Benington Village
HERTFORDSHIRE

Benington Parish Clerk
T: 07584241465
W: www.benington-herts.co.uk

In attendance: Cllr Hewlett (Chair), Cllr Ramsden, Cllr McClure, Cllr Radford (Vice Chair), Abi Brown (Clerk), four residents

Benington Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 20th May 2026

Benington Primary School at 7.45pm

MINUTES

1. **Election of Chair and signing of declaration of Office and Code of Conduct**

   Clerk asked for nominations for the election of Chairman. Cllr Radford nominated Cllr Hewlett. Cllr Ramsden seconded the motion and those present were in favour. Cllr Hewlett was duly elected as Chair and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2. **Apologies To receive and accept apologies for absence**
   None

3. **Election of Vice-Chair and signing of declaration of Office and Code of Conduct**
   Cllr Radford volunteered to become Vice Chair. Cllr Ramsden seconded the nomination and all present were in favour. Cllr Radford was duly elected as Vice Chair and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

1. **Adoption of Standing Orders**
   Councillors reviewed Standing Orders. All Councillors in attendance were in agreement to approve.

2. **Adoption of Financial regulations**
   Councillors reviewed Financial Regulations. All Councillors in attendance were in agreement to approve.

3. **Notice of Registrable Interests**
   None

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9. Declaration of Interests

a) To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda

None

b) To receive written requests for dispensations for declarable interests; and

None

c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

None

10. Minutes

a) To confirm the Minutes of Benington Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 11th March 2026 as an accurate record of proceedings

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11 March 2026 were accepted by Councillors as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

b) Council to review and update actions

Clerk has created a new spreadsheet to monitor actions.

11. Public Issues

A resident queried who is responsible for the pink litter picking bags which are dotted along Whempsted Road. It was felt that as these bags were in Whempsted boundaries it was not within Benington Parish Council's jurisdiction to collect the bags but they will keep an eye on it.

A resident has noticed an increase in the speed of cars in Burns Green and that there is a risk to the young families and the elderly who live in the road due to the drivers not realising it is not a through road. The resident requested if a 'no through road' sign could be installed to reduce the traffic and for the 30mph sign to be moved to the beginning of the road rather than halfway down the road. Cllr Hewlett to contact Cllr Crofton to request movement of sign and additional sign.

Action: Cllr Hewlett

A resident requested advise on how to get a byway turned into a bridal path. It was suggested that the resident send a request to HCC 'Rights of Way' and copy in the Parish Clerk for reference.

12. Roads, Footpaths & Refuse

The crossroads has been reported to MP Chris Hinchliff by Cllr Hewlett who responded by confirming that there does not need to be a fatality for the area to be reviewed for enhancement of signage to reduce the risk of an accident. The reference of the email was CH17339. Cllr Hewlett has asked MP Chris Hinchliff to report the issue and awaits their suggestions. Cllr Radford suggested that as a minimum there show be a 'slow' sign painted on the road to warn oncoming traffic.

There has been some issues with vans parking on the road and turning up the grass verge at the new infill development in Town Lane. This has been reported to EHDC under reference 102002061103.

Cllr Ramsden raised that there is ivy and branches hanging over the road between the school and the duck pond. Clerk to contact Richard Bott for assistance.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Ramsden raised that there was a white car that parks on the bend of the road at the Benington end of the village and due to the speeding cars there have been quite a few near misses. It was suggested that the Council apply for double yellow lines to be installed by Highways.

Action: Clerk

Along Whempsted Road going out of the village there are two oak trees on the turn next to High Elms which need attending to. Cllr Hewlett will go up there and have a look and send location and photos to Clerk for her to look into who is responsible for the trees.

Action: Cllr Hewlett/Clerk

13. Parish Councillor Vacancies

There are two Parish Councillor vacancies. An advert will be placed in the village magazine, on Facebook and on the website.

14. Finance

a) To receive summary report of receipts and payments (March & April 2026)

Clerk requested to set up regular payments as standing orders. Cllr Hewlett proposed and Cllr Ramdsen seconded. All in attendance were in approval. Clerk to set up standing orders for regular payments.

Action: Clerk

b) Approval of Fair Donation Request

Councillors have received a request for a donation of £500 towards Benington Fete. Cllr Hewlett proposed the motion and Cllr Ramsden seconded. Clerk to arrange payment.

Action: Clerk

c) Internal Audit of the Parish Council accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026

The accounts were presented and approved by those present. The Clerk advised that the Internal Audit had been completed by McCash and Hay, who confirmed that the books and papers were in good order.

d) Approval of the Annual Return of the Parish Council accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026

The Chair took the Parish Council through the Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2025/26, following which Section 2 - The Accounting statements 2025/26 were presented. The Chair proposed that both the Section 1 - Annual Governance statement 2025/26 and Section 2 - Accounting statements 2025/26 be approved by the Parish Council, and that the Chair and the Clerk sign the Annual Return. Cllr Radford seconded the motion and all present were in favour. The Chair and Clerk duly signed Sections 1 & 2 of the Annual Return. The Council certified itself as exempt from external review. The Clerk will return the relevant documentation to the External Auditor.

15. Planning

90 Whempstead Road Benington Hertfordshire SG2 7DE

Ref. No: 3/26/0397/FUL | Received: Fri 20 Mar 2026

Construction of replacement self-build dwelling with air source heat pump, solar panels, and detached garage following demolition of existing bungalow and detached garage

No comment

Idle End High Elms Lane Benington Hertfordshire SG2 7DG

3/26/0449/HH | Mon 30 Mar 2026

Demolition of conservatory/entrance hall and chimney. Erection of open entrance porch and alterations to fenestration

No comment

The Stables 40 Hebing End Benington Hertfordshire SG2 7DD

3/26/0473/HH | Fri 03 Apr 2026

Front and rear extensions and conversion of garage to habitable room

No comment

74 Whempstead Road Benington Hertfordshire SG2 7DE

Ref. No: 3/26/0597/HH | Received: Tue 28 Apr 2026

Erection of detached double garage with workshop at the rear

No comment

44 Walkern Road Benington Hertfordshire SG2 7LP

Ref: 3/26/0489/CLEO

Certificate of lawfulness for continuous use of land and stable building for B8 storage

Clerk has contacted EHDC to see why the Parish Council were not made aware of this application. They have responded to advise that as it is a Certificate of Lawfullness, third parties such as Parish Councils and neighbours are not consulted.

16. Reports to the Council

Communication has been received from Transport for Hertfordshire County Council proposing improvements for the Church Green bus stop and cycling into Benington. They are proposing to install bicycle parking in the village car park and a timetable on a live screen at the bus stop. It was felt that the screen at the bus stop would not be suitable or necessary but that the bicycle parking would be beneficial at the hall. Cllr Hewlett will arrange a meeting with HCC to discuss the options going forward.

Action: Cllr Hewlett

Meeting closed: 21:01