BENTWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Louisa Thomson
Email: clerk@bentworthparishcouncil.org

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

MINUTES OF MEETING

Tuesday 7 October 2025 at Jubilee Hall, Bentworth

Present:

Parish Councillors	Clerk	District & County Councillors	Others
Neal Day - Chairman Nikki White Veronica Parker Scott Neville Simon Lane David Eyre-Brook Christian Browning Sheena Robertson	Louisa Thomson	District Councillor Tony Costigan	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 separately.

25.084 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED
The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 2nd September 2025 Public Participation item was amended and **Proposed as a true record by Simon Lane, Seconded David Eyre-Brook and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED and signed by chairman Neal Day.**

25.085 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (AGENDA ITEMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDERS)
Members of the public addressed the council as follows:

- Request that the Councils accounts are shown clearly with expenditure breakdown.
- Christmas Tree lights have been found.
- Clarification of what is meant by Common Land.
- Village Pond should be surveyed to assess what wildlife is in the pond prior to any works commencing. This is a good opportunity to enhance the pond for nature, stepped sides would be better for wildlife. This could be an asset to the village as an educational facility. Hampshire Wildlife Trust could be approached for help and advice.

25.086 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT - District Councillor Tony Costigan updated:
AutoSpeedWatch Cameras

- The AutoSpeedWatch cameras were given by EHDC with the Parish Council responsible for ongoing maintenance costs.
- Most Parish Councils have found the cameras have had an effect on speeding.
- It's unfortunate that the Police won't accept the data, Gloucester Police are using the data.
- Tony has a meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner in two weeks' time.
- The information could be used for county lines, but this hasn't been taken up by the Police.
- There is too much information for the Police to be able to process but they need to take the information seriously.
- Tony told the Parish Council to wait for the outcome of the meeting with the PCC before making any decisions about the cameras.

Jennie Green Lane Site

- The High Court in London put conditions in place which were immediately breached.
- A retrospective planning application has been submitted to EHDC which is going through the process.
- EHDC are moving forward as best they can.

Fly Tipping

- Fly tipping is getting worse. The large fly tip near Alton cost £30,000 to clear, evidence of ownership has been found.
- EHDC are proposing to put camera at regular fly tipping locations to try to catch the tippers.

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Devolution

- EHDC and HCC have joined and presented their case to the government and are waiting confirmation.
- The current 700 councillor in Hampshire will be reduced to 200 councillors with no District Council, this will happen in the next 17 months with no explanation of who's going to take on the workload.
- New Unitary Councillors will have a large area and responsibility, it will be a full-time job.

Car Parks

- Works to Lady Place car park repairs will be starting soon.
- There will be a bin store for the wheelie bins.
- Turk Street has been cleared and tidied.

Village Pond

- There are grants available from EHDC which may be used for the works.

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

Neal Day – Common Land

- Common Land are areas for the use of everyone.
- In Bentworth these areas are the triangle at Holt End, the Village Green and the Village Pond.
- No one is responsible for the upkeep of these areas.
- A lot of Parish Councils maintain common land areas.
- EHDC may transfer the ownership of the land to the Parish Council if requested.

Proposed Veronica Parker, Seconded Nikki White, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to suspend standing orders to allow members of the public to speak.

- Is the triangle of land at the top of Station Road and the area at Glebe Fields common land?
- Can the maps Councillor Neal Day presented be put on the website?

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

Nikki White – Pond tidy will take place on 26th October 2025 at 10am.

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

a) EHDC-25-0820-FUL Medstead Grange Farm Trinity Hill, Medstead **NO OBJECTION**
Alterations to indoor equestrian arena to include new doors, timber cladding and insertion of high level windows on East elevation, replacement doors on South elevation.
Proposed Scott Neville, Seconded Veronica Parker, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: Bentworth Parish Council has no objection to this application.

b) EHDC-25-0819-HSE NOTIFICATION OF PRE-DECISION AMENDMENT **NO OBJECTION**
Medstead Grange Farm Trinity Hill, Medstead
Conversion of garage to provide ancillary accommodation.
Proposed Scott Neville, Seconded Nikki White, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: Bentworth Parish Council has no objection to this application providing, as previously stated, the accommodation remains annexed to the main property.

c) EHDC-25-0891-FUL Bentworth Place Childer Hill, Bentworth **NO OBJECTION**
Replacement dwelling.
Proposed Veronica Parker, Seconded Nikki White, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: Bentworth Parish Council has no objection to this application.

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25.089 GRANT APPLICATIONS

a) St Mary's Church, Bentworth – Church Yard Maintenance £600

Proposed Nikki White, Seconded Veronica Parker, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders to enable Scott Neville to speak as a member of the public regarding this application.

Scott updated Council, the Fete Committee has donated £1,200 to St Mary's Church from the Fete proceeds.

Proposed Veronica Parker, Seconded Simon Lane, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to reinstate Standing Orders.

Proposed Veronica Parker, Seconded Simon Lane, RESOLVED (Scott Neville and David Eyre- Brook abstained): to grant £250 to be allocated against the Neighbourhood CIL funds the Council holds.

b) Bentworth Cricket Club – Running costs and updating facilities £500
Proposed Veronica Parker, Seconded Nikki White, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: to grant £300 to be allocated against the Neighbourhood CIL funds the Council holds.

c) The Rosemary Foundation Hospice at Home £300
Proposed David Eyre-Brook, Seconded Nikki White, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: to grant £300.

25.090 COMMON LAND – This item was covered during Councillor Updates.

25.091 NEIGHBOURHOOD CIL

a) **Proposed Veronica Parker, Seconded Simon Lane, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** confirm and submit the Neighbourhood CIL annual return to EHDC, copy attached Appendix B.

b) Proposed resident survey questions for the use of the Neighbourhood CIL funds will be confirmed at the November meeting and published in the December Villager.

25.092 VILLAGE POND

Proposed Nikki White, Seconded Simon Lane, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders to allow members of the public to speak.

The pond will probably have newts which are a protected species, you can't just pump the water out. It would be best to get experts involved to survey the wildlife.

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

The Clerk will contact Hampshire Wildlife Trust for advice and see if they will carry out a survey and contact EHDC regarding possible grant funding.

25.093 AUTOSPEEDWATCH AND TRAFFIC CALMING

a) Scott Neville updated that three conspicuously kits have been purchased and will be installed on the ASW cameras.
Community Funded Initiative is a very expensive and a complicated process.
Summary of Councillors meeting to discuss speeding and traffic calming attached Appendix C.

Items b), c) and d) to be left until District Council Costigan has updated following his meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner.

b) Council to approve expenditure for additional camera signs costing circa £60 per sign and agree number and locations.

c) Survey to residents to gauge the public point of view – Council to agree frequency.

d) DVLA may provide details of speeding offenders costing £2.50 per request – Council to decide how many to request.

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25.094 SPEED LIMIT REMINDER SIGN

Report from David Maltby

SID Report for Wellers between 13 to 28 September.

Total (both directions)

Vehicles Recorded	16,080
31-35mph	6,018
36-40mph	1,598
41-45mph	333
46-50mph	56
51-60mph	11
61-70mph	0
>30mph	8,016(49.85%)
>35mph	1,998(12.43%)

25.095 CHRISTMAS TREE

a) **Proposed Veronica Parker, Seconded Scott Neville, UNANIMOUSLY RESOVED:** to approve expenditure up to £250 for the purchase of the Christmas Tree.

b) Lights have been found.

c) **Proposed Veronica Parker, Seconded Scott Neville, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:** to approve expenditure of £30 for refreshments for the Christmas Tree decorating which will take place on 7th December.

25.096 COMMUNITY UPDATES

a) Community Care – 8 trips undertaken which is quieter than normal as two regular users have left the village.
EHDC have approved a grant application to fund the residents Christmas lunch.

b) Neighbourhood Watch – no update.

25.097 ACCOUNTS 2025/26

I) Summary of Receipts and Payments to the 30th September 2025.
2025 were presented to Council as follows:

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD on 01/04/25	£21,518.89
ADD Total Receipts	£14,578.94
LESS Total payments	£ 7,040.98
Balance Carried forward 30/09/25	£29,056.85

These cumulative funds are represented by:

Current Account Balance	£17,731.87
BB Inst Account Balance (Neighbourhood CIL £9.832.79)	£11,324.98
	£29,056.85

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II) **Proposed Nikki White, Seconded Veronica Parker, UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to approve the following payments to be authorised by Neal Day.

a)	Louisa Thomson – Clerk's Salary September 2025	£519.73
b)	HM Revenue & Customs	£412.11
c)	DCK Payroll Solutions Ltd – Payroll processing September 2025	£ 38.28
d)	Grant – St Mary's Church	£250.00
e)	Grant – Bentworth Cricket Club	£300.00
f)	Grant – The Rosemary Foundation Hospice Home	£300.00

25.098 NEXT MEETING DATE
Confirmed next scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday 4th November 2025.

Councillor Veronica Parker resigned from the Parish Council – Neal Day gave a vote of thanks for all her years of hard work.

CLOSE OF MEETING – The Chair thanked all present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.05pm

Signed……
Chair Bentworth Parish Council

4th November 2025