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 6th October 2026 at Jubilee Hall, Bentworth

Present:

Parish Councillors	Clerk	District & County Councillors	Others
Scott Neville Simon Lane Sheena Robertson	Louisa Thomson	Hampshire County Council Antonia Cox	Members of the public

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)
Members of the public raised the following items:

- Village Fete – Is it possible to publish a list of what each stall made. How will grants be paid, Scott Neville responded that the Village Fete will be paying any grants directly and the Parish Council has nothing to do with the administration of the event.
- Village Appearance – Could this be added to the agenda as a regular item.
- Public Participation – Could the public participation that precedes the meeting be included in the minutes.
- Village Pond – Thanks to all the volunteers and Christian Browning for the work on the pond which looks much better.
- Bench on Village Green – has fallen into disrepair. This will be looked at as part of the Asset Review carried out by the Parish Council.

26.124 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Christian Browning.

26.125 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED
The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 1st September 2026, copies previously circulated.
Proposed as a true record by Simon Lane, Seconded Sheena Robertson, RESOLVED and signed by chairman Scott Neville.

26.126 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - Members of the public made the following comments:
Village Pond

- Thanks to Christian Browning for organising the pond tidy.
- Would the Parish Council accept donations of non-invasive plants for the pond, Scott Neville responded that in principle yes but to check with Christian Browning.

26.127 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ANTONIA COX

- The Government have done a U-turn and there will no longer be a Mid-Hants Unitary Authority, Hampshire County Council applied for a judicial review and the Government realised they would lose.
- East Hampshire District Council and Parish Council elections will take place in May 2027.
- The election of a Mayor for Hampshire and Solent may take place in May 2027.
- A Combined County Authority will work under the Mayor, they will be putting together an growth plan.
- The bridle path in Beech which crossed Medstead Road will have new signs warning traffic of the crossing.
- Community Funded Initiative – It's great to see the work the Parish Council are carrying out to engage with the residents.
- School pick up and drop off arrangements are being looked at.
- There has been a meeting in Four Marks to assess the impact of development on the road junctions and to forecast the impact so Highways may say no to development.
- The Golden Pot junction will be made a 40mph limit.
- The Police and Crime Commissioner role will be combined with the role of Mayor.

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26.128 COUNCILLOR UPDATES – Updated action log attached Appendix A.
Traffic reports – **Proposed Sheena Robertson, Seconded Simon Lane, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** to only report vehicle speeds of 36mph and above.

26.127 CHRISTMAS TREE
Proposed Sheena Robertson, Seconded Simon Lane, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: to approve the purchase of a Christmas Tree up to £280.

26.128 GRANT
Proposed Simon Lane, Seconded Sheena Robertson, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: to approve the grant application of £147.69 for a replacement barrel and compost for the roundabout.

26.129 AUTOSPEEDWATCH - Councillor Scott Neville updated.

- One volunteer has resigned as the Police are not using the information so feels it is pointless.
- There is a backlog of records that need verifying. This is difficult with only one volunteer so will start from now and leave the backlog.
- According to EHDC AutoSpeedWatch group Bentworth is the second busiest village in Hampshire. Bentworth only record vehicles travelling at over 40mph where as Beech record above 36mph so Bentworth's volumes may well be higher than reported.

26.130 TRAFFIC CALMING

- A public meeting for the village will be held on Tuesday 13th October.
- Answers to villagers email question received to date will be published on the website.
- Clerk to check with Hampshire Highways if speed bumps may be considered and if the Parish Council can provide 30mph stickers for residents wheelie bins.
- The Speed Indicator Sign data for the last five years will be published on the website.

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

A member of the public said there were several places in the village where the 30pmh repeater signs are missing, the Clerk will contact Hampshire Highways.

Scott Neville reinstated Standing Orders.

26.131 SPEED LIMIT REMINDER SIGN – Report from David Maltby
SID Report for Denyers between 13 to 27 Sep.

Total (both directions)
Vehicles Recorded 13,916

36-40mph	1,805
41-45mph	359
46-50mph	51
51-60mph	14
61-70mph	1

>35mph 2,230(16.02%)

60mph and over.
Sat 19th Sep at 14:40 60mph towards A339.
Sun 20th Sep at 16:08 61mph towards Medstead.

26.132 COMMUNITY UPDATES
Community Care – There were 10 trips last month and 10 trips in August. Currently a full complement of volunteers. Funding is fine for regular costs, hopefully they will receive a grant from the Fete Committee which can be used to fund the Christmas lunch.

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26.133 ACCOUNTS 2026/27

Proposed Simon Lane, Seconded Sheena Robertson, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve the following payment which will be authorised by Simon Lane.

a)	Mrs L Thomson – Clerk's Salary September 2026	£513.93
b)	Mrs L Thomson – Clerk's Expenses September 2026	£ 34.13
c)	HM Revenue & Customs – July – September	£341.45
d)	DCK Payroll Solutions Ltd – Monthly Payroll processing	£ 38.28
e)	Mr R Neville – Mailchimp monthly subscription September & Poster printing	£ 85.30

26.134 CLERK'S SALARY

Then National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services have agreed a pay increase. Council to confirm Clerk's salary increase of £0.55 per hour from 1st April 2026.

Proposed Simon Lane, Seconded Sheena Robertson, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: to approve the pay increase.

26.135 MEETING DATES

- The next scheduled Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 3rd November 2026.
- Traffic Calming meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th October 2026.

CLOSE OF MEETING – The Chair thanked all present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.12pm.

Signed……
Scott Neville - Chair Bentworth Parish Council

3rd November 2026