

# BENINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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## Benington Parish Council Meeting

13 November, 2013 8.00 pm

Benington School

### Minutes

**Present:** R Bott (Chair) K Mays  
C Brown M Spicer  
K Grundy

**In attendance:** P C Harrison (Clerk), and 5 members of the public.

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**47. Apologies:** Apologies were received from Lloyd Jones.

**48. Declaration of Interests:** None.

### **49. Minutes of the last meeting**

#### **a) Acceptance**

- The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11 September, 2013 were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **b) Review of Actions**

- Pot Holes in Town Lane by the bank and opposite 35 Town Lane. Completed.
- Path in need of repair outside of the school. Reported.
- Path adjacent to 69 Town Lane leading to 16 Blacksmiths Hill. This path has been partly cleared, and Cllr Richard Bott volunteered to cut down the remaining foliage.
- Letter to Charity Commission re: BRGCT. Completed.
- Letter to residents regarding wheeled bins. Letters have been sent, and Cllr Bott reported that an Area Environment Inspector from East Herts Council is now involved and action will be taken if the wheeled bins are not removed from the verge. Ms Lucinda Campbell-Grey, one of the residents involved, has asked for her dissatisfaction regarding this situation to be passed on to the Parish Council.

### **50. Roads**

Highways to be informed of the following:

- Pot holes on the Walkern Road from Box Hall to Lordship Farm.

Cllr Spicer to speak to Herts County Councillor Ken Crofton with reference to the state of the roads in Benington.

### **51. Planning**

#### **51.1 Decisions:**

**LPA Ref: 3/13/1461/FP**

88 Whempstead Road, Benington, SG2 7DE

Change of use of land from pasture to residential garden.

**BPC No Objection.**

**EHC Permission Granted.**

**LPA Ref: 3/13/1633/FO/MC**

Alchemist Works, Whempstead Road, Benington SG2 7BX  
Removal of condition 2 (approved plans) and 4 (vehicle access) from planning permission 3/13/0684/FP construction of 5 no. detached dwelling houses to replace existing works.

**BPC No Objection.**

**EHC Permission Granted.**

**LPA Ref: 3/13/1559/FP/LP**

66 Walkern Road, Benington, SG2 7LS.  
Single storey rear extension.

**BPC No Objection.**

**EHC Permission Granted.**

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

**LPA Ref: 3/13/1546/LC & LPA Ref: 3/13/1545/FP**

19 Town Lane, Benington SG2 7LA  
Demolition of existing outbuilding. (Conservation Area Consent).  
Single storey rear extension.

**BPC No Objection.**

**LPA Ref: 3/13/0997/FP**

Benington Bury, Walkern Road, Benington, SG2 7LN  
Single storey rear extension, conversion of garage and stabling to create habitable accommodation and porch to front.

**BPC No Objection.**

**51.3 Notification of Appeal**

**LPA Ref: 3/12/2063/FP**

Garage site to the North of 9 Three Stiles, Benington, SG2 7LD.  
Demolition of existing 3 garage blocks and erection of 4 two storey semi-detached houses with three bedrooms, private amenity space and car parking.

**52. Recreational Facilities**

**52.1 Recreation Ground – Appointment of Treasurer**

There has been an exchange of letters between the Parish Council and the BRGCT. The Parish Council have been removed as Custodial Trustees by the BRGCT but are still responsible for the appointment of a Treasurer. Cllr Bott stated that the BRGCT agree in principle to the Parish Council's appointment of a Treasurer and a meeting is to be held on Saturday, 16 November to discuss this along with other issues.

**52.2 Playground**

Cllr Mays reported that Timberline have replaced the top bar on the bird nest swing, and there is much more activity in the playground since the installation of the new equipment.

### 53. School

Cllr Grundy reported that the school now has the new curriculum which becomes statutory in 2014.

### 54. Finance

#### 54.1 Expenditure and Income from 11.09.13 to 13.11.13

Date Paid	Name	Details	Total
11.09.13	Broker Network Ltd	Parish Council Insurance	£1,350.55
30.09.13	Herts Air Ambulance	Donations	£100.00
30.09.13	Hugh McAlpine Stone Mason	Restoration of War Memorial	£5,545.00
30.09.13	Mr Stuart Dudley	Litter Picking	£120.00
08.10.13	Frank Cooper & Son	Grass Cutting	£169.20
11.10.13	Peter Kingsnorth	Website Maintenance	£120.00
15.10.13	Timberform Ltd	Equipment for Playground	£10,800.00
31.10.13	HAPTC	Councillor Training	£75.00
31.10.13	Mr Stuart Dudley	Litter Picking	£120.00
05.11.13	Frank Cooper & Son	Grass Cutting	£112.80
05.11.13	BRGCT	Donation for Fireworks.	£300.00
<b>Income</b>			
18.09.13	East Herts Council	2nd Precept Payment	£7,691.00
15.10.13	East Herts Council	Grant for War Memorial Repairs	£1,000.00

54.2 The accounts for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2013/14 were presented to the meeting.

### 55. Correspondence Received

- (a) Herts County Council Setting Local Speed Limits – 1.10.13.  
Cllr Bott summarised the above letter; the proposed strategy if put in place would make it easier to change speed limits where appropriate. The consultation is open until 22 November, 2013. An introduction to the consultation, draft strategy and appendices can be viewed on line at [www.hertsdirect.org/Itp32013](http://www.hertsdirect.org/Itp32013).
- (b) Hertfordshire Building Preservation Trust Ltd – 14.10.13. A request for a donation of £75.00 has been received from the above Trust. It was agreed not to donate.

- (c) Herts Air Ambulance – 30.10.13. Thank you letter received from Herts Air Ambulance for £100.00 donation.

## **56. Neighbourhood Planning**

Cllr Spicer reported that he had been involved in talks with other Councils regarding the production of a Neighbourhood Plan. It was suggested that a questionnaire be circulated around the village giving parishioners the opportunity to express their thoughts regarding future planning in the village. Cllr Spicer to obtain a copy of Aston's questionnaire and also obtain the templates available from CPRE & HAPTC for guidance.

## **57. Village Shop**

Cllr Brown stated that the impending sale of The Bell Public House represented an opportunity to locate the proposed shop in The Bell's car park. The Bell is now under offer, therefore the new owners would need to be approached to see if they would be interested in having a shop sited in the car park. An alternative would be to have The Bell listed as a Community Asset, but renting the space from a private purchaser would be preferable.

## **58. Members' Points of Information**

Cllr Brown suggested that the Parish Council subscribe to the HAPTC (Hertfordshire Association of Parish & Town Councils). The HAPTC run training sessions and an advisory service. The cost is approximately £300.00 and more information will be provided at the next Parish Council meeting for further discussion.

A discussion ensued on the gritting of the Whempstead Road from the crossroads to the A602. Highways have offered financial support, but insurance could be a problem for the Parish Council. Cllr Spicer agreed to investigate this matter further.

## **59. Date of Next Meeting:** 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2014

Cllr Bott closed the meeting at 8.40pm

