



## **BENWICK PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 2 March 2026 at Benwick Village Hall**

Meeting opened: 19:30

#### **Present**

Cllrs M Chapman (Chair), R Few, L Keppel-Spoor, R Emmitt, R Taylor and J Ablewhite.  
Clerk A Barnes and 1 member of the public.

#### **182/25-26 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Lowry and Cambridgeshire County Councillor M Fisher.

#### **183/25-26 Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

#### **184/25-26 Public Participation**

Public time opened: 19:31

A member of the public reported a significant increase in dog fouling within the village, particularly along Whittlesey Road. The council discussed the possibility of asking the primary school to design posters to display around the village. This will be added as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Concern was also raised regarding glass and debris along the path between the two villages. The Clerk will report this to Fenland District Council.

An email had been received from a resident regarding parking outside the school. Cllr Keppel-Spoor confirmed that vehicles had been observed parking on the zig-zag markings. It was agreed that an online report should be raised with the police enforcement team.

Public time closed: 19:35

#### **185/25-26 Confirmation of Minutes**

Cllr Chapman proposed, and it was AGREED, to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2 February 2026.

#### **186/25-26 County & District Councillors' Reports**

No reports were received.

#### **187/25-26 Action Log**

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

Cllr Ablewhite proposed contacting the Environment Agency regarding ongoing concerns regarding 1 High Street, copying in Fenland District Council planning enforcement and our designated Fenland District Councillor. A Freedom of Information request may also be submitted if required. Cllr Chapman seconded and this was AGREED.

### **188/25-26 Highways Matters**

The council discussed a response received from Cambridgeshire County Council Highways further to several recent reports to them of highways faults and damaged road surfaces in and around Benwick.

Damage to the white village entrance fence on Ramsey Road was noted. The Clerk will check that this has been previously logged with CCC Highways.

### **189/25-26 Cemetery and September Gardens**

The council discussed the access track to the allotments. Options are being considered to improve the access, including the possibility of transforming one of the plots to create improved parking provision.

### **190/25-26 Doddington Neighbourhood Plan Consultation**

The council noted the Doddington Neighbourhood Plan consultation and discussed whether to submit a parish council response.

Cllr Chapman proposed, and it was AGREED, that the council would utilise the response prepared by the Clerk, with Cllr Ablewhite adding emphasis on 7.3.1 of the plan, highlighting the importance of settlement hierarchy in maintaining the identities of each village. Clerk to submit response.

### **191/25-26 Nature Recovery Project**

Information regarding the Nature Recovery Project workshops was noted.

The council discussed the initiative and noted that Benwick is not included in the pilot scheme. It was agreed that the Clerk should maintain contact with Wimblington Parish Council and obtain feedback on the project's progress, with a view to potential participation in 2027.

### **192/25-26 Clerk's Report and Requests**

The Clerk highlighted a request for councillors to complete GDPR training. A series of training videos has been circulated to all councillors, who were asked to notify the Clerk once they have completed the training.

The Clerk advised that Npower had issued an amendment to the direct debit charge relating to the previous month's electricity payment. The amount had been adjusted from £193.77 to £201.15. A copy of the instruction confirming the adjustment was presented to the council for review and signing.

The internal audit has been scheduled for 23 April 2026. This means the parish council meeting on 3 April will be the final meeting prior to the audit.

### **193/25-26 Income & Expenditure**

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

Pre-authorised by Council:

N Power – Electricity consumption 01/01/26–31/01/26 (direct debit) - £188.50

Authorised for payment:

Clerk's salary and expenses (February 2026) - £540.56

Cemetery maintenance (February 2026) - £273.00

Wave – Water usage 12/06/25–11/12/25 - £79.02

**Total expenditure authorised: £1081.08**

The Clerk reported on the February 2026 bank reconciliation. It was further AGREED to approve the reconciliation, which was signed by Cllrs Chapman and Keppel-Spoor at the close of the meeting.

#### **194/25-26 Correspondence**

The following correspondence was noted:

Fenland District Council Press Releases (09/02/26, 16/02/26 x2)

FDC Fenland 50 Local Plan (02/02/26)

FDC Chairman's Afternoon Tea (16/02/26)

FDC Council Agenda (16/02/26)

FDC Cabinet Agenda (16/02/26)

National Association of Local Councils Chief Executive's Bulletin (02/02/26, 09/02/26, 16/02/26, 23/02/26)

Combined Authority Members Newsletter (09/02/26)

Doddington Diary – February (02/02/26)

Cambs ACRE Staying in Touch (02/02/26)

Cambridgeshire County Council Cambridgeshire Matters (02/02/26)

Warboys Informer Parish Council Article (16/02/26)

2026 Local Elections Update (23/02/26)

#### **195/25-26 Planning**

There were no planning applications for the council to review at this meeting.

#### **196/25-26 Biodiversity and Habitat Initiatives**

No biodiversity actions were raised this month.

#### **197/25-26 Next Meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 13 April 2026.

Agenda items to be submitted to the Clerk by Tuesday 7 April 2026.

Meeting closed: 20:25

Appendix 1



Bank Reconciliation		Financial Year ending 31 March 2026	
Benwick Parish Council			
Prepared by Abbey Barnes (Clerk & RFO)			
Date	02/03/2026		
Approved by		Chair	
Date	02/03/2026		
<b>Balance per bank statements at end</b>	<b>28/02/2026</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Current Account (Santander)		0.00	
Current Account (Lloyds)		12,941.18	
Cambridge and Counties Bank		44,770.18	
			57,711.36
Less: Unpresented Cheques			
Cheque Number	amount		
			0.00
Add: Any unbanked cash in transit			0.00
<b>Net bank balances end</b>			<b>57,711.36</b>
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		19,320.68	
<b>Closing Balance</b>		<b>57,711.36</b>	

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	
Allotments	£700.00	
General Reserve	£34,535.14	
		<b>EM TOTAL £23,176.22</b>