

# BENINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Benington Parish Council Meeting  
9 March 2016 8.00 pm  
Benington School

## Minutes

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

**In attendance:** J A Haire (Clerk), Cllr Crofton and 12 members of the public

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**01. Apologies:** Apologies were received from Cllr Taylor.

**02. Declaration of Interests :** None

**03. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

a) **Acceptance**

- The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 13 January 2016 were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

b) **Review of Actions**

- **BT flooding problem outside the village hall.** The Chairman reported that the gully by the telephone pole had been blocking intermittently. BT and Ringway had agreed with Cllr Hughes they would install a new drain in March at the earliest. This would involve road closure notices and traffic management, but nothing had happened so far. The Chairman suggested that when the road was closed he could take down adjacent trees which were overhanging the road, and this was agreed. In view of the difficulties in getting Highways to clear the blocked gully, it was agreed that the Chairman would contact Ken Shanahan to do this during the Easter School Holidays at a cost of £95.
- **Defibrillator** Cllr Morcom advised that one defibrillator had been installed in the entrance to the Village Hall, and the other defibrillator would be installed shortly outside Ernest Doe. CPR classes, which would involve watching a video, would be arranged shortly, one for parents in the morning after the school drop-off, and one in the evening.
- **Bus Shelter Library** Outstanding - the Chairman had measured for the shelves but they had not been made.
- **Pond fence** The Chairman and Cllr Taylor had not made the temporary repairs to the fence.
- **Litter bin** The Chairman confirmed that the new litter bin had been installed.
- **Lamp post and path subsidence** – the Clerk had chased Highways who apologized for the delay in resolving these issues.
- **Request for donation from Hertford Museum** – Cllr Jaques had requested information as to what a donation from Benington Parish would be put towards, and what artefacts the Museum has which relate to Benington, but had received no response.

- **Lychgate bench** - The Chairman advised that the oak was available for the bench and was awaiting further instruction. The drawing had been submitted.

#### 04. **Village Pond**

- **Pond Fence** Cllr Daniel had arranged for Herts University to carry out a Wildlife Survey on 11 & 12 April at sunrise and sunset on the village pond and other ponds close by.

#### 05. **Roads**

- **Gravel spilling on to the footway outside No 66 Walkern Road** Cllr Hughes reported that this issue has been resolved.
- **Affinity Water Project** Cllr Hughes reported that, in connection with the Affinity Water Project to pipe water from Dane End to the Whitehall Pumping Station, there would be road closure notices relating to Whempstead Road in approximately 6 weeks. Cllr Hughes was in dialog with Affinity Water, Amy and resident Nick Dobie who lives on the corner.
- **Footpath from the School to the Pond** Cllr Crofton reported that he had not received photographs sent to him electronically by Cllr Daniel in December. Cllr Daniel was able to provide him with hard copies of the photographs. Cllr Crofton confirmed that the footpath will be funded from his Highways Locality Budget. Cllr Daniel requested that the bank be cut back in areas where the path was narrowed.
- **Bollards outside the school** It was agreed that Cllr Crofton would get an estimate for the work to be carried out by Highways, and arrange a meeting with the Highways Officer. To install any item on Highways property takes a considerable time as it has to have a traffic order and public notices before implementation. Due to the specification of the work it is likely that the cost will be between £3000 - £5000.

#### 06. **Planning**

- Planning Application Decision 3/15/2348/HH - HH – Lingfields Whempstead Road Benington - Proposed outbuilding to provide garage, garden store, general store and office – refused.
- Planning Application Consultation 3/16/0230/LBC - Pound Cottage 1 Town Lane Benington Stevenage Hertfordshire - Additional replacement limecrete floor slabs; Replacement windows and doors to rear corridor; and dry lining section of front wall.
- Notice to Parish / Town Council - APPLICATION: 3/16/0340/PNHH - Single storey rear extension - Depth 6.0 metres, Maximum height 3.0 metres, Eaves height 3.0 metres. (Under current planning legislation some extensions to dwellings can be carried out without express planning permission).
- Planning Application Consultation 3/16/0388/HH - Woodlands Whempstead Road Benington - Single Storey Replacement Extension.
- Planning Application Consultation 3/16/0389/LBC - Woodlands Whempstead Road Benington - Single Storey Replacement Extension.

The above planning notifications were read out by the Chairman. There were no objections by BPC to any of the applications or consultations.

#### 07. **Recreational Facilities**

- The Chairman reported that Benington Recreation Ground Charitable Trust was not ready to give a presentation to Benington Parish Council. Cllr Daniel had attended the AGM, the Minutes of which, she had been advised, would be published on Facebook and the Benington Recreation Ground website.

- Cllr Jaques had received an email from Peter Warren requesting the Parish Council continue to fund the grass cutting and insurance. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council would continue to make a donation towards the running costs of the Recreation Ground.
- It was requested that the two bins closest to the Play Ground be replaced as the capacity of the existing ones is too small during the summer months. The Chairman agreed to arrange for these bins to be supplied and installed.
- The Chairman had received a letter from the Land Registry naming the Trustees of Benington Recreation Ground Charitable Trust as the owners of the land. Peter Warren handed to the Chairman and Councillors a copy of correspondence regarding the transfer of land known as the Car Park and Playground Benington.

## 08. Fair

- The Chairman reported that the meeting to explore ways in which BPC could support the Fair had taken place, and he was waiting for Mr Hawes to get back to him with a wish list of capital items for the Parish Council to consider. Mr Hawes' aim is to raise the profile of the Fair and to welcome anyone interested in becoming involved in the organization of the Fair.

## 09. School

- Cllr Jaques reported that newer School Governors were attending training courses over the coming weeks.

## 10. Finance

### Expenditure and Income from 14 January 2016 – 08 March 2016

| Date Paid     | Name                   | Details                                  | Total     |
|---------------|------------------------|--|-----------|
| 02.02.16      | Tina Piggott           | Litter Picking                           | £ 130.00  |
| 04.03.16      | MCCash and Hay         | Accountants                              | £ 138.00  |
| 09.08.16      | Herts County Council   | Street Lighting – energy and maintenance | £1,616.60 |
| 04.03.16      | Tina Piggott           | Litter Picking                           | £ 130.00  |
| <b>Income</b> |                        |  |           |
| 24.02.16      | HM Revenue and Customs | VAT Repayment                            | £ 347.56  |

## 11. Correspondence received

- **LCPAS – Public Nuisance and Bylaws – Dog Fouling.** Cllr Jaques was willing to attend a course but no suitable dates had been offered. She expressed an interest in requesting LCPAS arrange a local course and get other Parishes involved. Cllr Crofton advised that there are 8 Enforcement Officers in E Herts to monitor obstructive parking on pavements, tackling anti-social behaviour and alcohol intoxication in public places, as well as dog fouling. Help is available regarding the latter through Cliff Cardoza, Head of Environmental Services in the form of posters to educate pet owners.
- Dot Nolan had advised the Parish Council of debris in Whempstead Road and the requirement of trimming trees clear of the street lamp. The Chairman agreed to contact the NFU to establish responsibility regarding clearing the debris from the trees. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would contact Highways to report the trees obstructing the street lamp.

- Lydia Shaw had requested that the bus stops outside her house which is by the Old Shop. Cllr Hughes agreed to contact Arriva Bus Company regarding this.

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

- **Litter pick Good Friday** The Chairman confirmed the annual Litter Pick – gloves, bags and handy-reacher-litter-pickers provided. Meet at 2 pm on the Green.
- **Intermittently blocked Gulley by the Parish Hall** When the BT sump drain is installed Cllr Crofton agreed to work with them to sort that drain out, which may need to be rodded. He advised that many drains are simply soak-aways and not main drains.

## **13. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting followed by the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 11 May 2016 at 7.30 pm in the School

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.53 pm.