

BENINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Benington Parish Council Meeting
21 September 2016 8.00 pm
Benington School

Minutes

Present: R Bott (Chair) K Daniel
B Morcom
M Hughes

In attendance: J Haire (Clerk), and 11 members of the public

01. Apologies: No apologies were received

02. Declaration of Interests : None

03. Minutes of the Last Meeting

a) **Acceptance**

- **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 20 July 2016.** The Chairman advised that Marilyn Moore had emailed the Parish Clerk regarding Item 7 Future Planning Development for Benington, stating that she had put herself forward to put together a Neighborhood Plan. The Minutes have been amended to read 'not enough people in the village had put themselves forward'. The Minutes were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

b) **Review of Actions**

- **Defibrillator** The Chairman advised that second defibrillator had been installed outside Ernest Doe. He agreed to contact the Partner of Cllr Taylor regarding facilitation of a Training Course for villagers. The date of 26 November was agreed and a notice to this effect would be placed in the Parish Magazine **Action: R Bott**
- **Lamp post and path subsidence** On 22 August Cllr Crofton had been advised that the leaning lamp post had been straightened and levelled the previous day. He was further advised that the lamp post had been found to have been vandalized some time ago. However, after communicating this to Lisa Rose who originally reported the problem with the lamp shining into her bedroom window, she advised him that no straightening had taken place. Lisa Rose did not believe the lamp post had been vandalized. With regard to the subsiding concrete path at the same location, this would be examined and fed into the system if repairs were thought necessary. Cllr Crofton had reported this information back to Highways and sought an explanation in respect of why he had been misled. The Parish Clerk to follow up. **Action: J Haire**
- **Request for Bus to stop** Centrebus had agreed to this request and a copy of the correspondence had been passed to Mr and Mrs Shaw. Resolved.
- **Street Light on Town Lane** This street light had not been repaired Parish Clerk to follow up. **Action: J Haire**
- **Damaged street light Old School Green** There had been a delay in presenting this claim to the insurers as the Councillors considered whether to

carry out the work themselves. Cllr Bott to follow up with the Parish Insurers who were questioning why there had been a delay. **Action: R Bott**

- **Development of Green Belt in Aston** It was agreed that the Chairman would write in support of Aston Parish's objection to this development.

Action: R Bott

- **Fly tipping in Cotton Lane** The Chairman had made enquiries about installing hidden cameras. Herts Council did not have the manpower to manage the cameras and their solution was to clear sites once a month. Wildlife cameras were discussed and it was agreed that Cllr Morcom would contact Duncan Wallace about progressing these. **Action: B Morcom**

- **Overhanging vegetation** – the Chairman had cut back areas reported at the last meeting. Further sites were discussed including the end of Burns Green. It was agreed that the Chairman would contact Highways to establish who was responsible for these hedges. **Action: R Bott**

04. Village Pond

Cllr Daniel produced photographs courtesy of Robin Mills taken in 1980's when the pond was last drained. It was agreed that a Notice Board would be erected in due course requesting that bread was not fed to the ducks, as it was not good for the ducks and contaminates the water. It was further agreed that the Chairman would contact Veolia as soon as possible to arrange for a sample of silt to be checked for contaminants. **Action: R Bott**

A quote was to be obtained by Cllr Hughes to renew and repair the pond fence where necessary after the pond had been drained, using kiln dried posts.

Action : M Hughes

05 Roads

- **BT Box and new drainage Walkern Road** (outside the Village Hall). Cllr Crofton had advised that Network Management would undertake this work in the school holidays as Benington Primary School would be affected by the road closure. The next available date was 13th February 2017. The drain across the road had sunk and a large pot hole at the junction of Church Green and Town Lane were discussed. Cllr Hughes to follow up.

Action: M Hughes

06 Planning

Planning Notifications – the following Notifications were read out by the Chairman.

- Planning Application Consultation 3/16/1552/FUL – 4 Town Lane, Benington - Summer hut for residential use (retrospective). BPC - no objection
- Planning Application Consultation 3/16/1626/HH – 64, Walkern Road, Benington - Summer house (retrospective). BPC objected to this application. The summer house had a detrimental effect on neighbouring properties and Councillors had received several complaints from local residents. The Parish Council were concerned that the applicants were not prepared to use the normal planning routes of which they were aware.
- Planning Application Consultation 3/16/1620/HH - 64, Walkern Road, Benington - Detached garage (retrospective). BPC objected to this application. The garage had a detrimental effect on neighbouring properties and was unsightly from the road. Councillors had received several complaints

from local residents. The Parish Council were concerned that the applicants were not prepared to use the normal planning routes of which they were aware.

- Planning Application Decision 3/16/1620/HH – refused. The residents have 12 weeks to appeal (right of passage) in which case the Planners will inform neighbours and PC and there will be a limited period of time during which comments can be submitted.
- Planning Application Consultation 3/16/1900/HH - 68 Whempstead Road Benington Stevenage - Single storey side / rear extension. BPC – no objection.
- **Future Planning Development for Benington** The Chairman stated that the Government had decided to take the brakes off granting planning permissions which meant the PC could see more coming through. Applications would be dealt with as they arose.

07 Recreational Facilities

- **Request for donation towards Firework Event in November.** Peter Warren had approached the Chairman with a request for a donation of £300. This was agreed by all Councillors present.

08 Fair

- There had been no communication from the Fair Committee regarding the Parish Council’s contribution to the Fair since the previous Parish Council Meeting. It was agreed that Cllr Hughes would contact Mike Hawes to clarify the situation. Mr Hawes was looking to step down as Chairman of the Fair Committee, and would be very pleased to hear from any new volunteers as soon as possible. **Action: M Hughes**

09 School

- **Bollards** The Parish Clerk had requested details of the regulations regarding the width of pavements where bollards could be erected. However, it appears that the pavement is damaged by the vehicles of one particular company. It was agreed that the Parish Council would write to the Transport Manager of this company. **Action: M Hughes**

10 Finance

10.1 Accounts Expenditure and Income 21.07.16 to 20.09.16

Date Paid	Name	Details	Total
30.07.16	Tina Piggott	Litter Picking	£ 130.00
30.07.16	Frank Cooper	Grass cutting	£ 259.20
30.07.16	Clerk Salary	Clerk Salary & Telephone and Broadband Allowance July 2016	£ 320.00
01.09.16	Frank Cooper	Grass cutting	£ 223.20
01.09.16	S Barmby	Repairs Playground	£ 400.00
01.09.16	Tina Piggott	Litter Picking	£ 130.00
01.09.16	Benington Village Hall	Room Hire PC Meeting	£ 15.00
01.09.16	Clerk Salary	Clerk Salary & Telephone and Broadband Allowance and stationery August 2016	£ 344.69

Income 21.07.16 – 20.09.16

Date Recd	Name	Details	Total
21.07.16	E Herts Council	NHBG 2016	£ 7,778.00
08.09.16	E Herts Council	Picking Litter	£ 1,042.08

11 Correspondence Received

- Letter from Kit Burgess re parking of caravans on the Village Green. Mr Burgess produced a petition signed by approximately 76 members of the village who wanted to make Benington Parish Council aware that they feel very strongly that the parking of cars, commercial vehicles and caravans detracts from the ‘natural beauty’ of Benington Village Green, both for residents and visitors alike. The Chairman had requested that the caravan be moved, and a suitable site for this had been found. However, the caravan continued to be parked on the Village Green for varying periods. Photographic evidence from Mr Burgess showed a brown patch of grass after the caravan had been moved. The Chairman recognized that many people in the village feel very strongly about this, and it was agreed that he would speak to those concerned to resolve the matter permanently. **Action: R Bott**
- Email from Ms Taylor re objection to planning application for a double garage at 64 Walkern Road, Benington
- Email from Andy Pratt re damage to a parked car on Town Lane
- Email from D Tulloch re objection to planning application for a double garage at 64 Walkern Road, Benington
- Letter from Shirley Davey re objection to planning application for a double garage at 64 Walkern Road, Benington
- Came & Company, Parish Council Insurance Renewal - it was agreed that a very competitive quote from a new entry in the market would be accepted.
- Email from East Herts Council advising it is undertaking an open space, sport and recreation assessment as part of their review into the provision of open space, sport and recreation. It was agreed that the Chairman would complete and return the attached questionnaire. **Action R Bott**
- Email request from Jenny Ferrar re holding future meetings of the PC in the Poppy Room at the Village Hall, and clarification of responsibility of the verges in the village. A vote was taken and Councillors agreed to continue to hold the meetings in the School. Re ownership of the verges, the Chairman advised that most of the verges are registered with the Land Registry.
- Letter from Solicitors Slater and Gordon passed to Parish Clerk by Peter Warren, re incident at Benington Recreation Ground in September 2013. The Chairman had passed this correspondence to the Insurers.

12 Members' Points of Information

- The drains at the bottom of Stoopers Hill, only one of which was in working order, and ditches at the opposite side of the road were discussed. As it was unlikely that Highways would address this, it was therefore agreed that the Chairman would inspect the site with a view to seeking a quote from Shanahan to pump out and rod the drains. **Action R Bott**

13 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 9 November 2016 at 8.00 pm in the School.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.12 pm.