BENINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Email: clerk@beningtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Benington Parish Council meeting held in the School Hall
21 January 2026

MINUTES

Present: Cllr S Rew, Cllr R Hewlett (Vice Chair), Cllr F McClure, Cllr C Radford, Cllr S James, Cllr N Ramsden

In attendance: Jo Ransom (Clerk) and 1 member of the public

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1) Apologies

Cllr T Deffley

2) Declaration of Interests

2.1 Cllr Radford declared an interest on item 6 – Gosmore Paddock planning

3) Minutes of the last meeting

a) Acceptance

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19th November 2025 were accepted by Councillors as an accurate record and signed by the Chair

b) Review of Actions

Actions covered below

4) Village Pond

- It was reported that the pond looks in good health

5) Roads, Highways and Refuse

- Flooding at Blacksmiths Hill and Three Styles - ongoing monitoring will take place particularly during heavy rainfall. **Action: Cllr McClure**
- The issues with the car park at the top of Blacksmith's Hill are unresolved. Cllr McClure visited the site and provided photo evidence. Clarion has been contacted and urged to carry our remedial works **Actioned: Clerk**
- The heritage streetlight at the concrete road to Walkern Hall has yet to be painted black. Other posts are in need of refurbishment – LP7 outside 2A Whempstead Rd and LP6 outside 6 Whempstead Rd. Quote received from Ringways is £957.06. Cllr Radford has surveyed all lampposts and many require remedial action. The PC understands this is the responsibility of Highways as they took on the maintenance and upkeep of all the streetlamps; to be clarified **Action: Clerk**
- Drainage issues and car park flooding at 8&9 Three Stiles. The residents sent a thank you to the PC for urging the Housing Association to undertake remedial work. This has taken place and a refund for the previous electric works has been received.
- Survey of all bins has taken place. Clerk is in contact with East Herts District Council (EHDC) concerning responsibility for upgrading litter and dog waste bins. **Action: Cllr Radford & Clerk**
- The footway linking Three Stiles [next to no. 37] and Town Lane [next to no. 55] – one side is now cleared as the resident has replaced their fence. Once the growing

season starts the other side will become overgrown again. This requires monitoring and removal **Action: Clerk**

- Broken surface on Walkern Rd – report number **401004793787.** This was not considered severe enough to warrant action by Highways. Cllr Hewett agreed to revisit the site and provide an update. **Action: Cllr Hewlett**
- The crossroads at the junction of Whempstead Rd and Watton Rd is causing concern in relation to the lack of signage and the danger this presents. The landowner agreed to hedge cutting to improve visibility. The issue will be communicated to the honourable Chris Hinchliff, MP. He has sent letters to communities stating that 'local authorities can and should draw on historical collision data when assessing road safety measures, but proactive measures to reduce risk should not be contingent on fatal or serious incidents' **Action: Cllr Hewlett & Clerk**

6) Planning Update from East Herts District Council

- The Bell, 4 Town Lane change of use – change of use has been refused by EHDC. The owner has appealed and this will be heard by way of an informal meeting. The meeting will be open to the public, and attendees will be able to make representations.
- Lingfields Whempstead Rd – replacement workshop in the grounds - planning granted
- 68 Whempstead Rd – refined planning applications submitted
- Gosmore Paddock Hebing End – building demolition and erection of 5 new dwellings.

7) Recreational facilities

- Cllr James has agreed to act as the liaison between the Parish Council and the new Recreation committee led by Richard Bott. **Action: Cllr James**

8) Fair

- Nothing to report at this time of year

9) Finance

Accounts, expenditure and income for period 1st November 2025 to 31st December 2025.

9.1 Expenditure

Expenditure 1st November 2025 – 31st December 2025

Date paid	Name	Details	Total
7 Nov	Tina Piggott	Bin emptying and Litter picking September	£165
7 Nov	NCD Maintenance	Grass cutting Oct	£384
7 Nov	HMRC	Clerk tax	£140.80
7 Nov	Parish Council website	Web domain	£14.40
7 Nov	CAB Herts	Donation	£50
7 Nov	J Ransom	Clerk salary and broadband October	£470.03
7 Nov	Parish of St Peter	Church maintenance	£3500
7 Nov	Waste Managed	Large bin emptying	£57.60
30 Nov	Unity Trust Bank	Service charge Nov	£6
5 Dec	Tina Piggott	Litter picking and bin emptying November (bin	£132.50

		emptying up to 13th November)	
12 Dec	Waste managed	Set up costs	£30.96
8 Dec	Waste managed	Large bin emptying	£57.60
22 Dec	Nigel Bennett	Bin emptying and litter picker purchase (from 13th November)	£163.95
5 Dec	NCD maintenance	Grass cutting	£192
5 Dec	HMRC	Clerk Tax	£140.80
12 Dec	British Heart Foundation	New defibrillator	£780
5 Dec	J Ransom	Clerk salary and broadband November	£470.03
31 Dec	Unity Trust Bank	Service charge Dec	£6

9.2 Income 1st November 2025 – 31st December 2025

Vat reclaimed - £1107.13 tax year 23/24

The Council voted to accept the accounts for this period as presented

9.3 The precept for 2026/27 was agreed unanimously and the forms were signed

10) Correspondence received

- Crime statistics for December – no crimes reported in Benington

11) Members points of information

- The memorial bench near the bus stop in Hebing End was discussed and the Council suggested that a tree might be more appropriate to honour the deceased resident's memory **Action: Cllr Hewlett**

12) Date of next meeting

Wednesday 11th March 8pm – School Hall

Dates for other Parish Council meetings in 2026;

- Wednesday 20th May – Annual general meeting 7.30pm followed by Parish Council meeting – School Hall
- Wednesday 15th July 8pm – Poppy room Benington Village Hall
- Wednesday 16th September 8pm - TBA
- Wednesday 18th November 8pm – TBA

14) Public participation

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm

Signed Chairman Date