

Benefield Parish Council



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Parish Council Meeting - Minutes

Meeting Date Wednesday 26th March 2025

Time: Meeting commenced at 18:30

Venue: Benefield Village Hall Causin Way Lower Benefield PE85AF

- 28.25** To note attendance and approve apologies for absence.
5 members of the public in attendance
All Councillors in attendance. Apology received from Cllr Waters for delay in getting to the meeting.
- 29.25** To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting
12th February 2025.
Approved
- 30.25** To note any matter arising from the minutes -For report only.
Cllr Pridmore required an explanation from Clerk on question & answer to 17.25 i of the minutes. Explanation given. Cllr Pridmore pointed out 26 lights not 25. as reported by Clerk.
- 31.25** To receive members declarations of interest on today's agenda items
None
- 32.25** Public Participation session. Members of the public are invited to address the Council.
Website - Resident stated concern of the layout of website and accessing data
Cllr Bullimore is completing work on the website in the background, prior to upgrading with Clerk. Clerk suggested that website needs complete simplification (Legal requirements) Proposed timescale 2 months.
Street Lighting: Resident raised concern regarding the level of cost.
Clerk explained that the matter was in hand. Contact made with e-on, Npower and The National Grid and also contacted NCALC to explore other suppliers. Chairman re-iterated his concern to prioritise this matter.
- 33.25** Incoming communications.
Electoral information for upcoming election - Circulated to Councillors
- 34.25** Financial matters.
- i Bank Statement. Balance as of 26th March £10631.60 credit.**
Clerk noted that VAT monies not yet received. Ask to follow up.
 - ii New Bank account update.**
Application submitted. Cllr. Cutmore to be added with Cllr Shatford & Clerk
 - iii Payments to be approved.**

e-on	£249.60
Clerk	£209.55
Mowerman	£432.43
Total	£891.58

- iv Asset revaluation.
Asset value of Lighting remains at current costs for insurance purposes
New Speed reduction equipment cost to be added.
Street Furniture to remain at current costs for insurance purposes
Asset cost to be insured circa £53450.
Insurance renewal due - End May.
 - 35.25 Planning: Report and consider new planning submissions.
No new planning applications
 - 36.25 Police Liaison Representative report.
With the absence of our PLR, Clerk presented the report.
Traffic Calming grant approved.
Section 50 licence required. Steve Barber from Kier to forward Section 50 application.
for completion.
Invoice received for poles from Kier (Project Contractors)
Costs have increased from original quotation. Equipment costs from £3990 to £4155
Also cost of Section 50 planning application cost could increase.
Grant cannot be credited until Section 50 is issued and sent.
Parish Council is committed to see project through and absorb extra costs.
 - 37.25 Environmental initiatives/planning.
Mr D. Groom - Environmental officer stated that he is hopeful that he can further
beautify the village with flowers & plants. Regarding hedges, any overhanging
hedges will be actioned in September.
 - 38.25 Traffic Calming. Village road safety initiative grant update.
See above 36.25
 - 39.25 Bus Shelter grant update.
Aegean Landfill fund to be contacted. Decision by End July.
Locations may need to be surveyed.
Decision rests on grant approval. To be discussed as & when.
 - 40.25 Electricity costs. Street lighting pricing.
Covered - 32.25
 - 41.25 Red telephone boxes update.
BT to decommission phone boxes. Boxes can be adopted for £1.
Action. BT to be contacted to establish whether they will maintain the boxes after
being decommissioned.
 - 42.25 Defibrillator initiative discussion.
Defibrillator was discussed by Parish Council previously. On balance it was decided
not to proceed for various reasons. Now an appetite by the public to reconsider.
Chairman opened the discussion to the public. Lengthy discussion on
pro's & cons. Chairman suggested we set up a working party to establish all costs
feasability, location, grant possibilities and add as a future agenda item..
 - 43.25 Election report /Required actions.
Clerk advised all Councillors have to apply by 2nd April.
 - 44.25 Future agenda items/business for future meetings.
The nature of future agenda items can be discussed at this point.
Website, telephone boxes, lighting costs, defibrillator.
 - 45.25 Approve date of next meeting.
7th May 2025
 - 46.25 Meeting closes - Time recorded.
19.50
- Peter Bullock. Clerk to Benefield Parish Council.**