

# BILLING PARISH COUNCIL

Established 1894

**Serving Bellinge, Ecton Brook, Great Billing and Little Billing**

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30pm ON MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2010, AT THE BERNARD WESTON PAVILION, GREAT BILLING

**PRESENT** Councillor S. Rockall (Chairman)  
Councillors Mrs E. Palethorpe, Mrs S. Shaw, M. Clasper,  
P. Gable, J. Marlow, M. Pearson, G. Stevens, P. Stevenson  
S. Ward

**Also Present:** Mrs. S. Harris (Clerk to the Council)  
C. Campling (Green Space Manager)  
Cllr. C. Malpas (NBC)

		Action
<b>228</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	
228.1	Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Mrs D. Nichol (family commitment), Rev. Steven Palmer and Fr. Damien Walne (both on sabbatical), D. Hughes (weather conditions) and also from Cllrs. David McKintosh and David Palethorpe (both NBC) and Keith Bonham.	
<b>229</b>	<b>Minutes</b>	
229.1	The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2009 were approved and signed as a true record.	
<b>230</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
230.1	There were none.	
<b>231</b>	<b>Public Forum</b>	
231.1	The Chairman reported that there had been one or two problems with crime within the parish but unfortunately no member of the SCT was present..	
231.2	A communication had been received from a parishioner in Little Billing with regard to the illegal closure (from 6 <sup>th</sup> January to 6 <sup>th</sup> February) of the access gates to the public footpath running across Billing Aquadrome. Cllr. Malpas reported that Richard Hall, Public Rights of Way Officer at NBC was aware of this and steps had been taken to ensure that it would be reopened immediately. The Clerk is to reply to Mr. Bove's email to advise him that the gates should now be open.	Clerk
231.3	Cllr. Malpas advised that the builders had attempted to put in a planning application for houses on the green space at Ashmead, which had been rejected. They have been told that the land must be handed over to NBC and once this has been done there are various possibilities for its use.	
231.4	There is a Neighbourhood Partnership meeting on Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January 2010 at 7.00 pm at Emmanuel Church, Weston Favell. This meeting will include the major budget consultation in the area.	
<b>232</b>	<b>Ongoing Matters</b>	
232.1	No response had been forthcoming to the second letter sent to the Chair of Little Billing Residents Association with regard to the requested children's playground.	

232	<b>Ongoing Matters (Continued)</b>	<b>Action</b>
232.1	(Cont..) The general feeling was that this organisation had now folded and it was RESOLVED this matter be shelved for the time being.	
232.2	Written permission for the new bench to be installed in Valley Road, Little Billing, overlooking the village green had now been received from NBC. The GSM is to arrange for this work to be done as soon as possible.	<b>GSM</b>
232.3	Burial Grounds. Cllr. Marlow brought members up to date with the recent developments regarding the piece of land adjacent to St. Andrews Church. The builders have written to the two homeowners whose land backs onto this piece of woodland asking if they would like to make an offer to purchase all or part of it. It would appear, however, that no mention has been made of the Right of Way across this land for residents of Great Billing Park. After a lengthy discussion it was RESOLVED that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident(s) of Great Billing Park be asked to write to Taylor Wimpey asking if they are aware of the Right of Way for Great Billing Park residents.</li> <li>• Mr Miller of 20 Winefrides Walk, one of the homeowners approached by Taylor Wimpey, be asked to reply to their letter stating that he wishes the Parish Council to take over ownership of the land in question and to this end would like to acquire the land himself so that he may give it to BPC for the benefit of the community.</li> </ul>	<b>JM</b>  <b>JM</b>
232.4	Cllr. Gable asked Cllr. Malpas if there had been any developments within NBC with regard to acquiring land for future burial space. Cllr. Malpas replied that this was contained within the budget consultation taking place at the moment and urged members to take part in the consultation process.	
232.5	Overgrown tree at Knights Court, Little Billing. Cutting back of the tree has now been done and the light is no longer obscured.	
232.6	Written permission for the GSM to perform tasks on NBC owned land within the parish, which is subject to liaison with David Kearns at Billing Arbours Depot, has now been received from NBC. It should be noted, however, that any work done will be determined wholly by the Parish Council.	
232.7	Proposed new playground at the former 'Helicopter Park', Ecton Brook. Despite a further letter a response is still awaited from Simon Dougall, the Asset Manager of NBC. Held over to next meeting.	
<b>233</b>	<b>Planning</b>	
233.1	N/2009/1035 – 35 Church Lane, Little Billing. Demolition of existing garage and part demolition of existing side extension and erection of two storey side/rear extension and detached garage. No comments or objections.	
233.2	Emergent Joint Core Strategy for West Northants. The Chairman reported that he had looked at information available for possible development sites within the parish. None of these came as a surprise, i.e. the former middle school and the car park to the playing fields in Ecton Brook, the former primary school in Great Billing, and the bottom of Station Road, Great Billing. However he did discover that two possible greenfield sites for development had been earmarked just outside the parish. One runs from the rear of Rectory Farm to the lane opposite the entrance to Ecton village, and the other from the back of Ecton Brook almost to Ecton village itself. All details were passed to Cllr Stevenson for perusal.	

		<b>Action</b>																																																
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233.4	The following determinations had been received from NBC: (a) N/2009/900 – 28 Standing Stones, Great Billing – Alterations to existing garage. APPROVED subject to conditions. (b) N/2009/918 - Old Convent, 29 High Street, Great Billing – amendment to layout of house and garage of plot 1, previously approved under planning permission N/2008/1055 – REFUSED.																																																	
<b>234</b>	<b>Finance</b>																																																	
234.1	The list of accounts for payment had been circulated and it was RESOLVED that payment be made as per the following:																																																	
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234.2	A copy of the schedule showing Income and Expenditure compared to budget to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2009, together with the bank reconciliation had been circulated to all members. RESOLVED that this be approved.																																																	
234.3	The Clerk had asked for permission to attend the Society of Local Council Clerk's 2010 Practitioners' Conference to be held in Stoke on Trent on Friday and Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup> February at a cost of £195. It was felt that this would be beneficial for both her and the council and it was RESOLVED she should book a place.	<b>Clerk</b>																																																
234.4	Cllr. Mrs Palethorpe raised the question of the Clerk having adequate insurance when using her own car on Parish business. The Clerk confirmed that she was fully covered for business commuting, that she held a clean driving licence, that her car had an up to date tax disc and MOT certificate and that her car was regularly serviced.																																																	
234.5	Expenses. A Finance working party meeting is to be arranged to discuss this in order that proposals may be put forward to full council at the next meeting.	<b>Chair/ Clerk</b>																																																
<b>235</b>	<b>Other Matters</b>																																																	
235.1	Website. There would once again appear to be problems with the parish email account. The Chairman had communicated with Ray Clements but as yet this has not been resolved successfully. The Clerk had received a reply to her letter to Mr Clements with regard to the server for the website but this was not clear. RESOLVED that the Chairman would arrange for Roger Kingston to speak to Ray Clements direct in the hope that this and the problems with the emails can be resolved as quickly as possible.	<b>Chair</b>																																																

		<b>Action</b>
<b>235</b>	<b><i>Other Matters (Continued)</i></b>	
235.2	The new light at the entrance to the playing fields at Great Billing has not yet been installed. Clerk to chase. Once this has been done and satisfaction expressed as to the light emitted, the council will consider improving the lighting on the footpath from Valley Road to Codlin Close, Little Billing. Held over to next meeting.	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>236</b>	<b><i>Leisure &amp; Recreation</i></b>	
236.1	Great Billing Pocket Park. Not a lot to report as the park has been covered in snow for the past month. The final Management Plan is now available for members to peruse. There will be a hedge laying course from 9.00 am to dusk on Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> January and Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January – bring your own food, hot drinks will be provided.	
236.2	Little Billing Pocket Park. Nothing to report.	
236.3	Pavilion – new workshop/store area. The new security fencing is nearing completion and it is hoped that delivery of the container and fitting of the fence will take place on Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> January.	
236.4	The Leys. The Clerk has received the invoice for the repair of the fence damaged in the motor accident in November and this has now been sent to the relevant Insurance Company.	
<b>237</b>	<b><i>Northants County Association of Local Councils</i></b>	
237.1	Nothing to report due to the absence of Cllr. Hughes. He will be attending the next meeting on Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2010.	
<b>238</b>	<b><i>Councillors Reports Not Covered Elsewhere</i></b>	
238.1	Cllr. Ward reported that he and Cllr. Clasper had attended the recent Billing & Ecton Brook JAG meeting. He was pleased to advise that he had spoken to Waste Management at NCC and they have agreed that the Green Space Manager's van may have free access to the Brackmills Waste Transfer Site to dispose of fly-tipped rubbish. They are also trying to get a committee together with regard to the Community Payback scheme.	
238.2	Cllr. Gable said he was pleased to report that the lime trees on Orchard Hill and Valley Road, Little Billing had finally been trimmed back.	
238.3	The issue of gritting/salting on Parish Council owned land was raised. After discussion it was RESOLVED that the playground and the road to the playing fields would be closed at the GSM's discretion if he felt either or both were dangerous.	
238.4	Cllr. Stevenson raised the question of the ha-ha on The Leys and asked if it would be possible to clear the brambles and restore the ha-ha. The Clerk said that it may be possible to obtain funding to assist with such a project and it was agreed this item should be included in the agenda for next month's meeting.	<b>Clerk</b>
238.5	The Chairman said that he had now had an opportunity to look through NCALC's communication regarding the Training Statement of Intent. This is something the PC must have in place if they apply for Quality Status. RESOLVED that a meeting of a working party be arranged to look further into this subject.	<b>Chair/ Clerk</b>

		<b>Action</b>
<b>238</b>	<b><i>Councillors Reports Not Covered Elsewhere (Continued)</i></b>	
238.6	The Chairman reported that an informal meeting regarding Billing Fayre 2010 would be held at the Elwes Arms at 8.00 pm on Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> January. One of the main topics for discussion would be the inclusion of additional parish events.	
<b>239</b>	<b><i>Closed Session</i></b>	
239.1	Staff Appraisals. The Clerk's Appraisal has been completed; the GSM's has been completed by Cllr. Gable and will be finalised by the Chairman within the next week. Appraisals will take place on an annual basis in future, possibly in October of each year.	
239.2	New Contract for GSM. Cllr. Stevens is preparing this and it will be completed within the next few days. Held over to next meeting.	
<b>240</b>	<b><i>Date of Next Meeting and Closure</i></b>	
240.1	There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.55 pm. Next Parish Council Meeting – Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2010 at 7.30 pm.	