

# Benefield Parish Council

Contact: Tel: 07780 996958  
Email: [clerk@benefieldparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@benefieldparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.benefieldparish.com](http://www.benefieldparish.com)



## Parish Council Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday 21st January 2026

**Time:** 18:30

**Venue:** Benefield Cricket Club

**148.26 To note attendance and approve apologies for absence.**

Present: Cllr Cutmore (Chair), Cllr Bullimore, Cllr Shatford, Cllr Waters, Cllr Pridmore, Cllr Wood

Apologies: Cllr Faulkner

Also present: Emma Lingley-Clark (Clerk) online

**149.26 To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th December 2025**

None

**150.26 To note any matter arising from the minutes - for report only**

None

**151.26 To receive members declarations of interest on today's agenda items**

None

**152.26 Public Participation session**

No members of the public in attendance.

**153.26 Incoming communications**

◦The Clerk reported receipt of correspondence relating to highway notifications, indicating that the current vehicle-activated speed sign may be replaced during the current quarter. No further details were available at this time.

◦The Clerk also reported correspondence from Cllr Cutmore on behalf of Deenethorpe Parish Council relating to an application at Deene Park, for Ground Rules Festival. Clerk to circulate details to local residents via the website and WhatsApp group

◦The Clerk had received correspondence from the Nene Rivers Trust relating to a Parish Nature Recovery Plan Scheme. Clerk to forward to Env Subgroup Chair for consideration.

**154.26 Financial reporting & matters arising**

i NatWest current balance £12,586.24

|     |   |         |   |
|-----|---|---------|---|
|     | Unity current balance   | £500    |   |
| ii  | Payments approved   |         |   |
|     | Village Hall  | £30     | Amended to £15 (error on agenda)  |
|     | Parish Clerk  | £153.67 |   |
|     | Cllr Faulkner for Woodfords   | £18.95  | Token of appreciation to Woodfords for printing of parish newsletter (agreed 29th October 2025) |
|     | Npower  | £353.91 | Final payment   |
|     | Valda   | £109.00 | (see v below)   |
| iii | Budget vs actuals and forecast  |         |   |
|     | ◦ The budget has been updated to include the bus shelter project costs not covered by the grant and Valda as the new electricity supplier. Clerk to amend to include all bus shelter costs.   |         |   |
|     | ◦ The projected spend to 31 March 2026 is approximately £17,182.  |         |   |
|     | The Clerk confirmed she would continue to refine the financial presentation to clearly show income, expenditure and grants.   |         |   |
|     | Cllr Shatford asked for a final version of the budget agreed on 10th December to be circulated in line with any accounting differences made.  |         |   |
| iv  | Unity bank account  |         |   |
|     | The Clerk confirmed that the Unity Trust Bank account is now active and will provide login details to Cllr Shatford.  |         |   |
| v   | Direct debit new electricity supplier   |         |   |
|     | The Clerk confirmed that Valda is now the Council's electricity supplier and proposed setting up a direct debit on the appropriate bank account to manage payments more effectively. This was approved, and the Clerk confirmed she would also monitor the account to ensure no unusual credit balances build up. |         |   |
| vi  | Financial regulations   |         |   |
|     | The Clerk advised that updated Financial Regulations (NCALT) will be circulated for agreement at the next meeting.  |         |   |

**155.26 Planning Applications**

No new applications

**156.26 Update from North Northamptonshire Council**

i Community Governance Review

The Clerk relayed information from Cllr Fairhall regarding the forthcoming Community Governance Review being undertaken by North Northamptonshire Council.

Cllrs resolved that they would not be making any representation for changes as part of the review.

**157.26 Traffic calming update**

i Update on current vehicle activated speed sign

The Clerk reported issues with data downloads from the sign. Latest available data showed:

Maximum recorded speed: 90 mph (unknown if this was an emergency service vehicle)

Average speed: 28.28 mph

Cllr Bullimore asked if it were possible to turn off the visible display while continuing to record data may result in higher recorded speeds.

ii Application for 2nd speed sign

Members discussed funding options for a second sign.  
The PCC's office will fund 50% of the cost, estimated at approximately £5000.  
The Clerk will investigate:  
◦Total costs and therefore costs to be paid by the Council  
◦Grant conditions including any time restrictions on application

**158.26 Police liaison representative update**

No reported crimes in the parish since the last meeting. Cllr Wood reporting that drain covers had been stolen and that these had been reported to the police. The Clerk to contact PLR to find out why these did not show in the reports.

**159.26 Bus shelter installation**

It was noted that preparatory works will be required prior to installation, including relocation of Nev's bench, site preparation and pouring of the concrete base.

Cllr Cutmore, Cllr Pridmore and Cllr Waters will be overseeing this supported by a local resident. Costs are estimated to be approximately £200.

**160.26 Environmental improvements**

**i Litter picking**

Ongoing issues with litter along the **A427** in the 60mph speed limit area were noted. The Clerk confirmed she would forward to Cllr Shatford the relevant reporting links and contact details for raising litter and street cleaning issues with North Northamptonshire Council.

**ii Flower troughs**

Members discussed options including the use of wooden planters (approx. £100 each) and alternative planting approaches.

The Clerk confirmed she would forward information to the environmental subgroup chair the indicative costs identified by Cllr Faulkner and an alternative approach to consider planting beneath the village sign rather than using troughs

**161.26 Future agenda items/business for future meetings.**

Standing Orders Review - May 2026 (Annual meeting of the Parish Council)

Annual Parish Meeting - date to be agreed (between 1st March and 1st June)

**162.26 Date of next meeting**

4th March 2026

**Meeting time end: 19:10**

**Emma Lingley-Clark**  
**Clerk to Benefield Parish Council**