Current Planning Applications

LPA Ref: 3/13/0646/FP

Lordship Farm, Walkern Road, Benington, Herts SG2 7LL
Installation of 218 Ground Mounted Photovoltaic Panels.
BPC no objection.

LPA Ref: 3/13/0647/FP

Whitehall Farm, Walkern Road, Watton at Stone
Installation of 222 Ground Mounted Photovoltaic Panels.
BPC no objection.

LPA Ref: 3/13/0693/FO

Benington Bury Farm, Walkern Road, Benington, Herts SG2 7LN
Removal of Onerous Condition for Variation of conditions 2 (approved plans) and 6 (residential occupancy) of 3/12/0637/FO (original permission 3/11/0840/FP) to amend the internal arrangement of rooms to two bedrooms, bathroom and office at first floor and kitchen diner at ground floor as indicated on drawing 1365/A1/003B, with occupation limited to a person working at the site in equestrian related uses, or a person living as part of a single household with such person.
BPC no objection.

08. Recreational Facilities

08.1 Playground

Cllr Mays reported that she has received an updated quote from Sovereign Play Systems for playground equipment, and is waiting for a further quote. Cllr Spicer presented a design illustrating three new items of playground equipment. A discussion ensued and preferred items were a Bucket/Birds Nest Swing for younger children, a Trim Trail and depending on cost a Multi Activity Centre.

The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council authorise a sum of £10,000 to £12,000 for the above equipment, and Cllr Mays and Cllr Spicer to work together to obtain the best price. Cllr Mays seconded the motion.

09. School

Cllr Grundy stated that after a recent inspection by the Diocese, the religious and cultural ethos of the school was reported as outstanding. The school is in budget, and able to carry forward the maximum amount of £40,000 to 2013/2014.

Cllr Grundy also reported that the school has received notification that restrictive parking outside the Village Hall and Dragons Green is due to go ahead in the near future.

10. Finance

10.1 To fix the amount of the Chairman's allowance in pursuance of section 15(5) of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Chairman's allowance was agreed at £50.00.

12. Village Shop

Cllr Christine Brown stated that the Village Shop is a viable project, although fund raising will be necessary, a business plan will need to be drawn up and a site selected. Cllr Brown asked the Parish Council for the sum of £5,000 to be made available towards the setting up of this project, and to cover pre-planning costs. Invoices will be provided for money spent. Applications for grants are looked upon more favourably if a project has the support and financial help of the Parish Council.

It was resolved to make available up to £5,000.00 towards this project.

13. Members' Points of Information

Cllr Spicer, with reference to the planning application for Photovoltaic Panels, asked if there would be an opportunity to work with the developers of this project to encourage individual householders and possibly the Village Hall to install solar panels. It was suggested that a talk be arranged to inform people of their options.

Cllr Spicer spoke on behalf of Cllr Crofton who was unable to attend the meeting. Cllr Crofton wished to inform the meeting that he has been elected as Herts County Councillor but will continue as East Herts District Councillor. Also, with regard to social housing, it is now East Herts District Council's housing policy, to give priority to applicants with strong family connections in the village.

The Chairman reported that East Herts Council have written to South Anglia regarding the planning application for the garage site to the north of 9 Three Stiles and are minded to issue a refusal. The application will not go before the Committee Meeting on 22 May, 2013.

14. To fix the dates and times of ordinary meetings of the Council for the ensuing year

It was agreed that the ordinary Parish Council meetings would be held on the second Wednesday, every other month, throughout the year. Dates as follows:

10 July 2013	11 September 2013	13 November 2013
08 January 2014	12 March 2014	14 May 2014

These dates may be subject to change.

All meetings to be held at 8.00 pm except the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 14 May, 2014 which will commence at 7.30pm and will be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting.

15. Date of next meeting: 10 July, 2013 at 8.00 pm. The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25pm.