

Bengeo Rural Parish Council Meeting 13th January 2025

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

MINUTES

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

24/25 – 056	Apologies Cllr Jayne Abery
24/25 – 057	Declarations of Councillors’ interests pertaining to agenda items. None
24/25 - 058	Minutes Minutes from the meeting held 25 th November 2024.
24/25 - 059	Public Participation There was no public present at the meeting, but a resident had emailed the Council raising concerns around commercial dog walkers and the motor bike use in and around the quarry. The concern was around how these activities were impacting the horses in the vicinity. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would email the resident saying that unfortunately we were unable to help, but to report this activity to Hertfordshire Police using the 101 number. The Clerk will also provide an update on the classification of the BOAT that had been raised in connection with fly tipping that has been occurring in the area.
24/25 - 060	Internal Audit Report The updates to the actions were noted and closed accordingly.
24/25 - 061	Planning Applications No planning application to review
24/25 - 062	Finance a & b – The latest finance sheet including invoice details and powers to spend was presented to the Parish Council for review and approval. It was noted that the Council has not yet been invoiced for the last grass cut in the village. This will be followed up with the contractor. c – Following the November 2024 meeting where the initial budget was reviewed, further work was requested. An updated budget for 2025/26 was presented to the meeting. The updated budget included a number of changes such as the new requirement for the Parish Council to now pay employer national insurance for 2025/26. The proposed budget allows for a reserve to cover additional unexpected costs and increases associated with the new play area such as an increase in insurance, maintenance, grass cutting etc that are currently unknown until the project is completed. A proposal was also included for a 3% pay rise for the Parish Clerk. This was approved along with the proposed budget for 2025/26. d – Following the review of the proposed budget, acknowledging that some costs are expected to increase for 2025/26 and with the anticipated works for 2025/26 concerning

	<p>fencing it was agreed by the Council that the precept for 2025/26 would be set for £24,000.</p> <p>e – Following the recent tender process for the new play area in Tonwell, including an assessment of the bids, a preferred bidder was identified. The Council confirmed the preferred bidder, and the Parish Clerk will contact all bidders and will start the 10 day stand still process. This will end on the 24th January 2025, assuming no challenges are made, the contract will be awarded to the preferred bidder and the project will begin.</p> <p>Post meeting note – The preferred bidder for the project was confirmed on 27th January as Setter Play.</p>
24/25 - 063	<p>Parish Updated</p> <p><u>Chapmore End</u></p> <p>Local Cllr Aubrey Holt provided an update via email on the ongoing issue concerning the fly tipping in Chapmore End and the classification status of the BOAT. The issue of fly tipping was raised at the last East Herts Waste Team meeting and that they were going to look at what further measures could be taken to reduce the incidents.</p> <p><u>Crouchfields</u></p> <p>No issue raised</p> <p><u>Tonwell</u></p> <p>Further discussion was had concerning the new play area. The Village Hall committee have requested that representation from the Parish Council attend the AGM to provide an update on the project and answer any queries from the residents. The Chair and Clerk will attend the meeting and share the proposed designed.</p> <p>The recent playground inspection report was reviewed, and it was agreed that even with the new play area, the issues raised in the report need to be addressed. The Clerk will try and identify a contractor who could carry out the works identified.</p>
24/25 – 064	Items to Note
<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>17 March 2025</p>	