



BENWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 1 June 2026 at Benwick Village Hall

Meeting opened: 19:30

Present

Cllrs S Lowry (Vice-Chair), L Keppel-Spoor, R Few, R Emmitt, J Ablewhite and R Taylor.
Cambridgeshire County Councillor M Fisher, Clerk A Barnes and 5 members of the public.

036/26-27 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Chapman and accepted by the Council.

037/26-27 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

038/26-27 Public Participation

Public time opened: 19:31

Residents raised concerns regarding obstructions on the High Street footpaths caused by both signage and overgrown hedges, particularly outside the bungalows close to the bus shelter. Concerns were also raised regarding brambles encroaching onto the footpath adjacent to the former butcher's shop site. The Clerk will report the overgrown vegetation to Clarion Housing and raise the footpath concerns with Cambridgeshire Highways. Enquiries will also be made regarding ownership of the former butcher's shop site.

A resident reported that the riverside footpath near The Elms (Old Rectory) was becoming overgrown. The Clerk will report the matter to the Middle Level Commissioners.

Concerns were raised regarding the Village Hall fire exit becoming obstructed. It was noted that the side gate should remain accessible and that responsibility for keeping the exit clear rests with individual hirers of the hall.

Cllr Ablewhite confirmed that the water butt located at the Village Hall, previously reported to the Council, belongs to Benwick in Bloom.

Public time closed: 19:43.

039/26-27 Confirmation of Minutes

Cllr Lowry proposed and it was AGREED to approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11 May 2026.

040/26-27 County & District Councillors' Reports

No formal written reports were received.

Cllr Fisher provided a verbal update and advised that information had been obtained regarding the Benwick river footbridge and that the matter would be progressed.

Members were advised of the planned Forty Foot Road closure between 15 and 19 June 2026 for core sampling works.

Cllr Fisher also advised that repair works were scheduled on High Street between 8 and 15 June 2026 and that patch repairs were planned for Doddington Road.

Regarding overhanging vegetation and debris on High Street, residents were encouraged to report concerns via the Cambridgeshire Highways reporting portal. Cllr Fisher explained that, following repeated requests to the landowner, Highways may undertake the work directly where necessary.

Members were reminded that it is currently nesting bird season and that some maintenance works may be restricted during this period.

041/26-27 Review of Policies

The Council reviewed the Governance and Data Protection Policy, Equality, Diversity and Safeguarding Policy and Communications and Media Policy.

Cllr Lowry proposed approval of all three policies and this was AGREED.

042/26-27 Action Log

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

043/26-27 Highways Matters

Cllr Lowry raised concerns regarding roadworks signage being positioned on pavements, noting the difficulties this can cause for wheelchair users and other pedestrians.

Cllr Ablewhite reported that the Ramsey Road MVAS unit was displaying speeds below the 30mph threshold. Members noted that the issue is currently being addressed.

Cllr Few enquired about the possibility of installing “No Through Route” signage at the corner of High Street. The Clerk will investigate and report back to a future meeting.

044/26-27 Cemetery and September Gardens

The Clerk advised that a new allotment tenant had requested assistance in identifying and establishing the boundary of their plot. The Clerk will provide the relevant details to Cllr Lowry for further assistance.

045/26-27 Clerk’s Report and Requests

There was no report for this meeting.

046/26-27 Income and Expenditure

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

Pre-authorised by Council:

N Power – Electricity consumption 01/04/26–30/04/26 (direct debit): £116.78

Authorised for payment:

Clerk’s salary and expenses (May 2026): £615.06

ID Verde – Cemetery maintenance (May 2026): £273.00

Verges Contractor – Verges maintenance January–March 2026: £250.00

Total expenditure authorised: £1,254.84

It was further AGREED to approve the May 2026 bank reconciliation, which can be found at Appendix 1. This was signed by Cllrs Lowry and Keppel-Spoor at the close of the meeting.

The Clerk reported income received during May 2026, including grant funding from Cambridgeshire ACRE towards the Burnthouse Community Project, memorial-related income and allotment rents. Members noted the income received and recorded within the bank reconciliation.

047/26-27 Correspondence

The listed correspondence was received and noted by the Council.

048/26-27 Planning

There were no planning applications for consideration.

049/26-27 Biodiversity and Habitat Initiatives

No matters were raised.

050/26-27 Clerk Role (Closed Item)

The Council resolved that, in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

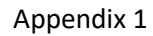
Members discussed arrangements relating to the Clerk role.

Following discussion, it was AGREED that the position of Parish Clerk be advertised for up to 8 hours per week. The vacancy will initially be advertised for a period of two weeks.

051/26-27 Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 6 July 2026. Agenda items should be submitted to the Clerk by Friday 26 June 2026.

Meeting closed: 20:25



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	EM TOTAL	£23,176.22
Mooring	£3,905.24		
Allotments	£700.00		
General Reserve	£64,989.12		