



BENWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Benwick Parish Council Meeting on Monday 1 December 2025 at Benwick Village Hall

Meeting opened: 19:30

Present

Cllrs M Chapman (Chair), L Keppel-Spoor, R Few, R Emmitt, J Ablewhite, R Taylor and S Lowry. Cllr T Taylor (FDC), Cllr M Fisher (CCC). Clerk A Barnes and 3 members of the public.

132/25-26 – Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received.

133/25-26 – Declarations of Interest

No disclosable pecuniary, non-pecuniary, or sensitive interests were declared.

134/25-26 – Public Participation

Public time opened: 19:33

A resident raised concerns regarding three recent incidents involving aggressive dogs in the village. Cllr Ablewhite advised residents to report incidents to the police. The Clerk will research and then publish guidance on how to report such issues.

Public time closed: 19:38

135/25-26 – Confirmation of Minutes

Cllr Chapman proposed, and it was AGREED, to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 3 November 2025.

136/25-26 – County & District Councillors Reports

Cllr T Taylor (FDC) gave an overview of issues and priority topics for Fenland, these included: funding for play area upgrades, issues at The Chase including water discharge and a large tree, ongoing planning enforcement matters.

Cllr M Fisher (CCC) gave thanks to Cllr Taylor for laying the wreath provided. Road deterioration is a priority and as such Cllr Fisher has had meetings with Highways and Asset teams. Forty Foot repairs planned in short sections. MP Stephen Barclay is also engaged on the condition of the roads in the county. There is currently ANPR camera investment, primarily aimed at assisting with hare coursing investigations, the parish council MVAS data would assist in determining locations for these. The council had no objections to sharing MVAS data with Cllr Fisher.



137/25-26 – Action Log

The action log was reviewed and updates noted under relevant agenda items.

138/25-26 – Highways Matters

The issue of vehicles driving along the river bank towards Caton's Bridge discussed. Cllr Ablewhite proposed, Cllr Chapman seconded and it was AGREED for the Clerk to obtain prices for 'No Through Road' signs for High Street.

The Highways Maintenance Schemes Asset Data Strategy was discussed. Cllr Chapman proposed and it was AGREED for the response to include Whittlesey Road, Doddington Road, Ramsey Road, Lilyholt Road, and the High Street.

MVAS feedback from residents via social media was noted. There is an existing mounting post on Ramsey Road. The council will review the locations one the Lilyholt Road sign has been in place for a longer period.

139/25-26 – Cemetery and September Gardens

No items for discussion.

140/25-26 – CAPALC Councillor Representative

A councillor representative for CAPALC was discussed, no representative appointed.

141/25-26 – Assertion 10 Requirement – IT Policy

Review deferred to the next meeting.

142/25-26 – Benwick Parish Council Annual Donation

The council reviewed applications. Cllr Chapman proposed and it was AGREED for payment in form Benwick Street Pride to receive a donation of £200. Clerk to confirm payment dates from previous years.

Cllr Chapman presented a draft Burnthouse grant application. The council requested the wording is amended to 'typically up to £500, however larger grants will be considered'.

143/25-26 – Clerk's Report and Requests

Clerk's December report noted. Budget-setting teleconference agreed for Tuesday 16 December at 19:30.

144/25-26 – Income & Expenditure

Cllr Chapman proposed and it was AGREED to approve the following payments:

N Power – £0.00 (account issue)
Salaries & Expenses – £0.00
Clerk Salary/Expenses – £548.66
ID Verde – £252.00
Middle Level IDB – £178.67



March West IDB – £86.83

Total authorised expenditure: £1,066.16

It was further AGREED to approve the November 2025 bank reconciliation (Appendix 1). This was proposed by Cllr Chapman and signed by Cllrs Chapman and Keppel-Spoor at the close of the meeting.

145/25-26 – Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted:

- FDC Press Release (10/11/25)
- FDC Hate Crime Champions (10/11/25)
- NALC Chief Executive's Bulletins (10/11/25, 17/11/25, 25/11/25)
- Combined Authority Members Newsletter (10/11/25)
- CCC Local Government Reorganisation Update (19/10/25)
- Npower Account Update (10/11/25)
- Cambridgeshire Fens Perspectives Workshops (10/11/25)
- Cambridgeshire Community Foundation – Grants Bulletin (10/11/25)
- Doddington Diary – November Edition (10/11/25)
- Cambridgeshire ACRE – Staying in Touch (10/11/25)

146/25-26 – Planning

No planning applications received.

147/25-26 – Biodiversity and Habitat Initiatives

No items to discuss.

148/25-26 – Agenda Items / Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 5 January 2026.
Agenda items to be submitted to the Clerk by Monday 22 December 2025.

Meeting closed: 20:55



Appendix 1

Bank Reconciliation		Financial Year ending 31 March 2026	
Benwick Parish Council			
Prepared by Abbey Barnes (Clerk & RFO)			
Date	01/12/2025		
Approved by		Chair	
Date	01/12/2025		
Balance per bank statements at end	30/11/2025	£	£
Current Account (Santander)		0.00	
Current Account (Lloyds)		17,182.89	
Cambridge and Counties Bank		44,770.18	
			61,953.07
Less: Unpresented Cheques			
Cheque Number	amount		
			0.00
Add: Any unbanked cash in transit			0.00
Net bank balances end			61,953.07
The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book, as follows:-			
Opening Balance (01 April 2025)		54,357.37	
Add: Receipts to date		22,674.67	
Less: Payments to date		15,078.97	
Closing Balance		61,953.07	

Earmarked Reserves:

Verge Planting	£100.00	
Cemetery Extension	£3,324.40	
Street Lighting	£9,426.58	
The Pound	£1,000.00	
Village Sign	£0.00	
War Memorial	£4,720.00	
Mooring	£3,905.24	EM TOTAL
Allotments	£700.00	£23,176.22
General Reserve	£38,776.85	