

PARISH COUNCIL OF BENENDEN

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 15th June 2026, 7pm, Iden Green Pavilion

Present	Parish Cllrs Beveridge, Cochrane, Lewis, McMillan, Taylor, Thomas. C Levett, Clerk. Borough Cllr Dawlings and County Cllr Russell. 1 parishioner.	
Item		Action Responsibility
1. APOLOGIES	Apologies were received from Parish Cllrs Grant and Ham, Borough Cllrs Neville and Palmer.	
2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	No declarations of interest.	
3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING	The minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 18 th May 2026 were unanimously approved as a correct record of the meeting.	
4. REPORTS BY COUNTY/ BOROUGH COUNCILLORS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full reports circulated. • Appendix A. 	
5. REPORTS BY CHAIR AND PARISH COUNCILLORS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Thomas attending Parish Chairs meeting on 16th June. • Cllr Thomas thanked Cllrs Ham and Lewis for the refreshments provided for the Annual Assembly. • It was agreed that larger notices/banners should be produced for the next Annual Assembly to try to attract more parishioners. 	
6. PLANNING	<p>a. <u>Applications</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26/01193/FULL Communication Station & Premises, Rolvenden Road. Part removal of fence & posts and extension of chainlink fence; installation of generator and replacement cabinet, rectifiers & battery strings; concrete duct collar. ❖ Previous application 26/00550/TNOT56 withdrawn by the applicant following representations made by various parties which called for a full application because of various concerns. ❖ Letter to TWBC from Lambert and Foster for Mr and Mrs Duncan circulated. <p>BPC comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Following the withdrawal of the previous Prior Notification application 26/00550/TNOT56 and the submission of this full application as required, BPC's comments remain the same. BPC objects to this application on the grounds of insufficient information regarding the use of the diesel generator in an 'emergency' situation, highlighting that the noise levels are still not noted and any introduced noise in the HWNL will be obvious in an otherwise quiet environment. ❖ The extension of the compound to accommodate the generator will also result in the undesirable removal of hedgerow in what is a designated Traditional Orchard within the HWNL. ❖ If TWBC is minded to permit this application in such a sensitive location, BPC requests that the following four conditions are imposed on the permission: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An acoustic assessment and subsequent report to be submitted and approved prior to commencement of development (as set out in the consultation report dated 2nd April 2026 by Mid Kent Environmental Health Services in relation to withdrawn application 26/00550) ○ A condition to protect amenity on the use of the generator only to used during temporary interruptions in the supply of electricity from the network from time to time, and for no other purpose. ○ A Biodiversity Net Gain condition to be applied as the application site in in a Traditional Orchard. ○ A condition to provide that the development is removed from the land as soon as reasonably practicable after it is no longer required for electronic purposes, and the land subject to the development is restored to the condition it was in before the development took place. • 1-6 Feoffee Cottages, Walkhurst Road. 26/01014/FULL Construction of outbuilding and 26/01015/LBC Removal of three sheds and greenhouse. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Construction of outbuilding for use as office to administer the almshouses estate. ❖ New single storey timber clad office to replace three existing sheds and a greenhouse. Total footprint of removed buildings 25m²; new office 24m². ❖ Positioned alongside roadside hedge with new gravel path. Pent roof sloping towards road. Screened by hedge from road and existing vegetation from cottage. ❖ LBC application 26/01015/LBC has been withdrawn. ❖ Within curtilage of a Listed Building but impact considered to be low. <p>The Parish Council unanimously agreed to support the application subject to Conservation Officer approval and request exterior lighting conditions to comply with BNDP Policy BD5 and Policy EN 8 of</p>	

Chairman..... Date.....

Page 1

These minutes are not a verbatim record of the meeting, but a summary of discussion and decisions taken at the meeting.

	<p>the Local Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26/01073/FULL 1 Laurel Cottages, The Street. Replacement shed with concrete base. ❖ SITE CONSTRAINTS: 14 in total inc. BNDP. Benenden Conservation Area ❖ SITE HISTORY: 99/01310/FULL Retrospective - boundary fence. 07/02974/LBC Listed Building Consent - Single storey rear extension and alterations. Submissions to discharge Conditions of 07/02974/FULL in 2011 & 2012. All approved. ❖ LISTED BUILDINGS IN PROXIMITY: Nos 1-4 Laurel Cottages. St Georges Hall. Laurel House Grade. Fir Tree Cottage. All Grade II. ❖ HERITAGE STATEMENT INFO: Replacement of existing garden shed of W1.9m x D2.3m x H1.95 on LHS to 2.15m on RHS (Pent roof). Proposed shed: same position W5m x D2.3m x H1.95 LHS to 2.3m on RHS. Increase mainly in width. Not visible from pavement or road as screened by existing boundaries. ❖ GENERAL COMMENTS: Does not affect Listed setting or Conservation Area setting. <p>The Parish Council unanimously agreed to support this application.</p> <p>b. <u>Other Planning Matters</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital Development – Affordable Housing ❖ Esquire has submitted a request to amend the affordable housing tenure and convert 4 affordable dwellings to market dwellings. ❖ TWBC Principal Planning Officer is currently consulting TWBC Housing team. BPC is not a statutory consultee and cannot comment at this stage. However TWBC will consult with BPC in due course. • Call for sites ❖ Cllr Thomas contacted TWBC to express BPC's concerns about the process set out for the current Call for Sites and that parish councils will have to wait until a full list of submitted sites is published. Parish councils should be involved and consulted at the site assessment stage for any site submitted within their parish. Parish councils have invaluable local knowledge and understanding of sites in their parish. ❖ TWBC advised that it has taken the decision not to publish submitted sites on a rolling basis to minimise the potential for market speculation and uncertainty that can arise where sites are made public before any initial review or contextual consideration has taken place. ❖ TWBC is keen though to ensure meaningful engagement with parish councils. As assessment work on submitted sites begins TWBC will arrange meetings with each parish council to discuss the sites that have been submitted on a confidential basis and will hold Parish Chair meetings as the Local Plan Review and Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment preparation and site selection process progresses. ❖ Concerns were raised about infrastructure, particularly water supply and the impact of no local non-selective secondary school. ❖ Benenden has seen an increase in housebuilding and many new homes locally have not sold. ❖ BPC will need consider a review of its Neighbourhood Development Plan. There have been many changes since the current BNDP was made. Cllr Thomas to research. 	<p>NT</p>
<p>7. HIGHWAYS, FOOTPATHS & TRANSPORT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllrs Lewis and Taylor and the Clerk to meet to discuss highways matters and the Highways Improvement Plan. • <u>Rural Parish Grant</u> ❖ KCC Highways has confirmed that it is a position to raise an invoice for £3,400 to BPC. Once received BPC will send a copy of the invoice to TWBC and TWBC will send the funds to BPC. ❖ KCC was given a very short deadline to investigate and design over 20 schemes upon the announcement from TWBC about the rural parish grant scheme becoming available. ❖ Most of the schemes being suggested would typically form part of a 12-18 month programme. ❖ There are no further funds available for future bids and remaining moneys from the PR2 scheme have already been allocated elsewhere by TWBC. 	<p>JL/MT/CL</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Walkhurst Road</u> ❖ Walkhurst Road to be closed for 7 weeks during June and July. A parishioner wrote to SGN regarding the challenge of accessing properties along Walkhurst Road particularly given the state of the road with the numerous deep potholes and where the roadsides have collapsed or eroded away. The parishioner opens their garden to raise funds for the hospice and is concerned that this will impact the number of visitors. SGN responded that they could potentially put up a sign indicating that the property garden will be open and if possible will try to open the road. ❖ A small section of potholes have been filled, but the worst of the damage, towards the junction with Goddards Green Road is untouched and the road is dangerous. ❖ Potholes along the entire length of Walkhurst Road have now been marked up by Highways. ❖ The damage caused was primarily due to the road closure of New Pond Road and the question was asked if KCC makes any claim to a contractor for subsequent road repairs. The Clerk to ask Cllr Russell to raise the issue with KCC Highways. • <u>Goddards Green Road</u> ❖ It was noted that Goddards Green Road is due to be closed 29th June to 4th September for highway drainage installation and footway construction works. The Clerk to ask Cllr Russell to raise with KCC Highways questioning if the road needs to be permanently closed for such a long period of time. • <u>Goddards Green Road/Speedwatch</u> ❖ The Clerk advised the residents of Goddards Green Road the procedure for setting up a Speedwatch Group and advised that BPC would meet the costs for any necessary equipment. ❖ Speedwatch can only take place on roads with speed limits of 20, 30 or 40 mph and the locations have to be approved by Kent Police. ❖ The Clerk is waiting to hear if a group would like to take this forward, on part of the road with a speed limit up to 40mph. ❖ BPC will try to work with KCC Highways through the HIP to look at what measures/action might be possible along Goddards Green Road. 	<p>CL</p> <p>CL</p>																																																														
8. RESOURCING/ FINANCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Monthly Finance</u> <p>TRANSACTIONS FROM 1st May 2026</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Brought Forward Current Account</td> <td style="text-align: right;">29706.37</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brought Forward Savings Account</td> <td style="text-align: right;">63287.16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brought forward</td> <td style="text-align: right;">92993.53</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Income</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Payee</td> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Reference</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Amount</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expenditure</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Supplier</td> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Reference</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Amount</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DD HugoFox</td> <td>Website</td> <td style="text-align: right;">23.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DD HugoFox</td> <td>Emails</td> <td style="text-align: right;">20.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DD Nest</td> <td>Pension</td> <td style="text-align: right;">120.87</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DD Nest</td> <td>Pension</td> <td style="text-align: right;">120.87</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FEE Unity Trust Bank</td> <td>Monthly Charge</td> <td style="text-align: right;">7.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS Employee</td> <td>Staffing Costs</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1206.59</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS o2</td> <td>Telephone</td> <td style="text-align: right;">15.68</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS F&C Cleaning Services</td> <td>Public Toilet Cleaning</td> <td style="text-align: right;">770.18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS Tompsett Landscaping</td> <td>Grounds Maintenance BVT</td> <td style="text-align: right;">343.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS Tompsett Landscaping</td> <td>Grounds Maintenance BPC</td> <td style="text-align: right;">632.79</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS D Buckett</td> <td>Internal Audit</td> <td style="text-align: right;">425.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS Everyday Play Ltd</td> <td>Benenden Playground</td> <td style="text-align: right;">6566.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS Business Stream</td> <td>Public Toilet</td> <td style="text-align: right;">41.29</td> </tr> </table>	Brought Forward Current Account	29706.37	Brought Forward Savings Account	63287.16	Brought forward	92993.53	Income		Payee	Reference	Amount			0.00	TOTAL		0.00	Expenditure			Supplier	Reference	Amount	DD HugoFox	Website	23.99	DD HugoFox	Emails	20.99	DD Nest	Pension	120.87	DD Nest	Pension	120.87	FEE Unity Trust Bank	Monthly Charge	7.00	BACS Employee	Staffing Costs	1206.59	BACS o2	Telephone	15.68	BACS F&C Cleaning Services	Public Toilet Cleaning	770.18	BACS Tompsett Landscaping	Grounds Maintenance BVT	343.20	BACS Tompsett Landscaping	Grounds Maintenance BPC	632.79	BACS D Buckett	Internal Audit	425.20	BACS Everyday Play Ltd	Benenden Playground	6566.00	BACS Business Stream	Public Toilet	41.29	
Brought Forward Current Account	29706.37																																																															
Brought Forward Savings Account	63287.16																																																															
Brought forward	92993.53																																																															
Income																																																																
Payee	Reference	Amount																																																														
		0.00																																																														
TOTAL		0.00																																																														
Expenditure																																																																
Supplier	Reference	Amount																																																														
DD HugoFox	Website	23.99																																																														
DD HugoFox	Emails	20.99																																																														
DD Nest	Pension	120.87																																																														
DD Nest	Pension	120.87																																																														
FEE Unity Trust Bank	Monthly Charge	7.00																																																														
BACS Employee	Staffing Costs	1206.59																																																														
BACS o2	Telephone	15.68																																																														
BACS F&C Cleaning Services	Public Toilet Cleaning	770.18																																																														
BACS Tompsett Landscaping	Grounds Maintenance BVT	343.20																																																														
BACS Tompsett Landscaping	Grounds Maintenance BPC	632.79																																																														
BACS D Buckett	Internal Audit	425.20																																																														
BACS Everyday Play Ltd	Benenden Playground	6566.00																																																														
BACS Business Stream	Public Toilet	41.29																																																														

QUESTIONS	<p>impending introduction of parking charges at the site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ BPC recognises that Forestry England does need to raise funds to maintain and improve the facility and charging for parking is not uncommon. ❖ BPC encourages users of the forest to write to Forestry England to express their concerns. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overgrown Hedges ❖ Concerns raised regarding overhanging hedges along The Street making it difficult for pedestrians to use the footpath safely. ❖ BPC encourages parishioners to report through KCC online Report or track a problem on the road or pavement - Kent County Council. KCC has the ability to take action and write to the offending properties. ❖ Cllr Thomas to highlight the issue in the Magazine. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog Fouling ❖ Concerns raised regarding dog mess on the recreation grounds and in the churchyard. ❖ Parishioner suggested larger notices, dog waste bins and that dogs should be kept on leads. ❖ Unfortunately notices about dog fouling will be ignored by those who don't pick up after their dogs ❖ Dog waste bins are costly and separate emptying of bins would need to be organised. Responsible dog owners carry dog mess bags and these can be put in standard litter bins. ❖ BPC has no remit to take action against offenders but encourages parishioners to report through TWBC online Report dog fouling. TWBC is able to take action. ❖ BPC does not support that dogs should be kept on leads, and it would not be possible to enforce this. ❖ Cllr Thomas to highlight the issue in the Magazine. 	<p>NT</p> <p>NT</p>
15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING	Date of Next Meeting: Monday 20 th July, 7pm, Memorial Hall	
	The meeting closed at 8.20pm.	