

Bengeo Rural Parish Council Meeting 12th February 2024

Email: bengeoruralparishcouncil@outlook.com Website: www.bengeoruralparishcouncil.co.uk

MINUTES

<u>Present:</u>		<u>In Attendance:</u>
Cllr Tony Ellis (Chair)	Cllr Jayne Abery	Victoria Preuss – Clerk
Cllr Neil Blackaller	Cllr Matthew Lezmore	County Cllr Ken Crofton
		Member of Public

23/24 – 073	Apologies Cllr Matthew Clutterbuck
23/24 – 074	Declarations of Councillors’ interests pertaining to agenda items – None
23/24 – 075	Minutes from 8 th January 2024 were approved.
23/24 – 076	Public Participation A member of the public attended the meeting to hear the update from the Operations Director of Woodhall estate. This is recorded under the Tonwell update. There was also a discussion concerning the bus turnaround area and nearby grass areas. The Parish Council were informed by Highways that these areas belong to East Herts and were their responsibility to maintain. But due to the lack of regular grass mowing, the Parish Council have agreed to add the grass areas at the entrance to Barley Croft back into the regular maintenance programme. County Cllr Ken Crofton offered to contact Highways concerning the lack of maintenance of the bus turnaround area given its current state.
23/24 – 077	Internal Audit Actions a – the outstanding actions were reviewed and closed were appropriate. b – the financial risk assessment that was presented was approved. The associated internal audit action will now be closed.
23/24 – 078	Planning It was noted that an appeal has been lodged following the refusal of the planning application in Chapmore End.
23/24 – 079	Finance a – The latest financial position and financial spreadsheet was presented to the Council for review. The financial position showed all payments up to 31 January 2024. b – The quote to run the payroll was accepted by the Council and this will be implemented for 2024/25. c – The Council approved 7.5hrs per week for the Clerk for 2024/25. This will be reviewed at the end of the year. d – The council approved the signing for the 270 agreement to enable the District Council to adopt the street lights within Tonwell now that all works have been completed. The Parish Council have also been notified that the original invoice for the work was returned unpaid. A new invoice is being raised for the work.
23/24 – 080	Parish Updates

Chapmore End

The issue of the speed on the B158 was raised again. This has been raised with East Herts and the Clerk is still waiting for a response. This will be chased again.

The Chair informed the meeting that he had requested a quote from a local contractor to paint the bench by the phone box at Chapmore End, along with the post and railings by the pond and phone box. Along with the phone box in Tonwell.

A quote will also be obtained in respect of cutting back the Willow that overhangs the pond.

Tonwell

The new litter bin for Tonwell Field has now been installed, but there is an issue with the quality of the bin, This has been raised with East Herts who are looking into this matter.

The Chair provided the below update to the meeting following the meeting and walk about Tonwell that had taken place with the Operations Director of Woodhall.

- The hedge and ditch along the access track to the Tonwell Field falls under Woodhalls responsibility and will be added to there drainage works.
- Woodhall currently seeking quotes for a new drainage channel across the roadway along Bengeo Temple Track to direct any water into the ditch and reduce the flood risk.
- The hedges along Ware Road that are overhanding the footpath are East Herts responsibility and any issues with them need to be directed to them.
- The old path next to the bus stop that goes in front of the Woodhall estate properties, but terminates by the garages does not fall under Woodhalls responsibility.
- The path toward the roundabout out of the bottom of the village. The land on the left belongs to Woodhall, but only approx. half way down. The subsequent land is registered to a private individual. Woodhall land currently starts at the top of the bank and they will be assessing the trees to see if anything needs to be done. But they have recommended that ownership of the path is confirmed.
- Woodhall is also reviewing its public right of ways and permissive paths across the estate as they need to ensure that they are not in breach of any funding conditions that there might be.

It is anticipated that the Tonwell school will close at the end of the school year. Given the Parish Council plans to develop a new play area within the village, it was suggested that it might be worth approaching the school to investigate the possibility of purchasing there play equipment.

Crouchfields

Nothing to note

23/24 – 081

Items to note

a - The Clerk informed the meeting that the new website was live and that they had contacted East Herts above updating their website with the correct details.

b- That the quote for the required maintenance of the swings had been accepted and that current waiting a date for when the works will take place.

Date of Next Meeting

18 March 2024

