

Benefield Parish Council



Contact: Tel: 07780 996958

Email: clerk@benefieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.benefieldparish.com

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday 4th March 2026

Time: 18:30

Venue: Benefield Cricket Club

163.26 To note attendance and approve apologies for absence.

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

Apologies: Cllr Wood

Also present: Emma Lingley-Clark (Clerk)(online); Cllr Fairhall (NNC); Steve Lingley (PLR)

164.26 To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting held on the 21st January 2026

Approved

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

None

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

None

167.26 Public Participation session

No members of the public in attendance.

168.26 Incoming communications

None

169.26 Financial reporting & matters arising

i NatWest current balance £12,198.38

Unity current balance £357

ii **Payments approved**

Parish Clerk £171.13

Valda (DD) £125.72

Bus Shelter £8,952.00

CTP (for bus shelter) £832.00

iii **2026/27 Budget**

The council received the 2026/27 finalised budget of £10,198.

iv **Spend to date 2025/26**

◦The council received a report updating on the current spend for the financial year. Spend is £9083.74 against the original budget and £22826 with the bus shelter and speed camera. Spend to be adjusted based on the decision under item 172.26

◦The council discussed cash flow with the purchases of the bus shelter and speed sign. The clerk to ensure the completion of the bus shelter grant application information as soon as possible to expedite the payment.

v Financial regulations

The council received the updated Financial Regulations based on the National Association of Local Councils. Cllrs agreed to review these ahead of formal adoption.

vi Clerk PAYE

The council noted the requirement for the parish clerk to be employed by the council and that steps would be taken to register the council as an employer with HMRC.

170.26 Planning Applications

No new applications

171.26 Update from North Northamptonshire Council

◦Cllr Fairhall provided an update on the proposal to establish a parish council forum for local parishes.

◦Cllr Fairhall provided information on a new North Northamptonshire Council Highways Online Reporting tool. The information to be shared with local residents.

172.26 Traffic calming update

i Update on current vehicle activated speed sign

The council reviewed data from the existing speed sign near the cricket club which indicated that the majority of vehicles are travelling within the speed limit.

ii Application for 2nd speed sign

The council were presented with amended figures for purchase of a second speed sign. The Northants OPFCC grant would cover half the costs. The council voted to purchase a second sign by majority vote. Cllr Bullimore requested that his objection to the purchase of the second sign be noted.

173.26 Police liaison representative update

◦The police liaison rep updated that following consultation the police and fire precepts had been agreed.

◦No significant crime issues reported in the Benefields in this period

◦Cllrs agreed to receive Neighbourhood Watch and Police and Crime Commissioner updates directly from the police liaison representative.

◦The police liaison rep updated the council on the PCC's road safety roundtables which included a proposal to look at the siting of average speed cameras across the county and the PLR is exploring if the A427 could be considered.

174.26 Proposed Road Closure for Resurfacing

Cllrs noted the planned road resurfacing closure on the A427 from the 24th-26th April. The clerk to seek confirmation from Stagecoach regarding the X4 bus service during the closure.

175.26 Bus shelter project update

- The installation of the bus shelter opposite the Wheatsheaf is now complete. The council noted that several residents had commented on their appreciation. The clerk to ensure the information is submitted to the grant provider ASAP to ensure rapid payment of the grant.
- Cllr Pridmore to liaise with contacts over the relocation of Nev's bench.
- The clerk to finalise costs for the project including the concrete base materials.

176.26 Environmental improvements

i Litter picking

Cllr Shatford received no response to his request for a litter pick along the A427. Cllr Fairhall provided the name of a contact at NNC to make a complaint.

The clerk suggested that the road closure could offer the opportunity to carry out a litter pick if safe to do so.

ii Flower troughs

Cllrs agreed to begin environmental improvements with the planting of bulbs on the village entrance.

iii Footpath between Lower and Upper

The council discussed the condition of the footpath between Lower and Upper Benefield and agreed that further clarification is required regarding responsibility for maintenance before any works are undertaken.

177.26 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)
- Footpath maintenance - April 2026
- Speed sign purchase - April 2026
- Adoption of the financial regulations - April 2026

Date of next meeting

178.26 15th April 2026

Meeting time end: 19:56

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