

# BENINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Benington Parish Council Meeting  
11 November 2015 8.00 pm  
Benington School

## Minutes

**Present:** R Bott (Chair) K Daniel  
M Hughes J Jaques

**In attendance:** J A Haire (Clerk), and 1 member of the public.

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- 01. Apologies:** Apologies were received from Cllrs R Morcom and B Taylor.
- 02. Declaration of Interests :** The Chairman declared an interest in: Planning Application Consultation 3/15/2074/HH - Benington Lordship, Planning Application Consultation 3/15/2075/LBC - Benington Lordship, Planning Application Consultation 3/15/1900/FUL - Black Barn Walkern Road, Watton at Stone (see item 6).
- 03. Minutes of the Last Meeting**
  - a) Acceptance**
    - ◆ The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 09 September 2015 were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.
  - b) Review of Actions**
    - ◆ **Drop off box outside school** The School Governors had rejected the idea of a drop off box. The Benington Parish Council decided that any further action on the congestion around the school would need to endorsement of the Governors, and decided to wait and see what they wanted done.
    - ◆ **BT flooding problem outside the village hall** Cllr Hughes had met with BT and the co-ordinator from Ringways six weeks earlier, and it was agreed that the manhole cover would be lifted to investigate if water was entering from an outside influence. It was further agreed that a new drain would be installed to connect with the adjacent gulley, but this cannot progress until the new funding year – March 2016 at the earliest.
    - ◆ **Litter bin** The Chairman had received the new litter bin and will arrange for it to be installed.
    - ◆ **Defibrillator application** The Governors of Benington School wished it to be made clear that they were happy to contribute to the Grant Application, but not to share purchase funding. The entrance to the Village Hall and the Methodist Chapel were proposed as possible sites for a defibrillator. Cllr Morcom is in the process of making an application for funding for two units.
    - ◆ **Caravan on the Green** The Chairman advised that a local site had been found for the caravan – **Resolved**.
    - ◆ **Bus Shelter Library** The Chairman had measured for the shelf and Perspex doors, and proposed that he and Cllr Taylor will make and install them. This offer was accepted.

- 04. Village Pond** The Chairman had received the Benington Pond Sample results report. From these results there were no significant levels of pollutants that would indicate a pollution event currently impacting on the pond. A Wildlife Survey was discussed, but it was decided that the Chairman would contact Herts Wildlife Trust to seek guidance on how to introduce plants/native species etc.
- 05. Roads**
- ◆ **Gravel** Cllr Hughes to contact the Developer regarding gravel spilling on to the footway in front of the new house next to Shirley Davey on Walkern Road, and to check with Highways whether the situation contravenes any Bylaws.
  - ◆ It had been reported that leaves on the footpath are very slippery. It was agreed that the Chairman will contact J Birnie to obtain a quote to clear the path from the Village Hall to the School, when the leaves are all down from the trees in a week or two.
- 06. Planning**
- Planning Application Consultation 3/15/2213/HH – garage extension 71A Town Lane. **BPC no objection**
- Planning Application Consultation 3/15/2074/HH - Benington Lordship **BPC no objection**
- Planning Application Consultation 3/15/2075/LBC - Benington Lordship **BPC no objection**
- Planning Application Consultation 3/15/1900/FUL - Black Barn Walkern Road, Watton at Stone – change of use from offices to Osteopath and Sports Injury Clinic **BPC no objection**
- Planning Application Consultation 3/15/1799/FUL - Benington Park **BPC no objection**
- Planning Application Decision 3/15/1876/HH - Lingfields, Whempstead Road – granted subject to conditions
- Planning Application Decision 3/15/1816/FUL - retention barbecue at The Bell PH – Planning Permission Granted
- 07. Recreational Facilities**
- ◆ **Car Park and Playground, Benington Recreation Ground** The Chairman reported that Benington Recreation Ground Charitable Trust had nearly completed registration of the land. After taking ownership of the play ground in November 2013 Benington Recreation Ground Charitable Trust have agreed to take over the running and insurance. Benington Parish Council agreed to donate £300 towards the BRGCT 2015 Firework Event as in previous years. The Chairman reported that the Firework Event was a big success and much appreciated by the village.
  - ◆ **Funding Opportunity** – Tesco – for organisations involved in sport. The Chairman to pass this communication to P Warren.
- 08. Fair** No representative of the Fair was available to attend the meeting. Cllr Hughes to co-ordinate a meeting with the Fair organisers for early in December.
- 09. School** Cllr Jaques advised that new School Governors are undertaking training.
- 10. Correspondence received**
- ◆ Bill Smith had written to say that he had suggested only painting yellow lines on part of Town Lane, not the whole of it as was reported in the last meeting’s minutes.

- ◆ Herts County Council Recycling Campaign correspondence had been passed to Benington Parish magazine for publishing.
- ◆ BPC agreed to make a grant to St Peter's Churchyard of £3,000.00 as in previous years.
- ◆ BPC agreed to make a grant of £500.00 to Benington Preschool towards astroturfing under the Oak Tree. The Chairman to advise Benington Preschool.
- ◆ The Chairman had received a letter listing complaints about activities at the Bell which stated that Robin and Daphne Mills agreed with the complainant. This is not true.

**11. Members' Points of Information**

- ◆ **Flooding Blacksmiths Hill** The Chairman reported that Hertfordshire County Council had indicated that they would improve the French drain and erect a bund to resolve this issue. The Chairman is awaiting further details.
- ◆ **Accounts** The Chairman stated that the Auditors had passed the Benington Parish Council Accounts for the year ending April 2015.

**12. Date of Next Meeting** Wednesday 13 January 2016 at 8.00 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.03 pm.