

BILLING PARISH COUNCIL

Established 1894

Serving Bellinge, Ecton Brook, Great Billing and Little Billing

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 pm
ON MONDAY 12th JANUARY 2009,
IN THE PLAYING FIELD PAVILION, GREAT BILLING**

PRESENT Councillor S. P. Rockall (Chairman)
Councillors Mrs E. Palethorpe, Mrs S. Shaw, M. S. Clasper,
R. Clements, P. Gable, J. Marlow, P. Stevenson,
Rev. S. Palmer, Fr. Damien Walne

Also Present: Mrs. S. Harris (Clerk to the Council)
C. Campling (Green Space Manager)
PC Matt Dawkins, PCSO Paul Watts and one elector.

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| 79 | <i>Apologies</i> | |
| 79.1 | Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. D. Hughes and D. Nichol and from Cllr. Christopher Malpas (NCC & NBC) and Cllr. David Palethorpe (NBC). | |
| 80 | <i>Minutes</i> | |
| 80.1 | The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8 th December 2008 were approved and signed as a true record. | |
| 81 | <i>Declarations of Interest</i> | |
| 81.1 | There were none | |
| 82 | <i>Public Forum</i> | |
| 82.1 | Keith Bonham raised the problem of the demolished post box in Little Billing. It would appear that this is to be replaced with a box mounted on a pole and that permission is awaited from the Highways Agency. It is anticipated that the new box will be erected in approximately five weeks time. | |
| 82.2 | PCSO Paul Watts introduced PC Matt Dawkins who is relatively new to the area and advised that Sgt Dave Ineff had now taken over at Ecton Brook. SCTE is now back up to full strength. A Question and Answer session then followed regarding crime trends in the area. Although it would appear that crime has increased a lot over the past year this may in part be due to residents being | |

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| 82 82.2 | <i>Public Forum (Continued)</i> (Continued) encouraged to report all incidents. Figures for Billing Aquadrome are also added in and this is quite a big problem area for arson and vandalism. Four ASBO's are going in shortly. The Chairman stated that most residents seem to feel there is a lack of visible uniformed officers on the street and it was hoped this could be remedied. Both officers were thanked for their attendance and PCSO Watts welcomed back to the area. | |
| 83 83.1 | <i>Ongoing Matters</i> Little Billing Village Signs. The Clerk reported that she was still awaiting a reply from Richard Hall of NBC. Held over to next meeting. | |
| 83.2 | Little Billing Village Green. The Clerk had received an email from Keith Hopkins, which had been circulated to all Councillors, but which gave no additional information to that already known. Keith Bonham reported he understood all documents were ready and that only a detailed plan was required which was awaited from another department within NBC. | |
| 83.3 | Burial Grounds. A meeting of the Working Party has been arranged for Monday 19 th January 2009 at The Rectory. Held over to next meeting. | |
| 83.4 | Website. Cllr. Clements reported that he is awaiting approval from Cllr. Clasper of material already sent to him and once this is received it will be included on the website. | MC |
| 83.5 | Children's Playground, Great Billing. Three quotations had been received for the manufacture and installation of a new inner gate and fencing. It was agreed and RESOLVED to accept the quotation of £776 plus VAT from J. E. Matthews and for this work to go ahead as soon as possible. | Clerk |
| 83.6 | Little Billing Residents Association. Consideration was given to the two requests received from the Association. (a) It was RESOLVED that use of the Parish Council notice boards in Little Billing would be allowed, provided it was accepted the Parish Council notices would take priority and that the Residents Association notices were kept to a minimum and taken down when no longer required. Cllr. Clements agreed to provide the key to the board when needed. | RC |

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| 83 83.6 | Ongoing Matters (Continued) Cont... (b) It was agreed that some sort of breakdown of expenditure, together with a copy of the Constitution, was required before a decision could be made on funding of £250. It was felt that should funding be approved this could be made under Section 137. Cllr Clements reported that he understood a meeting was to be held on Wednesday 21 st January when a draft Constitution would be drawn up ready for approval at the next public meeting. He agreed to report back to the Association advising them of the Council's requirements. | RC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 84 84.1 | Finance The accounts for payment had been circulated and it was RESOLVED that payment be made as per the following: <table border="0"> <tr> <td>NCC (C. Campling Pension – November)</td> <td>451.43</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BT Payment Services (Telephone – Pavilion)</td> <td>84.79</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E.ON (Maintenance charges street lighting)</td> <td>300.38</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shaun Smart (Spares for pavilion showers)</td> <td>131.10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wicksteed Leisure (Safety Inspection Playground)</td> <td>81.65</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Small Payroll Service (December salaries)</td> <td>2,700.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Public Works Loan Board (Loan repayment)</td> <td>5,169.83</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Garden Machines (Repair/Service Billy Goat m/c)</td> <td>89.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BT Payment Services (Broadband Pavilion)</td> <td>54.01</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D. F. Phipps (6 months Grass Cutting/Spraying)</td> <td>4,199.45</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NCC (C. Campling Pension – December)</td> <td>451.43</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C. Campling (Top up £500 account)</td> <td>170.02</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shaun Smart (Supply and fit water softener)</td> <td>172.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gardenh Machines (Protective clothing chain saw)</td> <td>276.51</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clerk (Stationery/Room Hire/Phone/Mileage/Postage)</td> <td>90.87</td> </tr> </table> | NCC (C. Campling Pension – November) | 451.43 | BT Payment Services (Telephone – Pavilion) | 84.79 | E.ON (Maintenance charges street lighting) | 300.38 | Shaun Smart (Spares for pavilion showers) | 131.10 | Wicksteed Leisure (Safety Inspection Playground) | 81.65 | Small Payroll Service (December salaries) | 2,700.00 | Public Works Loan Board (Loan repayment) | 5,169.83 | Garden Machines (Repair/Service Billy Goat m/c) | 89.00 | BT Payment Services (Broadband Pavilion) | 54.01 | D. F. Phipps (6 months Grass Cutting/Spraying) | 4,199.45 | NCC (C. Campling Pension – December) | 451.43 | C. Campling (Top up £500 account) | 170.02 | Shaun Smart (Supply and fit water softener) | 172.50 | Gardenh Machines (Protective clothing chain saw) | 276.51 | Clerk (Stationery/Room Hire/Phone/Mileage/Postage) | 90.87 | |
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| 84.2 | A copy of the schedule showing Income and Expenditure to the end of December together with the bank reconciliation had already been circulated. There were no questions or comments. The Clerk reported that interest of £548.22 for the last three months on our accounts with NCC had been received but that an interest rate of only 1.35% had been offered for the coming three months. She also reported that the Precept Request had been forwarded to NBC. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 84.3 | The Clerk reported that she had that morning received an email from Barclaycard with regard to the Council's application for a Government Procurement Card. Unfortunately not all documents | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| 84 | <i>Finance (Continued)</i> | |
| 84.3 | had been forwarded to us originally and there were two other forms that required completing and signing by two authorised signatories. This would be done as soon as possible. | Clerk |
| 84.4 | Cllr Stevenson reported that he had looked at alternative Payroll companies. He had had a quotation of £20 per month from Warwick Financial Services in Wilby who use a system called Payflow which is completely secure and only takes the exact amount from the bank account each month. The Clerk would, however, be responsible for paying over Tax and NI each month. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk would liaise with Cllr Stevenson and explore this proposal further. | Clerk/PS |
| 85 | <i>Planning</i> | |
| 85.1 | The following determinations had been received from NBC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) N/2008/1188 – Proposed side and roof extensions to provide additional accommodation at ground floor and within the newly formed roof space – 12 Lady Winefrides Walk, Great Billing. REFUSED. (b) N/2008/1191 – Proposed two storey four bedroomed detached dwelling and garage with associated access and landscaping works – Land adjacent to Pyket Cottage, 31 Church Lane, Little Billing – APPROVED subject to conditions. | |
| 86 | <i>Other Matters</i> | |
| 86.1 | Freedom of Information. The Clerk had completed the 'Guide to Information', a copy of which had previously been circulated to all Councillors. It was RESOLVED that this be adopted without amendment. Both this document and the Model Publication Scheme adopted at the December meeting will be published on the website. The Clerk will forward all necessary information to Cllr Clements to enable him to do this. | Clerk/RC |
| 86.2 | Quality Status. A meeting of the working party has been arranged for Monday 19 th January 2009 at 7.30 pm. | |
| 87 | <i>Leisure & Recreation</i> | |
| 87.1 | Report from Green Space Manager <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just before Christmas finished off Play Area. Cut back overgrowing trees and bushes and cleared ivy. | |

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| 87 | <i>Leisure & Recreation (Continued)</i> | |
| 87.1 | <p>Cont...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NBC have trimmed trees and left the wood which has been made into chippings • Sainsbury's sent in a team of volunteers who did some general clearing up and filled the ha-ha with wood chips. Unfortunately they have not let us have a contact address so have been unable to send a thank you to them • Am on a chain saw course with Moulton College from Monday 12th to Friday 16th January. | |
| 87.2 | Pavilion and Green Flag Application. It was agreed that a five year plan was required for the redecoration of the inside and outside of the pavilion. The Chairman reported that information regarding the Green Flag Award had only just been received with a deadline of 8 th February 2009. It was agreed it was not feasible to achieve this deadline and as there is an entry fee of £263.53 it was decided to defer entry until 2010. | |
| 87.3 | Three quotations had been received for window blinds for the pavilion. After consideration it was RESOLVED to accept the quotation of £229.20 inclusive of VAT received from First4Blinds. The GSM is to liaise with the company with regard to colour and to ensure that the length of cords comply with health and safety rules. | GSM |
| 87.4 | Green Space – Ashmead, Little Billing. Cllr Stevenson reported that this matter is now in the hands of the Borough Solicitor who will be contacting Taylor Wimpey with regard to their fulfilling Section 106. PS will contact Cllr Christopher Malpas to ascertain if he has any further information on the matter. Held over to next meeting. | PS |
| 87.5 | Celebration Avenue – The Leys. The GSM reported that a quotation is awaited from D. F. Phipps. This will be for the supply and planting of the trees, protective guards and concrete plinths at the base of each tree. Mrs Palethorpe asked if there was any possibility that a proper footpath could be laid. It was decided that this should be left for discussion at the forthcoming Leisure & Recreation Committee Meeting. | |
| 87.6 | Great Billing Pocket Park. Nothing to report other than the Chairman stated that a lot of favourable comments had been received. | |

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| 87 | <i>Leisure & Recreation (Continued)</i> | |
| 87.7 | Little Billing Pocket Park. Cllr Clasper reported that he had had a lengthy meeting with Ruth Rolls who is the person who will be initially approached with regard to grants. She has said that she would like to address a meeting of Little Billing residents with regard to the Pocket Park and Cllr Clasper is hoping to set this up by the end of the month. Cllr Gable reported that he had spent a whole day performing a risk assessment on the trees within the park. Although there is no immediate danger with trees on parish council owned land there are three trees that have fallen down over the stream and three that are very distressed. He has received a quotation for work required which amounts to £9,300. The biggest problem is a tree on the corner that is on land owned by NBC. This is in a very dangerous condition and has been reported on numerous occasions. Cllr Gable agreed to pursue this with NBC as a matter of urgency. | MC PG |
| 87.8 | Contracts for grass cutting – The Leys and Playing Fields. Held over to the Leisure & Recreation Committee Meeting to be held next Monday 19 th January 2009. | |
| 87.9 | Repainting of Parish Council owned street lamps. No quotations obtained as yet. Held over to next meeting. | |
| 87.10 | The GSM reported that he had received a quotation from ESPO of £251 for a three seater bench manufactured from recycled plastic. It was RESOLVED that one should be ordered to replace the one vandalised in Great Billing and if this proves to be satisfactory a second will be ordered for Little Billing. | |
| 88 | <i>NCALC</i> | |
| 88.1 | In the absence of Cllr D. Hughes there was nothing to report. | |
| 89 | <i>Councillors Reports not covered elsewhere</i> | |
| 89.1 | Cllr Sue Shaw reported that she understood the Plymouth Brethren who owned the converted bungalow in Orchard Hill, Little Billing, had been required to apply for a licence for worship. The notice applicable to this would be displayed in the London Gazette. She further understood that meeting times would be: Sundays – 6.00 am Communion, plus a meeting in the afternoon at a time not yet determined. Mondays – 6.30 am Prayer Meeting Fridays – 7.30 pm Bible Reading | |

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| 90 | <i>Correspondence Received</i> | |
| 90.1 | A letter had been received from NCC advising of a temporary road closure of the A4500 at Great Billing/Cherry Lodge during construction of a new roundabout. This will take place at weekends commencing 14 th February 2009 and will continue until 1 st March 2009. Diversions will be in place. | |
| 90.2 | Parish Satisfaction Questionnaires had been received from NCC Highways Department. These were passed to Councillors for completion and return. | |
| 90.3 | NCC are holding a Conference for Parishes on Wednesday 18 th March 2009, 4.30 – 8.30 pm at Rushden & Diamonds Conference Centre. Cllr. Clasper agreed to attend as the representative of Billing Parish Council. | |
| 91 | <i>Closure and Date of Next Meetings</i> | |
| 91.1 | There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10 pm. Next Meetings: Monday 19 th January 2009 at 7.30 pm: Leisure & Recreation Meeting Parish Council Quality Status Working Party Meeting Burial Grounds Working Party Meeting Parish Council Meeting – Monday 9 th February 2009 at 7.30 pm. | |