BENTWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Louisa Thomson
Email: clerk@bentworthparishcouncil.org

Neal Day - Chairman, Nikki White – Vice Chairman, Scott Neville, Simon Lane, Christian Browning, David Eyre-Brook and Sheena Robertson

MINUTES OF MEETING

Tuesday 3 February 2026 at Jubilee Hall, Bentworth

Present:

Parish Councillors	Clerk	District & County Councillors	Others
Neal Day - Chairman Nikki White Simon Lane Scott Neville Christian Browning	Louisa Thomson		Members of the public

26.001 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies from Councillors David Eyre-Brook and Sheena Robertson and District Councillor Tony Costigan.

26.002 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED
The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 2nd December 2025 **Proposed as a true record by Nikki White, Seconded Scott Neville and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED and signed by chairman Neal Day.**

26.003 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
Agenda item 12 – Road name for land south of Glebe Field, 'Oakfold Meadow' is the suggested name from the developer.
An alternative name of 'Hurley Meadow' is suggested in memory of Mr C Hurley as tribute and recognition for the many years of work for the village and the Parish Council.

26.004 COUNCILLOR UPDATES AND ACTION LOG UPDATE
No action log updates.

Simon Lane – Simon is now the Tree Warden for Bentworth and will forward information to the residents.
Dr Andy J Moffat - Volunteer co-ordinator, East Hants Tree Warden Network will be invited to attend a Parish Council meeting.

Scott Neville – One of the AutoSpeedWatch cameras has been knocked out of position, possibly vandalism, this needs repositioning.

26.005 VILLAGE QUESTIONNAIRE
The questionnaire closed at the end of January, 39 digital and 8 paper copy responses have been received. There will be a full report at the next Parish Council meeting.

26.006 DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING
The following online training link, supplied by a resident, will be added to the Parish Council website. The Parish Council may arrange a physical training session in the future.

https://www.bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/how-to-save-a-life/how-to-do-cpr/learn-cpr-in-15-minutes

26.007 PLANNING
EHDC-25-0977-FUL Land at Lower Park Farm, Abbey Road, Medstead
5m wide access to land for recreational use.
This application has been withdrawn by the planning officer who has requested further information.

26.008 GRANT APPLICATION
Proposed Nikki White, Seconded Simon Lane, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: to approve the grant application for £150 from Citizen Advice.

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26.009 LAND SOUTH OF GLEBE FIELD
Proposed Nikki White, Seconded Scott Neville, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: The road name 'Hurley Field' will be submitted to EHDC, if this isn't acceptable the alternative name of 'Hurley Meadow' is requested.

26.010 VILLAGE POND – Update from Christian Browning and Nikki White

- The pond will cost too much to re-line and therefore there is no need for the wildlife survey.
- The plan is to refurbish the edges and seek plants later.
- A planting guide will be requested from expert suppliers and possibly use donations from residents ponds.
- This is the best way forward and best use of money to make the pond look nice for the village.

Proposed Christian Browning, Seconded Simon Lane, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: approve expenditure up to £600 (ex VAT) for the purchase of hessian sacking and topsoil.

26.011 AUTOSPEEDWATCH – Update from Scott Neville
All parishes with ASW cameras will send reports to Hampshire Constabulary, this information will be used to deploy police cameras to the worst areas.

Proposed Scott Neville, Seconded Simon Lane, CARRIED (Christian Browning voted against): The Parish Council will apply to the DVLA for the address details of the four top offenders, costing £2.50 per application.

26.012 SPEED LIMIT REMINDER SIGN – Report from David Maltby
Please find attached the annual summary of SID Data and comparison to previous years. (Attached appendix A and B)

I have highlighted in RED percentages that have increased, this maybe due to a significant drop in vehicles recorded – some 40 to 50,000 in each direction.

This summary covers regular SID data from Denyers; Wellers; Glebe; and once each from Drury Lane and Oaklands.

What is the reason for drop in recorded vehicles – probably more diversions/road closed.

For your traffic survey the SID data shows conclusively that traffic approaching the SID is always slower than traffic going away from the SID, but I suspect this is only true within sight of the SID. Once they've past the SID they speed up again…

I have also attached data for vehicles recorded travelling within the village at 60mph or higher, there have been 41 of them. These are only the ones recorded by the SID, I'm sure there are many others caught by AutoSpeedWatch. 41 is a significant increase on the 29 from 2024. However, I suspect many of these are the same offender…

A final note:
Due to the development at Glebe South, it is not possible to use this location for the SID at the moment. So, data will be concentrated on Denyers and Wellers.

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26.013 COMMUNITY UPDATES

a) Community Care – Email report from Care Group Chair Jackie Crawford

- We had a fairly quiet December but overall the Care Group carried out 119 trips in 2025 compared to 122 in 2024.
- We had 4 members step down during the year however we were lucky enough to have 4 new members join us. We currently have 20 members.
- At our AGM in January I was re-elected as Chair, Judy Fellingham was elected as Vice Chair and David Eyre-Brook was elected as Secretary/Treasurer.
- The Care Group Christmas lunch was held on Saturday 13th December at The Sun Inn kindly supported by a grant from EHDC via our District Councillor Tony Costigan which our guests very much appreciated and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.
- Our next social function for our 'clients' will be our Annual Bingo Tea at the end of March.

b) Neighbourhood Watch – Nothing to report.

26.014 PRACTITIONERS GUIDE

This item will be added to the next agenda for confirmation. The Clerk will get a copy of the model IT Policy from Hampshire Association of Local Councils which can be adapted and Scott Neville will Contacted Toolbox regarding the required changes to the website.

26.015 INTERNAL AUDIT

Proposed Nikki White, Seconded Scott Neville, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: confirm April Skies Accounting will carry out the internal audit for 2025/2026 costing £350 plus travel expenses.

26.016 ACCOUNTS 2025/2026

I) Summary of Receipts and Payments for the 3rd Quarter to the 31st December 2025:

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD on 01/10/25	£29,056.85
ADD Total Receipts	£ 304.19
LESS Total payments	£ 4,899.07
Balance Carried forward 31/12/25	£24,461.97
These cumulative funds are represented by:	
Current Account Balance	£13,120.05
BB Inst Account Balance (Neighbourhood CIL £9.282.79)	£11,341.92
	£24,461.97

II) **Proposed Nikki White, Seconded Neville, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to approve the following payments which will be authorised by Councillor Neal Day.

a)	Louisa Thomson – Clerk's Salary January 2026	£519.73
b)	Louisa Thomson – Clerk's Expenses January 2026	£ 12.27
c)	DCK Payroll Solutions Ltd – Payroll processing January 2026	£ 38.28
d)	Nikki White – Christmas tree decorating refreshments	£ 25.09
e)	St Mary's Bentworth C.E. Primary School – Hall hire	£ 60.00
f)	Citizens Advice (if agreed in item 8.)	£150.00
g)	Louisa Thomson – Clerk's Salary February 2026	£519.73
h)	DCK Payroll Solutions Ltd – Payroll processing February 2026	£ 38.28

26.017 NEXT MEETING DATE

a) To confirm the date of the next council meeting will be on Tuesday 3rd March 2026 at 7.30pm.

b) The Annual Parish meeting will be held on Tuesday 7th April 2026 following the monthly Parish Council meeting which will start at the earlier time of **7pm**, refreshments will be served after the Annual Parish meeting.

CLOSE OF MEETING – The Chair thanked all present and closed the meeting at 8.07pm

Signed……
Chair Bentworth Parish Council

3rd March 2026