BENTWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Louisa Thomson
Email: clerk@bentworthparishcouncil.org

Scott Neville - Chairman, Simon Lane – Vice Chairman, Christian Browning and Sheena Robertson

MINUTES OF MEETING

Tuesday 1st September 2026 at Jubilee Hall, Bentworth

Present:

Parish Councillors	Clerk	District & County Councillors	Others
Scott Neville Simon Lane Christian Browning Sheena Robertson	Louisa Thomson		Members of the public

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)
Members of the public raised the fencing in front of the former Star pub; they are supportive of the work being carried out to change the pub to a residential home but would request the fencing is removed as the property is now occupied and it is unsightly. Could the Parish Council write to the resident and as for the fencing to be removed.

Councillor Christian Browning has spoken to the resident and will speak to them again to ask them to remove the fencing.

Members of the public raised the traffic lights at Glebe Fields which were due to be removed on the 28th August.

Councillor Simon Lane has spoken to the contractors and there are three firms dealing with the pathway and soft landscaping, the signing off of the edging has been delayed. The contractors are unable to confirm when the works will be completed and the traffic lights removed.

26.110 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED
The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 21st July 2026, copies previously circulated. **Proposed as a true record by Christian Browning, Seconded Sheena Robertson, RESOLVED and signed by chairman Scott Neville.**

26.111 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - Members of the public made the following comments:

Newsletter
- The newsletter printing costs should be detailed on the agenda.
- The Council shouldn't be focusing on the newsletter when the website is out of date.

Speed Cameras
- How accurate are the cameras? When using calibrated cameras the police will only look at speeders who travel at the speed limit plus 10% plus 2mph, therefore in a 30mph zone the vehicle would need to be traveling in excess of 35mph. If the council is reporting statistics for all vehicles travelling over 30mph these vehicles may well not be speeding due to the calibration of the cameras.

Councillor Scott Neville responded:
- According to EHDC AutoSpeedWatch group Bentworth is one of the highest recorded villages for speeders with less vehicles in total and higher number of speeders.
- The Bentworth AutoSpeedWatch cameras only report vehicles travelling at 40mph in a 30mph zone and 50mph in a 40mph zone.
- Councillor Sheena Robertson will look at the Speed Indicator Device reporting and make sure only vehicles travelling in excess of 35mph are reported in future.

26.112 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ANTONIA COX
I was able to follow up on the questions about hedge trimming and the lengthsman scheme from the parish council meeting on 2 June by email which you should have received.

I understand that you have made some progress with Tracey Webb of HCC's transport engineering department so that you can meet and review options (and costs) for speeding reduction measures such as village gateways, dragon's teeth, bin stickers and so on. Please let me know if I need to chase.

I have also been working with HCC officers to ensure information about the B3004 speed limits and resurfacing is fed through to parish councils, inspecting the site with the Executive Member for Transport, and helping coordinate mitigation measures around diversions; prompting the Countryside Service to give assurance on habitat protection during work to the BOAT network in Four Marks; and working with the Oakhanger Road Safety Group on measures to protect pedestrians.

In addition, I have been working with transport planners and the Medstead and Four Marks Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and others to make sure the assumptions fed into the modelling of the traffic impact of proposed new developments in Medstead and Four Marks are the right ones. I secured EHDC funding for biodiversity analysis of the proposed Chawton Park Farm housing site.

A scoping workshop for the Alton Travel Strategy is taking place in September which will take account of the increase in traffic arising from projected housing developments.
I have been heavily involved in preparing for the forthcoming scoping workshop, arguing for wider representation from community groups as well as councillors; securing invitations for Beech Parish Council and representatives from the Medstead and Four Marks Neighbourhood Plan steering group; and emphasising the need for the strategy to consider wider A31 corridor impacts and planned housing growth.

I have also investigated the timetables and specifications for the road safety improvements at the Golden Pot and Five Ways (Four Marks) junctions and asked for further road safety measures in Binsted and Selborne.

Our grant scheme is still open so please let me know if you have any applications in mind. Application forms can be found on the HCC website.

26.113 COUNCILLOR UPDATES – Updated action log attached Appendix A.

26.114 VILLAGE POND - Councillor Christian Browning updated, there will be a pond tidy and completion of the remaining soil delivery on Sunday 13th September at 10am.

26.115 AUTOSPEEDWATCH - Councillor Scott Neville updated, the cameras are solar powered and have been very active. The data will be analysed and the statistics updated.

26.116 TRAFFIC CALMING
Councillor Scott Neville updated, HCC have sent examples of things that can be done to reduce speeding and improve walking. Having discounted ones which aren't applicable to Bentworth Council will print mock ups which will be displayed at a presentation evening in the hall where all residents can attend and have their say.

Scott Neville suspended Standing Orders to allow members of the public to speak.

The presentation evening should be a more formal event with residents questions and answers minuted.

Scott Neville reinstated Standing Orders.

Proposed Sheena Roberston, Seconded Simon Lane, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: The mock up posters will be available to view at the Parish Council meeting on the 6th October and a meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th October for residents to attend and have their say.

26.117 PLANNING - Council considered planning applications, their comments forwarded to EHDC.

a) EHDC-26-0833-LDCE — NEW COPSE FARM New Copse
Lawful Development Certificate for existing use, Operation or Activity - The area outlined in Red is currently used as a residential site. The dwelling is single storey with two bedrooms under a low pitch roof. There is a parking area and a small garden to the front (north) and a larger mature garden laid to lawn at the rear. Access is via an un-named track from Jennie Green Lane to the entrance gate of the Blue outlined area, and a block driveway around the north side of the barn.

Scott Neville suspended Standing Orders to allow members of the public to speak.

A member of the public gave some background information on the application.

Scott Neville reinstated Standing Orders.

Proposed Christian Browning, Seconded Sheena Robertson, (Simon Lane objected) RESOLVED: Bentworth Parish Council have NO OBJECTION to this application.

b) EHDC-26-0622-HSE SOUTHWOLD Ashley Road
Proposed rear orangery.

East Hampshire District Council have already decided this application.

c) EHDC-26-0784-TCA Hall Farm, HALL PLACE Holt End Lane
G1- Mixed tree species predominantly Field Maple. Cut back to gain 2m clearance from building line. G2 - Mixed tree species - cut back to gain 2m clearance from building line. Crown reduction on Field Maple included in G2 to main site entry point. 15% reduction in the crown. T3 - Tulip tree - 10% crown reduction and deadwood. T4 - Hazel 50% reduction.

Proposed Simon Lane, Seconded Christian Browning, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: Bentworth Parish Council have NO OBJECTION and defer to EHDC Arboricultural Officer for this application.

26.118 PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER - This will be added to the website and published in The Villager.

26.119 ST MARY'S CHURCH AND SCHOOL SIGN
Proposed Simon Lane, Seconded Sheena Robertson, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: to approve expenditure of £75 for Alton Men Shed to make a new sign.

26.120 SPEED LIMIT REMINDER SIGN – Report from David Maltby
SID Report for Denyers between 2 to 16 Aug.

	Total (both directions)
Vehicles Recorded	13,908
31-35mph	5,729
36-40mph	1,706
41-45mph	393
46-50mph	58
51-60mph	20
61-70mph	4
>30mph	7,910(56.87%)
>35mph	2,181(15.68%)

60mph and over.
Fri 7th Aug 63mph 15:08 towards A339
Sat 8th Aug 61mph 00:03 towards A339
Tue 11th Aug 60mph 07:46 towards A339
Wed 12th Aug 61mph 07:45 towards A339
Wed 12th Aug 60mph 16:24 towards Medstead
Fri 14th Aug 61mph 16:17 towards A339

26.121 COMMUNITY UPDATES
Neighbourhood Watch – Alton co-ordinator reported scams by telephone and email asking for financial details, no authority will ask for account details. When answering the phone if there's a waiting period and then a click and an automated voice it's a scam. This information will be included in The Villager.

Community Care – The Summer Tea Party was held on Saturday 15th August at Wivelrod Barns, it was a very enjoyable event. Residents thanked the Care Group without whom they wouldn't be able to get to doctors, hospital appointments etc.

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26.122 ACCOUNTS 2026/27
Proposed Simon Lane, Seconded Sheena Robertson, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve the following payment which will be authorised by Scott Neville.

Mr R Neville – Mailchimp monthly subscription August	£ 12.10

26.123 MEETING DATES
The next monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday 6th October 2026.

CLOSE OF MEETING – The Chair thanked all present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.20pm.

Signed……
Scott Neville - Chair Bentworth Parish Council

6th October 2026