

BENINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

e-mail: clerk.beningtonpc@yahoo.co.uk

Benington Annual Parish Council Meeting
10 May 2017 8.00 pm
Benington School

Minutes

Present: R Bott (Chair) K Daniel
B Morcom J Jaques
M Hughes S James

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

01. Apologies: None

02. Election of Chairman and signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Richard Bott asked for nominations for the election of Chairman. Cllr Morcom nominated Richard Bott. Cllr Daniel seconded the motion and all present were in favour. Richard Bott was duly elected and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

03. Election of Vice Chairman and signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Jaques nominated Cllr Morcom for the office of Vice-Chairman. Chairman Bott seconded the motion and all present were in favour. Cllr Morcom was duly elected and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

04. Declaration of Interests : None

05. Minutes of the Last Meeting

a) Acceptance

- **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 8 March 2017**
Parish Councillors agreed that the Minutes be approved. The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

b) Review of Actions

- **Defibrillator** Cllr Morcom advised that training by the East of England Ambulance Service on the use of the defibrillator had taken place the previous Thursday when approximately 40 people attended. Cllr Morcom advised that Simon Marshall may return to do another training session for the school.

Action: Bob Morcom

- **Lamp post and path subsidence** – no update **Action: J Haire**
- **Damaged street light Old School Green** -resolved
- **Missing drain cover Walkern Road** - resolved
- **Restore bank outside the new house on Whempstead Road** - Cllr Hughes had again spoken to the residents who confirmed this would be done after the landscaping, which was nearing completion. **Action: M Hughes**
- **Replacement Litter Bin by Brick Bus Shelter** - a replacement bin had been ordered and was due for delivery, following which the Chairman would install it. **Action: R Bott**

- **Damaged streetlight 146 Town Lane** – insurance claim ongoing.
Action: J Haire
- **Refurbishing village benches** - The Chairman advised that these needed rubbing down and staining. He would source good quality wood stain, and requested that anyone willing to volunteer as part of a team to carry out the refurbishment contact him.
Action: Richard Bott
- **Sponsorship of Benington Website** - Richard Bott had spoken to Ian Richardson at Ernest Doe who had indicated that he would be happy to do so.
Action: Richard Bott & J Haire
- **Parking on Village Green** - Richard Bott had spoken to Andrew Bott and agreed, as owners of cottages on the Green, that a clause be inserted in future tenancy agreement stipulating that vehicles/caravans should not be parked on the Green. Vehicles were to be parked along the fence adjacent to the boundary of the Croft.

06 Village Pond

Pond Report Cllr Daniel reported that the fence along the Duck Lane side of the pond had been replaced. Councillors had agreed by email to accept the more competitive quote from Clearwater Pond and Lake Management Ltd to install pre-planted coir mats along the Duck Lane margin of the pond, and to treat the water with chalk which would increase diversity of bugs in the pond, and help with the establishment of the plants. Clearwater also recommended treating the tree stumps to prevent sprouting (also included in the quote), and Ben Soane met with Cllr Daniel and Julie Haire last week to identify exactly which tree stumps would be treated. It was agreed to leave a hawthorn and wild dog rose. Ben Soane warned against introducing duckweed under any circumstances as it can cover a surface in a matter of weeks in the right environment. Wildfowl and fish do eat it but only in small quantities, not enough to cope with an outbreak. There was a risk that it could be introduced along with donated plants. Cllr Jaques advised that she had a source of oxygenating plants which could be introduced into the pond. It was agreed that she would send a photograph to the Parish Clerk to assist in identification of the plant, and the Clerk would seek advice from Ben Soane as to its suitability. Cllr Daniel noted that the level of water in the pond was almost a foot lower than usual as a result of the drought. **Action: Jo Jaques**

07 Roads

- **Drainage issue** – Ringway had ordered a detailed CCTV drainage investigation re the drainage problems in Walkern Road. James Vine had advised that the only way to safely undertake this work was using a road closure and they would letter drop residents and install advance warning signs two weeks before the start date, so to inform of the upcoming road closure. Ringway had a provisional programme date of the 31st July, subject to HCC Network Management approval. As this work had to be undertaken by using a road closure, they had needed give HCC a 3 month lead in period for permitting purposes.
- **Old School Green** - it was reported that Old School Green had been resurfaced the previous Sunday, to the surprise of Councillors, as it had not been apparent that this had been necessary.

08 Planning

- Planning Application Consultation 3/17/0405/PNHH - Lingfields Whempstead Road - Single storey rear extensions
- Planning Application Decision 3/17/0019/HH - 72 Whempstead Road - Second storey extension to side and single storey extension to rear - refused
- Planning Application Decision 3/17/0146/HH - 68 Whempstead Road - Single storey extensions to the rear and on both side elevations - planning permission granted
- Planning Application Decision 3/17/0175/HH - 2 Whempstead Road - 2 storey extension - granted
- Planning Application Consultation 3/17/0719/HH - The Croft 2 Town Lane - rebuild small brick wall
- Planning Application Consultation 3/17/0745/HH - 70 Walkern Road Benington Stevenage - single storey extension
- Planning Application Decision 3/17/0405/PNHH - Lingfields - single storey extensions - Prior approval not required
- Planning Application Decision 3/17/0307/REM - Land Adj 4 Benington Park Farm Cottages Benington - approval granted
- Planning Application Consultation 3/17/0804/LBC - Woodlands Whempstead Road - Removal of; rear brick chimney and external boiler, internal wall between hall
- Planning Application Consultation 3/17/0806/LBC - Woodlands Whempstead Road - single storey addition
- Planning Application Consultation 3/17/0829/HH - Pond Cottage 38 Hebing End Benington - Replacement of existing conservatory with orangery-style extension
- Planning Application Consultation 3/17/0718/LBC - The Croft 2 Town Lane Benington - Rebuild small brick wall
- Planning Application Consultation 3/17/0805/HH - Woodlands Whempstead Road - Single storey rear addition - Application Withdrawn by Applicant/Agent
- E/16/0049/ENF Old Mead Barn, 64 Walkern Road, Benington - enforcement notice appealed

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

09 Recreational Facilities

- The Chairman advised that before the last PCM Peter Warren had requested that a member of the Parish Council attend the next meeting of the BRGCT to explain Section 106, and it was agreed that Cllr Morcom would attend (see Minute 7, PCM 8 March 2017). Peter Warren was informed of this decision and the date of the meeting is awaited. Cllr Hughes explained that a 'Section 106' is a legal agreement between an applicant seeking planning permission and the local planning authority, which is used to mitigate the impact of new homes on the local community and infrastructure. Section 106 Agreements often required a financial contribution from the applicant. The New Homes Bonus is a grant paid by central government to local councils to reflect and incentivize housing growth in their areas. Councils decide how to spend the New Homes Bonus.

10 Fair

- The date of the Fair would be Saturday 8 July 2017. The Fair Committee would be very pleased to hear from new volunteers as soon as possible. Cllr Daniel would welcome contact from anyone willing to run the Bookstall this year. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council would insure the event and provide signage, and his farm would insure the tractor rides.

11 School

- Cllr Jaques reported that she had attended a Meeting at the School the previous week. The new Head Teacher who will start in September, Mrs Barbara Swann, would be visiting to meet parents in June. A number of Governors would be standing down at the end of the academic year - Jo Ross, Ken Grundy and Sheila Mackey. The school was suffering massively with the computer servers, and trying to raise funds for replacement. Councillors requested that Cllr Jaques advised them of the spec to enable them to investigate whether any assistance could be offered. Cllr Jaques advised that the School did not know how it would be affected by the new funding arrangements. **Action: Jo Jaques**

12 Finance

12.1 To fix the amount of the Chairman's Allowance in pursuance of section 15(5) of the Local Government Act 1972

The Chairman's allowance was agreed at £50.00 as in previous years.

12.2 Accounts Expenditure and Income 08.03.17 to 09.05.17

Date Paid	Name	Details	Total
02.04.17	McCash & Hay	Maintenance of PAYE records + filing end of year return with IR	£ 60.00
02.04.17	Tina Piggott	Litter Picking March 2017	£ 135.00
02.04.17	Clerk Salary	Clerk Salary & Telephone and Broadband Allowance and postage March 2017	£ 320.00
05.04.17	Peter Kingsnorth	Website maintenance 1 Jan - 31 Mar 17, + 2 signs for pond	£166.50
19.04.17	C U Lighting Ltd.	Replacement streetlight Cabbage Green	£1,886.00
01.05.17	McCash & Hay	Completion of Parish Council Annual Return	£162.00
01.05.17	A G Treecare Ltd	Replace post and rail fence Duck Lane side of pond	£1260.00
01.05.17	Clerk Salary	Clerk Salary & Telephone and Broadband Allowance and postage April 2017	£ 320.00
03.05.17	Tina Piggott	Litter Picking April 2017	£ 150.00

Income 08.03.17 to 09.05.17

28.04.17	E Hertfordshire Council	Precept	£8,683.00
----------	-------------------------	---------	-----------

12.3 Accounts for the 4th Quarter

The accounts for the 4th Quarter of 2016/2017 were presented to the meeting. The Chairman advised that the Internal Audit had been completed by McCash and Hay, who confirmed that the books and papers were in good order.

12.4 Approval of the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2017

The Chairman took the Parish Council through the Section 1 - Annual governance statement, following which Section 2 The Accounting statements 2016/17 were presented. The Chairman proposed that both the Section 1 - Annual Governance statement 2016/17 and Section 2 - Accounting statements 2016/17 be approved by the Parish Council, and that the Chairman and the Clerk sign the Annual Return. Cllr Hughes seconded the motion and all present were in favour. The Chairman and Clerk duly signed Sections 1 & 2 of the Annual Return. The Clerk to return all relevant documentation to BDO by 10th July 2017.

Action: J. Haire

13 Correspondence received

- Vandalised Bench - bottom of Three Stiles (back slats knocked out) - email from Irene Dickinson. The Chairman had received two quotes for repair, and it was agreed to accept the most competitive quote from CCL Woodworkers. The Chairman would instruct CCL.
- Overgrowth on footway - email from John Dickinson. The Chairman confirmed that Andrew Bott had cut the offending hedge.
- Letter from BDO informing the Parish Council of the details for the annual audit for the year ending 31st March 2017 (see 12.4).
- Notice board on the end wall of the Methodist chapel had come away from the wall - email from Janet Radford. The Chairman advised that he and Mark Smith from CCL Joinery had repaired the notice board within a few days.
- A suggestion to Cllr Crofton that at the same time as treating all the benches, the bus shelters could be treated as a job lot - email from Cllr Crofton. See Review of Actions -Refurbishing village benches.

14 Members' Points of Information

- None

15 To fix the dates and times of ordinary meetings of the Council for the ensuing year

It was agreed that the ordinary Parish Council meetings would be held on the second Wednesday, every other month, throughout the year. Dates as follows:

12 July 2017	13 September 2017	08 November 2017
10 January 2018	14 March 2018	9 May 2018
11 July 2018	12 September 2018	14 November 2018

These dates may be subject to change.

All meetings to be held at 8.00 pm except the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 9 May, 2018 which will commence at 7.30pm and will be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting.

16 Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 12 July 2017 at 8.00 pm in the Poppy Room at the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55 pm.