

BENINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Benington Parish Council Meeting

8 January, 2014 8.00 pm

Benington School

Minutes

Present: R Bott (Chair) M Spicer
C Brown

In attendance: P C Harrison (Clerk), and 11 members of the public.

60. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Lloyd Jones, Ken Grundy and Karen Mays.

61. Declaration of Interests: None.

62. Minutes of the last meeting

a) Acceptance

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

b) Review of Actions

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

63. Roads

Cllr Spicer reported that Hertfordshire County Councillor, Ken Crofton has allocated money from the Highways Locality Budget for resurfacing in Town Lane, with a new kerb to hold back the bank. The pathway from the old shop to Oak Tree Close is also scheduled for resurfacing, and a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) has been posted for highway maintenance works in Shummary Lane.

Emails have been received from residents concerned about flooding in Duck Lane and Whempstead Road, also pot holes by the bank in Town Lane. These problems have all been reported to Highways.

64. Planning

64.1 Decisions:

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

EHC Permission Granted

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

LPA Ref: 3/13/2165/FP

Alchemist Works, Whempstead Road, Benington, Stevenage, Herts SG2 7BX
New Access Road.

BPC No Objection

64.3 Current Planning Applications

LPA Ref: 3/13/2252/FP

3 Benington Park Farm Cottages, Benington Stevenage, Herts SG2 7BU
Single Storey Rear Extension.

BPC No Objection.

LPA Ref: 3/13/2271/FP

74 Whempstead Road, Benington, Stevenage, Herts SG2 7DE
Erection of replacement dwelling following demolition of existing.

The above planning application has only just been received from East Herts Planning, therefore Councillors have not yet been able to look at the plans.

65. Recreational Facilities

65.1 Recreation Ground

Cllr Bott confirmed that a meeting took place between the BRGCT and the Parish Council on Saturday 16 November, 2013. The 'Agreed Resolutions' of the meeting were noted, and all Councillors present having seen the report were in agreement with the resolutions reached. Cllr Bott read out the agreement relating to the playground which is as follows:-

“The Parish Council agreed that the land on which the playground is situated should be registered to the BRGCT. All equipment on the playground to be donated to the BRGCT. The BRGCT agreed to take full responsibility of the playground, which will include weekly inspection checks by the BRGCT and an annual inspection report by an outside company. Existing annual report to be given to the BRGCT.”

The Parish Council has received written confirmation from Mr Peter Warren, Chairman of the BRGCT stating that the report from the meeting represented an accurate representation of all the agreements reached at that meeting.

Cllr Bott invited Mr Peter Warren to speak at the Parish Council Meeting regarding the BRGCT's AGM and also the appointment of Mr John Dickinson as Treasurer, as agreed with the BRGCT. Mr Warren said that the AGM had already taken place, and a Treasurer had not yet been appointed. Mr Warren also stated that if Mr Dickinson decided against taking on the role of Treasurer there were other people in the village that may be interested and capable of taking on this role.

65.2 Playground – Nothing to report.

66. School – Nothing to report.

67. Finance

67.1 The budget for 2014/15 was approved.

67.2 The official precept form for 2014/2015 was approved and signed at the meeting.

67.3 The accounts for the 3rd Quarter of 2013/14 were presented to the meeting.

67.4 Expenditure and Income from 13.11.13 to 08.01.14

Date Paid	Name	Details	Total
12.11.13	BT Payment Services Ltd	Parish Council Telephone	£95.30
30.11.13	SLCC Membership	Subscription	£87.00
30.11.13	Mr Stuart Dudley	Litter Picking	£120.00
31.12.13	Mr Andrew Welch	Emptying of Litter Bins from 01.01.13 to 31.12.13	£360.00
31.12.13	Mr Stuart Dudley	Litter Picking	£120.00

68. Correspondence Received

- (a) **Email from Ian Knight, Secretary RBRA 12.12.13 – Request for £25.00 donation.**

It was resolved to grant £25.00 to the River Beane Restoration Association.

- (b) **Hertfordshire County Council Traffic and Transport Data Report 2012 and Hertfordshire Road Casualty Facts 2012 – 27.11.13.**

The above reports were circulated.

- (c) **Email from Robin Mills re: War Memorial – 21.11.13.**

Robin Mills has informed the Council that the Royal British Legion have had the paving surrounding the War Memorial levelled and pointed. Funds for this have come out of the fair account.

- (d) **Hertfordshire County Council – Hertfordshire’s Travel Plan Guidance for Business and Residential Development, 02.01.14.**

Councillors to look at the link provided in this letter which is not yet up and running. The link is as follows: <https://consult.hertsdirect.org/consultations/>.

69. Neighbourhood Planning

Cllr Spicer circulated sample questionnaires from other parishes, and explained that a Neighbourhood Plan should set out what is required in the locality and what the Parish can support. The Neighbourhood Plan should be community led, supported by the Parish Council. New development in the village will depend on the existing facilities and infrastructure.

Cllr Spicer stated that some of the information required for the Neighbourhood Plan is covered in the Benington Parish Plan 2008. If a Neighbourhood Plan is not formulated, planning decisions will be made by East Herts District Council. The Plan would need to be produced during the next six months. It was suggested that an advertisement be placed in the Parish Magazine for volunteers to be involved in developing a Neighbourhood Plan.

70. Members' Points of Information

Cllr Brown asked the Parish Council to consider joining the HAPTC (Hertfordshire Association of Parish and Town Councils). The HAPTC provides training and legal advice for parish and town councils. The cost of subscription is £328.00 for 12 months. The Clerk to look into the HAPTC's diary for the forthcoming year to see what could be of benefit to the Parish Council, and also to investigate training options on offer.

Cllr Spicer reported that the email received from Mike Hawkins regarding damage to the water meter cover outside his property, would be taken up with Hertfordshire County Councillor, Ken Crofton.

71. Date of Next Meeting: 12 March, 2014

Cllr Bott closed the meeting at 8.27 pm