



Benefield Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday 29th October

Time: 18:30

Venue: Benefield Village Hall Causin Way Lower Benefield PE8 5AF

- 115.25 To note attendance and approve apologies for absence.**
Present: Cllr Faulkner (Chair), Cllr Bullimore, Cllr Pridmore, Cllr Wood, Cllr Waters, Cllr Cutmore
Apologies: Cllr Shatford
Also present: Emma Lingley-Clark (Clerk), Cllr Fairhall (NNC), two members of the public
- 116.25 To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting held on the 17th September 2025**
Approved
- 117.25 To note any matter arising from the minutes - for report only**
None
- 118.25 To receive members declarations of interest on today's agenda items**
Cllrs Cutmore, Faulkner, Water and Pridmore declared **non-pecuniary interests** in relation to the item concerning the cricket club defibrillator grant due to their membership of the Benefield Cricket Club / Social Club. Council noted that no councillor would gain financially and agreed they could remain for the discussion.
- 119.25 Public Participation session**
A member of the public suggested that Parish reserves be moved into an interest bearing account; raised concern about high electricity charges for the streetlighting; queried councillor attendance and anonymity of names in public discussions.
Council thanked the member of the public and noted all comments.
Cllr Fairhall updated members on:
Progress of the North Northamptonshire Local Plan (consultation expected Feb 2026).
NNC Corporate Plan priorities (safe communities, housing, prosperity, smarter services).
Upcoming consultations
- 120.25 Incoming communications**
The Clerk noted several invitations received for events run by NNC and NCALC.
- 121.25 Financial reporting & matters arising**
i Bank Statement - Current balance £14162.36
ii Payments approved
Village Hall £20
Village Hall £10
Mowerman £432.25
Parish Clerk £111.76
Npower £246.47
Swarco £390
RBL Weldon £50
Trumpeter TBC (scheduled)
Village Hall £15.00 (scheduled)
Bus Shelter £1116.00 (scheduled)

- iii Budget vs actuals
Noted spend against budget
 - iv Forecast
Spend on track for the year
 - v VAT return
£1626 received
 - vi Unity bank
Account opening in progress. Agreed that Cllr Faulkner, Cllr Cutmore, Cllr Waters and Cllr Shatford would be added to the account as approvers.
 - vii Financial regulations review
Noted that these were last reviewed in 2022 and need to be updated.
 - viii Contribution to Woodfords staff for printing of parish newsletter
Agreed that the Parish Council contribute up to £25 towards a collective expression of thanks to Woodford's Estate Agents for their voluntary printing of the village newsletter, recognising the community benefit of this service. The expenditure to be made under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 122.25 Planning: Report and consider new planning submissions.**
No new applications received
- 123.25 Traffic calming update**
Average speed data continues to show compliance with 30 mph limit.
Agreed to maintain current rotation of the device.
Cllr Cutmore asked if the sign could be placed on the sharp bend sign on the Glaphorn side of the village.
Further work needed to look at a place near Gibson Drive.
Cllr Cutmore to also look at the damaged bus stop post.
Clerk will also look at the potential for further funding for a 2nd sign.
- 124.25 Police liaison representative update**
Council noted reports of hare-coursing and a potential burglary on the Brigstock Road that had not come through on neighbourhood alerts.
- 125.25 Bus shelter grant update**
Application submitted; funder requested written clarification of land ownership/lease arrangement and confirmation of grant amount now costs had been finalised.
- 126.25 Environmental improvements**
- i Litter picks
Council discussed options for litter picking and resolved that formal parish litter picks remain within 30 mph zones.
 - ii Flower troughs
Cllrs to look at prices for flower troughs; Clerk to pursue Ward Councillor grant support once funding amount agreed.
- 127.25 Defibrillator grant application**
Members considered a request from the Cricket Club to fund an external heated cabinet for the existing defibrillator and agreed to award £250 from the Parish's pre-allocated £500 defibrillator fund towards the project, payable when installation proceeds.
- 128.25 Future agenda items/business for future meetings.**
Speed sign grant application
Precept
- 129.25 Approve date of next meeting**
10th December, 6:30pm
- 130.25 Meeting end time**
19:32

Emma Lingley-Clark

Clerk to Benefield Parish Council