

Benefield Parish Council



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Benefield Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday 10th December

Time: 18:30

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

- 131.25 To note attendance and approve apologies for absence.**
Present: Cllr Faulkner (Chair), Cllr Bullimore, Cllr Shatford, Cllr Waters, Cllr Cutmore
Apologies: Cllr Pridmore, Cllr Wood
Also present: Emma Lingley-Clark (Clerk), two members of the public
- 132.25 To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting held on the 29th October 2025**
Approved
- 133.25 To note any matter arising from the minutes**
None
- 134.25 To receive members declarations of interest on today's agenda items**
None
- 135.25 Public Participation session. Members of the public are invited to address the Council**
None
- 136.25 Incoming communications**
None
- 137.25 Financial reporting & matters arising**
i Current balance £13,340.79
ii Payments approved
Village Hall £15
Parish Clerk £55.88
Trumpeter £30.00
iii Budget vs actuals and forecast
Outstanding commitments are currently £1840.
Adjustments required:
Add £832 contribution towards bus shelter
Remove £200 allocation for litter picking
Speed sign costs (using grant income) to be included for 2025/26

- iv Unity bank application update
Bank mandate form signed by Cllr Faulkner, Cllr Shatford and Cllr Cutmore
Clerk to submit form for account opening
 - v To consider electricity supply quotations
All Cllrs voted to change supplier in line with the quote provided by Clear
Utility Solution saving £305.76 per year on the current supplier
 - vi To agree Urban Highway Grass Cutting 2026/27 Parish Council Agreement
All cllrs agreed to continue with the current agency arrangement whereby
the Parish organises grass cutting and receives the NNC grant
Clerk to investigate other potential suppliers to ensure value for money on
current contract
- 138.25 Budget 2026/27**
Revenue budget for 2026/27 estimated to be £9110
- 139.25 Precept 2026/27**
Cllrs considered the setting of the precept for 206/27 in line with:
the approved core budget of approx. **£9,110**.
the current precept of **£10,000**.
a projected year-end balance of **£11,536**, prior to the bus shelter payment
the increase in tax base from 192 to 195 properties
avoiding large increases in the precept in the future
Cllr Cutmore, Cllr Bullimore, Cllr Waters and Cllr Faulkner voted to raise
the precept to £10200. Cllr Shatford voted against raising the precept
as it was above the level of the draft budget for 2026/27
Motion carried by a majority. Resolved to set the precept at £10200
- 140.25 Planning application**
Report and consider new planning submissions
- Single storey rear extension
2 Wheatsheaf Mews Main Street Upper Benefield PE8 5AN
Ref. No: 25/01795/HFUL
Cllrs resolved to object to application on the grounds of:
proposed extension going beyond the existing building line
impact on the conservation area
- Replacement of 2no windows to east elevation.
13 Main Street Upper Benefield PE8 5AN
Ref. No: 25/01514/HFUL
No objection
- Replacement of 2no windows to east elevation.
13 Main Street Upper Benefield PE8 5AN
Ref. No: 25/01515/LBC
No objection
- 141.25 Update from North Northamptonshire Council**
NNC will be launching a Community Governance Review looking at the
structure and and arrangements for local governance inc parish councils

142.25 Traffic calming update

- i Update on current vehicle activated speed sign
Local resident David Taylor will move the sign while Steve Lingley is away
Cllr Shatford raised that a location nearer to the entrance to the village was needed to monitor speed past Townsend Court.
Agreed to look at potential post for parish council noticeboard.
- ii Agree amended section 50 agreement
Section 50 has been amended to include new locations and correct previous errors. Kier confirmed no costs to amend.
Cllr Faulkner to sign the amendment notice.
- iii Agree application for another vehicle activated speed sign
Resolved to apply for grant for another VAS for the parish. Cllr Faulkner to sign the application for submission.

143.25 Police liaison representative update

PCC is consulting on an increase to the precept for fire and police
Recent burglary, theft from vehicles and hare coursing not reported to police
Message to be put on WhatsApp group to stress the importance of reporting.

144.25 Bus shelter grant update

Grant of £7460 awarded for the bus shelter provided by Littlethorpe Council will need to pay the invoice and then submit to claim grant money
Cllrs confirmed they were happy with T&Cs and contract to be signed
Weather permitting the plan is to install the concrete slab in January
Bus shelter to be delivered in February.
Clerk to confirm with Littlethorpe lead time and installation process

145.25 Environmental improvements

- i Litter picking
Cllrs noted the litter along the roads into and out of the village
Clerk to request NNC litter pick along all roads in the village
- ii Flower troughs
Quotes to be obtained for planters/troughs

146.25 Future agenda items/business for future meetings.

Community Governance Review - Jan 2026
Financial Regulations Review - Jan 2026
Standing Orders Review - May 2026 (AGM)
Annual Parish Meeting - May/June 2026 (not AGM)

147.25 Approve date of next meeting

21st January 2026, 18:30

Meeting end time: 20:02

Emma Lingley-Clark
Clerk to Benefield Parish Council