

# 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 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2010, AT THE BERNARD WESTON PAVILION, GREAT BILLING

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

**Also Present:** Mrs. S. Harris (Clerk to the Council)  
C. Campling (Green Space Manager)  
Cllr. D. Mackintosh (NCC)  
PCSO Paul Watts (SCTE)  
Sally Brazener (Horts) and one parishioner

		Action
<b>241</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	
241.1	Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Steven Palmer and Fr. Damien Walne (both on sabbatical), David Hughes (holiday) and John Marlow (family commitment) and also from Cllrs. Christopher Malpas and David Palethorpe (both NBC).	
<b>242</b>	<b>Minutes</b>	
242.1	The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2010 were approved and signed as a true record.	
<b>243</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
243.1	None were declared.	
<b>244</b>	<b>Public Forum</b>	
244.1	Sally Brazener from Horts Estate Agents said that she lived in Ecton Brook and worked in the area. She was hoping to set up an advertising/sponsorship deal with the Parish Council which would benefit both, i.e. she would like a link on the Parish Council website and possibly something in the newsletter and in return she could maybe part sponsor the band at Billing Fayre. This was agreed in principle and as she produced and distributed a monthly leaflet to 2000 homes in the community, it was also agreed that the possibility of sharing distribution with that of the newsletter be investigated.	
244.2	PCSO Paul Watts reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bellinge and Little Billing had suffered from a lot of anti-social behaviour, (which fortunately appeared to have died down) and some criminal damage.</li> <li>• No major issues in Great Billing</li> <li>• Ecton Brook has also suffered from anti- social behaviour in the evenings.</li> <li>• There has been a vast improvement at Billing Aquadrome with no reported crime. This is good news for the parish as it releases more police into the area and helps with the cost of insurance premiums.</li> </ul> He asked how BPC would feel about the alleyway between Pearmain Court and Codlin Close being closed and was assured that the council would be in total agreement with this measure. It was felt there were several other alleyways that would benefit the community by being closed off.	

		<b>Action</b>
<b>244</b>	<b><i>Public Forum (Continued)</i></b>	
244.3	PCSO Watts asked if the Parish Council would be prepared to fund the purchase of approximately 18 Neighbourhood Watch notices at a cost of £8 - £9 each as there were new groups being set up. RESOLVED he would arrange for written confirmation to be sent from the police confirming they will be co-operating with the neighbourhood watches. He will also provide the Parish Council with details of the streets involved.	<b>PCSO Watts</b>
244.4	Cllr Stevenson asked about the Smart Water initiatives and was advised that these were being done in deprived areas of Northampton first and it was highly unlikely that anything would be done within the parish in the near future.	
244.5	Cllr Pearson asked if anything could be done regarding the ongoing problem of motorists turning right onto Great Billing Way from Fishponds Road. RESOLVED the Clerk would contact NCC Highways Department to ask for a site meeting to see what could be done to stop this before a major accident occurred.	<b>Clerk</b>
244.6	Keith Bonham reported that he understood the Indian restaurant in Bellinge had applied for a drinks licence from 11.00 am to 11.00 pm daily. The Parish Council were unaware of this and the Clerk is to investigate.	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>245</b>	<b><i>Ongoing Matters</i></b>	
245.1	Land. Following on from details already circulated to all members RESOLVED the Parish Council would offer up to £3,000 for the whole of the land in question. Clerk to advise Cllr Marlow and the solicitor as a matter of urgency.	<b>Clerk</b>
245.2	GSM performing tasks on NBC owned land within the parish. RESOLVED that this be passed to the GSM as a management task. Councillors to pass any requests directly to him. Cllr Mrs Palethorpe proposed that before and after photographs be taken and for these to be published on the website and in the newsletter. Motion carried unanimously.	
245.3	Helicopter Park, Ecton Brook. Despite yet another letter to them a reply was still awaited from NBC. Clerk to ask Cllr Christopher Malpas for his assistance in obtaining a reply. Cllr. David Mackintosh advised there was a possibility of additional money for this project from his next year's Empowering Councillors Scheme. Held over to next meeting.	<b>Clerk</b>
245.4	Possible provision of bus shelter – Fishponds Road. Again a reply was awaited from NBC and Clerk to ask Cllr. Malpas for his assistance. Held over to next meeting.	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>246</b>	<b><i>Planning</i></b>	
246.1	N/2010/0040 – Land adjacent to The Old Convent, 29 High Street, Great Billing – Amendment to layout of house and garage of Plot 1 – Previously approved under Planning Permission N/2008/1005 (Resubmission of N/2009/0918). No further comments to those already made.	
246.2	The following determination had been received from NBC: 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. APPROVED subject to conditions.	

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<b>247</b>	<b>Finance</b>																																																	
247.1	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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247.2	A copy of the schedule showing Income and Expenditure compared to budget to 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2010 together with the bank reconciliation had been circulated to all members. RESOLVED that this be approved.																																																	
<b>248</b>	<b>Other Matters</b>																																																	
248.1	Website. There has been no response from Ray Clements regarding the registrar of the website. Roger Kingston had suggested that a letter from the Parish Council be sent to Nominet UK. RESOLVED that he be asked to draft a suitable letter for the Clerk to send. Cllr. Clasper asked that all councillors who have not already done so let him have a photograph and short biography for inclusion on the website as soon as possible.	<b>Clerk</b> <b>ALL</b>																																																
248.2	Improved lighting on footpath from Valley Road to Codlin Close, Little Billing. Cllr Stevenson felt the new lighting adjacent to the pavilion in Great Billing did not give a good enough spread and that possibly a higher wattage was required. RESOLVED that a higher wattage would be tried in the light by the playground. In the meantime GSM is to obtain a quotation for replacement heads for the existing lights at either end of the footpath in Little Billing, together with a quotation for two additional lights to be placed in between these two.	<b>GSM</b>																																																
248.3	A working party meeting was arranged for 7.30 pm on Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2010 at the Elwes Arms to discuss Expenses and Training Statement of Intent. Cllr Stevens has worked very hard on the new contract for the GSM, Disciplinary rules and procedures, etc., and it was agreed that they should also be discussed at this informal meeting. Findings will be put forward to the next PC meeting.	<b>ALL</b>																																																
<b>249</b>	<b>Leisure &amp; Recreation</b>																																																	
249.1	GSM Report. See Appendix I.																																																	
249.2	Great Billing Pocket Park. Largely covered in GSM Report. It is hoped to complete the hedge laying on Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February. Jim Snedker is to put notice up explaining what has been done.																																																	
249.3	Little Billing Pocket Park. Cllr Clasper explained that the weather had been against them lately, but that he and Cllr Gable had a meeting with the contractor on 20 <sup>th</sup> February with regard to the urgent tree work required.																																																	

		<b>Action</b>
<b>249</b>	<b><i>Leisure &amp; Recreation</i></b>	
249.4	Pavilion. A small amount of the new security fence had been delivered and it was hoped that the container and fence would be fitted in the new few days. The Clerk and GSM had prepared a schedule showing the estimated expenditure required to complete this project, a copy of which was passed to all members. This showed that payments could go very slightly over budget for this financial year and if so this would then be adjusted in the budget for next year.	
249.5	A lot of problems had been experienced with inconsiderate use of the facilities by football teams. Mud had been left inside and outside the pavilion and smeared on walls and litter left strewn around the playing fields. Cleaning had had to be done by the GSM, our cleaner and by Bizzy Bears staff. Complaints had also been received about foul language on the pitch. Stern letters had been sent to both clubs and the situation has improved slightly. The letter also advised that should parish council staff have to clean up in future the clubs would be charged for this. RESOLVED that situation would be monitored until the end of the season, the GSM would take responsibility as to whether games could be played in the prevailing weather conditions, and the Clerk will again write to both clubs advising them of this.	<b>GSM Clerk</b>
249.6	The Leys. Quotations had been received from D. F. Phipps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dig out and remove diseased Horse Chestnut trees, remove from site and all stump holes refilled - £475.00 plus VAT.</li> <li>• Clear overhang from ha-ha. Clear all brambles and ivy to expose stonework so that repairs may be evaluated. Removal of old barbed wire fence and all vegetation/rubbish from ditch. £1,050.00 plus VAT.</li> </ul> RESOLVED that both quotations be accepted. It is intended to try to obtain funding to restore the ha-ha to its former glory and it may be possible to claim retrospectively for the cost of clearing.	
249.7	Playground, Great Billing. Following the recent safety inspection carried out by Wicksteed Limited certain medium risks were advised. Their quotation to supply and fit parts required was £214.05. In addition it was recommended that the tarmac at the entrance to the playground be renewed. RESOLVED that a budget of £250 be set for these repairs. GSM to obtain an alternative quotation before the work goes ahead. It was noted that the Fun Buggy Tractor and Slide would probably have to be replaced in the not too distant future.	<b>GSM</b>
<b>250</b>	<b><i>Northants County Association of Local Councils</i></b>	
250.1	As Cllr Hughes was unable to attend the meeting due to holiday, he had circulated a report to all members. This clarified the situation with regard to NCALC becoming an incorporated body. There was also mention of the Northampton Charter. A Special General Meeting of NCALC is to be held on Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2010 at Higham Ferrers Town Hall. RESOLVED that Cllr. Hughes be voting delegate for Billing Parish Council.	
<b>251</b>	<b><i>Any Councillors Reports Not Covered Elsewhere</i></b>	
251.1	Cllr. Gable expressed concern at the state of the land behind Crow Lane. This is, however, outside the boundary of the parish and possibly belongs to SNDC.	
251.2	Cllr Clasper advised that the next litter pick will be held on Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> April, meeting at 10.00 am at the normal sites in each ward. He also advised that the newsletter should be through by Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February.	

		<b>Action</b>
<b>251</b> 251.3	<b><i>Any Councillors Reports Not Covered Elsewhere (Continued)</i></b> The Chairman reported that an enquiry had been made with regard to the booking of the pavilion for a 50 <sup>th</sup> birthday party. After discussion it was RESOLVED that bookings should be restricted to children's parties held during the afternoon due to the close proximity of adjacent homes and the unsuitability of the room for adult parties. Clerk to reply to applicant.	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>252</b> 252.1	<b><i>Closed Session</i></b> Not required	
<b>253</b> 253.1	<b><i>Date of Next Meeting and Closure</i></b> There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.55 pm. Informal working party meeting – Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2010 at 7.30 pm. Next Parish Council Meeting – Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2010 at 7.30 pm.	

**Green Space Manager  
Monthly Report**

**January 2010**

First week back from leave was very cold and snowbound and I took time to catch up with paperwork. I used the opportunity to take down the wooden notice board by the old post office in Great Billing for a complete refurbishment. I have dismantled most of it, gave the wood a couple of coats of wood-stain, replaced the polycarbonate and the cork board and repainted the banner lettering. Considering a new wooden notice board would top the £800 barrier I think it was time well spent.

Towards the end of the month we held a hedge-laying course in the pocket park laying the hedge at the bottom of the park 'Midland' style, it was very well attended and we managed to lay around a third of the hedge, Jim Snedker' and myself have spent more time on the hedge to finish the task and with just 10 more yards to lay should be finished by next week.

We felled a number of small trees and raised the crown of neighbouring trees to improve the light levels to encourage the hedge to grow straight instead of leaning over the path to search for light. Jim has put forward three main reasons for undertaking the task;

*1. The tall trees that previously made up the hedge were only good for larger birds like Pigeons, Magpies, Crows etc while a lower dense hedge will attract both smaller birds and the base will be a good home for small mammals and invertebrates.*

*2. The trees in the hedge were seeking light and leaning over the path due to the large trees to the south of them. By reducing the height of the hedge and raising the crowns of the larger trees behind the hedge, we will allow more growth to occur and the hedge will be healthier.*

*3. The hedge has been laid in the traditional 'Midland Style' and from the heritage point of view; this is not seen so much these days as most farmers trim their hedges using tractors with flails. We therefore wanted to preserve a little of the traditional way that hedges have been laid in this county for hundreds of years.*

At the same time I used some of the logs to finish 'logging' the perimeter of the green re-cycling area.

Unfortunately a stern letter had to go out to all the footballers for leaving the pavilion and the surrounding paths covered in mud. The Bizzy bears staff and I spent considerable time clearing up before the children arrived. The message seems to have been taken on board as the past weekend was left clean and tidy and the pavilion walls had been washed down.

Chris Campling  
Green Space Manager