

PARISH COUNCIL OF BENENDEN

Minutes of the Resourcing Committee meeting of the Council held on Monday 23rd June 2025, 7:00pm

Present: Cllrs Beveridge, Cochrane (Committee Chair), Hagan and Thomas; Caroline Levett – Clerk/RFO

1 Apologies	No apologies.			
2 Declarations Of Interest	No declarations of interest.			
3 Minutes Of Previous Meeting	The minutes of the meeting held on 3 rd December 2024 were unanimously approved and signed by the Chair of the Committee.			
4 Budget Monitoring	<div><div><div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><di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	<p>f. <u>Committee Meetings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although not included in the report, the internal auditor suggests that the Committee meets more frequently than twice a year. The Committee currently meets in late November/early December to consider precept setting, to meet TWBC deadlines, and late June/early July to consider the internal auditor's report and before insurance is due for renewal (1st August). Additionally the Committee discusses important items and reaches decisions by email to take to whole Parish Council. The Committee agreed to trial an additional meeting in May 2026, before the full Parish Council meeting. 	
6 Financial Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BPC Financial Regulations Paragraphs 5.4, 5.7 and 5.11 were amended in March to reflect The Procurement Act 2023 and The Procurement Regulation 2024 which came into effect March 2025. This was noted at BPC meeting. BPC Financial Regulations will be reviewed by Committee in December 2025. 	
7 Asset Register	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes to be made to the Asset Register. Insurance values will be updated once insurance renewal has been completed. 	
8 Insurance Renewal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insurance renewal is due 1st August. The Clerk had requested details from current insurer Gallagher/Hiscox but this had not been received in time for the meeting. The Clerk had attempted to contact Zurich Municipal, as recommended by the internal auditor, but had not received a call back. Cllr Cochrane suggested contacting NFU. The Clerk will continue attempting to obtain 3 quotes and share these with the Committee once received. 	CL
9 Donation Requests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee had previously agreed to allocate £500 in total for charity donations with a donation of £100 to each charity. 2024/25 donations were £100 each to Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance, Home-Start South West Kent, TW Counselling Centre. Details of requests received were circulated : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance : £500 request. ❖ Home-Start South West Kent : £500 request. ❖ Citizens Advice North and West Kent : grant application form not completed and no specific amount requested. The Committee agreed donations of £100 to Air Ambulance and Home-Start, and would consider a request from Citizens Advice if the correct form is received. The Committee agreed to consider increasing donation amounts at its meeting in December, depending on BPC's financial situation at the time. Iden Green Congregational Church <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ BPC had agreed (November 2023) to contribute £50 annually towards the cost of electricity for the defibrillator in the church porch. ❖ One payment was made of £50 in January 2024. ❖ The Clerk to write to IGCC to ensure that they make an annual request. ❖ A sum of £100 covering 2024/25 and 2025/26 was agreed by the Committee. The Committee noted that it is possible that requests will be made by Benenden Village Trust and Benenden's Shop during the financial year, and will consider these fully if/when received. 	CL
10 edf/IG Telephone Kiosk	To note, as previously advised :	

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	<p>The clerk received a letter from edf dated 23rd April (received beginning of May) which said “we know it’s taken longer than we’d hoped to send you an up-to-date invoice. We’re sorry for how much this has inconvenienced you and thank you for your patience. We understand how getting a catch-up bill may have impacted on your business”.</p> <p>The clerk then received 3 separate invoices dated 23rd April, the last one being for £2,337.09 for the period 1st April 2024 – 1st April 2025.</p> <p>The clerk wrote to edf setting out everything since 2022, when BPC made a request to edf for the electricity supply to be turned off/removed with immediate effect as there is no need for an electricity supply and no electricity is being used. The clerk repeated that the unmetered supply is to a disused telephone kiosk, which did used to house a defibrillator but hasn’t for a long time. That BPC had initially challenged the charge and investigated a metered supply but was told this was not possible. That over the years BPC had been passed around edf’s sme customer services, large business, business moves, service removal, I&C customer operation teams, and contact was attempted via email, telephone calls and WhatsApp chats, with no team taking responsibility or helping and at one point the clerk was told that “edf does not work on unmetered accounts”. That BPC had made contact with UK Power Networks to carry out a disconnection of supply (removing the cable from within the telephone box) which would come at some cost to BPC and that we’d completed the necessary forms, and chased UKPN numerous times, but heard nothing back from UKPN.</p> <p>The Clerk has said that the whole situation is most unsatisfactory, that BPC has attempted to take action to resolve, and made it most clear at all times that it did not want or need the power supply, that no electricity was being used and requested that the power supply was turned off and that BPC does not feel it is responsible for the outstanding balance, and this is a charge for no electricity actually being used, and that if necessary BPC will now escalate the matter and make a formal complaint.</p> <p>edf referred this to a company called LCS debt resolution. The Clerk shared all the information with them. LCS advised that edf responded “unable to see that the request has been raised with our customer service team and ask BPC to get in touch”</p> <p>The Clerk emailed the address given by LCS (midmarketcustomercontact2023@edfenergy.com) repeating all of the above on 20th June.</p> <p>No further response yet from edf.</p>	
11 Speedwatch	<p>Finances will need to allocated for Speedwatch equipment, as agreed by whole PC 16th June, but this is difficult to determine at the moment.</p> <p>The Clerk advised that the website Community Speedwatch UK contains information for setting up a group, and that contact will need to be made by email to the Kent Police Speedwatch Team.</p> <p>Anyone involved needs to have passed a theoretical training and quiz with a 90% pass-rate before any application moves forward for serious consideration.</p> <p>There is equipment available through Community Speedwatch UK - starter kit with a pocket radar £445.50 + VAT; roadside intermediate kit with radar gun £1,684.00 + VAT. Pocket radar from Roadside Technologies £276.00 + VAT.</p> <p>Once a Speedwatch team has been created the Committee/Parish Council will consider any request for equipment it may require. The Clerk to discuss with Cllr Lewis.</p>	CL

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

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