

BENINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Email: clerk@beningtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Benington Parish Council meeting held in Benington School Hall
20 March 2024

MINUTES

Present: Cllr S Rew (Chair) Cllr R Hewlett (Vice Chair)
Cllr F McClure Cllr D McLean
Cllr Radford Cllr S James

In attendance: Jo Ransom (Clerk), Ken Crofton County Councillor Herts CC, Tony Stowe District Councillor EHDC, 2 Police Community Officers (PCOs) and 2 members of the public

The Chairman thanked the PCOs for attending the meeting

1) Apologies

- None

2) Declaration of Interests

- None

3) Minutes of the last meeting

a) Acceptance

- Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting were accepted by Councillors as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

b) Review of Actions

- Actions covered below

4) Village Pond

- A review of the fencing issues was undertaken and 5 posts require replacing as well as rails. 3 quotes have been requested. **Action: Clerk**

5) Roads

- Parking Three Stiles - a site visit has taken place to establish the best way forward. The Council agreed very few spaces can be created and the project is not cost effective. The Council, therefore, decided that it is not possible to proceed. **Action: All**
- Various issues in Blacksmith Hill and Three Stiles including potholes, a broken drain cover and car park marking. Cllr Deffley received a letter from Clarion agreeing to carrying out these works. Follow up checks to be undertaken. **Action: Clerk**
- The drain issues in Three Stiles with flood water eroding the road and pavements still requires remedial work to limit future damage. The Council agreed to talk to a local resident with knowledge concerning the ownership and history of the problems. **Action: All**
- The Highways department quoted £475 for a speed survey relating to the Council's research into creating a consistent 30mph limit throughout the village. The Members voted with a majority agreeing to proceed with the quote. Cllr McLean was thanked for his continued efforts in this regard. **Action: Cllr McLean**

- Missing 30mph sign at Old School Green – highways ref no. 401003784573. Councillors agreed to purchase a replacement sign and to look into 30mph ‘sticker’ heads as many signs are now faded. **Action: Cllr McLean**
- Walkern Rd/Shummary Lane - road flood relating to irrigation ditches. Subsequently Highways have cleared the drains and follow up work is due – enquiry logged as 23/HCS/1208. Cllr Crofton is meeting with the Highways department to resolve this matter and working with both landowners and tenants to solve the issues. **Action: Cllr Crofton**
- Damage to Benington welcome sign, Church Green. Replacement may be required along with the 30mph sign. Cllr Crofton is handling this and using his discretionary budget to pay for a replacement sign and repair to the damaged sign at Hebing End. **Action: Cllr Crofton**
- Road cleaning is due to be carried out by EHDC and NHDC. The Councils have requested that road parking is at a minimum during the clean. Notice of cleaning to be give to the PC. **Action: Cllr Hewlett**

6) **Planning Update from East Herts District Council**

- Planning consultation - Moles Farm Hebing End removal of agricultural workers’ condition
- Planning consultation - 100 Town Lane Benington. The Council objects to this application due to over development of the plot and parking concerns – planning has been refused
- Planning decision granted – Lingfields demolition of outbuilding and erection of 2 storey side extension
- Planning consultation – Lingfields erection of tennis court
- Planning consultation – 68 Whempstead Rd alterations to original planning consent
- Planning decision granted – Longacre
- Planning consultation – 10 Burns Green side and rear extensions. Neighbours are concerned that the proposed extension in addition to previous extensions will have an adverse effect on their light and is an over development of the cottage
- Planning consultation – Holly Cottage 36 Walkern Rd rear extension

7) **Recreational facilities**

- Cllr Hewlett has sent through various funding opportunities to the Recreation Committee. The Parish Council is keen to see improvements to the playground area and would look into supporting a cost effective and sustainable plan.

8) **Fair**

- No update

9) **School**

- No update

10) **Finance**

Accounts, expenditure and income for period 18 January 2024 to 19 March 2024

10.1 **Expenditure to 18 January 2024 to 19 March 2024**

Date paid	Name	Details	Total
6 March	Tina Piggott	Litter picking and bin	£330

		emptying January and February	
6 March	BBD Electrical	Fitting Defib on surgery wall	£384
6 March	J Ransom	Clerk Salary, Tel & Broadband January and February, special postage and stamps	£949.15
6 March	HMRC	Clerk Salary tax month 10 and 11	£216.80
6 March	R Hewlett	Defib batteries and pads	£336

(Due to banking issues cheques were made to Clerk, HMRC and litter picker for a 2 month period)

10.2 **Income 18 January 2024 – 20 March 2024**

£67 bank Interest for quarter

11. Correspondence receive

- Communications received in relation to the proposed Beane Valley solar plant

12. Members points of information

- New defibrillator fitted at Doctors’ surgery **Actioned: Cllr Hewlett**
- Signage required for the new defibrillator and the Council voted to go ahead with procurement **Action: Cllr Hewlett**
- Cllr Crofton has suggested the Council explore the possibility of employing a road sweeper and Cllr Deffley has been contacted **Actioned: Cllr Hewlett**
- Openreach are using existing infrastructure and there may be more telephone poles required. Gigaclear will dig their own trenches for cabling and all works require the permission of private landowners.
- Five year housing land supply – Cllr Deffley has communicated some of the latest decision making including a site on Whemptead Rd. Cllr Stowe explained that EHDC had identified its housing allocation for the next 5 years. New sites will be required for the District Plan review commencing at the end of 2024.

Action: Cllr Deffley

13. Date of next meeting

- **Wednesday 15 May 2024 7.30 pm in the School Hall for Annual Parish meeting followed by the Parish Council meeting at 8pm.**

14. Public participation

- A member of the public asked about ditch clearing at Flatbacks.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date: