BENINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 11 March 2026
Benington School Hall
8.00pm

In attendance: Cllr Rew (Chair), Cllr Hewlett (Vice Chair), Cllr Ramsden, Cllr McClure, Cllr Radford, Cllr James, Abi Brown (Clerk), District Cllr Tom Deffley, 3 members of the public.

MINUTES

1 Apologies for absence

None.

Cllr Rew welcomed the new Clerk, Abi Brown and thanked Jo Ransom for her support as Clerk to Benington Parish Council for the past 4 years.

2 Declaration of interests

None

3 Minutes of previous meeting

a) Acceptance

Minutes of the Benington Parish Council meeting held 21st January 2026 were approved as an accurate record of proceedings.

b) Review of actions

Actions were reviewed throughout the meeting. Please see updates below.

4 Village pond

It was reported that a duck had sadly been hit by a car near to the pond. It was felt that the condition of the pond was in good order. There were some puddles reported but it was felt that this was due to the amount of rain we have had recently so no action is required.

5 Roads, footpaths and refuse

- Ongoing monitoring of flooding in Three Stiles will take place particularly during the next heavy rainfall. It was felt that now the gullies have been cleared the flooding issue has reduced for the time being. Regular clearing or preventative accumulation of debris in this gulley is required to completely alleviate the flooding. If and when additional actions are required the parish council will be informed.

- The heritage streetlight - Ringway have yet to paint the column black. It was agreed to challenge Highways in relation to ongoing maintenance costs. Clerk (Jo) has chased but Ringway are denying responsibility. Mark Hughes who was in attendance offered to contact the contractor. Clerk will stay in contact with him with regards to update.

Action: Clerk

- The issues with the car park at the top of Blacksmith's Hill remains unresolved. Cllr McClure visited the site and provided photo evidence. Clarion has been contacted and urged to carry our remedial works. Clerk (Jo) has followed up on this and we are waiting to hear back.

Actioned: Clerk

- Dog waste bins are in a poor state – linked to general waste management issues. It was felt that this should be reviewed. The dog bins are in bad condition. The Clerk advised that residents did not have to use a dog bin to get rid of dog waste. The options will be looked into regarding replacing the bin and collection of the bins.

Action: Clerk

- The footway linking Three Stiles and Town Lane is overgrown and the surface tarmac badly affected – fault no. 401004815608. Clerk to monitor.

Action: Clerk

- The danger at Church Green/Walkern Rd crossroads will be raised with the highways. Clerk has emailed Highways and awaiting response. Richard Whitney, who was in attendance, is happy to help with viewing the location. Mark Hughes also volunteered to speak with Ken Crofton to see if he would be willing to help with obtaining signing.

Action: Clerk

- Fault raised regarding loose chippings in Town Lane – **102001949891.** This has been reported and waiting to hear back from Highways. Clerk to send Cllr Tom Defley request for schedule for the road sweepers.

Action: Clerk

6 Planning updates from East Herts District Council (EHDC)

- The Bell appeal – the owners have appealed against the EHDC's refusal of planning permission for change of use. Appeal is being heard on Tuesday 17th March from 10am. Await outcome.
- Planning permission granted – 68 Whempstead Rd
- Planning permission enquiry - Agricultural buildings 32 Hebing End
- Planning application - Lingfields Whempstead Rd tennis court and pool pavilion

7 Recreational facilities

Cllr James provided an update to Council regarding the progression of a potential working group/committee who will help determine the future of the structure at the recreational ground

Action: Cllr James

8 Fair

Clerk has been contacted for a donation towards the fete. A form has been provided and waiting to receive it back.

9 School

None

10 Finance

10.1 Accounts Expenditure and Income 1st January – 28th February 2026

Clerk circulated the finance report prior to meeting.

10.2 Agree purchase of new accounting software

Clerk advised that after researching potential financial software that the most suitable option would be with Easy PC. All in attendance unanimously agreed to go ahead with the new software from the start of the new financial year at £7.50 per month with the first 3 months being free.

Action: Clerk

11 Correspondence received

- Crime statistics for January - 08/01/2026 Unauthorized taking of a Motor Vehicle, Benington Park 28/01/2026; Theft of vehicle -Walkern Road Benington
- Crime statistics February - 10/02/2026 Malicious Communications, Goody Meade; 15/02/2026 Theft, Town Lane

Clerk will circulate police report.

Action: Clerk

12 Members' points of information

Agree purchase of defibrillator case

Cllr Hewlett has researched options for the purchase of a new metal defib case and whether it should be lockable or not. Both types of units are of a similar price. It was agreed unanimously that an unlocked case would be best. It was also raised that defibs over 10 years old should be replaced and this should be included in next years budget. Cllr Hewlett to advise Clerk on which case to purchase and the supplier.

Action: Cllr Hewlett/ Clerk

13 Dates of meetings in 2026

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

14 Public participation

A resident in attendance queried if it would be possible to install a small path from the bus stop/library by the Benington sign as there is no path available and has become dangerous. The landowner would need to be consulted along with highways. It was felt that this was outside of the Parish Councils jurisdiction and would be for the consideration of Highways.

Another resident queried who is responsible for the pathways due to the grass banks encroaching onto the footpath. It was confirmed that the footpath has been cleared by a resident but is the responsibility of Highways.

Meeting closed: 21:15