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 4 November 2025 at Jubilee Hall, Bentworth

Present:

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

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – NON-AGENDA ITEMS
Members of the public addressed the Council, their comments have been noted on the action log which will be issued as Appendix A.

25.099 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies were received from Councillors Scott Neville and Christian Browning and Sheena Robertson, for her late arrival.

25.100 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED
The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 7th October 2025 **Proposed as a true record by Nikki White, Seconded Simon Lane and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED and signed by chairman Neal Day.**

25.101 DECLARATION OF INTEREST
Councillor Nikki White declared an interest in agenda item 8. a) Planning application EHDC-25-118-HSE

25.102 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (AGENDA ITEMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDERS)
Member of the public raised concerns about the possible works to the village pond. A new pond liner won't solve the problem and feel further investigation needs to be done before any works commence.

25.103 COUNCILLOR UPDATES AND ACTION LOG UPDATE
Action log with updates will be published separately, Appendix A.

Neal Day

- Councillors have held an informal interim meeting to discuss how to progress outstanding Council items, another meeting will be held in two weeks' time.
- The next Parish Council newsletter will be hand delivered in December.
- Councillors will carry out the annual asset review to check the condition on the 20th November.
- Refreshments will be provided after the December meeting.

Simon Lane – A resident survey will be included in the newsletter. Completed surveys are to be returned to the post box which will be on the pedestrian gate to St Mary's. The survey will run from the beginning of December until the end of January.

Nikki White – The Christmas Tree has been ordered and will be put up on Saturday 6th December with decorating by the residents on Sunday 7th December.

David Eyre-Brook – Potholes have been reported to Hampshire Highways but its unclear when any works will take place.

Clerk – Purchase and Receipt information for financial year ending 31st March 2025 have been published on the website. The information for the six months ended 30th September 2025 will be updated shortly.

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25.104 PLANNING – Council considered three planning applications, their comments to be forwarded to EHDC.

Councillor Nikki White didn't take any part in the discussion or decision for the next item.

a) EHDC-25-1188-HSE Beech Copse Holt End Lane, Bentworth **NO OBJECTION**
Retrospective planning sought for the conversion of garage to domestic use.

Proposed David Eyre-Brook, Seconded Simon Lane, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: Bentworth Parish Council have no objection to this application.

b) EHDC-25-0502-FUL Land West Of Redwood Farm, Jennie Green Lane **OBJECT**
Retrospective application for the change of use of the land to one Gypsy/Traveller pitch and for the retention of one static home, one touring caravan, boundary fences, access gates and installation of a septic tank.

Proposed David Eyre-Brook, Seconded Simon Lane, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: Bentworth Parish Council has already commented on the original retrospective application.
It appears that the applicant has ignored court orders and has continued to develop the site enclosing it with fencing and installing a septic tank.
Our comments remain the same that this is an unlawful development that is out of character and that the applicant has no respect for the planning regulations in the UK.
We object strongly to this development and occupation.

c) APP/M1710/W/25/3373502 Crossways Trinity Road, Bentworth
Detached dwelling following demolition of existing barns.
NOTIFICATION OF RECEIPT OF A PLANNING APPEAL
All the representations made on the application have been forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate and the appellant. These will be considered by the Inspector when determining the appeal.
If you wish to make comments, or modify/withdraw your previous representation, you can do so by 5th November 2025.

Proposed Simon Lane, Seconded Nikki White, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: Bentworth Parish Council reiterates and stands by all it's previous objections to this application.

25.105 VILLAGE POND

a) No update.

b) **Proposed Nikki White, Seconded David Eyre-Brook, RESOLVED (Simon Lane abstained):** To approve expenditure of £60 for the disposal of green waste following the pond tidy.

Proposed David Eyre-Brook, Seconded Nikki White, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders to allow members of the public to speak.

Proposed David Eyre-Brook, Seconded Nikki White, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to reinstate Standing Orders.

c) **Proposed Nikki White, Seconded David Eyre-Brook, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** To approve expenditure of £250 for a wildlife survey to be carried out on the village pond.

25.106 RESIDENT SURVEY

- Councillor David Eyre-Brook has volunteered to receive survey responses to his Parish Council email address david@bentworthparishcouncil.org
- Hard copy responses should be returned to the post box provided.
- Councillor Nikki White will include the information in an article for The Villager.
- **Proposed Simon Lane, Seconded David Eyre-Brook, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** To approve the questions for the questionnaire previously circulated to the Councillors.

25.107 PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Proposed Simon Lane, Seconded Eyre-Brook, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: To approve expenditure of £65 for printing the newsletter.

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25.108 AUTOSPEEDWATCH AND TRAFFIC CALMING – No update

25.109 SPEED LIMIT REMINDER SIGN - Report from David Maltby

SID Report for Glebe between 12 to 26 October.

Total (both directions)

Vehicles Recorded	12,118
31-35mph	4,005
36-40mph	885
41-45mph	160
46-50mph	25
51-60mph	4
61-70mph	0
>30mph	5,079(41.91%)
>35mph	1,074(8.86%)

25.110 COMMUNITY UPDATES

a) Community Care – 10 trips undertaken in October which is average for the year. Four members have resigned; two new people have approached to join.

b) Neighbourhood Watch – be wary about prospective car buyers who may be bogus and steel the vehicle. Ask to check their identification, note their vehicle registration number and never give them the keys or leave them unattended.

25.111 BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2026/2027

Council reviewed the budget for 2026/2027, previously circulated. **Proposed Nikki White, Seconded Simon Lane, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** To set the precept at £15,113 which is an inflation increase of 3.8% on the precept for 2025/2026.

25.112 ACCOUNTS2025/2026

Proposed David Eyre-Brook, Seconded Simon lane, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve the following payments which will be authorised by Councillor Nikki White.

a)	Louisa Thomson – Clerk's Salary October 2025	£519.73
b)	Louisa Thomson – Clerk's Expenses October 2025	£ 43.12
c)	DCK Payroll Solutions Ltd – Payroll processing September 2025	£ 38.28
d)	WRA Welling Associates – Christmas tree	£244.00
e)	St Mary's Bentworth C.E. Primary School – Hall hire	£115.00
f)	SJL Contracting – Pond tidy green waste disposal	£ 60.00

25.113 NEXT MEETING DATE

Confirmed next scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday 2nd December 2025.

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

Signed……
Chair Bentworth Parish Council

2nd December 2025