

BENINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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10 September 2014 following the Parish Council Meeting
Benington School

Minutes

Present: M Spicer (Vice Chair) K Mays
J Dickinson K Grundy
B Morcom

In attendance: G Fox (Clerk) and 12 members of the public.

01. Apologies: Absence of Cllr Bott

02. Declaration of Interests –

Email from Cllr Bott read out by Cllr Spicer.

03. Co-option of Councillor – Bob Morcom signed the acceptance.

04. Lloyd Jones memorial –

It was proposed for a replacement bench at St Peters Church with a name plaque. Cllr Spicer to look into possible Oak materials.

05. Roads -

Water by the Village Hall- This has been reported to Highways.

The yellow lines outside of Benington Primary School will be complete this autumn as will the yellow lines be complete along Town Lane at the bottom of Three Stiles.

06. Planning –

Paddock next to the Bell – The Parish Council have agreed to write to Hertfordshire Planning Department to object to the current proposal. The Land is currently being used for grazing purposes and is not classed as an agricultural use. Cllr Bott and Cllr Spicer are to compile a letter and respond before the deadline.

Benington Bury Farm – No objections from councillors.

07. Recreational Facilities -

Playground – The Insurance for the playground is due for renewal at the end of September. Final discussions will take place before the renewal date to confirm whether Benington Parish Council will continue with the current policy, or The Recreational Club will take over the responsibility.

The donation from Benington Parish Council has been received by the Recreational Club for the new pavilion.

Fireworks display – There was a majority vote from the Councillors to support a donation towards this year’s Fireworks display.

08. School -

There are currently 113 pupils attending Benington Primary School, with 7 teaching staff, 8 teaching assistants and a Head teacher resulting in a rough teaching ratio of 10/12 pupils to each teacher.

In June the School was classified as ‘Good’ by the Ofstead inspection. This has lowered from previous years however the criteria has been changed.

Unfortunately a point Ofstead marked the school down on, was the attendance level for pupils, which has dropped due to holidays in term time and lateness.

However the results from this year’s SATs tests were outstanding. The School was also placed in the Top 100 schools in the UK for sustained improvements within the last 5 years as well as several other achieve including: Winning the Stevenage speaks debate, The Small schools maths and for Winning the Inter- Schools sports 5 out of 6 years running.

Wild garden has now started to be worked on and should hopefully be complete by the spring. Thank you to Ken Crofton for helping to obtain a for the grant for this project.

We all support the school and would like to congratulate the staff for all their hard work.

09. Footpaths –

This is still an on-going task and the grass map is to be obtained to identify who is responsible for the upkeep in certain areas.

10. Village Pond –

Cllr Dickison or Cllr Spicer are to approach the new owners of the house by the village pond to discuss cutting back the stingers on the pathway leading up to the school.

The next meeting date will be Wednesday 12th November 2014 at 8pm.

MS closed the meeting at 8.39pm

05. Question Time -

Topics discussed:

- Fireworks Display- it was discussed that the Recreational Club will publish in the Parish Magazine the Date and proposed length of time the fireworks display will last for.
- Yellow Lines to be marked out at the bottom of Three Stiles/Town Lane.
- Hedges to be trimmed outside the village hall.
- Smashed Glass in the notice boards need to be replaced.