

BENINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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9 September 2015
The School

Minutes

Present: R Bott (Chair), M Hughes, K Daniel, J Jaques, B Taylor

In attendance: J Dickinson (taking minutes) and 8 members of the public.

(The Chairman explained that due to the recent resignation of the clerk John Dickinson would take the minutes. Julie Haire has agreed to become the new Parish Clerk from 1st October 2015.)

1. Apologies for absence: R Morcom

2. Declaration of Interests: The Chairman declared an interest in the disputed access to the new properties on Walkern Road - see item 08.

03. Minutes of previous meeting:

a) Acceptance; Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th July 2015 were accepted and signed by the Chairman.

b) Review of Actions **Drop off box outside school:** Highways wanted £7,000 for us to paint a drop off box. We have asked for a breakdown of that figure and have had no response to date. Highways have not done any risk assessments. Parish Council to write to the school governors and parents to see if they want a trial period of 5 days.

Village Pond: University of Herts want £180 for an initial survey. Cllr Daniel to arrange; Veolia will test water quality for free. Cllr Bott to arrange. Cllr Taylor offered to mend pond fencing where required - accepted.

Order litter bin: Ex Parish Clerk Wheeler has ordered the litter bin.

Liaise with Benington Fair Committee: Cllr Hughes reported that members of the Fair Committee will be able to attend the next Parish Council Meeting in November.

04. Roads:

Footpaths in Blacksmiths Hill now been done. Grass verges up Blacksmiths Hill have not been cut as they are not on the cutting map also it is not sure where responsibility for maintenance of walkway between Blacksmiths Hill car park and Town Lane lies.

Chairman to investigate these points. Leaking BT box outside Parish Hall has been inspected and BT claim the problem is not theirs. Cllr Hughes has persuaded BT to reopen this file and will arrange to meet them at the site of the problem. The vegetation encroaching the footway on Flatbacks is the Farm's responsibility and will be cut back as soon as the current crop drilling is completed. Cllr Taylor informed the Council that he had refurbished the bench on the green and offered to sand and stain the 3 bus shelters. This offer was accepted.

05. Planning:

At the time of the meeting no new planning applications had been printed and copied and no discussion took place.

06. Recreation Facilities:

Playground inspection report. Report has now been received and Playground ownership, maintenance and insurance should now be the responsibility of Benington Recreation Ground Charitable Trust (BRGCT). The Chairman of BRGCT, Peter Warren said he would clarify the situation with the solicitors and insurers with a view to taking over the insurance from 1st Oct 2015. Benington Recreation Ground Charitable Trust to give a presentation of progress on the new pavilion. This did not happen and an informal meeting was arranged between the Council and the Trust Committee to discuss issues on Wed 14th Oct 2015 at The Bell at 19.30.

07. School:

Cllr Jaques now a School Governor. Nature Garden opening 18th Sept.

08. Correspondence Received:

Letter from Judith Fairley, Foreman Laws. Access issues with new houses on Walkern Road as footway may have been laid on Manorial land. Cllr Morcom had ascertained that the footway was put in by Herts Council in 1985/86. Agreed that the Parish Council should not get involved.

E-mail from Andrew Start, Circle Anglia, Circle Anglia have permission for housing on the garages site on Three Stiles but have a problem with access.

E-mail from Bill Smith: Mr Smith thinks that double yellow lines through Town Lane will solve parking issues. Chairman to reply no to this idea. The Parish Council's notice on the banking appears to help at some times and not others. Cllr Hughes to send a letter to affected residents.

09. Members' Points of Information:

Cllr Jaques suggested that as we had lost the Mobile Library we should set up a "Bus Shelter Library". This was accepted and once Cllr Taylor had completed his work on the shelters Cllr Bott would make and install shelving for the shelter opposite the telephone exchange. Cllr Daniel reported that the Village Hall had now completed the kitchen refurbishment and the garden was completed. The Village Hall Committee was now seeking a new Treasurer. Cllr Daniel will be attending the Parish Councils conference on 18th.

Regarding Defibrillator(s) - all school staff have been trained in their use and the Parish Council will look into the possibility of doing a joint exercise with the school regarding purchase funding. District Councillor Ken Crofton says that funding can be looked into as there are health and wellbeing grants available as well as other sources. The British Heart Foundation are also willing to train people.

10. Date of Next Meeting - Wed. 11 November 2015. Meeting closed at 20.57