

Bengeo Rural Parish Council Meeting 8th October 2025

Email: clerk@bengeoruralparishcouncil.gov.uk Website: www.bengeoruralparishcouncil.gov.uk

MINUTES

<u>Present:</u>	<u>In Attendance:</u>
Cllr Tony Ellis (Chair)	Cllr Neil Blackaller
Cllr Matthew Clutterbuck	Victoria Preuss – Clerk

25/26 – 022	Apologies Apologies were noted from Cllr Jayne Abrey.
25/26 - 023	Declarations of Councillors' interests pertaining to agenda items. None
25/26 – 024	Minutes The minutes from the May 2025 and July 2025 were both approved
25/26 – 025	Public Participation None
25/26 - 026	Internal Audit a – The Parish Clerk provided an overview of the Internal Audit Action tracker to the Council and requested approval to close several audit actions as they were covered elsewhere on the agenda. The request was granted. b – The Parish Clerk presented the updated Standing Orders 2025. This was carried over from the July 2025 meeting. Following its review, the updated Standing Orders were approved. These will be uploaded on the website. c – The Parish Council presented the updated Financial Regulations 2025, This was carried over from the July 2025 meeting. The Parish Clerk highlighted the key amendments from the previous regulations, including the updated payment release process. Following its review, the updated Financial Regulations were approved. These will be uploaded on the website. d - Following the conclusion of the External audit, the Council accepted its findings as set out in AGAR 3. The accepting of both Internal and External Audit reports, along with the regular review of the internal audit tracker, provided the Council with the required annual assurance that the current internal controls are sufficient. e – The Council approved appointing the Parish Clerk as Data Protection Officer for the Council. f – In response to an Internal Audit action, two new policies were presented to the Council for approval – Equality & Diversity and Grievance policies. Both policies are based on templates provided by National Association of Local Councils. Both policies were approved and will be uploaded onto the website. .
25/26 - 027	Planning Applications a – The planning application for Staff Houses, Crouchfield, it was noted that this application had been granted.

	<p>b – Since the release of the agenda a planning application 3/25/1571/HH – Audley Cottage – no objections were made.</p>
25/26 - 028	<p>Finance</p> <p>a – The Parish Clerk presented the latest finance sheet including invoice details, powers to spend and reconciliation to the cash book was presented to the Parish Council for review and approval. They also noted the invoices that had been paid since the previous meeting. The Parish Clerk made the Council aware of a donation request from the East Herts Citizen Advice, who provide support to residents with the Parish. A donation of £250 was approved.</p> <p>b - The spend to date against the budget was reviewed and noted by the Council.</p> <p>c – Acceptance of quotes – the quote for the gate repairs was accepted.</p> <p>d – Approval request – the Council provided approval to pay the invoices as listed on the agenda.</p>
25/26 - 029	<p>Chapmore End</p> <p>The Chapmore End Resident Association has approached the Council as to whether the Council would be able to contribute to the cost of a new pond pump for the fishpond within the village. The pond is listed as a Council asset. Following a discussion, the Council agreed to make a £3,000 contribution to the new pump. It was also highlighted that the hedge opposite the Woodman requires cutting, this would be added to the contractor's hedge cutting list.</p> <p>Tonwell</p> <p>Nothing significant to note. The first operational playground inspection had been carried out and the report was presented to the Council. There were no significant issues highlighted. The issues that were highlighted will be monitored in future inspections. It was also noted by the Council that a few residents had raised concerns around how muddy the entrances are into the field. This would be reviewed with the possibility of purchasing some woodchip to be put down.</p> <p>Crouchfields</p> <p>Nothing to note.</p>
25/26 - 030	<p>Items to Note</p> <p>a – Following an email from a resident, a discussion was held concerning an accident that took place on the 9 September 2025 at the roundabout on the A602. It has been noted as the Parish Council have no powers concerning highway issues.</p>
<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>8 October 2025</p>	