BENTWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Louisa Thomson
Email: clerk@bentworthparishcouncil.org

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

MINUTES OF MEETING

Tuesday 3 March 2026 at Jubilee Hall, Bentworth

Present:

Parish Councillors	Clerk	District & County Councillors	Others
Neal Day - Chairman Nikki White Simon Lane Christian Browning David Eyre-Brook Sheena Robertson	Louisa Thomson		Members of the public

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME NON-AGENDA ITEMS – Please see appendix A.

26.019 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Apologies received Cllr Scott Neville and District Cllr Tony Costigan.

26.020 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED
The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 3rd February 2026 **Proposed as a true record by Simon Lane, Seconded David Eyre-Brook and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED and signed by chairman Neal Day.**

26.021 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Members of the public speak on agenda items.

Council were asked about the resent Village Survey and responded as follows:

- The breakdown will be published on the Parish Council website.
- The Parish Council will schedule a surgery to discuss the results further on a one-to-one basis with residents.

AutoSpeedWatch Cameras

- A lot of time and taxpayers' money is spent on the cameras, and the data licences shouldn't be renewed.
- AutoSpeedWatch and the Speed Indicator Device reports use the word 'offences', the information produced isn't enforceable and the words 'offences' or 'speeding' shouldn't be used.
- According to Police Guidance, when calibrated devices are used, speeders between 35mph and 42mph are eligible for speed awareness course.
- Money should be put towards the village fete or similar.
- The council should pursue HGV restricted access with Medstead. A public meeting could be held. There needs to be a strategy, these aren't quick fixes.
- The camera from the A339 isn't effective as it's not visible enough.
- The Speed Indicator Device is more effective to reduce speeding as it's more visible.

Neighbourhood Watch / Rural Crime

- 'Eyes on' platform will be launched in Hampshire to be used to report rural crime.

26.022 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT
The Parish Council would like to thank County Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee for the £750 grant towards works to the village pond and surrounding area.

26.023 COUNCILLOR UPDATES AND ACTION LOG UPDATE
Simon Lane

- Will set up a Surgery.
- Broken surrounds for the kissing gates have been logged with HCC with the help of Alton Ramblers.
- Residents should let Simon know of any breakages and footpath obstructions.
- Residents can contribute to the maintenance programme at Home Farm Bentworth owned by National Trust.
  https://woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/1k2eqavz/4427-home-farm_public-mp_2025_2035.pdf
  Information will be available on the website, village WhatsApp and village email.

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David Eyre-Brook – Thanks to John Stockdale for circulating the link to the CPR training video which everyone should watch.

26.024 VILLAGE QUESTIONNAIRE – As per item 26.021 Public Question Time

26.025 LAND SOUTH OF GLEBE FIELD
The suggestion of 'Hurley Field' has been sent to EHDC who have viewed this positively but need to carry out checks with the Post Office etc.
The builders sign isn't necessarily the final name, the builders need to use something for deliveries etc.

Councillor Sheena Robertson joined the meeting apologising for her late arrival

26.026 VILLAGE POND
Proposed Nikki White, Seconded Christian Browning, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: to approve £559.65 for the purchase of plants.

Proposed Simon Lane, Seconded Nikki White, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders so members of the public can speak on the next item.

- The post box is owned by Royal Mail so their permission would need to be sought.
- Support for the additional plaque, nice to recognise a unique situation.
- Agree if the Parish Council won't have to pay for it.

Proposed Simon Lane, Seconded Nikki White, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to reinstate Standing Orders

26.027 GOLD POST BOX
The Parish Council have received a request to add a plaque to the gold post box in Bentworth to commemorate the Olympic medals of both Peter and Harry Charles.
The Parish Council supports the suggestion, the applicant will need to contact Royal Mail and the PC will not pay for the plaque.
Proposed Sheena Robertson, Seconded Nikki White, RESOLVED by majority vote (Simon Lane voted against and David Eyre-Brook and Neal Day abstained)

26.028 AUTOSPEEDWATCH
a) The Police will start to use information provided to deploy their speed traps.
b) **Proposed David Eyre-Brook, Seconded Sheena Robertson, RESOLVED by majority vote (Christian Browning voted against):** to renew the three ASW data licenses costing £179 plus VAT per camera.

26.029 SPEED LIMIT REMINDER SIGN – Report from David Maltby

SID Report for Oaklands between 1 to 22 February

	Total (both directions)
Vehicles Recorded	19,266
31-35mph	7,587
36-40mph	1,246
41-45mph	150
46-50mph	24
51-60mph	9
61-70mph	0
>30mph	9,016(46.80%)
>35mph	1,429(7.42%)

26.030 COMMUNITY UPDATES
a) Community Care – Email report from Care Group Chair Jackie Crawford
- Carried out four trips in January and February.
- Two residents that used the service have left the village.
- Three volunteers have resigned and replacements are needed.

b) Neighbourhood Watch – Nothing to report.

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26.031 PRACTITIONERS GUIDE

a) Council reviewed Assertion 10 and the NALC model IT Policy, this will be on the April agenda for adoption.

b) **Proposed Simon Lane, Seconded Nikki White, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** to approve the expenditure of £240 for the necessary updates to the website.

26.032 ACCOUNTS 2025/2026

Proposed Simon Lane, Seconded Nikki White, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve the following payments which will be authorised by Councillor Neal Day.

a)	AutoSpeedWatch Limited – camera licence renewal	£644.40
b)	Mr R Neville – DVLA applications	£ 10.00

26.033 NEXT MEETING DATE

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.

Councillor Nikki White resigned from the Council, Chairman Neal Day thanked her for all her hard work and support.

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

Signed……
Chair Bentworth Parish Council

7th April 2026