

# Bengeo Rural Parish Council Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Email: [bengeoruralparishcouncil@outlook.com](mailto:bengeoruralparishcouncil@outlook.com) Website: [www.bengeoruralparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.bengeoruralparishcouncil.co.uk)

## MINUTES

<u>Present:</u>		<u>In Attendance:</u>
Cllr Tony Ellis (Chair)	Cllr Matthew Lezemore	Victoria Preuss - Clerk
Cllr Neil Blackaller	Cllr Jayne Abery	Member of the Public
Cllr Matthew Clutterbuck		

23/24 - 036	Apologies None
23/24 – 037	Declarations of Councillors’ interests pertaining to agenda items – It was noted that Cllr Jayne Abery is employed by Hertfordshire County Council.
23/24 – 038	Minutes from 25 <sup>th</sup> July 2023 were approved.
23/24 – 039	Public Participation  A Member of the public attend the meeting to raise concerns about the appearance of Tonwell village, and in particular the bus turn around, hedges on the exit of the village and the greens at the entrance of Barley Croft. The Chair explain the current situation, and that this was a result of the Parish Council being contacted earlier in the year by Highways. A map of the area was also shared with the member of the public to demonstrate the areas that were Highways responsibility.
23/24 – 040	Internal Audit Actions  a - The Clerk provided an update on the 22/23 internal audit actions including a summary of those actions that were completed. The Clerk requested that the completed actions were approved for closure. Approval was given by the Council.  b – Standing Orders – updated standing orders was circulated to the Council for review and approval. Approval was given by the Council.  c – Financial Regulations – updated financial regulations were circulated to the Council for review and approval. Approval was given by the Council.
23/24 – 041	Planning  a – The Council noted the planning application for Chapmore End and raised no objections.  b – a late planning application was submit concerning a Solar Farm at Westmill old landfill site. Following a short discussion no objections were raised and it was agreed that this would be a good use of that land.
23/24 - 042	a – The latest financial position and financial spreadsheet was presented to the Council for review. The financial position showed all payments up to 30 August and had been reconciled to the bank account.  b – Approval was given to allocated £235 from the 2024/25 budget for the Internal Audit of 2023/24.

	<p>c – A request for a donation had been made to the Council from Citizen Advice Service – East Herts. Following a short discussion, it was agreed that a donation of £250 would be given.</p>
<p>23/24 – 043</p>	<p>Parish Updates</p> <p><u>Chapmore End</u></p> <p>The Parish Council were pleased that 3 posts had been replaced by the pond, which was good news as this had been waiting to be done for some considerable time. Following the recent dry spell of weather the water levels in the pond had fallen, and the contractors would be asked to see if they could locate the drainage pipe for cleaning.</p> <p>Concerns were raised about the state of the hedges in the village and the need for them to be cut. The contractors will be asked to cut the hedge opposite the pub. Cllr Neil Blackaller was going to report a number of the hedges to Highways via the online portal.</p> <p><u>Crouchfields</u></p> <p>None</p> <p><u>Tonwell</u></p> <p>The contractor will continue to carry out regular grass cutting within the village until the end of the season. Following a short discussion, it was agreed that the trees that had been allocated to the Council would be planted in the wild area within the field. A date for planting would be agreed at the next meeting, as the weather needs to have turned to give them the best chance of flourishing.</p> <p>Two of the three posts on the curb on the exit to the village had been knocked out. It was agreed that these should be replaced, and an appropriate contractor will be contacted to carry out the work.</p> <p>It was agreed that the phone box in Tonwell and Chapmore both require a paint. Cllr Neil Blackaller was going to confirm the correct paint to be used so that the work can commence.</p> <p>There was a discussion around the proposal to create a new play area on the field. It was agreed that work should start on the new play area, and consideration should be given as to where on the field the play area should be. The Clerk will follow-up with District Cllr Aubury Holt concerning the possible grants that might be available to help fund the play area, along with confirming whether planning permission maybe needed. It was also agreed that Cllr Matthew Clutterbuck would contact the company who provided a quote for equipment to see what was possible.</p> <p>It was noted by the Council that consultation for the closure of the school is expecting to start at the end of September / start of October.</p>
<p>23/24 - 044</p>	<p>a – The Clerk informed the Council that a review of the current website was needed and that they would contact some local providers for a quote.</p>
<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>16 October 2023</p>	