

# 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> AUGUST 2011, AT THE BERNARD WESTON PAVILION, GREAT BILLING

**PRESENT** Councillor S. Rockall (Chairman)  
Councillors Mrs E. Palethorpe, Mrs S. Shaw, M. Clasper, P. Evans  
J. Marlow, Rev. S. Palmer, G. Stevens, S. Ward

**Also Present:** Mrs. S. Harris (Clerk to the Council)  
C. Campling (Green Space Manager)  
Special Constables Glenn Warner and Helen Macnaught  
Three parishioners

		Action
<b>96</b> 96.1	<b>Apologies</b> Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. M. Pearson and Fr. Damien Walne (both on holiday) and D. Hughes (ill). Apologies were also received from NBC Cllrs. D. Palethorpe and C. Malpas.	
<b>97</b> 97.1	<b>Minutes</b> The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> July 2011 (Folio Nos. 041/2011 – 045/2011) were approved and signed as a true record.	
<b>98</b> 98.1	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> The following declarations of interest were made: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rev. S. Palmer – Item 8 (e) on the agenda – proposed restoration of gates to St. Andrews Church.</li> <li>• Cllrs. P. Evans and Mrs. S. Shaw – item 9 (a) on the agenda – problems association with the path at the bottom of Codlin Close, Little Billing.</li> <li>• Cllr. S. Rockall – items 8 (d) and 8 (e) on the agenda, i.e. proposed renovation of Little Billing war memorial and proposed restoration of gates to St. Andrews Church.</li> </ul>	
<b>99</b> 99.1	<b>Public Forum</b> No-one required to speak.	
<b>100</b> 100.1	<b>Exchange of Information with members of local Safer Community Team</b> Special Constable Glenn Warner apologised for the absence of PCSO Paul Watts due to being on annual leave and reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Police still have supplies of smart water which they are handing out.</li> <li>• The main crime issues at the moment are theft from motor vehicles and theft of bicycles. Theft from vehicles is taking place when they have been left insecure, or the windows are being smashed because items such as sat.navs or laptops have been left on show. Push bikes are being stolen all over the sector, but mainly at Billing Aquadrome and Riverside. Bicycles are being secured but the locks are being cut. Parishioners are asked to report anyone acting suspiciously to the police on 0300 111 222.</li> <li>• There has been another reported incident of an attempted break in at Codlin Close.</li> </ul>	

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<b>100</b>	<b><i>Exchange of Information with member of local SCT (Continued)</i></b>																																					
100.2	Cllr. Marlow advised that the advertising had been removed from the vehicle parked by the roundabout in Great Billing Way, but the vehicle itself remained. It would appear to be taxed. SC Glenn Warner said he would follow this up.	<b>GW</b>																																				
100.3	Rev. Palmer advised that a small amount of lead had been removed from the roof of St. Andrews Church and he feared the thieves would return. He asked the police to keep an eye on this area.																																					
<b>101</b>	<b><i>Ongoing Matters</i></b>																																					
101.1	The Chairman reported he had been in touch with the gentleman concerned with regard to play provision within the parish and he would be contacting him later this week to arrange a meeting. He asked that any member who would like to attend such a meeting contact him as soon as possible.	<b>All</b>																																				
101.2	Bus Shelter. Due to the absence of Cllr. Malpas this item was once again carried forward to the next meeting.																																					
101.3	CCTV system. A detailed quotation had been received from Stuart Kerstin of Security Services Group. The cost will be £300 plus VAT per annum which does not include call-out fees or equipment replacement costs. This is much less than the council were paying and it was RESOLVED this quotation be accepted.																																					
<b>102</b>	<b><i>Planning</i></b>																																					
102.1	N/2011/0666 – 103 Orchard Hill, Little Billing – single storey front extension. No comments or objections.																																					
102.2	N/2011/0688 – Development Site, Fishponds Road – Application for outline planning permission for the erection of 6 detached dwellings and garages (All matters reserved except for access). No comments or objections.																																					
102.3	N.2011/0694 – Shalimar, Gt Billing Park, Wellingborough Road – Demolition of existing garage, erection of 2-storey front, rear and side extensions and erection of garage buildings to front of dwelling. No comments or objections.																																					
102.4	The following determinations had been received from NBC: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. N/2011/0620 – Installation of ATM and bollards – Unit 1, Fieldmill Square, Bellingle. APPROVED subject to condition.</li> <li>2. N/2011/0542 – 20 Church Lane, Little Billing – Demolition of existing single storey rear extension and erection of new single storey rear/side extension. APPROVED subject to conditions.</li> </ol>																																					
<b>103</b>	<b><i>Finance</i></b>																																					
103.1	The list of accounts for approval for payment had been circulated to all members. RESOLVED that payment be made as per the following:																																					
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103.2	Cllr. Mrs Shaw brought up the subject of the lighting within the parish that is paid for by the Parish Council but at the moment this is not subject to any 'switching off' policy. However she did feel that some areas of the parish where lights had been switched off could cause problems particularly when the dark nights draw in. It was agreed that an article would be placed in the next newsletter asking parishioners to advise the Clerk of any areas which were causing concern because of lights being switched off and the Parish Council would take issue with the relevant authority on their behalf.	<b>MC</b>									
103.3	Cllr. Mr. Ward asked about the portable generator that had been purchased and was told this was to enable repair work to be done on site rather than items dismantled and brought back to the workshop. It would also enable work to be done anywhere in the parish where there was no electrical supply.										
103.4	A copy of the schedule showing Income and Expenditure compared to budget, together with the bank reconciliation to the end of July 2011 had been circulated to all members. RESOLVED this be approved.										
103.5	A quotation had been received from D F Phipps for the resurfacing of all five entrances to The Leys. Unfortunately this was not to hand but it was agreed in principle that this work should go ahead at a cost of approximately £500. A request had been received for wheelchair and mobility scooter access to The Leys. After discussion it was agreed that access to the lock on the gate at the top of The Leys would be provided.	<b>GSM</b>									
103.6	War Memorials. A quotation had been received from Adrian Worley for £290 to re-point and replace the stones that have split at the Great Billing war memorial. RESOLVED that this quotation be accepted. A quotation for the replacement wooden cross for the war memorial at Little Billing is still awaited and the Chairman is to chase. Held over to the next meeting.	<b>Chair</b>									
103.7	Quotations are still awaited for the renovation of the gates to St. Andrews Church. The Chairman reported that P. J. Miller had suggested that work on the gates should be held over until such time as the ha-ha wall has been restored.										
<b>104</b>	<b>Other Matters</b>										
104.1	Path at the bottom of Codlin Close. As reported earlier in the Minutes there has been another incident with windows smashed and someone attempting to gain access to the house. Sharon Henley, Crime Prevention Design Advisor and Janette Ashton of NBC are working on the possibility of obtaining a gating order. This would appear to be a very complicated and expensive procedure with absolutely no guarantees. Crime figures for the area are still awaited from the police. In the meantime, it was agreed that advice be sought from Sharon Henley with regard to the most effective and legal fence the family could use to surround their garden.	<b>SS</b>									
104.2	A letter had been sent to Cllr. Mrs Nichol on 15 <sup>th</sup> July with regard to her non-attendance at Council meetings, but to date there had been no reply. Unfortunately there is nothing further that can be done at present.										

		<b>Action</b>
<b>104</b>	<b><i>Other Matters (Continued)</i></b>	
104.3	Councillor Vacancy. The Chairman apologised for what may be perceived as unprofessional behaviour by the council, but due to another nomination being received just prior to the meeting there had been no option but to delay the co-option of the new councillor until the September meeting. Personal profiles from each candidate have, or will be, forwarded to all members and the deadline for new nominations to be received is 20 <sup>th</sup> August 2011. At the September meeting there will be a short question and answer session followed by voting and subsequent co-option of the successful candidate. The Clerk is to advise all candidates of this.	<b>Clerk</b>
104.4	Cllr. G. Stevens said he believed that all councillors should be using 'billing parish' email addresses, particularly as these were advertised on the back of the newsletter and offered to assist any member who was experiencing difficulty in setting this up. Printing of business cards was deferred until such time as a decision was made with regard to which information individual members required on their own cards.	<b>All</b>
104.5	A special closed Parish Council meeting to discuss staffing matters has been arranged for Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> August 2011 at 6.30 pm at the Bernard Weston pavilion.	<b>All</b>
<b>105</b>	<b><i>Leisure &amp; Recreation</i></b>	
105.1	The GSM reported: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Great Billing Pocket Park. There have been successful volunteer sessions when a great deal was achieved. A long term project for the top of the pocket park has been planned and a copy of this may be found on the notice board within the pavilion. One of the new seats has been vandalised and will have to be planed and re-oiled.</li> <li>2. The Leys. Damage to the tree barks was definitely done by a muntjac as the GSM has seen it. Fencing has now been erected close to where it was seen and it is hoped the muntjac is the other side of it. A couple of the maples will have to be removed.</li> <li>3. The new ball walls are being well used and, more importantly, looked after.</li> </ol>	
105.2	Little Billing Pocket Park. Cllr. Clasper reported that a good session with about ten volunteers was held last Saturday. The fruit trees in the community orchard are still okay and the one that was broken is shooting from the bottom. Have started collecting wood and brash to put through the chipper. A quotation has been received for about £4,000 from BCTV for formalising the path. The next session for volunteers will be held in early September.	
<b>106</b>	<b><i>Northants County Association of Local Councils</i></b>	
106.1	There was no report due to the absence of Cllr. D. Hughes	
106.2	It was unanimously agreed that Cllr. Hughes should be the voting delegate for Billing Parish Council at the Annual Conference and AGM to be held on 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2011. Any member who would like to attend this event as a non-voting delegate is asked to advise the Clerk prior to the end of August. Also, any Resolution that a member would like put forward should be advised to the Clerk in writing by the same date.	<b>DH</b> <b>All</b>

		<b>Action</b>
<b>107</b>	<b><i>Councillors Reports Not Covered Elsewhere</i></b>	
107.1	Cllr. Ward asked the Clerk for the address of Pubfolio (owners of the former Ecton Brook public house) so that he could write to them on behalf of local residents.	<b>Clerk</b>
107.2	Cllr. Ward also asked if there was any news with regard to the possible dredging of Ecton Brook lake. He was advised that at the recent meeting held with Glynn Davies of the Environment Agency, the Chairman and Clerk were told that the agency would be walking the river later in the year. There is some money which it is hoped to be able to use on the lake at Ecton Brook. The Chairman had suggested that to save money there would be no need to transport dredged material off-site.	
107.3	Cllr. Mrs Shaw said that on the previous Saturday apples had been thrown at her windows. This had been reported to the police. She also reported that the fence between Ashmead and Fishponds Road had again been broken down.	
107.4	Cllr. Clasper reported that the litter pick held the previous weekend had been very successful with 25 volunteers taking part. He thanked everyone who participated. Cllr. Stevens commented that the bags supplied were not as thick as usual and of very poor quality. He was advised that the bags were supplied by NBC and unfortunately they had run out of the normal black bags.	
107.5	Cllr. Marlow reported that during the litter pick he and others had worked on the lay-by at the top of Great Billing on the Wellingborough Road. In doing so they had collected many carrier bags containing empty lager cans which also included paperwork from a local company. He is to pass details to the Clerk so she can write to them. There is a great need for litter bins to be installed at this site and the Clerk is to once again try to get these installed. The Parish Council would be prepared to contribute towards the cost.	<b>Clerk</b> <b>Clerk</b>
107.6	The Chairman reported that many complaints had been received regarding the burning of wood and brash in Ecton Brook by the Payback Team on Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> July. Although residents were pleased with the work being done they were not so pleased to have ruined barbecues or to return home on one of the hottest days of the year to smoke filled homes and dirty washing! Cllr Ward reported that a representative from the Probation Service had visited homes affected to apologise and hopefully this would not happen again.	
107.7	A letter had been received from the PCC Secretary of the Parish of Billing thanking the council for its generous donation of a bench for the churchyard at All Saints church in Little Billing.	
<b>108</b>	<b><i>Date of Next Meeting and Closure</i></b>	
108.1	There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.30 pm. Next Meetings: Special Closed Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> August at 6.30 pm Next Parish Council Meeting – Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2011 at 7.30 pm.	