



Meeting Minutes Summary – Bentley Green Community Group

07 July 2026 – 7.30pm – Bentley Church Hall

The Bentley Green volunteer group continues to make strong progress across maintenance, ecology, heritage, education, and fundraising. The group reviewed outstanding actions, signed off the updated site vision, and discussed dependencies requiring Parish Council support.

Key Updates & Progress

Site Maintenance & Improvements

- General maintenance completed: trunk clearing, edging, planter installation, foxglove planting.
- Cut & Collect completed (17 bales removed).
- New pedestrian gate installed and funded via grant.
- Sheep grazing underway.

Ecology & Surveys

- Ecology Management & Action Plan received.
- Butterfly Conservation and moth survey completed.
- Ongoing bat, pollinator, reptile and wildflower surveys expanding baseline data.

Concept Plan / Vision

- The updated Bentley Green Vision was formally signed off as a non-binding, phased proposal.
- Key elements include:
 - Orchard in four quadrants
 - Reinstated historic footpath line
 - Combined outdoor education & gathering space
 - Rainwater harvesting and composting zone
 - Proposed pond in historic location (subject to feasibility, safety and permissions)
 - Layered hedging and enhanced wildlife structures
 - Permeable central path (subject to approval)

The group emphasised that all structures are temporary, and any permanent features will require Parish Council approval.

Parish Council Dependencies & Significant Delay

The group highlighted several items requiring Parish Council action or confirmation:

Lease / Licence Agreement

- The group is awaiting the formal lease/licence from the Parish Council.
- This is now holding up grant applications, including Hampshire Forest Partnership and Network Rail.
- Many attempts to follow this up have been made by multiple people.
- Next Parish meeting is 13th July.

The group confirmed Q & A points:

- What constitutes a temporary vs permanent structure? Expected lifespan more than 5 years as a general rule
- Does the proposed pond require planning permission? Parish Council Chair, John Fuller, confirmed it does not
- Does ditch maintenance fall under Parish Council remit? Yes, organised via Drainage Officer, Cllr Gordon Tillett



Rainwater Harvesting

- Concept approved by the Parish Council; group now preparing next steps within overall design

Fundraising & Finance

- Bank account opened; balance at end of June: £2,703.
- Station Café continues to raise £130–£150 weekly.
- Music Quiz raised £305; History Walks £440, and plant sale £315.
- Donations platform recommendation: Stripe + bank transfer, with QR code landing page.

Education & Community Use

- Dotty Tots Nursery and Bentley Primary School exploring regular use of the site.
- Beavers completed a successful activity session.
- Risk assessments drafted for youth groups.

Next Meeting

Monday 10 August 2026 – St Mary's Church Room.