

Benefield Parish Council

Contact: Tel: 07436271261
Email: Benefieldparishcouncilclerk@outlook.com
Web: www.benefieldparish.com



Benefield Parish Council are pleased to publish the Council's draft minutes for it's meeting on **Monday 8th January** held at Benefield Village Hall.

Meeting commenced at **18:30**

08.01.24 -1 To note attendance and approve apologies for absence

Councillors Present	Cllr Jason Cutmore	Chairman
	Cllr Daniel Groom	Vice Chairman
	Cllr Alf Pridmore	
	Cllr Robert Bullimore	
	Cllr Alan Tarbuck	
	Cllr Graham Shatford	

Public	3 Residents	
	Steve Lingley	PLR
	Peter Bullock	Clerk

08.01.24-2 Minutes approved & signed for meeting held on the 30th October

08.01.24-3 To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

Cllr Pridmore noted that the agenda circulated had a date error on last minutes to be approved. Clerk informed that the error had been corrected and amended for signature.

08.01.24-4 Members declaration of interest in items on the agenda
None.

08.01.24-5 Public Participation Session

A member of the public raised concerns following the recent wet weather on the maintenance of the village's flood defences. After protracted discussion it was agreed that action was needed. Chairman asked Cllr Bullimore to look into this. Cllr Shatford asked who is responsible for flood protection and suggested contacting the Highways Dept. of the County Council

A member of the public stated that throughout the county, local & parish councils are implementing speed calming measures. This was noted and also pointed out that this was an agenda item for this meeting, to be discussed later. Chairman stated that this was an absolute priority.

08.01.24-6 Parish Council Clerk update.

Clerk informed council he was no longer resident in Benefield and expressed concerns regarding this but happy to remain. Cllr Shatford stated that continuity was more important to the Council than being a resident This was unanimously agreed .

08.01.24-7 Financial

- i Protocol & procedures for online banking
After much discussion it was agreed that the Clerk be responsible and make payments from the account after informing Cllrs of invoices to be paid. Online account to be monitored by Chairman and Cllr Tarbuck.
Official protocol to be written bt Clerk, submitted to Cllrs for approval and adopted at next meeting
- ii **Bank Account - NatWest update**
Covered above (Financial - i)
- iii **Budget Update**
Budget presented included draft figures for traffic calming and defibrillator.
It was pointed out by Cllr Tarbuck that these had yet to be approved. It was agreed that Traffic calming & Defibrillator be removed from budget until approved.
Precept to remain as per last year at £8268.45p
Budget to be re-presented at next meeting.
- iv **Accounts for payment**
Npower. £633.91 (Plus o/s amount of 41.32 from previous invoice)
Clerk £132.50P
- v **Vat update**
£628.95 to be submitted for reclaim.
- vi **Grass cutting rebate update**
New invoice to be sent, last invoice rejected.
- vii **Procurement**
Clerk to explore costs of replacement laptop.
To be discussed at next meeting

08.01.24-8 Planning.

- i Current Planning Applications.
No new applications.

08.01.24-9 War Memorial update

Cllr Shatford stated that as the War memorial is not a Parish Council asset we need permission from the Diocese of Peterborough to affect any improvements.
Cllr Shatford has presented the Church with 3 options for renovations and we await a response before proceeding further.

08.01.2410 Defibrillator- Final decision

Discussion surrounding the actual benefit of defibrillator.
A vote was taken on whether the Parish Council wanted to finance a defibrillator.

Given the limited benefits for residents and costs involved, the decision was not to finance and remove from future agendas. Chairman stated if situation changes and the Parish Council want to reconsider in the future than we can add to a future agenda.

08.01.24-11 Traffic calming - Plan of action

Chairman requested that this be included in PLR report.

08.01.24-12 Police Liaison Report - Steve Lindley

i Traffic calming

Steve outlined what he had discovered in his attempts to move this forward He informed us that following the NWM he had contacted Northants with regard to collection of traffic/speed data. Enforcement vehicles when deployed do not collect data which is needed to make the case for further action. He also had written to Glapthorne. They experience similar problems and are considering the purchase of new cameras to achieve this (Accurate data collection) Glapthorne quoted an expected cost of £4-5K per unit + solar panel energy source+ licencing fee. Chairman noted that data collection is essential to make the case for further actions. PLR recommended that we initially purchase one unit that can be moved to achieve this. It was then suggested that Parish Council form a community group with a speed camera to achieve this. Cllr Groom to explore this option.

ii Police Commissioners precept

Steve reiterated his hope that residents would participate in giving their views on this.

08.01.24-13 Correspondence

- i** Note from resident expressing her thanks that our PLR had taken action on fly tipping following the neighbourhood watch meeting
- ii** Mail from Cllr Pridmore outlining costs of village hall signage - £120+ Vat
Cllr Pridmore suggested that costs are shared with the village hall and agreement reached. Suggested that their contribution is no cost for four P.Council village hall hirings.
- iii** Parish Cllrs had been informed of the resignation/retirement of Cllr Naylor.
It was noted that all Cllrs were extremely grateful for his many years service and expressed the wish that Cllr Naylor be made aware of this.
Clerk outlined procedure for election of new Cllr.
- iv** Cllr Pridmore had highlighted that we are being charged energy costs for 28 lights when in fact we have 26. Investigation needed.

08.01.24-14 Future agenda items/business for future meetings.

Election of new Cllr
Budget presentation
Flood protection update
Banking protocols
Speed calming update
Street light update
Procurement

08.01.24-15 Proposed date of next full meeting - Monday 19.02.2024

