

Benefield Parish Council



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Date: Wednesday 26th August 2026

Time: 18:30

Venue: Benefield Village Hall

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

- 26-27/054 To note attendance and approve apologies for absence.**
Present: Cllr Faulkner (Chair), Cllr Wood, Cllr Waters,
Cllr Pridmore, Cllr Shatford
Also present: Emma Lingley-Clark (Clerk), 12 members of the public
Apologies: Cllr Cutmore
- 26-27/055 To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting held on the 15th July 2026**
Approved
- 26-27/056 To note any matter arising from the minutes**
None
- 26-27/057 To receive members declarations of interest on today's agenda items**
Cllr Pridmore member declared an interest in the agenda item concerning land in Lower Benefield (26-27/062i)
- 26-27/058 Public Participation session**
The Chair welcomed members of the public.
A number of residents attended to raise concerns regarding recent and proposed activity on land in Lower Benefield. Residents wished to emphasise that the concerns related to ensuring that any developments or change in use of the land complied with planning requirements.
Concerns raised included:
the installation and proposed use of shipping containers
the construction of a hardcore access track
possible commercial activity on the site and residential development
the scale and visual impact on what had previously been pasture land
no notification of any planning applications had been received
- A member of public also identified a problem with links on the parish council website and outdated information on other sections.
The Clerk to look into ensuring the website is up to date and links are working.

- 26-27/059 Incoming communications**
Community Governance Review - there are no proposed changes to Benefield
The consultation is open to public responses.
Licensing Act Consultation - Members noted that a consultation relating to the Licensing Act had been circulated.
Road Closure between Upper and Lower Benefield - Members noted notification of a proposed road closure between Upper and Lower Benefield from 21 to 25 September 2026 to facilitate sewer connection works associated with the Cricket Club. Clerk to circulate information via village comms channels.
Correspondence regarding dogs - Correspondence had been received following an incident involving a dog which had reportedly escaped from a property and attacked another dog being walked on a lead. Item deferred to next meeting as not on the agenda.
Further land concern, Lower Benefield - correspondence received in regards to land sold as pasture being used as garden. Item deferred to next meeting as not on the agenda.
- 26-27/060 Financial reporting & matters arising**
- i Bank balance**

NatWest current balance	£0.00
Unity current balance	£3,624.31
Unity savings balance	£9,478.87
Total	£13,103.18
 - ii Payments approved**

Parish Clerk salary (July)	£139.70
Parish Clerk salary (August)	£139.70
 - iii Payment by Direct Debit (for noting)**

Valda (DD) electricity	£70.84
Unity Service Charge	£7.00
 - iv 2026/27 spend to date**
VAT return due to be made
Expenditure to date was £5,525.20, leaving approximately £4,672 of budget.
Purchase of speedwatch equipment had taken the community project spend over budget but this would be offset against other budget lines to ensure budget was within set parameters.
- 26-27/061 Planning Applications**
No new applications
- 26-27/062 Residents concerns**
- i Land in Lower Benefield**
Concerns discussed extensively under public participation. The Council reiterated that enquiries had been made of North Northants Council Planning and that the matter would be pursued until clarification had been received regarding the planning position.
 - ii Churchfield Stone**
Concerns had been received from residents regarding the volume and concentration of HGV movements associated with Churchfield Stone. It was understood that the site's planning conditions placed restrictions on vehicle movements although the increased volume may not all relate to Churchfield

iii Stone. The Clerk to contact planning enforcement to raise concerns.

Old Breakers Yard

The Council discussed concerns previously raised regarding the proposed operation of the former breaker's yard as a vehicle recovery site. Questions remained in regards to hours of operation, potential noise pollution, light pollution, impact on nearby properties. These have been raised with the planning authority. The Clerk to establish contact with the operator.

26-27/063 Traffic calming update

Data from the mobile speed devices continue to show the average speed of vehicles is below 30mph.

The first community speedwatch session had taken place and 15 vehicles were travelling over the 30mph limit. The Council thanked those volunteers who were supporting the scheme.

26-27/064 Police liaison representative update

The PLR had reported the faded white lines at the junction of Causin Way and the A427, as well as overhanging hedges obscuring road signs.

26-27/065 Environmental improvements

The planting period for bulbs is approaching. To be discussed at the next meeting.

26-27/066 Parish Council Vacancy

The council still has a vacancy however they are able to operate with the current number of councillors. Applications were encouraged from any resident but particularly Lower Benefield to ensure full representation across the parish.

26-27/067 Future agenda items/business for future meetings.

Dog walking in the village

Further concerns around land in Lower Benefield

Update regarding the land issues in Lower Benefield raised during public participation

Feasibility on the refurbishment of the telephone box in Upper Benefield

Update on Churchfield Stone and Breakers Yard

Footpath issues in Upper Benefield - tree root causing trip hazard

26/27/068 Date of next meeting

14th October 6:30pm

Meeting closed at 19:30

Emma Lingley-Clark

Clerk to Benefield Parish Council

