

Bengeo Rural Parish Council Meeting 25th November 2024

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MINUTES

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

24/25 – 047	Apologies None
24/25 – 048	Declarations of Councillors’ interests pertaining to agenda items. None
24/25 - 049	Minutes Minutes from the meeting held 16 th September and 16 th October 2024 were approved.
24/25 - 050	Public Participation None
24/25 - 051	Internal Audit Report The updates to the actions were noted and closed accordingly.
24/25 - 052	Planning Applications The Parish Council had been made aware of one planning application. Ref 3/24/2108/HH – proposed infill between existing dormers to front and rear roof slopes – Crouchfields. The application was reviewed, and no objections were raised.
24/25 - 053	Finance a & b – The latest finance sheet including invoice details and powers to spend was presented to the Parish Council for review and approval. The Council noted the invoices that had been paid since the last meeting. The Chair and Parish Clerk also confirmed the reconciliation between bank statements and finance sheet had taken place. This included the Chair signing the bank statements. c – The Parish Council reviewed the spend against budget table that was presented and noted. d – The first draft of the proposed budget for 2025/26 was presented to the Parish Council for review. The budget included the subs for HAPTC. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the costs associated with mowing and hedge cutting would need to be reviewed, and further consideration needed on any future increases in insurance due to the proposed new playground. The budget will be represented at the January meeting where the precept will be agreed. e – Due to the proposed playground, it was agreed that a funding reserve would be shown on the finance sheet to cover the following items such as:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council contribution to the playground project including bins, picnic benches etc• Maintenance costs for the play area• Insurance costs increase

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground maintenance and upgrades such as fencing
24/25 - 054	<p>Parish Updated</p> <p><u>Chapmore End</u></p> <p>Following a discussion, the proposal to fund some wildflower seeds for planting in the village was approved. The continued issue of fly tipping in the village was raised and discussed. Local Cllr Holt offered to raise the issue with East Herts Council on behalf of the Parish Council. The Clerk offered to provide a map of the area.</p> <p>The Parish Council offered to fund a Christmas tree. Cllr Blackaller will liaise with the resident's association and see if they would like a tree for the festive period.</p> <p><u>Crouchfields</u></p> <p>No issue raised</p> <p><u>Tonwell</u></p> <p>A resident had contacted the Clerk concerning the upkeep of a path from the garages to the bus stop. This area of the village falls under the responsibility of the Housing Association and the resident asked if the Parish Council could contact them about its upkeep. The Clerk contacted the Housing Association and is waiting an update.</p> <p>An update was provided concerning the playground tender. The invitation to tender has been uploaded onto the Find a Tender service as required, with a submission date of 6 December 2024. The Parish Clerk has been contacted from a number of suppliers and site visits have been arranged. A date is to be arranged for the tenders to be reviewed and assessed by the Parish Council. At the tender review it will be agreed as to whether any suppliers will be asked to present their designs to the Parish Council.</p>
24/25 – 055	<p>Items to Note</p> <p>a – The proposed meeting dates for 2025 were reviewed and agreed.</p> <p>b – Local Cllr Holt provided an update to the Parish Council concerning residential planning and the current challenges facing East Herts Council the land supply, and development outside of the district plan.</p>
<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>13 January 2025</p>	