

BENEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 24th May 2021

Councillors Present	Jason Cutmore, Dan Groom, John Naylor, Alf Pridmore, Neil Repton (Chair) Graham Shatford, and Alan Tarbuck
Also Present	4 Members of the Public and Mrs S Cook (Clerk)

597 There were no apologies for absence

598 Cllr Repton **declared an interest** in item 606 b, Entry Gates into Lower Benefield.

599 Public Time – concern was raised about the condition of the Gated Road, the Clerk agreed to contact Sarah Barnwell for inspection.

Concern has also been raised about speeding traffic along Brigstock Road, the Clerk will ask the police to carry out speed checks once it has been re-opened following the road works.

600 No representation from North Northamptonshire Councillor from the Thrapston Office. Clerk will invite them to the next meeting.

601 It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on **Monday 12th April**

602 Matters Arising

- a) **Street Lighting** – Cllr Pridmore reported that the £27 insurance on the street lighting does not cover any damage caused by tree branches or ivy. Cllr Cutmore enquired if an additional street light could be placed on the corner of the former Wheatsheaf and the Cricket Field, this is a dark spot. It was resolved to consider this in the future along with liaising with the occupants of the neighbouring premises.
- b) **Grass Cutting** – There have been 3 cuts, it was suggested that due to the wet weather there may have to an additional cut at the end of the season
- c) **Litter Picking** – it was agreed that Mr Cook would carry out the next litter pick week commencing July 5th
- d) **Community Email Account** – The Clerk reported that only 3 people had agreed to this. There are several WhatsApp accounts in both Villages and a Lower Benefield has a Facebook account.
- e) **Email Account for Parish Councillors** – it was agreed that the Clerk should set up a generic email for all Councillors to access instead of them each having their own Parish Council Account.
- f) **Pathfinder II residual funds** – Cllr Cutmore to obtain quotes for ng 20 empty sandbags and sand, 15 to be stored in Lower and 5 in Upper in case of emergency flooding.
- g) The Clerk reported that 2 Wreaths have been ordered from Weldon British Legion for **Remembrance Day**

603 Financial matters:

- a) Mr James has carried out the Year End Internal Audit with no anomalies. The Parish Council ended the year with an income of £8364 and an expenditure of £9399 leaving a balance of £7367 in the bank. It was resolved that the accounts be approved. Both Cllr Repton and the Clerk signed the Certificate of Exemption, the Annual Governance Statement and the Accounting Statement.
- b) The Current Bank Statement stands at £14021.15, which includes £429.69 residual from the Pathfinder II funding and £7000 precept. The Clerk will provide a Year to Date against Budget for the Councillors prior to each meeting.

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- c) The following Payments were approved for payment in line with the relevant legislation

Details	Value	Cheque No.
Zurich – Insurance	£533.98	708
Sue Cook – Salary + Expenses & Website Renewal	£312.52	709
Tom James – Internal Audit	£80.00	710
Mowerman – 1 st & 2 nd Grass Cuts	£720.00	711

- 604 Planning:** The Clerk has not received any new Planning Applications prior to this meeting; however, it was highlighted that an amendment to the materials being used at Rectory Farm. The Clerk to contact the Planning Officer.

Outstanding Applications waiting for Decisions since 12th April

- a) NE/21/00342/FUL – Agricultural access at Rectory Farm Yard - Approved

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

- a) Email from Jake Vowles
 b) Oundle Town Council responses to Cotterstock Road
 c) Joint Action Group April Minutes

- 606 Future agenda items/business for future meetings. The nature of future agenda items can be discussed at this point, but no decision can be made until the next meeting.**

- a) **Churchfield Traffic** – concern was raised about the amount of tipper type lorries travelling though both villages believed to be going to Churchfield Quarry. The planning approval was based on 30 lorry movements per week. The Clerk agreed to contact NNC Thrapston Office to see if an application has been made to increase the amount of lorry movements.
- b) **Entry gates into Lower Benefield** – Cllr Repton would like to see the completion of this project. It was explained that after the initial plans had been drawn up there was no room for full L shaped entry gates along the Brigstock Road or on the right side on the A427. Cllr Repton to obtain quotes with drawings.
- c) **To consider appointing a new Flood Warden** – Mr Tadman agreed.
- d) **To consider appointing Parish Path Warden** – not relevant. It was suggested that all 3 new NNC Councillors and Sarah Barnwell are invited to attend the next Parish Council Meeting to highlight the issues with the narrow footpath along the A427 in Upper.
- e) **To consider holding Parish Council Surgery once a month** – several ideas came forward including holding a coffee morning, once restrictions allow or to hold another open evening where residents can raise issues with the Councillors.

- 607 The Date of next meeting was confirmed as being Monday July 12th in Benefield Village Hall.**

This being all the business the meeting was closed at 8:30 p.m.