Benefield Parish Council



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Date: Wednesday 14th October 2026
Time: 18:30
Venue: Benefield Village Hall

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

26-27/069 **To note attendance and approve apologies for absence.**
Present: Cllr Faulkner (Chair), Cllr Wood, Cllr Waters, Cllr Pridmore, Cllr Shatford, Cllr Cutmore
Apologies: Emma Lingley-Clark (Clerk), 1 member of the public

26-27/070 **To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting held on the 26th August 2026**
Approved

26-27/071 **To note any matter arising from the minutes - for report only**
It was confirmed that the broken links on the website had been repaired.

26-27/072 **To receive members declarations of interest on today's agenda items**
None

26-27/073 **Public Participation session. Members of the public are invited to address the Council**
The Chair confirmed that the police had authorised Speedwatch activity and that all locations were designated as a safe location. The discussion focused on encouraging residents to support road safety initiatives.

26-27/059 **Incoming communications**
None other than those covered on the agenda

26-27/060 **Financial reporting & matters arising**

i **Bank balance**

NatWest current balance	£0.00
Unity current balance	£3,039.88
Unity savings balance	£9,525.46
Total	£12,565.34

ii **Payments approved**

Auditor fee	£80.00

iii **Payments made as per approved schedule**

Parish Clerk salary (September)	£41.91
Mowerman (2473)	£454.03
Mowerman (2556)	£454.03
Mowerman (2578)	£454.03
Mowerman (2653)	£454.03
Website (via clerk)	£62.40

Cllrs discussed the upcoming arrangements for payments towards bugler and wreath for Remembrance Sunday.

iii **Payment by Direct Debit (for noting)**

Valda (DD) electricity	£83.08
Valda (DD) electricity	£98.67
Unity Service Charge	£7.00

iv **Income**

Grass cutting rebate 25/26	£289.00

26-27/061 **Planning Applications**

No new applications received.

Portal to be checked for works on a house in Gibson Drive that had not been received to date.

26-27/062 **Residents concerns**

i Land in Lower Benefield - planning department update

The Council had received a response from North Northants Council planning enforcement. They had advised there was insufficient evidence of a planning breach and that following a site inspection all work undertaken fell within permitted development rights. The department would continue to monitor the site for future developments. The Council noted the response.

ii Land in Lower Benefield behind houses

Residents had raised concerns about land designated as pasture being used as garden. Cllrs agreed to provide details of the enforcement portal to residents for them to raise concerns directly and if there was a lack of response the Council would follow up.

https://forms.northnorthants.gov.uk/service/Report_a_breach_of_planning_control

iii Churchfield Stone

The Council discussed that previous high volumes of vehicles appear to have stopped but this would be monitored and evidence gathered as required.

iv Old Breakers Yard

Response received from Crouch Recovery following concerns raised about the proposed operations. They advised that:

- reversing warning bleepers would not be used at night
- electric sliding gates had been installed to minimise noise
- vehicle movements at night were expected to be limited
- lighting was sensor controlled
- they were willing to work with local residents on any concerns

Cllrs welcomed the response and would monitor the situation.

v Dog walking

The Council discussed a recent report of a dog attacking another dog in the village and subsequent conversation in the village about dogs roaming freely. Members considered whether there was any

value in reminding local residents about responsible dog ownership but decided at that time not to do anything.

vi Footpath in Upper Benefield and tree roots causing trip hazard
A potential tree root is causing a trip hazard. This to be reported to North Northants Council to establish responsibility.

vii Phone box Upper Benefield
The Council discussed the costs of renovating the phone box in Upper Benefield. The phone box would cost £5 to purchase but renovations could cost up to £1250 and that ongoing maintenance costs were unknown. At this time the Council chose not to adopt the phone box and leave it in its current condition.

26-27/063 Traffic calming update
The Council received a written update on the Speedwatch initiative. Monitoring was being carried out at different times but the number of vehicles speeding was still low. Cllrs requested a summary of data from the past year to consider in more detail.
The Cricket Club had agreed to provide a secure cupboard for storage of equipment but the cost for electrical supply and storage would be £173.99. The Council agreed this expenditure.
A request was made for additional support to charge batteries, download data and arrange Speedwatch sessions. Cllr Faulkner agreed to support.

26-27/064 Police liaison representative update
A written report was provided. Crime remained low but two high value vehicles had been stolen. Reports had been received of drones flying over the village but there was no information as to whether this was linked. Residents were encouraged to report all crimes to the police.

26-27/065 Environmental improvements

i Proposal for skip hire
The Council discussed the proposal of a skip in the village twice a year. There was some concerns about inappropriate use of the skips and it was decided not to pursue the idea.

ii Bulb planting
The Council discussed the idea of planting bulbs at the village entrances. There was general support for the approach and the price of bulbs to be researched with planting support from volunteers.

26-27/066 Future agenda items/business for future meetings.
None agreed

26/27/067 Approve date of next meeting
25th November 2026

Emma Lingley-Clark
Clerk to Benefield Parish Council