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 21st July 2026 at Jubilee Hall, Bentworth

Present:

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

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

Members of the public suggested possible uses for the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy held by the council, these included:

- Making the layby by the gold post box larger.
- Having the telegraph pole by the Church gate moved so the land can be used for parking.
- Tarmac the surface where the school entrance meets the road.

Another member of the public informed the meeting that when the layby had originally been proposed it caused a lot of debate and discussion in the village with some residents against it all together and concerns were raised if it was too large it would encourage large vehicles to use it.

The Council / Clerk will contact EHDC and HCC to establish who owns the land and whether a larger layby would be possible.

26.096 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Apologies were received from Simon Lane and District Councillor Tony Costigan.

26.097 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED
The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 16th June 2026, copies previously circulated. **Proposed as a true record by Sheena Robertson, Seconded Christian Browning, RESOLVED and signed by chairman Scott Neville.**

26.098 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
The following were raised by a member of the public:

- Village Fete – a good community event, well done to all.
- Meeting Minutes – It's important that everything that is discussed is minuted and recorded.
- Traffic Calming – The council needs to be clear what is meant and needs to be mindful of potential village appearance impact. The council should wait and let the village decide which options are included in the consultation and any presentation should take place during the week not at weekends. Previously the village didn't want any traffic calming measures.

Scott Neville responded that the minutes would try to record everything in summary and the council was proposing to hold a public presentation with the various traffic calming options presented to the village prior to any consultation taking place.

26.099 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 to the clerk.

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.

On being elected we new councillors were immediately confronted with the traveller incursion in Medstead - for the tackling of which of course only East Hants District Council is responsible. However, I made sure that EHDC knew all about the speeding and aggressive driving behaviour of the perpetrators, and encouraged reporting to the police.

I was able to work with Cllr Ransley on the flooding on Medstead Road last month and this was eventually resolved.

I have previously checked up with officers on the A339 surfacing works, although as I am on holiday at the time of writing I would like Beech PC to update me on the latest status. The Well Lane potholes have been filled although I think we need to push for full resurfacing. I would welcome your views.
Further afield, I have reviewed the drawings for implementing a 40mph limit at the Golden Pot junction. I have also checked on progress of the Safer Routes to School works and related speed limits near Four Marks Primary School. When term starts at Bentworth Primary, I would welcome an opportunity to look at the drop-off arrangements with the head.

Further afield, I have been raising concerns, among other things, about the road surface at the B3004, feeding into the Jalsa Salana traffic management process, prompting the Countryside Service over 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 that the assumptions fed into the modelling of the traffic impact of proposed new developments in the area are the right ones.
I have continued to attend parish councils and help residents on a variety of school transport, adult social care and planning matters.I have joined the Regulatory and Universal Services committees of HCC and am now also in a position to make grants. There is around £3,300 remaining and would strongly encourage you as a parish council to look for eligible projects according to the criteria on HCC's grant pages.

26.100 STANDING ORDERS
Proposed Sheena Robertson, Seconded Christian Browning, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: the chairperson can suspend Standing Orders without individual resolutions.

26.101 COUNCILLOR UPDATES – Updated action log attached Appendix A.

26.102 VILLAGE POND – no update.

26.103 AUTOSPEEDWATCH – no update.

26.104 TRAFFIC CALMING
Proposed Sheena Robertson, Seconded Christian Browning, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: to approve expenditure up to £150 to hire the hall and print posters to present various traffic calming options to the village which could be included in a full village consultation. The aim of any traffic calming measures would be to reduce traffic speed, reduce traffic volume and make it easier for people walking in the village

26.105 NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY
Proposed Christian Browning, Seconded Sheena Robertson, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: to approve the annual report for 2025-2026, attached Appendix B, which will be sent to EHDC and added to the Parish Council website.

26.106 SPEED LIMIT REMINDER SIGN – Report from David Maltby
A few statistics for your Traffic Calming discussions.

So far this year alone the SID has recorded:
14 exceeding 60mph
157 exceeding 50mph
591 exceeding 46mph
3,000 exceeding 40mph.
These are all within the village 30mph speed limit.

Also, as a validator for Autospeedwatch there are quite a few vehicles with expired MOT or No Road Tax on average 3 or 4 vehicles every day.
If these vehicles have no MOT presumably this invalidates any insurance?
Please remember I only see those that are speeding, but presumably there are quite a few with no Tax/MOT/SORN who are not speeding!

SID Report for Wellers between 5 to 19 July.

	Total (both directions)
Vehicles Recorded	15,747
31-35mph	4,786
36-40mph	1,107
41-45mph	184
46-50mph	36
51-60mph	10
61-70mph	0
>30mph	6,123(38.88%)
>35mph	1,337(8.49%)

No 60mph and over.

26.107 COMMUNITY UPDATES

Community Care – Carried out 10 trips in June. One member left the group and another one joined so still currently have 20 members. Currently organising our Summer Tea Party on Saturday 15th August.

Neighbourhood Watch – The Alton co-ordinator has circulated that a lot of vehicles are being broken into and in some cases tools stolen.

26.108 ACCOUNTS 2026/27

I) Summary of Receipts and Payments for the 1st Quarter Ended 30th June 2026 were presented to Council as follows:

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD on 01/04/26	£24,026.03
ADD Total Receipts	£15,892.35
LESS Total payments	£ 6,170.59
Balance Carried forward 30/06/26	£33,747.79
These cumulative funds are represented by:	
Current Account Balance	£22,376.29
BB Inst Account Balance	£11,371.50
(Note: Bank balances include £17,317.07 Neighbourhood CIL)	£33,747.79

II) **Proposed Sheena Robertson, Seconded Christian Browning, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to approve the following payments which will be authorised by Scott Neville.

a)	Mrs L Thomson – Clerk's Salary July 2026	£513.93
b)	Mrs L Thomson – Clerk's Expenses July 2026	£ 4.14
c)	St Mary's Benworth CE Primary School – Hall Hire	£105.00
d)	DCK Payroll Solutions Ltd – Monthly Payroll processing	£ 38.28
e)	Mr C Browning – Village Pond materials	£ TBC
f)	SJL Contacting – Village Green grass cutting	£180.00
g)	Hampshire ALC – Councillor training C Browning	£ 70.80
h)	Mr R Neville – Mailchimp monthly subscription June & July	£ 24.22
i)	Mrs L Thomson – Clerk's Salary August 2026	£514.13
j)	DCK Payroll Solutions Ltd – Monthly Payroll processing	£ 38.28
k)	Hampshire ALC – Councillor training S Neville	£ 70.80

26.109 MEETING DATES

a) Scheduled council meeting dates 2026/2027 attached Appendix C.
b) The next monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday 1st September 2026.

CLOSE OF MEETING – The Chair thanked all present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.15pm.

Signed……
Scott Neville - Chair Bentworth Parish Council

1st September 2026