

Bengeo Rural Parish Council Meeting 24th November 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 Cllr Aubrey Holt

25/26 – 031	Apologies Apologies were noted from Cllr Jayne Abrey.
25/26 - 032	Declarations of Councillors' interests pertaining to agenda items. None
25/26 – 033	Minutes The minutes from the November 2025 meeting were approved.
25/26 – 034	Public Participation Cllr Aubrey Holt provided an update to the Parish Council on the current proposals concerning the transition to the new Unitary Authority structure. Final decision on the model that will be adopted is yet to be made. Once the new model has been agreed, transition to the new model will take at least 12 months.
25/26 - 035	Internal Audit a – The Parish Clerk provided an overview of the Internal Audit Action tracker to the Council and requested approval to closed two audit actions as they were covered elsewhere on the agenda. The request was granted. b – The Parish Clerk presented the updated Financial Risk Assessment to the Council. Following its review, the updated assessment Financial Risk Assessment was approved. c – The Parish Council presented the draft IT Security Policy. The draft policy was based on the example policy provided by HAPTC. The Council approved the adoption of the policy. d – The Parish Council requested that the Shy Studios carry out an assessment as to whether the website complied with the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) No.2 – Accessibility Regulations 2018. Following a review Shy Studios were able to confirm that the site meets the requirements.
25/26 - 036	Planning Applications None
25/26 - 037	Finance 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. Cllr Neil Blackaller, carried out a review of the finance sheet against the most recent bank statements and confirmed the balances were correct. The Council noted the invoices that had been paid since the previous meeting, including the playground inspections and the outstanding invoices from Setter Play.

	<p>b - The spend to date against the budget was reviewed and noted by the Council.</p> <p>c – Draft Budget 2026/27 – The Parish Clerk presented the draft budget for 2026/27 for consideration and comment. The draft budget took into account a small uplift for 2026/27 costs. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the final budget would be presented at the January 2026 meeting for approval, along with agreement for the 2026/26 Precept. The discussion concerning reserves will be finalised in January 2026.</p> <p>d – Approval request – the Council provided retrospective approval to pay the invoices as listed on the agenda, as they were both overdue.</p>
25/26 - 038	<p>Chapmore End</p> <p>The hedge opposite the pub requires cutting. Cllr Tony Ellis will speak to the ground contractor about adding this to his schedule. At the last meeting the Chapmore Residents Association will be contacting the Parish Clerk concerning the Parish Councils contribution towards a new solar pump for the pond.</p> <p>Tonwell</p> <p>Nothing significant to note. The Annual playground inspection for the swings was presented. The report only noted minor issues that will be monitored. A discussion was had concerning Christmas Trees for the village. In previous years the Parish Council had been donated a tree from Woodhall Estate, but to date no offer has been made. It was agreed that the Parish Council would purchase a tree for the village and offer to purchase another tree for the school. The lights for the trees will be supplied by the Parish Council as these had been purchased previously.</p> <p>Crouchfields</p> <p>Nothing to note.</p>
25/26 - 039	<p>Meeting dates - 2026</p> <p>a – The Parish Clerk shared the proposed dates for the 2026 meetings. There were approved.</p>
25/26 - 040	<p>Items to Note</p> <p>a – The Parish Clerk informed the Council that they had actioned a change to the Council insurance policy. That they had increased the fidelity guarantee from £25,000 to £50,000 at no extra cost.</p>
<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>19 January 2026</p>	