

BENHALL & STERNFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Benhall & Sternfield Parish Council Meeting, which took place at Benhall Ex-Servicemen's Club on
Wednesday 26th July 2023, 7.00pm.

Present: Dr Hilary Graham – Chairman, Cllr Riven Brace – Vice Chairman, Cllr David Secret, Cllr Beverley Barclay,
Cllr Sue Nicholson, Cllr John Slade, Cllr Alan Woods, Cllr Chris Durrant & Cllr Deborah Dann.

In Attendance: 14 members of the public, the Responsible Finance Officer and the Clerk.

OPEN FORUM

Member of the public would like to bring to the attention of the parish council that Middleton-Cum-Fordley Parish Council has sent a letter to ESC, SCC and EDF regarding the impact on communities of the Sizewell C project. The letter had been undersigned also by surrounding parish council. Why has Benhall & Sternfield parish council not been consulted?

Clerk to circulate the letter to the parish council for consideration.

Report from Suffolk County Council Andrew Reid has been circulated to all prior to the meeting.

The Chairman reported that confirmation has been received from Cllr Reid that the Benhall footway along the main road up to the Railway Farm Shop is due to be resurfaced during 31/08/23 to 06/09/23. Cllr Dann suggests that the previous sub contracted work by Kier was poor quality so trust that the resurfacing work will be done by Kier themselves.

Report from East Suffolk Council Katie Graham has been circulated to all prior to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE and to approve. Cllr Archie Bhatia – personal reasons. The Parish Council approved the absence. ESC Cllrs Tom Daley & Katie Graham both at the ESC full council meeting. SCC Cllr Andrew Reid.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS. None.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17th May 2023 - To consider the approval.

The minutes were approved correct, proposed Cllr Woods, seconded Cllr Slade, signed by the Chairman.

4. ACTION POINTS

a/p 1. Open Forum Cllr Nicholson & Cllr Secret to contact ESC regarding cycle route.

Cllr Nicholson informed that she has emailed the district councillors, Saxmundham & Kelsale Town/Parish Councils to raise the issue of safer cycling routes again. This needs to be moving on more quickly. Will keep the PC updated when she receives an acknowledgment.

a/p 2. Open Forum Cllr Barclay to research with the club possibility of “Beware of Cyclists” sign.

Cllr Barclay informed that the Club support the “Beware” signs, as cars do drive straight out from the carpark onto the road with no regard for cyclists. The Chairman suggests that Cllr Barclay could get a price from Leiston Press for 2 signs and circulate to all. Existing posts could be used. RFO informed that CIL money could be used to pay.

5. FINANCE a. Statement of Accounts & Finance Report. The RFO reported the bank balances as at 24th July 2023, HSBC £2,260.83, Suffolk Building Society £22,782.52. Read out the receipts and payments since the last meeting.

The statement of accounts was signed by Cllr Slade.

Spend against budget, small overspend on Play Area due to increased cost of sand for play pit. More income than forecast for SBS interest as higher rates now apply. Receipts of CILS unexpected (covered at last meeting).

CILS holding is £6,506.08. The first deadline to spend some of this sum is 16th October 2025. £3K CILS is earmarked for the repairs to the footpath alongside the B1121.

CIL rates for ESC have now been agreed with effect from 1st August for new planning permissions. Rate per square metre is now £200.

End of Year Accounts 2022/2023 the External Auditors PKF Littlejohn has acknowledged receipt of the Exemption Certificate. The Notice of Public Rights has been posted on the website and all three notice boards. The time period allowed for the public to view the accounts ceased on Monday, 24th July 2023. Not had any communication from parishioners.

b. Clerks pay and expenses. Clerks pay £736.25, expenses £157.65.

Chairman's initials.....

c. Uncontested Election Fee. Received from ESC £100.98.

The above payments were approved proposed Cllr Slade seconded Cllr Nicholson.

6. PLANNING a. Applications and Report

Cllr Nicholsons report, Benhall - Discharge of Requirement 2 (Code of Construction Practice) of Sizewell C Development Consent Order, Benhall Creation of Fen Meadow - Noise Mitigation and Management Plan Sizewell C And Associated Development Sites Suffolk Ref. No: DC/23/2273/DRR Status: Permitted

Discharge of Requirement 2 (Code of Construction Practice - Benhall Fen Meadow: Soil Management Plan and Dust Management Plan) of Sizewell C Development Consent Order Sizewell C And Associated Development Sites Suffolk

Ref. No: DC/23/2135/DRR Status: Permitted

Outline Application (Some Matters Reserved) - Construction of detached dwelling Ivy Cottage Low Street Benhall Suffolk IP17 1JF Ref. No: DC/23/2005/OUT Status: Awaiting decision. The Parish Council has requested a traffic management plan to be carried out due to the single lane width for traffic.

Sternfield - Change of use of land to accommodate 4 no. holiday lodges and associated external works including re-use of existing vehicular access. Land Opposite Watering Farm Watering Lane Sternfield Saxmundham IP17 1QS

Ref. No: DC/23/2188/FUL Status: Awaiting decision.

Case Number: ENF/23/0204/USE Watering Barn, Snape Watering, Sternfield, possible Breach of Control: Conversion of cartlodge - contrary to DC/19/3903/FUL, brought to the attention of the parish council and referred to planners.

Cllr Nicholson has requested a meeting with ESC planners, as Benhall and Sternfield has 3 cases to contend with in the village, The Saxmundham Garden Neighbourhood, Fenn Meadow and Shotts Meadow. Hopes for a meeting with the team towards the end of the year.

Cllr Barclay reported that the retaining wall adjacent to West House, Mill Lane, Benhall is collapsing again. A village resident has also brought this to the attention of the PC. Clerk to contact SCC Highways as they had previously dealt with this incident at West House 2 years ago.

7. REPORTS FROM PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

The Wadd - Cllr Brace nothing to report. The RFO informed that there is budget for hedge cutting to be carried out this year if needed.

Village Green – Cllr Durrant informed that the green has been cut. Chairman and Vice Chairman to speak with the resident who carries out the grass cutting to confirm a cutting schedule.

Trees – Cllr Brace nothing to report.

Cemetery – Cllr Bhatia has advised that whilst she is away Cllrs Barclay and Woods will take over.

Newsletter – Chairman advised that the latest copy will be 2 sides in black & white.

SALC – No representative.

Defibrillator – To be removed from agenda. Jo Pemberton is happy to continue to carry out checks on the defibrillator. The PC greatly appreciates this.

Social Media – To be removed from agenda. Jo Pemberton is happy to keep the site updated.

Website – Cllr Durrant has nothing to report.

Emergency Planning – Cllr Dann is working on updating the list of equipment. Cllr Durrant to send the original list which Jo Pemberton had compiled to Cllr Dann.

Benhall Club – Cllr Slade informed that all is ticking along. Repair work may need to be carried out to the gable end of the building.

Police Liaison – Cllr Durrant advised that community liaison is not as good as it used to be. Clerk to invite PC Kevin Stollery to the next meeting.

8. ENERGY PROJECTS.

Cllr Secret reported that Judicial Reviews for both Sizewell C and Scottish Power have taken place and were thrown out. Consultation for further energy projects will happen towards the end of the year. Discharge of requirements for Scottish Power.

9. CORRESPONDENCE. None.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a. Dog/Grit & Litter Bins. Cllr Woods informed that he has inspected all of the bins and none has any damage at present.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING. 20th September & 15th November 2023.

The meeting ended at 7.50pm.

Chairman's initials.....

List of Action Points:

- 1. Open Forum. Clerk to circulate letter from Middleton PC to all, regarding Sizewell C project
- 2. 6.a Clerk to contact SCC Highways regarding the collapsed retaining wall at West House.

Signed **(Chairman)** **Date**