

BENINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Benington Parish Council Meeting

10 July, 2013 8.00 pm

Benington School

Minutes

Present: H E L Jones (Chair) C Brown
R Bott M Spicer

In attendance: P C Harrison (Clerk), and 13 members of the public.

- 16. Apologies:** Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Ken Grundy, and Cllr Karen Mays.
- 17. Declaration of Interests :** None.
- 18. Minutes of the last meeting**
- a) **Acceptance**
- The minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 08 May, 2013 were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.
- b) **Review of Actions**
- Letter to Highways – Condition of Roads. Completed.
The Clerk reported that Raj Goutam, Highways District Agent, had been in contact and the footpaths in Town Lane were due to be repaired at the end of July.
- 19. Roads**
- Cllr Spicer stated that Hertfordshire County Councillor, Ken Crofton, informed him that Town Lane and Shummary Lane will be fully repaired and re-surfaced.
- 20. Planning**
- 20.1 Decisions:**
- LPA Ref: 3/13/0646/FP**
Lordship Farm, Walkern Road, Benington, Herts SG2 7LL
Installation of 218 Ground Mounted Photovoltaic Panels.
BPC no objection.
EHC permission granted.
- LPA Ref: 3/13/0647/FP**
Whitehall Farm, Walkern Road, Watton at Stone
Installation of 222 Ground Mounted Photovoltaic Panels.
BPC no objection.
EHC permission granted.

LPA Ref: 3/13/0693/FO

Benington Bury Farm, Walkern Road, Benington, Herts SG2 7LN
Removal of Onerous Condition. 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.

EHC permission granted.

LPA Ref: 3/13/0748/FP/JS

68 Whempstead Road, Benington, Herts SG2 7DE
Change of use of land to residential curtilage.

BPC no objection.

EHC permission granted.

LPA Ref: 3/13/0684/FP/MC

Alchemist Works, Whempstead Road, Benington, Herts SG2 7BX
Construction of 5 no. detached dwelling houses to replace existing works.

BPC no objection.

EHC permission granted.

LPA Ref: 3/13/0712/FP/JS

98A Town Lane, Benington, Herts SG2 7BT
Single storey front and two storey side extension with velux roof window to landing.

BPC no objection.

EHC permission granted.

20.2 Current Planning Applications

LPA Ref: 3/13/0762/FP

7 Town Lane, Benington, Herts SG2 7LA
Replacement of rear boundary fence.

BPC no objection.

LPA Ref: 3/13/1074/LB

Benington Bury, Walkern Road, Benington, Herts SG2 7LN
Single storey rear extension, open entrance porch and alterations to stabling and garage to provide habitable rooms.

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.

BPC objection.

The Chairman reported that Mr Dean Goodman, Planning Consultant, has prepared a new report, on behalf of residents, regarding the above planning application. Cllr Bott said that the Parish Council should continue to support residents against this application. The Chairman explained that many of the original problems with this development still exist. The developers, to counteract the difficulty a fire engine would have in accessing the area, have installed a sprinkler system.

The Parish Council agreed to write again to East Herts Council opposing this application, and fully endorsing Mr Dean Goodman's report.

21. Recreational Facilities

21.1 Recreation Ground

The Chairman read out an email from Peter Warren, Chairman of the BRGCT (Benington Recreation Ground Charity Trust), requesting funds from the Parish Council towards the building of the new pavilion. The Chairman said that there has been a problem of co-operation between the Parish Council and the BRGCT, and read out a further email, sent in March this year by Mr Warren, discharging the Parish Council of its duties as Custodian Trustees.

The Chairman stated that a solicitor was engaged in order to clarify the Parish Council's situation in relation to the BRGCT, but a further £2,000 was needed to investigate this matter in more detail. As the original contract was set up by solicitors Stone King, so that the BRGCT could obtain grants, the Chairman asked the BRGCT if they would give permission for the Parish Council to approach Stone King to clarify the Parish Council's position. To date no response has been received from the BRGCT.

The Chairman read out a paragraph from a letter received from Stone King dated 08 July, 2003 in which it clearly stated that there should be no difficulty about the Parish Council's involvement. The Chairman emphasised that he fully supported the BRGCT, and the building of the new pavilion but would not support the request for funds from the BRGCT until the Parish Council's position is clarified.

A discussion ensued, and all Councillors agreed that although they fully supported the BRGCT, and the building of the new pavilion, responsibilities on both sides needed to be clarified before any funds were granted. Also, the Parish Council have not received anything in writing from the Charity Commission to say that the Parish Council are no longer Custodial Trustees.

It was agreed to write formally to the BRGCT requesting their permission to approach Stone King, Solicitors.

21.2 Playground

The Clerk reported that the annual playground safety inspections were due to take place from 17th June, 2013 and the contractor commissioned this year is The Play Inspection Company Ltd. The price for the inspection is £46.55 plus VAT.

In Cllr Mays absence it was reported that the new playground equipment will be installed during the week commencing 05 August, 2013.

22. School

Benington School Year 5 came 3rd in the County Maths Competition just three points behind the winners, and was the only junior village school to reach the finals. The school achieved an equal first in “Stevenage Speaks” and won the Maths Competition for small schools. The school also won the Intersports Competition for village schools in the immediate area.

23. Finance

23.1 Expenditure and Income from 08.05.13 to 10.07.13

Date Paid	Name	Details	Total
08.05.13	Frank Cooper	Grass Cutting	£ 169.20
31.05.13	Mr Stuart Dudley	Litter Picking	£ 120.00
06.06.13	Frank Cooper	Grass Cutting	£ 169.20
26.03.13	Mr Stuart Dudley	Litter Picking	£ 120.00
06.06.13	R H Bott & Son	Invoice from CCL Woodwork for oak bench.	£ 456.00
30.06.13	Mr Stuart Dudley	Litter Picking	£ 120.00
30.06.13	CPRE	Membership Subscription	£ 29.00
08.07.13	BBW Solicitors	Professional Services	£ 590.96
09.07.13	1 st Call Signs	Brass Plaque for Oak Bench	£ 45.60

Income

21 June, 2013 East Herts Council Litter Picking Grant £1006.20

23.2 Accounts for the 1st Quarter.

The accounts for the 1st Quarter of 2013/2014 were presented to the meeting.

24. Correspondence Received

(a) Affinity Water – Draft Water Resources Management Plan Consultation, 31 May 2013.

The Chairman summarised the above letter, and Cllr Brown said that it would be included in the July edition of the Parish Magazine.

(b) Aston Parish Council - East Herts District Plan, 18.06.13.

The Chairman read out the above letter, and a discussion ensued on the proposed Neighbourhood Plan. Cllrs Brown and Spicer commented that they had attended a meeting regarding the plan, which if the Parish Council decided to produce, could cost up to £20,000. Cllrs Brown and Spicer to meet with Aston Parish Council to discuss this matter.

(c) Email from Dave Church – Re: Dean Goodman’s Report, 03.07.13.

The Chairman read out the above email from Mr Church requesting that the Parish Council contribute towards the cost of the second planning report prepared by Mr Dean Goodman reference the development on the garage site at Three Stiles. LPA Ref: 3/12/2063/FP.

It was resolved to meet Mr Goodman's fees which amount to £200.00 plus VAT.

(d) **East Herts Council – Re: SPARC (Separate Paper and Recycling Collections) 11.06.13.**

The Chairman read out the above letter informing the Parish Council of changes to the recycling service commencing in the Autumn 2013. Cllr Brown to apply for the press release about the new service for inclusion in the Parish Magazine.

25. War Memorial

The Parish Council have received an Historic Building Grant for £1,000.00 from East Herts District Council towards repairs to the War Memorial in St. Peter's Churchyard, Benington. The works will be carried out by Hugh McAlpine at a total cost of £5545.00 and are due to start on Monday, 2nd September 2013.

26. Bus Shelter

The Chairman summarised an email from Mr Tony Petty regarding anti-social behaviour at the brick bus shelter in Town Lane. This matter was discussed, and it was agreed to report this problem in the next Parish Magazine in order to obtain residents' views.

27. Village Shop

Cllr Brown reported that a site, behind the Village Hall where at the moment a container is situated, has been identified for the proposed Village Shop. The size of the proposed shop has not yet been decided, as the Diocese and the Village Hall Committee, need to be consulted. Cllr Brown recently attended a Plunkett Foundation Committee meeting regarding funding which proved to be very informative.

28. Members' Points of Information

The Chairman reported that a complaint has been received from Mrs Perry and Mrs Marshall regarding the cinder path between Three Stiles and Town Lane, which has become very overgrown with weeds and foliage. Councillors to inspect the path and report it to the responsible authority.

29. Date of next meeting: 11 September, 2013 at 8.00 pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00 pm.