

BENEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Benefield Village Hall on Monday 24th February 2020

Councillors Present	Jason Cutmore, John Naylor, Charles Parkhouse, Alf Pridmore, Tadman (Chair) and Alan Tarbuck
Also Present	One member of the public, District Councillor Vowles and Mrs S Cook (Clerk)

- 492 **Apologies** had been received Cllr Shatford and were accepted.
- 493 There were no **declarations of interest**
- 494 **The member of public** suggested that there should be some sort of representation from Biggin and Benefield Estate at the Council Meetings, not necessarily as a Member of the Parish Council but so that the Council can highlight any issues with footpaths etc. Cllr Tadman agreed to contact the Estate.
- 495 **District Councillor Vowles reported** that there is confusion as to the weight limit on North Bridge when it is completed, if it does remain at 7 ½ tonne that will mean lorries over that weight should be servicing Oundle i.e. CWS, Waitrose or Tesco, which in turn means there shouldn't be as many lorries using the A427. Cllr Vowles has implemented a lorry watch in Cotterstock and regularly reports HGV's using Cotterstock as a short cut, perhaps Benefield should consider it if the North Bridge weight limit remains at 7 ½ tonne.
- Tom Pursglove MP, has written to the Chief Executive of ENC outlining concerns that Oundle residents have over the Cotterstock Road Planning Application urging ENC to reject the application at Planning Development Control Committee Meeting on Wednesday 26th February. The letter included a submission from Oundle Town Council.
- 496 Cllr Parkhouse proposed that **The Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th January** should be approved, Cllr Cutmore seconded the proposal, this was agreed by all the other Councillors and signed by Cllr Tadman
- 497 **Matters Arising from the meeting held on 6th January**
- Pathfinder II:** Cllr Tadman confirmed that the remaining funding as to be spent on some sort of flood defence, be that clear gulley's or ditches.
 - Street Lighting** – Cllr Pridmore reported that he has obtained quotes to complete the street lights in Lower Benefield and one in Upper Benefield. It was proposed by Cllr Tarbuck that the Parish Council should spend £1550 plus VAT on upgrading the remaining lights in Lower Benefield, this was seconded by Cllr Cutmore and agreed unanimously by everyone. Cllr Pridmore to contact E-on.
 - Grass Cutting Quotes:** Cllr Parkhouse is waiting for Leicestershire Gardens to confirm that they will continue cutting this year. Cllr Parkhouse proposed that the number of cuts be increased to 8, this was seconded by Cllr Pridmore and agreed unanimously by everyone.
 - Outstanding Highway Issues** – The Clerk has received the following from Michelle Johnson at NCC Highways:
The 3 new road signs in close proximity to each other at the top of Stocks Hill.
“The existing sign relates to the whole series of bends in and between the two villages, having a distance plate of 1 mile to show the duration of the bends. The corresponding one is opposite the former Wheatsheaf in Upper Benefield.
The new signs were placed in respect of the bend near Stocks Lane following surface testing of the A427, which we carry out annually for all A and B roads. Where results do not meet a specified level, then we programme further work. Generally, an additional

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sign warning of slippery road surface will be installed pending any further investigations, which is what has been done here. Therefore, the two new signs are 1) for the bend ahead and 2) slippery road. It is unfortunate that it is the first bend, as this means the three signs are so close together.”

The damaged gateway in Upper

“I apologise that the gateway has not been repaired sooner. I can confirm that we are arranging for our contractor to carry out repairs which should be completed by the end of this financial year at the latest, and sooner depending on the level of emergency and weather-related work that arises”

Request for Tractor turning signs at the Deenethorpe Junction onto Glaphorn Road.

“I think this is a new request, and whilst I have put it on the request list for future consideration, it would be useful to have further information about the details and frequency of the incidents mentioned. For instance, where were the vehicles travelling to/from, and are the cars involved always coming from a particular direction. I would be happy to meet Sue to discuss this request in more detail.”

- e. **Vehicle Activated Sign** - The Clerk has heard nothing from the Lottery Grant and will re-submit the forms.
- f. **The Annual Litter Pick** will take place on Sunday 5th April starting at 10:00 a.m. Cllr Parkhouse has been successful in finding someone to co-ordinate the event.
- g. Cllr Tadman has been informed that ENC are looking to recruit a new Enforcement Officer and once in place the Parish Council will be contacted on all **Planning Enforcements**.
- h. The Clerk has contact NCC with reference to getting the **public footpath** between Upper and Lower sided out.
- i. Cllr Parkhouse is looking for someone to take over the co-ordinating of the **Village Newsletter**.

498 Financial Matters:

- a. The Clerk confirmed that as of 3rd February there was £101058.53 in the Bank, which includes £429.69 Pathfinder II monies, £417.39 from NCC and a VAT Claim of £113.81. Another VAT claim has been made for £246.10. The Parish Council should end the year with £8401.71 without including the last VAT claim.
- b. It was resolved to pay the following in line with relevant legislation.

Details	Value	Cheque No.
Benefield Village Hall	£35.75	673
E-on Energy	£374.62	674
E-on Repairs	£1008.00	675
Sue Cook Salary & Expenses	£128.45	676
Leicestershire Gardens	£160.00	677

- c. It was agreed that the Clerk should approach Mr James from Deenethorpe to carry out the Internal Audit again this year.

499 There were no new Planning Applications to discuss:

Outstanding Applications waiting for Decisions from East Northamptonshire Council since 25th November 2019

- i. 20/00046/LBC Restoration of original inglenook fireplace and replacing it with a multi-fuel burning stove, together with a chimney liner and replace hearth with flagstones | -19 Main Street Upper – awaiting decision
- ii. 19/01851/FUL Orangery at Gilmour House, Lower - Approved
- iii. 19/01453/FUL – Garage at Ashley Farm House Upper - Appealing

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500 The following items of **correspondence** had been circulated to the Councillors prior to this meeting. All were noted with no further action.

- i. Oundle Neighbourhood Plan Examiners Report
- ii. East Northamptonshire District-wide Local Plan Part 2 - Additional sites

501 Future Agenda Items/Business.

- a. Siding out the whole length of the Footpath in Upper Benefield. The Clerk agreed to get details about the Community Payback Team.
- b. Would it be possible for the Clerk to publish the register of Parish Councillors attendees at the Council Meeting for the next meeting? The Clerk agreed to issue this with the agenda.

502 Date of the next meeting: Monday 6th April 2020

This being all the business the meeting was closed at 7:40 p.m.

Action Points	To be returned at Council Meeting Date
Gateway Upper	April Meeting
Lottery Grant	April Meeting
Map of Land Owners	May Meeting
Gateways Lower	Meeting to confirmed