



BENWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Benwick Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 5 January 2026 at Benwick Village Hall

Meeting opened: 19:30

Present

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

149/25-26 – Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Lowry, Cllr Emmitt, and Cllr M Fisher (CCC).

150/25-26 – Declarations of Interest

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

151/25-26 – Public Participation

Public time opened: 19:31

A resident raised concerns regarding no parking for fishing between the two bridges due to company vehicles being parked there.
There is still a hole in the footpath at Chapel Gardens (approximately 9 inches deep). The Clerk will contact Clarion regarding this issue.

Public time closed: 19:38

152/25-26 – Confirmation of Minutes

Cllr Chapman proposed, and it was AGREED, to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1 December 2025.

153/25-26 – County & District Councillors Reports

No reports were received.

154/25-26 – Action Log

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

155/25-26 – Highways Matters

Cllr Ablewhite gave an update on recent speed signage data for Lilyholt Road, where the sign has been turned to face traffic heading towards Doddington Road. The speed data showed an increase in speed for vehicles travelling in this direction. Figures recorded show 6,629 vehicles with 99.29% compliance (40mph and under). Four vehicles were recorded travelling at 41–45 mph and one vehicle above this range.

Cllr Taylor proposed the installation of MVAS signage for Ramsey Road. Cllr Ablewhite seconded this and proposed this item be discussed under the budget setting agenda item; this was AGREED.

A resident report of a footpath light not working on Whittlesey Road was noted.

156/25-26 – Cemetery and September Gardens

No items were raised for discussion.

157/25-26 – Assertion 10 Requirement – IT Policy

Cllr Chapman proposed and it was AGREED to approve the revised draft IT policy.

158/25-26 – Clerk’s Report and Requests

No report was presented this month.

159/25-26 – Income & Expenditure

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

Pre-authorized by Council:

N Power – Electricity consumption 01/11/25–30/11/25 (direct debit): £178.96

Authorised for payment:

Clerk’s salary and expenses (November 2025) - £685.40

Cemetery maintenance (December 2025) - £273.00

Verges maintenance (October–December 2025) - £250.00

Cambs ACRE membership renewal fee - £74.50

SLCC membership renewal fee - £158.00

Total expenditure authorised - £1,619.86

It was further AGREED to approve the December 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.

160/25-26 – Q3 Budget Review

Council reviewed income and expenditure for the period 01/04/2025 – 31/12/2025.

Cllr Chapman proposed and it was AGREED to approve the Q3 budget review with no actions required.

161/25-26 – 2026/27 Budget Setting

The proposed parish council budget for 2026/27 was introduced by the Clerk, who highlighted discussion from the budget working group meeting held on 16 December 2025.

The Council RESOLVED to defer this item to the following meeting.

162/25-26 – Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted:

- FDC Press Release (email 10/12/25)

- FDC Festive Wishes (email 07/12/25)
- NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin (emails 13/12/25)
- Combined Authority Members Newsletter (email 07/12/25)
- CCC Local Government Reorganisation Update (email 07/12/25)
- CCC Cambridgeshire Matters (email 07/12/25)
- Cambridgeshire ACRE – Staying in Touch (email 07/12/25)
- SLCC CAB Bursary Application (email 10/12/25)

163/25-26 – Planning

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

164/25-26 – Biodiversity and Habitat Initiatives

No items were raised for discussion.

165/25-26 – Agenda Items / Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 2 February 2026.

Agenda items to be submitted to the Clerk by Monday 26 January 2026.

Meeting closed: 20:33

Appendix 1



Bank Reconciliation		Financial Year ending 31 March 2026	
Benwick Parish Council			
Prepared by Abbey Barnes (Clerk & RFO)			
Date	02/01/2026		
Approved by	Chair		
Date	05/01/2026		
Balance per bank statements at end	31/12/2025	£	£
Current Account (Santander)		0.00	
Current Account (Lloyds)		15,616.01	
Cambridge and Counties Bank		44,770.18	
			60,386.19
Less: Unpresented Cheques			
Cheque Number	amount		
			0.00
Add: Any unbanked cash in transit			0.00
Net bank balances end			60,386.19
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		16,645.85	
Closing Balance		60,386.19	

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	£37,209.97	